



MESSAGES OF THE PRESIDENT

FERDINAND E. MARCOS

1965-1986

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Official Week in Review

President's Week in Review: December 30, 1965 - January 12, 1966

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

December 30.—BY popular mandate of the people, Ferdinand Edralin Marcos is installed formally as the sixth President of the Republic of the Philippines.

The transfer of the reins of administration from Diosdado Macapagal to Ferdinand Marcos takes place a few minutes high noon at the Luneta with Chief Justice Cesar Bengzon administering the oath of office to the new Chief Executive. The ritual of change, which is simple and brief, is witnessed by millions of people including representatives of 38 friendly nations headed by U.S. Vice-President Hubert H. Humphrey.

From his residence in San Juan, Rizal, the incoming President motors to Malacañang and, in accordance with tradition, fetches Mr. Macapagal and proceeds to the inaugural rites at the Luneta.

Following a military parade, President Marcos takes his oath of office before Justice Bengzon. Vice-President Fernando Lopez took his before the President.

After the oath-taking ceremony, the new President delivers his inaugural address.

In his speech, President Marcos rallies the country to a new heroic adventure to greatness. His battle cry during the election campaign has now become his hope and vision—"This nation can be great again."

The President urges each of the more than 33 million Filipinos to march forward with him "towards the dream of greatness."

"This is your dream and mine," he declares. "By your choice you have committed yourselves to it. Come then, let us march together towards the dream of greatness."

In his extemporaneous, 30-minute address, the President asks for the "hastening of our social and economic transformation" and the broadening of the "narrow social and economic base" set by earlier Filipino leaders.

The Chief Executive likewise:

1. Bares an administration policy to launch a program of "rigorous fiscal restraint," warning that "conspicuous consumption and extravagance shall be condemned as inimical to public welfare."
2. Declares that he would use the fullest powers of the presidency to stop smuggling and lawlessness.
3. Asks that the Philippines makes common cause with other Asian nations in a drive toward prosperity and peace, and intensify her cultural identity with them.

The President points out:

"One of the most galling of our inherited problems is that of lawlessness. Syndicated crime has been spawned by smuggling. The democratic rule of law has lost all meaning and majesty, since all men know that public officials combine with unscrupulous businessmen to defraud the government and the public—with absolute impunity.

"The sovereignty of the Republic has never before been so derided and mocked as when the lawless elements, the smuggling syndicates and their protectors, disavow the power of laws and of our government over them. This is the climate for criminality. Popular faith in the government deteriorates."

He unfurls a “vision of greatness for our country” and underscores the imperative need of renewing it if the nation was to forge ahead.

The pursuit of this vision, he states, means hardwork, the facing of formidable challenges and overcoming them, good government, the rejection and discarding of “the inertia of centuries,” the exploitation of the nation’s resources, the transformation of the Philippines into a hub of progress and the people’s courageous shaping of their own future.

To achieve this greatness, he says “we must awake the hero in every man.”

He adds: “We must harness the will and the hearts of all our people. We must find the secret chords which turn ordinary men into heroes, mediocre fighters into champions.”

The President warns, however, that “our government is gripped with the iron hand of venality, its treasury is barren, its resources are wasted, its civil service is slothful and indifferent, its armed forces demoralized and its councils sterile.”

But, he said optimistically, “we shall draw from our rich resources of spiritual strength that flow from this place of martyrdom.”

Following his address, the President motors with his family to Malacañang where he and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, are luncheon hosts to some close friends and members of the President’s official family.

After luncheon, the President inducts the member of his Cabinet on mass and then immediately calls a Cabinet meeting to tackle problems of the country.

During the meeting, the President:

1. Issue Executive Order No. 1 creating an anti-smuggling committee, headed-by Justice Secretary Jose Yulo.
2. Issues Administrative Order No. 1 prohibiting public officials and employees from, dealing directly or indirectly with his relatives and those of the First Lady in matters relating to contracts, purchase of property or supplies and appointment of government personnel.

He also orders:

1. An inventory of the stocks of the Rice and Corn Administration and the Namarco.
2. The creation of study group to assess rice and corn production.
3. The preparation of a report on the irrigation systems of the country.

Present at the Cabinet meeting are: Acting Public Works Secretary Marciano Bautista, Secretary of Commerce Marcelo Balatbat, Presidential Assistant on Community Development Ernesto Maceda, Secretary of Public Works designate Antonio Raquisa, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Narciso Ramos, Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas, Labor Secretary Emilio Espinosa, Jr., OEC Chairman Constancio Castañeda, National Integration Commissioner Mamintal Tamano, NEC Chairman Filemon Rodriguez, Secretary of General Services Vicente Duterte, Secretary of Education Carlos P. Romulo, Finance Secretary Eduardo Romualdez, Secretary of Justice Jose Yulo, Press Secretary Jose D. Aspiras, Land Authority Governor Conrado Estrella and Health Secretary Paulino Garcia.

In the afternoon, the President proceeds to the Luneta and the *Libingan ng mga Bayani* to pay homage at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

From the *Libingan*, he motors to the La Loma Cemetery where he is joined by the First Lady and Mrs. Daniel Romualdez to pay homage at the tomb of the late Speaker Daniel Romualdez.

In the evening, the President joins a group of Manilans at a popular program held at Plaza Santa Cruz to mark the change of administration.

December 31.—PRESIDENT Marcos orders the Department of Agriculture to immediately recall all lease contracts entered into by the previous administration in December or earlier for the cutting of timber in any portion of the national forest preserves and national parks.

The President's action is prompted by reports that 46 000 hectare; of the Mt. Apo National Park in Mindanao had been doled out in 10-year lease contracts to a favored few.

In his directive the President emphasize that the national resources of the country will be preserved and any or all persons engaged in destructive deforestation will be stopped and punished.

In another directive, the President takes measures to implement immediately the stated policy of the administration to exercise the utmost economy in government spending, by issuing a memorandum restricting operational expenses.

The directive, contained In Memorandum Circular No. 1, is issued through Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas.

The memorandum which specifies six orders for immediate and strict compliance by all bureaus, departments, and other offices of the executive branch, led off with the dismissal of all casual employees, restriction of travel within and outside the country, and the freezing of all promotions.

The Executive Secretary's memorandum specifies the following:

1. Terminate the services of all casual employees.
2. Suspend all promotions and the filling of all existing vacant positions and those which may hereafter become vacant.
3. Suspend all purchases of equipment, motor vehicle and furniture except those which are absolutely necessary.
4. Limit all travels whether abroad or local, or those that are urgent or necessary, and in such cases, only the minimum in number and in expenses shall be allowed.
5. Observe strict economy in the consumption of office supplies and materials and in the use of office facilities and utilities.
6. Observe strictly all existing orders, directives and measures promulgated to effect economy in the expenditures of public funds.

The memorandum is issued "in view of stringent financial conditions for which the need for economy has become imperative, particularly in the operational expenses of the government.

In the afternoon, the President motors to Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City where he is honored with a welcome parade and review by the Armed Forces of the Philippines as their new Commander-in-Chief.

In his extemporaneous remarks, the President exhorts the Armed Forces to adhere to duty, lead in the smuggling drive, and rely only on performance for advancement in the ranks.

The Chief Executive asks the men and officers of the armed forces to pay devotion to duty at all times, and let not friendship nor influence nor relationships substitute for performance in the matter of advancement. He warns that he will not condone any breach of discipline or wrongdoing, and that he will always be “on the sidelines watching.”

The President says he looks forward to the updating of arms and equipment, particularly those of the engineering construction battalions. He states the armed forces should be committed to civilian authority and will not tolerate cliques within the military establishment.

He pledges strong and fair leadership. He tells the members of the AFP that he will “protect your rear” as they move forward in the performance of their missions for the good of the country. He asks there should be a revitalization of the armed forces, in spirit and morality as well as in

In the evening the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, tenders a “state dinner in honor of the representatives of chiefs of state and foreign dignitaries, and their ladies who attended the presidential inaugural ceremonies.

Earlier in the morning, the President receives U.S. Vice-President Hubert H. Humphrey who headed the U.S. delegation which attended his inauguration. Accompanied by Ambassador William McCormick, Blair, Jr. Vice President Humphrey calls at Malacañang to say goodbye prior to his return to Washington.

During the call the President and the U.S. Vice President has had an exchange of views on the broad range of Philippine-American relations.

Vice-President Humphrey particularly expresses his gratification at having been asked to convey President Johnson’s warm feelings of friendship and respect to President Marcos, the newly chosen leader of the Filipino people.

“The general question of Southeast Asia and the possibility of the Philippine Government to immediately associate itself even more closely with the joint efforts of the Free World in this region, are discussed during the meeting,” a formal statement issued during the call, says.

Vice-President Humphrey presents President Marcos with an engraved silver desk set with the inscription, “To His Excellency, Ferdinand E. Marcos, President of the Philippines. From Lyndon B. Johnson, President of the United States of America, Dec, 30, 1965.”

Another gift presented to the President is a Norman Rockwell photograph of President Johnson.

As his own parting gift, Vice-President Humphrey presents the Philippine President with a Steuben glass vase.

Meanwhile, President Marcos issues the following message on the eve of the 74th birth anniversary of President Manuel Roxas:

“It is with both sorrow and pride, and with warm personal recollection, that I commend to you the memory of the late President Manuel Roxas, who will surely loom large in our history, and for all times remain a supreme example of the nobility and genius of our race.

“President Roxas was one of those rare men of splendid spirit and singular eloquence, who are destined to lead nations. He took helm of our country at a time when we were prostrate from a ruinous war, and a newly born nation needful of direction and mentorship. Manuel Roxas provided these, and more. He laid the foundations of our present Republic, and pointed the way forward.

“Remembering Roxas is a very personal thing for me, for it was he who also sent me off on my way, to a public service career that, in reaching the present eminence which I have been privileged to achieve, I must own, was in great part due to his tutelage, encouragement, and example.

“But each of us will remember Roxas, should indeed remember him, as a great Filipino, who was an architect and a builder of the future. We can best remember him by continuing the task he started, and crowning it with success.”

President Marcos, at the same time, issues the following message on the eve of New Year’s day:

“Never before have I wished for a New Year more laden with hope than I do now at this time which I feel must surely become the beginning of a new epoch for our young nation, otherwise all our good intentions and fine words will be to no avail.

“I look forward to a hopeful year because we are burdened with grave problems that we must try to solve not only with brains and brawn but, in attempting this monumental task, we should endow it with hope and goodwill as well. It is often said that the New Year is the day for renewing hope and personal resolve. Be it so, therefore. Let us hope and let us resolve as a people to make this hope burgeon into a bounty of achievements, in every field, in every area of enterprise that we undertake for the good of our land and our people.

“And I would certainly hope, too, that if we find the tasks before us difficult, we should not bow before these difficulties but bear up with fortitude and increased determination. It is the only way we could dominate our problems and win through to our noble goals.

To my countrymen, Mrs. Marcos and I wish them in the time honored way, a happy and prosperous New Year.”

January 1.—PRESIDENT Marcos ushers in the New Year with midnight mass at the Malacañang Chapel following the dinner and reception at the Palace on the eve of New Year’s day

With him at the mass are the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, members of the Cabinet and other ranking government officials who attended the reception.

Following the mass, President and Mrs. Marcos receive thousands of people who swarmed to the Palace grounds to greet the First Couple during the traditional New Year’s Day reception at Malacañang.

An estimated 100,000 throng of people, many of whom had come all the way from the provinces stream in and out of the Palace premises the whole day.

The First Couple first receive ranking government officials, members of the diplomatic corps and their ladies.

In an exchange of greetings and toasts with members of the diplomatic corps, the President expresses the hope that the New Year would see continued peace and prosperity not only in the Philippines but also in the whole world.

“I hope for continued peace and prosperity not only in our area but in the whole world. It is my hope that God will grant us the strength and the wisdom in the attainment of this objective,” the President says.

He explains to the diplomats their warm greetings and high hopes for the Filipino people reflected the country’s sentiments about the relationship between the world’s family of nations and the Philippines.

“As you know, our people have again demonstrated their fidelity to the democratic institutions which they themselves have chosen, and your presence here is not only an honor to Mrs. Marcos and myself but to the Filipino people as well,” the President adds.

The foreign envoys, through Monsignor Carlo Martini, dean of the diplomatic corps, express confidence that the President's first year of administration would be "a giant step to greatness."

They state they knew how arduous the new mandate of the people was, which demanded a new leadership for progress, prosperity and greatness.

The diplomats assure the President of "friendly collaboration," saying that peace and international collaboration are indispensable conditions in the "Life March" of nations.

Taking time out only for lunch, the First Couple resume receiving their well-wishers until the evening.

Later in the evening, the President and the First Lady entertain the President's comrades-in-arms in the USAFIP-NL guerillas, headed by Gen. Russel Volckmann, at dinner at the Palace.

January 2.—IN a determined effort to install without delay a policy of rigorous fiscal restraint, President Marcos orders the Philippine National Bank to defer the processing and release of all loans in excess of P50,000 until further advice.

At the same time, the President directs the Development Bank of the Philippines, the Government Service Insurance System, and the Social Security System to submit immediately a report on their financial status as of December 31, 1965.

The Chief Executive issues these directives through Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas.

Reiterating his observation that the economic condition of the government requires immediate retrenchment, the President emphasizes that every form of waste and extravagance, should be condemned as inimical to public

"Frugality with government funds and resources must be developed into a habit at every level of government," the President had stated in his inaugural address. "High officials must themselves set the example."

In another directive, through Secretary Salas, the President asks the Securities and Exchange Commissioner to submit immediately a report on the financial position of all transportation companies as reflected in their books of accounts for the period ending December 21, 1965.

The President issues the directive to determine the extent of losses being sustained by these companies which warranted the recent increases of fares in busses and inter island vessels.

In the morning, the President starts the day by playing a round of golf at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club, with Speaker Cornelio Villareal, former Japanese Premier Nobosuke Kishi, Japanese Ambassador Harumi Takeuchi and Jose Laurel III.

Following the game, Premier Kishi presents the President a souvenir silver cup with the inscription: "Presented by Premier Nobosake Kishi to His Excellency, President Ferdinand E. Marcos, January 2, 1966.

Back at Malacañang, the President works the whole day on slate papers in the seclusion of his study.

January 3.—PRESIDENT Marcos signs the administrative order formally signifying his assumption of the secretaryship of national defense as of the time he took his oath as sixth President of the Republic.

The President then holds a three-hour long conference with top defense officials at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City where, among others, he informally installs retired Brig. Gen. Ernesto Mala and retired Col. Manuel Syquiao as special assistants to him; he undertakes studies of the problems of the department.

Other points taken up at the conference are:

1. Updating of military equipment through reparations from Japan;
2. Increasing the number of trainees in order to reach a closer approximation of the spirit of the National Defense Act; and
3. Reshuffle of the defense establishment to affect only policy determining positions but all personnel under the classified civil service to be retained and given ample protection.

The President is likewise given a closed-door intelligence briefing by Gen. Rigoberto Atienza, AFP chief of staff, during which is discussed at length the extent and degree of smuggling activities all over the country.

The Chief Executive also issues a proclamation declaring Thursday (January 6), this year as a special public holiday in Quezon City. January 6 is the birth, anniversary of Melchora Aquino, known as “Tandang Sora,” a famous heroine of the Revolution.

In issuing the Proclamation, the first to be issued under his administration, the President says the people of Quezon City where “Tandang Sora” was born should be afforded an opportunity to honor her with appropriate ceremonies “for her humanitarian work and sacrifices.”

In the afternoon, the President meets with officials directly concerned with the anti-smuggling drive.

During the meeting, the President issues a series of directives aimed at intensifying the government campaign against smuggling, namely,

1. The immediate replacement of Brig. Gen. Segundo Gazmin by Col. Manuel Yan, as commander of the second PC zone, and the transfer of Gazmin to the general staff of the AFP chief of staff;
2. Asks Prof. Enrique Fernando, whom he had designated legal adviser to the President and legal counsel of the anti-smuggling committee, to confer with Justice Secretary Jose Yulo and Executive Secretary Rafael IYL Salas on the feasibility of assigning special judges to areas pinpointed as smuggling centers, to try smuggling cases;
3. The Civil Affairs Office to undertake a massive information and educational drive in support of the campaign;
4. All government personnel not to use smuggled goods under pain of administrative punishment;
5. That in the reshuffle of zone and provincial commanders, Gen. Olivarez may submit names of all officers, including those from the army who may replace incumbents; that the reshuffle may include the reassignment of affected officers and enlisted men to training camps;
6. Constabulary and customs personnel to coordinate efforts and conserve their energies for the tasks at hand; and
7. The study of a system whereby payment of customs duties shall be made direct to the banks thus eliminate intermediaries who, in the past, have contributed to the perpetration of irregularities in customs transactions.

It is also decided at the conference that the departments of justice, finance and defense will organize their respective operations and coordinating centers which, however, will be subordinate to the operations and coordinating centers at Cabinet Level.

January 4.—SIGNIFYING his intentions to give his administration’s land and rural development program full emphasis, President Marcos issues two executive orders elevating the Presidential Assistant on Community

Development and the Land Authority to Cabinet rank. The positions are invested with “all the rights, honors, and privileges” pertaining to a member of the Cabinet.

The Chief Executive names former Gov. Conrado Estrella of Pangasinan as the new Land Authority governor and former Manila Councilor Ernesto Maceda as the PACD chief.

In the morning, the President receives a number of callers among whom are Col. Robert Arnold, one of his American comrades-in-arms during the Second World War who attended the inauguration ceremonies. Arnold rays the President a farewell call prior to leaving for home shortly.

In the afternoon, he receives three officials of the Bus Operators Association of the Philippines (BOAP) who pledge the lowering of bus rates following the President’s appeal to them.

The BOAP officials, during their call, voluntarily pledge a lowering of the present hiked bus rates to ten centavos per five kilometers, in response to the President’s appeal in behalf of the public.

They also state that they would go to the Public Service Commission to ask for the reconsideration of the previously increased minimum fare on buses. This increase of the minimum fare from ten to 15 centavos was implemented sometime last week.

The PSC had approved and implemented the increase in minimum fare for buses operating in Manila and suburbs, explaining that the general rise in prices had made it more difficult for the bus operators to keep their units running. But it met with instant opposition from the public, particularly from regular commuters.

Meantime, President Marcos reconstitutes the National Parks Development Committee, naming the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos as chairman and taking civic leaders into its membership.

The committee is reactivated with the issuance of an Executive Order, which also amended Executive Order No. 69, dated Feb. 7, 1964, reconstituting the membership of the body. The committee was formerly headed by the previous First Lady, Mrs. Evangelina M. Macapagal.

The body will continue to function as the main agency charged with the maintenance and improvement of national parks scattered all over the archipelago, some of which are forest reserves and the others are public gardens and historical monuments.

January 5 —PRESIDENT Marcos makes a surprise visit to the customs area and the piers, and confers with customs officials and sees for himself the operations of this revenue-collecting agency of the government.

Upon his arrival at the customs zone, the President proceeds direct to the office of Acting Customs Commissioner Pablo Mariano. He learns that customs collection increased by P1.5 million during the past two days, as compared to that of the same period last year. Commissioner Mariano also briefs the President on all the phases of customs operations.

The President gets a detailed picture of the red tape in the processing of incoming cargoes when he visits all the divisions involved in the procedure. At the Marine Division alone, he is informed that some 14 officials sign or initial export declarations. Other divisions into whose operations the President looked were the cash division, the appraisers division and the examining division.

The Chief Executive looks into the customs operations for an hour-and-a-half, but before leaving he asks the customs officials to submit recommendations on how to do away with red tape and bottlenecks at the pier sheds, as well as on the prevention of pilferages of goods.

From the customs area, the President inspects the progress in the construction of Pier 15, which is part of the expansion program of the customs bureau.

Following the visit, the President appoints retired Col. Jacinto Gavino as commissioner of customs. Gavino has the reputation of being an organization man, and has served extensively in key posts in the government before his retirement, and after he terminated his army career. He is expected to streamline the customs service in line with the President's objective to make it a more effective, arm of the government.

Back in Malacañang, the President confers with Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco on the proposed budget for the next fiscal year. Also at the conference which ended at 4 p.m. is Honesto Mendoza, chief of the technical staff of the finance and economy committee of the Senate.

At the same time, President Marcos issues an executive order which revises the system of-payments of taxes, fees and other charges on imports at the customs, by authorizing the Central Bank to collect all payments through agent banks.

The President takes this step to fill an "imperative need" for a "more effective system of collecting customs duties, taxes and other levies" in order to tighten the method of raising revenues. The new system will have the Central Bank collecting payments on all imported goods through its authorized agent banks, which will later be remitted to the commissioner of customs.

Excepted from the order are customs duties, taxes and other levies due on no-dollar imports which are not covered by release certificates issued by the Central Bank. These payments will continue to be collected by the bureau of customs.

The customs bureau will continue to assess, appraise and examine imports, and impose the amounts necessary. Adjusted payments after assessment balances, as the case maybe, will be paid through the Central Bank. In case of over payment, the customs bureau will refund directly.

The monetary board- will promulgate the implementing rules and regulations. He also orders:

1. The department of finance to study expansion of the customs zone. Affected initially are the NDC, Nacida, and PC warehouses; the department of commerce compound up to Engineering Island;
2. That construction of Pier 15 in the vicinity of the Legaspi Landing be expedited;
3. That henceforth the assessment and examination of all imports be made in the presence of representatives of all business chambers and trade organizations;
4. The department of foreign affairs to look into the participation of department personnel abroad in the misdeclaration of imported goods-
5. The department of justice to extend full cooperation to the foreign affairs, commerce and finance departments in the investigation and disposal of cases of misdeclaration;
6. The reexamination of the security system at the customs zone, with the view simplifying operations, possibly to bring all security agencies there under one command, in order to pinpoint responsibility.

At present, there is an overlapping network of security agencies at the customs zone, including the harbor police, the security personnel of the arrastre service and a PC task force.

January 6.—PRESIDENT Marcos orders the outright recall and return of all appointments pending action by the Civil Service Commission., the Wage and Position Classification Office (WAPCO) and the Budget Commission, for further study and review.

In an administrative order, the President points out that numerous appointments had been hurriedly made or issued by the outgoing administration which are now pending action by the three offices.

The present administration deems it necessary in the public interest to review and study further said appointments, particularly in the light of its administrative program and the present precarious fiscal position of the government,” the President states.

He stresses that no further action be taken on all these appointment papers and that they be returned to the respective offices where they originated. Appointments pertaining to purely provincial or municipal offices are not included in the order.

The whole afternoon up to the early hours of the evening, the President receives provincial delegations which took up with him matters concerning their respective localities.

Following the calls, the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, and their children hear mass at the Palace chapel in observance of the Feast of the Three Kings.

Meantime, President Marcos states that his administration will give full support to the participation of private agencies and civic organizations in community development work.

In a message he issued on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the office of the Presidential Assistant on Community Development (PACD), the President stresses that integrated and coordinated community development efforts, “exerted on a holistic approach, should be directed to pursuing undertakings which will redound to the greatest good to the greatest number.”

The Chief Executive, calls on the people to join hands in the huge task of liberating “our less fortunate brethren from the bondage of poverty, hunger, illiteracy, and disease, and to restore their faith in themselves.”

The President also issues an executive order raising the PACD to Cabinet level.

The President reveals he will urge the passage of necessary legislation to convert the PACD into a full-fledged department with expanded activities geared towards the uplift of the rural masses.

He notes that “nation-building is a great and massive task in which every Filipino, young or old, rich or poor, in the public or private sector, of whatever creed or belief, has to contribute his share.”

He concludes saying he will utilize whatever resources and facilities are within* his command and influence, to enable a more effective and vigorous implementation of this program directed at bringing social justice and a more meaningful life to all—the best way to make this nation great again.”

January 7 — AS the need for stopping the illegal acquisition of material gains through dubious means such as graft and corruption, smuggling, subversion and lawlessness arises President Marcos issues an executive order creating the Presidential Agency on Reforms and Government Operations in place of the Presidential Anti-Graft Committee.

In his executive order, the President abolishes the Presidential Anti-Graft Committee (PAGCOM) and names former Rep. Bartolome Cabangbang as the chief of the Presidential Agency on Reforms and Government (PARGO), the new agency.

Cabangbang is a former representative of Bohol. He was an army pilot in the World War II and later served with the Philippine Air Force during and after the war.

The PARGO, which was placed on a Cabinet level, thereby vesting on Cabangbang all the powers and privileges of a cabinet secretary, will function in many ways like the PAGCOM—as a graft-busting arm of the executive branch with authorization to investigate graft and corruption in the public service. It has also been given other and wide-ranging duties by the President.

The new office will also serve as the Presidential link to the people as a clearing house for information and data needed by the President regarding the national situation, and as an information and education agency with the specific objective of strengthening the spiritual and moral fiber of government employees, and the people in general.

At the same time, the President appoints Col. Manuel B. Syquiao, as one of two undersecretaries of defense; and retired Major General Ismael Lapuz, as chief of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency.

The new defense undersecretary, is a veteran military career man. A colonel in the signal corps and AFP comptroller at the time of his appointment, Syquiao is from Hagonoy, Bulacan. A graduate of the PMA and various service schools for advanced command training in the U.S., the new DND official has had a wide variety of experience in the military service, and has won several commendations.

Gen. Lapuz takes over from Gen. Marcos Soliman as NICA chief. Recently retired from the military service, Lapuz has headed many sensitive posts in the armed forces, capped by his tour of duty as vice chief of staff of the AFP.

In the morning, the President swears in Col. Segundo Velasco as chief of the Philippine Constabulary, the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos. Teodoro Valencia, and Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas, as chairman, vice chairman and treasurer, respectively, of the National Parks Development Committee.

Following the induction ceremonies, the President receives a group of visiting Japanese businessmen led by Shutaro Kamiya, president of the Toyota Motors, who paid him a courtesy call. Kamiya and his companions arrived the other day for a five-day visit during which they will discuss business expansion programs with Filipino business partners.

During the call of the Japanese businessmen, the President gives assurance that joint ventures between Filipino and Japanese businessmen will receive the cooperation and protection of his administration.

The Japanese businessmen reveal the plans for expansion of a joint undertaking in paper pulp manufacturing between the Japan Chemical Industries and the Canlubang Sugar Estate. Established at a cost of P5-million, the plant processes sugar bagasse into pulp for paper manufacturing. Submission of the Philippine-Japanese treaty to the Senate for ratification was one of the matters taken up between the President and former Japanese Prime Minister Nobosuke Kishi, one of the Foreign dignitaries who attended the inauguration of the Chief Executive.

Kamiya presents to the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, a check for P10,000 for cultural projects.

In thanking Kamiya for the donation, the First Lady says it will go a long way in realizing her project of constructing a National Theatre.

After the call, the President meets Public Works Secretary-designate Antonio Raquiza and acting Public Works Secretary Marciano Bautista on the public works program.

In his talks with the two, the President orders them to confer with officials of the departments of agriculture and commerce, as well as with those of the UP College of Agriculture in Los Baños which is conducting a rice research, on the construction of irrigation systems

The President bares a systematic approach to public works construction and better coordination with the private sector, whose participation in projects, such as the expansion of bridge building and road construction will be worthwhile.

He emphasizes planning in the expansion of national roads and bridges in order to give financiers in the private sector an idea of where and how they could fit in. A meeting among the public works and finance officials, as well as private financiers, to explore ways of coming to an agreement on the terms and types of investments, is suggested by the President.

Participation of the private sector in public works construction could mean the mobilization of private capital to help government projects, which investment could be recovered through tolls. How these tolls will be collected will be worked out among the parties concerned.

On the construction of irrigation systems, the President feels that there should be close consultation with rice research authorities in Los Baños in order to discover where they could be of greatest service in rice production.

Then, the President meets at luncheon Manila newsmen covering the Palace.

During the luncheon, the President reveals to the newsmen that the barrio Capipisa in Tanza, Cavile which had heretofore been off-limits to the AFP is the target of an amphibious force of the AFP.

The President orders the assault of that main capital of smuggling this noon. The assault was classified as top secret, with the operation designed to surprise the smugglers. The President bares this assault shortly after the government force had carried out its orders.

The government troops started landing at 4:15 p.m. Friday, and immediately found indications of smuggling activity, as they noted the fresh truck tires criss-crossing the beach, and fish nets scattered about, presumably used to haul away contraband goods.

The Capipisa strike is the first of several assaults planned on smuggling bases, as part of the total anti-smuggling drive activated by the President, an important phase of which is the AFP participation which the Chief Executive in effect personally directs in his concurrent capacity as defense secretary.

The Chief Executive remarks that the success of the anti-smuggling drive of the government will depend to a large extent on the firm and able leadership in the Philippine Constabulary.

The President devotes the whole evening going over state papers in the seclusion of his study.

January 8.—PRESIDENT Marcos orders the immediate investigation of the reported sale of a choice piece of government land to a private party which was approved by the previous administration only last December.

In his directive, the President orders the Executive office and the justice department to conduct the investigation. He says he wanted the probe started immediately.

The property involves an 82-hectare, P65-million worth of rolling land and part of the National Waterworks and Sewerage Authority reservation near the Balara Filters, which was sold at the giveaway price of P3-million. The property was originally intended for a housing project for the Nawasa employees.

The President spends almost the whole morning laying the groundwork of the administration's determined drive against smuggling and criminality.

The Chief Executive first summons the newly-designated PC zone commanders to Malacañang, upon whom he impressed the seriousness of the task ahead of them.

Following the meeting with chiefs of the national police agencies, the President appeals at luncheon to the officials of the department of foreign affairs, including chiefs of Philippine diplomatic missions abroad who are now in Manila, to complement the efforts of the government in solving domestic internal problems, particularly smuggling. He slates that Ambassadors and other diplomatic and consular officials could help great extent in the anti-smuggling drive by preventing misdeclaration of goods for import, to the Philippines.

After the conference with foreign affairs officials, the Chief Executive appoints three more cabinet undersecretaries, to fill vacancies in the foreign office, national defense and labor departments.

Named to the No. 2 posts in the three departments are:

1. Brig. Gen. Ernesto S. Mata, retired, as one of two undersecretaries of defense.
2. Manuel Collantes, career minister, as undersecretary for administration in the foreign affairs department.
3. Raoul Inocentes as undersecretary of Labor.

Gen. Mata retired from the armed forces after 30 years of service, his last post being as commanding general of the Philippine Army. A graduate of the Philippine Military Academy, he became its commandant in the course of his service. He was a BCT commander in the link campaign, as well as commander of other famed units. He also underwent further training in US command schools. Among the award; he holds are the Distinguished Service Star with one bronze Anahaw leaf, the Philippine Legion of Honor, the US Legion of Merit, and the Military Merit Medal with 4 bronze Anahaw leaves.

A veteran of numerous international conferences, including duty at the United Nations, Collantes has been on home assignment since 1958. At the time of his appointment, he was serving as Secretary-General of the Conference of Chief of Missions at Padre Faura.

One of the aides to President-elect Marcos last December, the new undersecretary played a key role in the drive for the selection of Manila as the site of the newly-created Asian Development Bank.

A native of Tanauan, Batangas, Collantes joined the foreign service in 1946 as a senior assistant. Following successive tours of duty in Washington, Paris and New York, he rose rapidly in the career service and became counselor on administration in 1980 and chief of protocol in 1963.

A holder of a Bachelor of Laws Degree, Inocentes has had extensive training in labor administration both here and in the United States.

His stint in the labor department started in 1954 when he was private secretary to the secretary of labor.

Subsequently, he was at one time conciliator and legal assistant acting director of the bureau of labor relations, thrice acting Undersecretary of Labor, acting chief of the Labor Statistics Service and officer-in-charge of the bureau of labor standards.

Inocentes has also been a member of Philippine delegations to international labor conferences, and professor and lecturer on labor and social legislations in several colleges.

Meantime, President Marcos bares he will press for the renegotiation of the \$800 million Philippine Veterans claims with the United States and for this reason will reconstitute the Philippine panel to meet with Washington officials.

He will also work for the release of \$28 million earmarked by the U.S. for an education fund. This sum represents the unclaimed portion of the \$73 million appropriated by the U.S. Congress to pay in full the Philippine War damage claims.

The Philippines had originally filed an omnibus war claim of \$3 billion but this amount was reduced to \$800 million.

In refusing to recognize the \$800 million claim, the U.S. had contented that there was no authentic roster of veterans on which to base the actual amount of the claim.

The Filipino veterans, in cooperation with the armed forces, has completed their researches on the matter and are ready to submit authentic documents to support the Philippine claims.

The claims cover the pay differentials of Filipino soldiers who were not given equal pay and equal benefits as their American comrades in the last war.

January 9.— PRESIDENT Marcos enjoins all government officials and employees, as well as private citizens, to cooperate more fully in the intensified campaign launched by the administration against smuggling.

The Chief Executive, in an executive order, points out that under existing laws, smuggling and traffic in smuggled goods as well as mere possession of smuggled goods are penal offenses, and, in the case of government personnel, administrative offenses.

The President notes that smuggling and traffic in smuggled articles is a form of subversion which erodes our economic gains, promotes crime and encourages lawlessness.

He observes that in recent years there have been rampant and unabated smuggling and illicit trading in smuggled products of all kinds, not limited to blue seal cigarettes alone.

He urges the people to comply with existing laws and orders on smuggling “under pain of being subjected to civil, penal and administrative sanctions, as the case may be.”

The President cautions that any violation of anti-smuggling orders by government officials and employees shall be enough ground for administrative action against them and for the imposition of severe penalty, including dismissal from the service, “whenever appropriate.”

He orders all heads of government offices, including government-owned or controlled corporations, to file corresponding administrative charges against any officer or employee found violating the order.

At the same time, the President appoints Manuel Nieto, Jr., as commissioner of the Board of Travel and Tourist Industry, and Flores Bayot as Malacañang assistant executive secretary on local governments.

Nieto, a former chairman of the Games and Amusement Board, replaces Conchita Sunico as head of the BTTL. A prominent sportsman, the new chairman of the government tourist office has travelled widely and is in a unique position to head successfully this bureau.

Bayot, a practising lawyer and political leader in Capiz, is deputy secretary-general of the Nacionalista Party.

In the morning, the President takes to the greens for relaxation, following a week of continuous ground-laying work on solutions for the more urgent problems of government.

Back in Malacañang from the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club shortly before one o’clock in the afternoon, the President meets with his financial and economic advisers, among whom were Finance Secretary Eduardo Z. Romualdez, Commerce Secretary Marcelo Balatbat and Governor Andres V. Castillo of the Central Bank.

In the evening, the President hears mass at the Palace chapel, with the members of his family.

January 10 — In response to a public demand, President Marcos meets the executives of the different oil companies in the country with whom he discusses the return of the original prices of kerosene and gasoline.

The return to the old prices was agreed upon during his meeting with six top executives of oil companies operating in the Philippines.

During this period the government will reexamine policies that affect the “proper return on capital invested” of such companies as these oil firms, which have a special problem of “abnormally heavy receivables.” In this connection, the President directs Finance Secretary Eduardo Z. Romualdez to head a special committee to review the problems of the oil companies.

The executives explain at the meeting the background and reasons for the recent price increases. They particularly cite the low return on invested capital, and the “special problem” of carrying unduly heavy receivables, which is further aggravated by the tremendous capital outlays required to meet increasing demands.”

Present during the meeting are: E.P. Edmunds, president of Mobil Oil Philippines, Inc.; R.V. del Rosario, president of Filoil Refinery Corporation; W.E. Menefee, president of Caltex (Philippines), Inc.; I.P. Bruce, president of Shell Company; G.H. White, general manager of Esso Standard Eastern Inc.; and W.F. Hagans, president and general manager of Tidewater Oil Company (Philippines) Inc.

The prices of gasoline and kerosene were raised recently lay one centavo per liter. For example, kerosene which sold for 20 centavos before the increase, sells at 21 centavos; ordinary gasoline was raised from 25 centavos to 26 centavos, while premium gasoline sells at 29 centavos after the increase. These prices will be now, marked down by one centavo, restoring them to the old levels.

Following his conference with the officials of the oil firms, the President meets with some 40 ranking officials of the bureau of Internal Revenue-Commission led by BIR Commissioner Misael Vera, on the efficient collection of taxes.

At the meeting, the Chief Executive impresses upon the internal revenue men the need for vigorous enforcement of tax laws and the collection of all taxes due, in the face of the critical financial situation of the government.

The President states that acts inimical to an efficient and honest public service, particularly in revenue collecting agencies will not be condoned. “We cannot stand another year or four years of venalities,” he adds.

The Chief Executive stresses that the BIR is one of the most sensitive and important agencies of the government. Because of this, he states, each employee in the bureau must work diligently to earn the taxpayer’s respect and good will, as well as to instill confidence in the national tax system.

The President points out that there must be an honest tax administration where undue interference and influence of any nature will not be tolerated, where employee integrity should prevail, and where taxpayer honesty must be rigidly enforced.

The government, the President states, can barely operate with its present financial position and is even indebted in the amount of P133-million.

He says that while he is concerned with past irregularities in this collecting agency of the government, he is now more interested in the constructive aspects of the bureau’s work.

The BIR, the President observes, is not only the biggest source of government revenue but is also an office that influences the morality of the people because of the nature of its work.

Because of this, the President concludes, he would be compelled to take action against erring officials and employees.

In the afternoon, the President swears in Undersecretaries of Foreign Affairs Jose D. Ingles and Manuel Collantes, BIR Commissioner Misael Vera, RCA Board member Osmundo Mondoñedo, BTTI Commissioner Manuel Nieto Jr., and CAA Administrator Nilo de Guia.

January 11.—PRESIDENT Marcos issues a directive reminding all public officials to file their sworn statements of assets and liabilities.

The President, in his directive contained in a memorandum circular issued through Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas, points out that under Republic Act No. 3019, otherwise known as the Anti-Graft Law, every public officer is required to file with the offices of his department head such sworn statement “within 30 days—after assuming office and within the month of January of every other year thereafter- as well as upon the expiration of his term of office, or upon his resignation or separation from office.”

Secretary Salas explains that failure to file the required statement within the prescribed period is punishable by a fine of not less than P100 nor more than P1,000, or by imprisonment not exceeding one year, or by both, at the discretion of the court; or by dismissal from the service in a proper administrative proceeding even if no criminal prosecution is instituted against the official or employee.

The sworn statement shall cover the period from the day immediately following the date included in the previous statement up to December 31, 1965.

In the afternoon, the President receives delegations of provincial and municipal officials who consult him on problems of their respective localities.

Then the Chief Executive confers with Ambassador Salvador P. Lopez, permanent delegate to the UN; and Brig. Gen. Francisco Licuanan, military adviser to the UN mission, who called on him for instructions prior to returning to their UN posts on Friday.

Ambassador Lopez has been in Manila since December 28 last year, to attend the inauguration of the President and the recently-concluded conference among Filipino Chiefs of Missions and key officials of the department of foreign affairs.

Meantime, President Marcos conveys the condolences of the Filipino people to the people of India on the death of Prime Minister Lai Bahadur Shastri.

The Chief Executive designates Benjamin Romualdez as his personal representative at the state funeral of the Indian premier. Romualdez leaves for New Delhi in the afternoon.

In a message he dispatches to President S. Radhakrishnan in New Delhi, the President states that the premier’s death thousands of miles away from his homeland in his quest for peace “all the more magnified his unflinching dedication to the cause of mankind and serves as a shining symbol for all peace loving people everywhere.”

The Indian prime minister died of a heart attack in Tashkent, Russia after concluding a reconciliation summit meeting with Pakistan’s President Ayub Khan.

The text of the President’s message reads:

“It is with shock and profound sorrow that we received the news of the death of Prime Minister Lai Bahadur Shastri in Tashkent.

“His death thousands of miles away from his homeland in the quest for peace all the more magnifies his unflinching dedication to the cause of mankind and serves as a shining symbol for all peace loving people everywhere.

“On this tragic occasion the Filipino people join me in conveying to Your Excellency and through you to the people of India sincere condolences and sympathies.”

January 12.—TO avert the threatening disruption of power services to ^ the detriment of the national interest, President Marcos certifies to the Court of Industrial Relations for outright arbitration the dispute between the management of the National Power Corporation and the NPC employees and labor association.

Some 3,000 employees of the power corporation walked out the other night following the failure of the department of labor to settle the labor-management dispute.

In certifying the labor dispute to the CIR, the President stresses the necessity of its immediate settlement because it “clearly affects an industry indispensable to the national interests.”

The President points out that the prolongation of the strike would consequently result in huge economic losses, untold inconveniences, and grave danger to public order and human life.

Stoppage of operations by the NPC, even briefly, the President cautions, will result in the suspension of most activities directly related to daily living. Operations in industrial and business houses may have to stop, and medical and hospital services will be immensely impaired.”

The NPC strike was called after management disputed the demand of the union for the reopening of negotiations for across-the-board salary increases by 21%, even before the expiration of the existing collective bargaining agreement. The workers alleged that certain promotions affected by the NPC aborted the agreement and thus freeing the union to reopen negotiations.

The Chief Executive, at the same time, releases P355,000 to the Social Welfare Administration for cash assistance to the refugees from the Taal volcano eruption late last year, pending arrangements for their resettlement in permanent locations.

The amount is ordered released by President Marcos following the decision of the Presidential Committee on Relief and Rehabilitation to extend more direct material assistance to the refugees in the face of the extreme difficulties they are experiencing.

The amount will be doled out by the SWA, after due processing of the refugees and investigation of their needs.

In the morning, the President enlists the support of the municipal mayors of Rizal province in the administration’s anti-smuggling drive, saying that some Rizal towns serve as entry points for smuggled items to Manila.

The Chief Executive makes the exhortation during the call of a delegation made up of 29 mayors of the province.

“Let us be more vigilant and, if possible, stop smuggled items from entering through your towns,” the President appeals.

In the afternoon, the President confers with Defense Undersecretary Ernesto Mata on matters concerning the defense department, including nominations to the Board of the Veterans Bank of the Philippines.

Then, the President receives some members of Congress who consult him on problems of their respective districts, particularly public works projects.

Source: **National Library**

President's Week in Review: January 13 - February 15, 1966

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

January 13.—DUE to numerous pressing problems concerning the entire range of government business necessitating full and undivided attention, President Marcos issues a directive prohibiting department secretaries and heads of government corporations from accepting speaking engagements during the first 100 days of the current calendar year.

The Chief Executive's directive is embodied in a memorandum circular issued through Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas who points out that "the administration is faced with numerous urgent problems concerning the entire gamut of government business which require the undivided and uninterrupted attention and full application to work of all concerned."

The directive, which takes effect immediately, bans officials of Cabinet rank, as well as heads and chairmen of governing boards of corporations owned or controlled by the government, from accepting speaking engagements or other similar activities that will involve time to prepare or draw them away for some time from their work.

The President spends almost the whole day hard at work on the draft of this State-of-the-Nation address which he will deliver at the opening of the regular session of the sixth Congress on January 25.

Except for a limited number of callers, the President isolates himself in his study all day, organizing and documenting the speech which will contain his legislative proposals on such important matters as the anti-smuggling campaign, the economic development projects of the administration, and the reorganization of the government.

The President's immediate main concern was reflected earlier by an announcement from Malacañang outlining the administration's priority legislative proposals aimed at strengthening the anti-smuggling law, providing new incentives to rice producers, reparations support to economic development projects of the government, and the revamp of the government machinery to simplify functions and sharpen efficiency.

In his message, the President will spell out to Congress the economic program of the administration, with emphasis on priority projects, such as rice production, which will be geared to the increase of yield in such a way that the nation will, in the foreseeable future, be self-sufficient in the cereal. In this connection, the President will mobilize every resources that will upgrade irrigation systems and provide better distribution and utilization of fertilizers.

He will also press for amendments in the smuggling law with an eye to increasing penalties for violators, including the imposition of the death penalty on smugglers who are found guilty of homicide in the pursuit of their illegal activities.

In connection with the reorganization of the government, the President will seek authorization from Congress to revamp the entire executive branch from top to bottom. He has a two-fold objective in this revamp, namely: to cut down government expenses and to increase efficiency.

Among the few callers received by the President is Albertus Taapken, vice president and manager, International Banking Department of the Crocket-Citizens' National Bank in San Francisco, California, who pays him a courtesy call.

During their meeting, the President and Taapken find occasion to talk about economic planning and foreign investments.

The President expresses the hope that financial institutions will find a more favorable climate under his administration, adding that he is thinking of pushing through the enactment of a foreign investments bill by the incoming Congress.

He points out that economic planning in the country dates back to the time of the late President Roxas but then, he states, there has been failure in the establishment of priorities.

Under his administration, the President stresses, priorities will be established in the country's economic planning.

On the other hand, Taapken informs the President, his company will only be too willing to help in the administration's projects that will redound to national progress.

January 14—PRESIDENT Marcos enjoins all government agencies to participate and provide support to the survey of the cattle industry which will be undertaken by the Philippine Government with the help of the United Nations Technical Assistance Board.

The Chief Executive, in a memorandum circular issued by Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas, creates an inter-agency committee to coordinate the activities of the various agencies of the government which will undertake the survey.

The inter-agency committee will have as its chairman the director of the Bureau of Animal Industry with the director of the Agriculture division of the Program Implementation Agency as co-chairman. The directive takes effect immediately.

In the morning, the President meets with officials of inter-island shipping companies on the restoration of old passenger fares and freight charges.

The meeting with the shipping operators is the third held by the President with leaders of the business community in the brief span of 10 days in an effort to maintain the *status quo* in prices until after an exhaustive study shall have been made on policies affecting capital investment.

The first was on January 4 when the President, on behalf of the public, appealed to bus operators in the greater Manila area to return to the old minimum rate of passenger fares.

On January 10, the President conferred with executives of the different oil companies in the country on the return of the original prices of kerosene and gasoline.

During the meeting with shipping executives, an agreement on keeping the old rates for the greater number of ship travelers, who include students and "average-to-low income groups," is reached quickly when the shipping officials respond to the appeal of the President in behalf of the welfare of the "greater number of people," and of essential public needs.

It is also agreed at the conference that cargoes of rice, flour and medicine will be charged the rates prevailing before the Public Service Commission approved the increased shipping rates.

The agreement takes effect immediately, and will be in force for six months, after which the rate increases approved by the PSC will be partially enforced, that is: by 5% for passenger fares and 9% for freight rates. The full rates as authorized by the PSC, that is: 10% increase in passenger fares and 18% increase in cargo charges, will take effect after another six-months period.

The shipping operators inform the President that they had increased the rates because of corresponding increase in the cost of operation, particularly in fuel, food, supplies, insurance, and wages arising from the new Minimum Wage Law.

The shipping officials explain that because of these overall increases, the rates formerly prevailing had made the business a losing proposition. They add that since 1961 when the old rates went into effect losses have progressively increased.

In this connection, the President directs Secretary of Finance Eduardo Z. Romualdez to work out a program with the shipping operators for solving the interisland shipping industry's problems with the assistance of the government. The program will tackle more particularly the problem of high operating costs for local shipping.

The President issues this directive "in view of the hardships imposed on the low-to-average income earners who are the people most affected."

The new rates would have increased the fare from Manila to Iloilo by approximately P2.50, raising the cost of a third class ticket to about P27; or the fare from Manila to Cebu in the same class to about P30 from the old rate of P28.25. The fare from Manila to Zamboanga would soar from P37.50 to about P40. The same drastic rise would obtain with cargo rates, which tacked on an 18% increase.

Following the meeting, the President receives Senator Jack Miller of Iowa who pays a courtesy call. Miller arrived this morning in the course of a tour of Far Eastern countries for the Senate Committees on Armed Services and Agriculture.

Then, the Chief Executive receives Warren Richmond, an international public relations man from New York, who is undertaking a "one-man crusade to break the world's largest shipping bottleneck."

Richmond requests the President to be the first to help in breaking the shipping bottleneck by authorizing private shipping companies to lease two LST ships of the Philippine Navy for the purpose of moving out dormant cargoes from ships lying idle at the Manila Bay. The President assures Richmond that he will consider his request.

In the afternoon, the President administers the oath of office to Eusebio Moore as vice governor of Samar.

Moore who was originally the vice governor, had vacated the post when he ran for Congress in the last elections.

The Chief Executive also appoints Juan Triviño as presidential assistant on legislative matters.

Triviño is former governor and representative of the first congressional district of Camarines Sur. He succeeds Francisco M. Pajao, the legislative secretary under the previous administration.

January 15.—PRESIDENT Marcos orders the investigation of the reported release of prisoners at the national penitentiary in Muntinlupa, Rizal through forged pardons.

The Chief Executive issues the directive in the wake of reports that certain Prisons and Malacañang Records Division officials had conspired to provide inmates with bogus unconditional pardon papers at prices ranging from P3,000 to P25,000 per head.

In the morning, the President rallies customs brokers and importers behind the administration's campaign against smuggling by asking them to confine their activities within the sphere of legitimate business.

In a meeting with some 40 customs brokers, the President asks that they enlist their clients' cooperation in keeping their activities legitimate and to abandon any further attempts to evade payment of fees, duties, charges, and taxes due the government.

The President emphasizes the need for cooperation and goodwill in the projected reorganization of the Bureau of Customs, because, he states, no attempt at improving the customs service will succeed without the help of everybody dealing with the bureau.

He warns that if tax collection does not improve by next month, the government will not be able to pay its officials and employees.

"I ask your help, therefore, and in turn we will use the full powers and influence of the presidency to correct what is wrong," the President tells the brokers.

The brokers, in turn, ask the Presidents assistance in their effort to lift the ban against cargo trucks using certain Manila streets which, they state, has caused business difficulties and imposed undue hardships on the laborers of brokerage companies.

The President assures them that he will take up the matter with the city authorities.

Following his meeting with the brokers, the President receives Harry O. Bercher and Jack L. Camp, president and vice president, respectively, of International Harvester Company of Chicago, who pay him a courtesy call. They are accompanied by I.H.M. President G. R. Whisenant and former Press Secretary Antonio L. Arizabal. The IH officials arrived recently in the course of a tour of IH subsidiaries all over the world.

In their conversation with the President, Bercher and Camp reveal that their company stands ready to do what it can in helping any project of the administration, particularly in the fields of transportation and agriculture. They further say that they will be glad to furnish the services of experts in any effort at mechanization, especially in connection with rice and corn production projects of the government.

Later, the Chief Executive receives Frank Doolittle, executive secretary of the Filipino Professionals and businessmen's Association of San Francisco, who pays him a courtesy call prior to enplaning back for the US the next day.

Like the IH officials, Doolittle extends an invitation to the President to visit with the Association should he decide to go on a state visit to the U.S.

In the evening, the President inducts five top officials of the government, namely: Claudio Teehankee, as undersecretary of justice; Ramon Nolan, SQA administrator and director of the Philippine Sugar Institute board; Mario Moreno, member of the RCA board of administrators; and Jose Moras and Angel Leviste, members of the board of directors of the PHILSUGIN.

An active law practitioner since 1941, Teehankee graduated LL.B. from the Ateneo de Manila *summa cum laude* and went on to top the 1940 bar examinations. He was the recipient of the "Lawyer of the Year" award from the Justice and Court Reporters Association in 1960.

Nolan is former executive secretary of the National Federation of Sugar Planters. A member of several sugar missions to the United States, the new SQA administrator is generally considered one of those responsible for increased sugar quota exports to the U.S.

Moreno is a rice farmer. He is vice president of the Rice and Corn Producers Association and first vice president of the Philippine Chamber of Agriculture.

Moras is president of the Bugo-Medellin Sugar Planters Association of Cebu. He was reappointed to the PHILSUGIN board upon the expiration of his three-year term.

Leviste, another newly-installed PHILSUGIN director, was member of the Development Bank of the Philippines' board of governors from 1954 to 1962. He is the younger brother of Gov. Feliciano Leviste of Batangas.

After the induction ceremonies, the President receives Benjamin Romualdez, the President's personal envoy to the funeral of India's Prime Minister Lai Bahadur Shastri. Romualdez reported on his trip to India.

January 16.—PRESIDENT Marcos receives U.S. Secretary of State Dean Rusk who is here on a brief stopover en route back to the U.S.

Secretary Rusk, accompanied by Gov. W. Averell Harriman, Sen. John Sherman Cooper and 13 other American officials, arrived early in the afternoon from Saigon.

Upon their arrival in Malacañang, the American officials are ushered into the Music Room where the President had an exchange of amenities With them for some five minutes.

From the Music Room, the President and his guests repair to the Chief Executive's study room where they confer for 55 minutes.

Following the talks, Press Secretary Jose D. Aspiras issues a communique stating that:

"President Marcos, Secretary Rusk and Gov. Harriman had an exchange of views on the current Southeast Asian situation.

"Secretary Rusk and Gov. Harriman brought the President and Secretary of Foreign Affairs Ramos up-to-date on Vietnamese and Allied efforts in Southeast Asia and the status of U.S. initiatives for peace in the region."

After the talks, the Chief Executive and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, entertain the guests at tea.

Earlier, the President inducts into office other key officials of his administration. Inducted are: Dean Onofre Corpuz of the University of the Philippines' graduate school, as Undersecretary of Education; Jose Leido Jr., son of Ex-Rep. Leido of Oriental Mindoro, as assistant executive secretary for legal and administrative affairs; Gilberto Duavit, head of the technical staff of the Senate Committee on ways and means, as assistant executive secretary for political and social matters; Juan Ponce Enrile as undersecretary of finance; and Fernando Campos as undersecretary of commerce.

At the same time, the President appoints Carlos Ledesma as member of the board of directors of the Sugar Quota Administration.

In the evening, the President and his family hear Mass at the Palace chapel.

January 17.—PRESIDENT Marcos summons key officials of the Philippine Virginia Tobacco Administration (PVTa) to a meeting to explore ways of improving the operations of the government tobacco agency.

During the meeting with some 40 officials of the state tobacco agency, the President directs the PVTa to fully settle its obligations to tobacco farmers, totalling P28 million, for the 1965 crop year.

At the same time, the President orders the suspension of all "midnight" transactions made by the past administration and warns PVTa employees from engaging in any deals involving the tobacco agency.

The Chief Executive asks that payment of PVTa obligations be made immediately in strict accordance with the priorities established by the procurement and service departments of the tobacco office.

Basis of priorities in the payment of PVTa creditors will be the time and date of acceptance of tobacco remitted to the agency.

The President cautions tobacco growers and others who expect payment to refrain from utilizing fixers or other agents outside of the PVTa in following up papers. He explains that violation of this rule will prejudice the chances of those entitled to payments to collect the same and promises severe penalties for those found acting as agents for the payees.

In connection with the eleventh hour transactions, the President orders their suspension with a view to reviewing each case individually. This includes contracts for the exportation and importation of Virginia leaf tobacco.

The questioned transaction involved the proposed sale of PVTA stocks to the Consolidated Flue-Curing Company, a private corporation which will then be absorbed by the government following the transfer of stocks. The deal reportedly would have involved P9-million.

The transaction was questioned in the light of the fact that the government at the time, and to the present, had contracts with other private flue-curing firms, which services were adequate for the PVTA needs. The sale of stocks and the subsequent acquisition of the private firm owning the stocks by the government is, in itself therefore, considered highly irregular.

The President, in prohibiting the PVTA people from contracting business obligations linked to the tobacco agency, sought to prevent irregularities that might arise from the undue or biased interest the men may have in the agency in favor of the parties they have acquired as business associates or customers.

Following the meeting, the President discusses at length developments in Congress with Legislative Secretary Juan F. Triviño and Legislative Liaison Officer Ariel Bocobo.

Then the President repairs to his study where he works on voluminous state papers and in the process of which he signs the appointment papers of six other officials of his administration.

The new officials whose appointment papers the President signs are:

1. Romeo F. Edu as commissioner of the Land Transportation Commission, vice Apolinario V. Ponio who was suspended in the wake of charges filed against him for various irregularities.

A practicing lawyer, Edu first won prominence as a student leader in college. He edited the University of Manila campus paper, was active in student organizations, notably the *College Editors Guild*, CONDA and Student Council Association of the Philippines. He later participated in the late President Magsaysay's campaign for the presidency, was a technical assistant in the Senate and private secretary to Senator Gaudencio Antonino. Edu is a partner in the law firm of Abadilla, Edu, Domingo and Associates.

2. Teotimo Aguilar as undersecretary of General Services, vice Estanislao Bernal, resigned.

Aguilar is a career man in the Department of General Services, having served in this office since its creation in 1959. As head executive assistant he was No. 3 man in the department before his appointment as undersecretary.

Aguilar has been in the public service for 26 years, and has held various positions in different offices of the government. He was sent to the United States and Europe in 1959 and 1960 as NEC-AID participant on public administrative management.

3. Former Gov. Francisco E. F. Remotigue of Cebu as Social Welfare Administrator.

Remotigue was councilor of his hometown, Ronda, Cebu; provincial board member, vice governor and then governor of Cebu. He is a practicing lawyer.

4. Benjamin del Rosario, as general manager of the Government Service Insurance System, vice Eugenio Eusebio, resigned.

Del Rosario is a certified public accountant. He was president and director of the Filipinas Bank and Trust Company with more than 20 years experience in the field of banking.

5. Col. Salvador L. Villa (ret.) as chairman of the Philippine National Railways board of directors.

Villa was credited with having lifted the PNR out of the red when he effected a major reorganization in the state railway firm as general manager and director during the administration of President Magsaysay.

A retired colonel in the armed forces, Villa who is noted for his executive ability, had been president, vice-president and director of a number of business organizations such as the Salt Industry of the Philippines, Tropical Commercial Company, Philippine Sales, Inc., Compania Celulosa de Filipinas, Tabacalera Industrial Development Corporation and the Central Azucarera de Bais.

6. Jose L. Guevara as special assistant to the President. Guevara was appointed special assistant at the rate of P1 per annum. His appointment took effect January 14. He is a lawyer, veteran newspaperman, political writer and columnist of the *Manila Times*.

He is a member of the board of governors of the Manila Overseas Press Club and former director of the National Press Club of the Philippines. He was former chairman of the Board of Review for Motion Pictures.

January 18.—AS the deplorable water service situation in Manila and other areas caught his attention, President Marcos orders the outright investigation of the use to which the P80-million loan from the World Bank has been put by the National Waterworks and Sewerage Authority (NAWASA).

The loan of \$20.2 million (or P80-million) from the World Bank was extended to the NAWASA for the specific purpose of modernizing and enlarging the scope of the waterworks system in order to improve the quality of water service in the country.

With the projects funded by the loan lagging far behind schedule such that results are not yet visible, the President voices out his concern which led him to order an investigation.

The loan was approved in 1964 and early last year the NAWASA launched projects under the terms of the loan, including the construction of a tunnel connecting Bicti with the Novaliches reservoir, a Bicti-Ipo Dam tunnel, and a Novaliches-Balara tunnel.

One of the beneficiaries of this program of construction under the loan would have been the Greater Manila area where water service in the past few years has been substandard.

It is however, believed that one of the causes of the delay in the NAWASA construction program was the suit filed against the government water firm by the Silva Pipe Co., a local manufacturer, who won an injunction against the purchase of pipes from abroad by the NAWASA.

The President presses the NAWASA to expedite its construction program financed by the loan, in order to remedy as soon as possible the deplorable water service situation in Manila and other areas.

At the same time, the Chief Executive orders the immediate utilization of idle equipment of the Philippine National Railways (PNR) by other government agencies with economic projects.

The President directs the army engineers and construction crews to contact the PNR for the turnover to the former of this idle equipment so that it can be used for construction jobs geared to economic development.

The equipment referred to by the President was said to be in a state of deterioration although still serviceable. The entire lot is stockpiled in San Jose, Nueva Ecija, consisting of bulldozers, graders, tractors, and other heavy construction equipment valued at P20 million. The equipment was procured for the construction of a railway extension to serve the Cagayan Valley and has lain idle since last year.

The work on the railway was suspended, because the PNR lacked the counterpart funds required by the reparations agreement, from which the government railway firm got part of the financing for the Cagayan project.

The President also directs the Rice and Corn Administration to make use of the same equipment whenever possible in whatever projects it may have, particularly those projects relating to rice and corn production, such as irrigation systems and feeder roads.

In the morning, the President confers with customs and rice and corn officials on corrective measures aimed at improving operations at the waterfront and at the government rice agency.

At the meeting, Commissioner of Customs Jacinto T. Gavino reports to the President that he had already effected the reduction by one-half of the number of signatures previously needed in the processing of import documents.

The Commissioner of Customs further informs the President that he had withdrawn customs security units stationed at the sheds and that he has turned over the care of the cargoes at the piers to the arrastre security men in order to easier pinpoint responsibility for losses on a single entity.

On his part, RCA Chairman-General Manager Osmundo Mondoñedo informs the President that he had effected a partial reorganization of the RCA personnel, and that the agency is now ready to procure local palay the moment Congress amends the present law, Republic Act No. 3452, which limits the procurement price of palay to P12.50 per cavan.

Gavino likewise submits recommendations designed to ease congestion and prevent irregularities at the piers, among which are:

1. Expansion of warehousing facilities by transferring government offices in and around the customs zone to some other site in order that the bureau can utilize pier premises for warehousing needs;
2. Appointment of a special prosecutor to handle cases involving customs personnel. The present procedure of having the fiscal's office handle these cases, Gavino states, is not conducive to the speedy disposition of these cases because of the clogged dockets of the fiscals.
3. Appointment of a former justice of a high court to handle administrative cases in the customs bureau so that these could be disposed of at the earliest possible time. At present, he explains, several government officials have to go over the cases resulting in undue delay in their adjudication.

The appointment of a special prosecutor and a former justice to handle exclusively customs cases, Gavino says, will also correct the anomalous situation whereby customs personnel involved are allowed to return to their jobs even before the resolution of their cases.

EGA chief Mondoñedo inform the President that:

1. Various government agencies concerned are finalizing plans for increased rice production to stabilize the price of the cereal during the lean months;

Irrigation units of the government are maximizing the efficiency of existing irrigation systems, and inoperative ones are being repaired and completed in order that they could be utilized before the rainy season sets in;

3. The National Economic Council, with the assistance of the AID, is making available the necessary funds to complete these irrigation systems; and

4. The Department of National Defense is likewise making available the services of its engineer combat battalions for the construction of irrigation systems.

The President also receives Swiss Ambassador Loie de Geer who pays him a farewell call prior to enplaning for his home office in the afternoon.

Ambassador De Geer is due for reassignment in the Latin American countries after a three-year tour of duty here and in Indonesia where he was resident ambassador.

In his talk with the President, the Swiss Ambassador expresses the hope that his country will establish its own embassy in Manila soon.

In the afternoon, the President receives officials of the Philippine Cigar and Cigarette Manufacturing Association, Inc., led by Ralph Nubia, president, and of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce, Inc., headed by Santos Chua Haw Co, president, who pledge their support to the President's anti-smuggling drive and other administration policies.

Following the call, the President inducts into office the newly-elected officials of the Philippine Chamber of Wood Industries.

In the evening, the President administers the oath of office to Attys. Jacobo (Jake) Clave and Ariel Bocobo as Malacañang Assistant Press Secretary and Legislative Officer, respectively. The President also inducts Virginia E. Cruz, member of the board of directors of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, and former Gov. Ildefonso T. Cinco of Leyte as chairman of the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation.

Meanwhile, the President directs Ambassador Salvador P. Lopez, chief of the Philippine delegation to the United Nations, through the Department of Foreign Affairs to clear the way for the election of Chief Justice Cesar Bengzon of the Supreme Court as a member of the International Court of Justice.

The Chief Justice was chosen as the candidate of this country for the World Court post upon representation of a nominating committee composed of Associate Justices Roberto Concepcion, J. B. L. Reyes, and Jesus Barrera fed former Senate President Quintin. Paredes.

The Chief Executive is in full accord with the nomination of the Chief Justice, particularly because of the high qualifications of the nominee and because Bengzon is due for retirement by the middle of this year.

Chief Justice Bengzon has held the top post in the Supreme Court for over five years now, and during his administration the high court has won new prestige for its liberal views, lucid interpretations of the Constitution, and independence of action.

The International Court of Justice consists of 15 judges who are elected by the General Assembly and the Security Council from a list of persons nominated by the national groups in the Permanent Court of Arbitration or, in the case of members of the United Nations not represented in the Permanent Court of Arbitration, by national groups appointed for this purpose by their respective governments under the same conditions as those prescribed for members of the Permanent Court of Arbitration. The General Assembly and the Security Council hold separate elections independently of each other.

Judges of the Court are elected for a term of nine years and are eligible for reelection. As a result of special transitory provisions made with regard to the elections held in 1946, with a view to ensuring the gradual renewal of the Court, the terms of five of the 15 judges expire at the end of every three years.

Every three years the Court elects its President and Vice President, who are also eligible for reelection.

January 19.—PRESIDENT Marcos issues a proclamation declaring Friday Jan. 21, this year, as Civil Liberties Day "to reaffirm our faith in the cardinal principle of the inviolability of the individual and the primacy of human rights."

In proclaiming the day, the President notes the need “to inspire our people to greater dedication and fuller adherence to the cause of democracy and freedom.”

The Chief Executive explains that the promotion of civil liberties assures the translation into reality of a “regime of justice, liberty and democracy.”

“Respect for, and observance of civil liberties constitute one of the glorious traditions of our people,” the President observes. “It is but fitting and proper that Filipinos be given full opportunity to celebrate Civil Liberties Day with appropriate ceremonies to assure that its import and significance be more fully appreciated.”

The President directs Public Works Secretary-designate Antonio Raquiza to find a way to begin immediately the construction of the Gamu bridge in Isabela which connects the rice-rich Mallig valley with the rest of Cagayan province.

The President points out that construction of the Gamu bridge will bring the big rice harvests of Mallig valley within reach of markets in rice-starved regions.

Mallig valley is composed of seven agricultural municipalities, namely: Aurora, San Manuel, Roxas, Gamu, Mallig, Quezon and Santa Maria.

The moment the Gamu bridge is completed, the valley will be linked to the national highway, and thus facilitate the distribution of the rice yield in this region to other areas where rice is scarce. It is estimated that the bridge can be completed in seven months, at a cost of P3 million.

At the same time, President Marcos relieves Prisons Director Dominador Danan of his post and orders further investigation of the pardons irregularities to pinpoint other persons involved.

The President’s swift action is based upon the partial report of Secretary of Justice Jose Yulo and Undersecretary Claudio Teehankee, who had personally undertaken an investigation of the case upon direction of the Chief Executive.

Danan had earlier been reported as implicated in the pardons racket which consists of selling forged pardons to prisoners for substantial sums.

In the report submitted by the Department of Justice, it was revealed that the racket in fake pardons had a scope “larger than at first thought.”

The report disclosed that a search made by Criminal Investigation Service agents of the prisons bureau offices turned up a sheaf of Malacañang stationery and pardon forms. These were found in a drawer of the desk of Vicente Arciaga, chief of the Documents Section of the bureau. The search was made on the strength of search warrants issued to the CIS agents.

Detailed to take over from Danan is Catalino Macaraeg, chief of the technical staff of the Department of Justice and member of the Board of Pardons and Parole. He will be officer-in-charge of the bureau until the investigation is completed and a new director is named.

The President orders a full dress probe of the case, with an eye to pinpointing the responsibility of others who might have helped in selling the fake pardons.

Danan was implicated by Arciaga, who told CIS investigators that Danan had ignored his report on the forged signature of former Executive Secretary Ramon Diaz on the pardons given a number of prisoners. Over 50 pardons have been questioned by the CIS, who noted the forgeries by accident during the routine check of certain missing Chinese.

A certain Captain Manuel, also of the bureau of prisons was similarly fingered by Arciaga, as the man who handcarried the fake pardons and expedited the release of the prisoners.

In the morning, the President holds a caucus with Nacionalista members of the House of Representatives upon whom he impresses the necessity of enactment of the urgent legislative measures he has certified to the special session of the sixth Congress.

The President's proposal is contained in two measures, one certified to Congress at the opening of the special session last Monday, and the other still to be submitted for consideration,

The bills are:

1. An increase in the ceiling of government bonds authorized under R.A. No. 1000, from a maximum of P1 billion to P2 billion.
2. An increase in the loans authorized under R.A. No. 16 from a maximum of P200 million to \$1 billion or P3.9 billion.

The President tells the NP congressmen present that the increases he seeks are necessary to re-finance the indebtedness of the previous administration and to firm up the fiscal position of the government, which he describes as precarious.

The money obtained through these loans will be primarily spent on socio-economic development projects. In asking for the support of the congressmen, the President stresses that the shaky fiscal position of the government requires the attention of the lawmakers.

Under R.A. 1000 the President is authorized to borrow money by floating bonds locally, not to exceed P1 billion. In the measure certified to Congress, President Marcos has asked for authority to increase this amount to P2 billion.

The proposed loan is earmarked for socio-economic development projects.

Under R.A. 16, the President is authorized to borrow funds from the United States, its agencies and instrumentalities, not to exceed P200 million, for government operations and development projects.

The President proposed to increase this from P200 million to \$1 billion.

In addition the President wants the authority broadened to include other sources of loans, such as the World Bank, and other countries besides the U.S.

In order to impress upon the solons the importance to the public welfare of these loans, the President asks Acting Public Works Secretary Marciano Bautista to explain to them the projects that urgently need financing.

The projects mentioned include the cementing of principal trunklines, reconstruction of bridges, repair of existing irrigation systems and the construction of new ones, the rehabilitation and construction of 71 national ports, 70 airports and 50,000 kilometers of feeder roads, as well as the financing of other development projects, such as those programmed by the Mindanao Development Authority.

The Chief Executive emphasizes the utter necessity to raise immediate cash to meet the operational requirements of the government.

The President, in this connection, instructs Undersecretary of Finance Placido Mapa, Jr. to immediately consult with Secretary of Finance Eduardo Z. Romualdez, Governor Andres V. Castillo of the Central Bank, former Auditor General Pedro Gimenez and financial experts of the House of Representatives.

January 20.—THE Chief Executive issues an executive order abolishing the Sugar Development Committee and transferring its functions to the Philippine Sugar Institute.

The Sugar Development Committee (SDC) was created on July 10, 1964, through Executive Order No. 89 by former President Macapagal “for the implementation of nationwide development program for the sugar industry. . . “while the Philippine Sugar Institute (Philsugin), whose functions have been designed by law primarily for the continued development, improvement and expansion of the country’s sugar industry, was created through Republic Act 632, dated June 6, 1951.

The SDC is composed of 11 members headed by a chairman. The President directs that its functions, records, property, equipment and unexpended balance of appropriations, if any, be transferred to the Philsugin. He also directs that officials and employees detailed to the abolished body from other government agencies be returned to their respective offices.

At the same time, the President proclaims Saturday, January 22, this year, a special public holiday in eight Mindanao provinces and cities in connection with the feast of ID-UL-FITR, a very important Muslim holiday.

Affected by the proclamation are the provinces of Cotabato, Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur and Sulu and the cities of Basilan, Cotabato, Iligan and Marawi.

The proclamation decrees that it shall be considered a special public holiday for Muslim officials and employees in their respective stations.

The President confers with Commissioner of the Budget Faustino Sy-Changco on the preparation of the 1966-67 budget for submission to the Sixth Congress.

During the conference, the President lays firm stress on the government anti-smuggling drive even as he directs that the strictest economy be observed in the appropriation of funds. He tells Commissioner Sy-Changco to increase the appropriations for the bureau of customs and the bureau of internal revenue in order that these agencies will function better in support of the administration’s all-out drive against smuggling.

Greater logistics for the BIR and the customs service will among other things increase their effectivity in the collection of taxes and other government revenue, thus dovetailing with the President’s desire for the utmost economical use of appropriations.

In the two-and-a-half hour long conference, the President also directs Sy-Changco to:

1. Include an outlay for P3-million for the resettlement and rehabilitation of the Taal Volcano disaster victims;
2. Submit appropriations for expenditures only within the possible expected income of the government; and
3. Appropriate funds for strengthening police forces and augmenting the size of military trainees from the present 3,000 to as large as 20,000, or as funds will allow.

With respect to the funds servicing enabling acts previously approved by Congress, the President emphasizes these proposals should be supported only if funds can be made available. (These enabling acts provide for the construction of hospitals, markets, etc.) He likewise asks that provisions should be made to improve the subsistence allowance of prisoners.

The reduction at first contemplated in the proposed appropriations for the department of health is ordered restored by the President. The amount involved is P1-million.

He makes the restoration in view of his desire to make public health services, particularly as they apply to rural areas, more responsive to the urgent needs of the people.

In the afternoon, the President receives Chairman-General Manager Jose Abalos of the Philippine Tobacco Administration who submits his formal letter of resignation as head of the tobacco agency. He also receives Governor Conrado Estrella of the Land Authority who consults the President on matters concerning his office.

Meanwhile, President Marcos dispatches a message of felicitation to Mrs. Gandhi, daughter of the late Jawaharlal Nehru, upon her elevation as prime minister of India.

In his message sent to New Delhi this day, the President compliments her, saying "your election is a resounding affirmation of confidence in your distinguished leadership, support of your sentiments for peace and your courageous struggle for the progress of your great country and people."

January 21.—UPON being informed of the Defense Undersecretary's move to conduct an investigation of Commodore Ramon Alcaraz' criticism of the Philippine Navy and possibly to convene a court martial proceedings to pass on the charge "of conduct unbecoming" a military officer against the former naval operations chief, President Marcos orders the termination of the probe on Commodore Alcaraz and the approval of his retirement.

Alcaraz, in his remarks during the turnover ceremonies aboard the RPS "Incorruptible," assails that:

1. The failure of the A.F.P. to stop smuggling which is merely another form of infiltration reveals in a most dramatic manner the ineffectiveness of our entire defense system.
2. The AFP is poorly equipped that in a real shooting war, it would last only a few days.
3. "It is about time we stop making the armed forces a mere employment agency." About 85 per cent of the AFP budget goes to pay and allowances of officers and men, with the remaining 15 per cent to service, maintenance and equipment.
4. The defense posture is obsolete. There are certain aspects of our defense structure that warrant immediate reappraisal.
5. The AFP is shot through and through with politics and that professionalism is at its lowest.
6. Leadership in the AFP can still be improved. The concept that the different major commands are co-equal sister services under an integrated command at G.H.Q. is believed good only on paper. In actual practice, A.F.P. leadership is basically ground force oriented.
7. We are over-dependent on the United States for military assistance, leading to complacency on the part of our leaders, past and present. It is about time we tailor our defense set-up in accordance with our capabilities and national interests.

The President spends almost the whole day this day working on the draft of his state-of-the-nation message to be delivered at the opening of the first regular session of the Sixth Congress Monday.

Except for Chairman Juan V. Borra of the Commission on Elections with whom he discusses proposed electoral reforms, the Chief Executive did not receive any callers.

At the conference, the President states he will move for the simplification of presidential electoral campaigns, through a bill he will submit to Congress that will cut down expenses and the campaign period.

In his electoral reform bill, the President will seek to reduce the period of a presidential election by:

1. Holding the national conventions of contending parties to within the six-month period immediately prior to the elections;
2. Limiting the actual campaign to three months;
3. Limiting campaign expenses drastically, including the minimal use of radio-TV time, posters, and newspaper advertisements.

The President calls for these reforms in view of the great waste in energy and funds, including public funds spent to hold elections, during presidential polls.

He points out that “prolonged election campaigns upset the government machinery, distract officials, and generates undue tension in the public.”

The Chief Executive starts working on his message after reading the morning newspapers and having breakfast. He emerges from his private study at 11:25 a.m. to confer with Borra. The meeting lasts about half an hour.

Then the President resumes work on his message following lunch and a brief rest.

Meantime, President Marcos bares he will seek the cooperation of Congress in pushing through economic development projects designed to make adequate provisions for a fast growing population as he certifies to Congress the necessity of enacting a bill that will increase the ceiling of bonded indebtedness authorized under Republic Act No. 1000 from P1-billion to P2-billion for economic development purposes.

In certifying the bill, the President emphasizes that:

1. The population which is growing at the rate of about one million a year must be provided with sufficient supply of food and clothing;
2. Enough dwelling units for the 130,000 new households that are formed every year must be constructed;
4. Adequate health facilities for both the metropolitan and rural areas should be installed.

He pointed out that the remaining balance of P68.5-million under the present borrowing authority of the President is inadequate to fund the various infrastructure projects proposed to be financed through bond flotations.

“Raising the bond ceiling is therefore necessary to meet the requirements of the development program,” he says.

The President states that the production of goods and services for domestic consumption and for foreign commerce must be increased not only to maintain the people’s standard of living, in the face of their increasing needs, but to achieve a substantial improvement.

Borrowing from domestic sources, preferably non-inflationary ones is always a fruitful recourse if the borrowed funds are used for productive projects, the President affirms.

He explains that by increasing productivity, the government is provided with a wider tax base and additional revenues with which to service the debt.

The Chief Executive asserts that borrowing from abroad is often necessary to obtain the foreign exchange requirement of certain development projects and may be resorted to as long as undue burdens are not imposed on the country's external debt servicing capacity.

In urging enactment of the bill, the President concludes that the proposed bill will give the Chief Executive the increased flexibility needed to meet, by public borrowing, whatever requirements of the economic development program cannot be covered by taxes.

January 22.—PRESIDENT Marcos devotes most of his time this morning going over the draft of his State-of-the-Nation message to the Sixth Congress.

The President takes time out from the preparation of his message to send wires to the leaders of the four major political parties of the country invites them to submit their comments and recommendations on ad interim appointees of the previous administration for possible reappointment of deserving ones.

He consults Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal, president of the Liberal Party; Senator Gil J. Puyat, president of the Nacionalista Party; Senator Lorenzo Tañada president of the Citizens Party; and Senator Raul Manglapus, president of the Party for Philippine Progress.

The Chief Executive takes this step because of the possibility that the Commission on Appointments will not be able to act on the Pending ad interim appointments.

The President will consider these recommendations before extending new appointments which he felt is necessary to prevent "paralyzation of governmental functions."

January 23.—WITH the adjournment of the weeklong special session of Congress, President Marcos reappoints deserving officials in the executive and judicial branches of the government as well as in the armed forces of the Philippines whose appointments had not been acted upon during the special session.

The President likewise makes some appointments to key positions in the government rendered vacant by the failure of the Commission on Appointments to pass upon previous appointments to such positions during the special session.

At the same time, the Chief Executive informs the Commission on Appointments that he considers as "lapsed and terminated" all the ad interim appointments made by former President Macapagal previous to the recently concluded special session of Congress.

In his letter to the appointments body, the President states that all the ad interim appointments not resubmitted by him should therefore be "considered withdrawn."

The President's action is based on a legal opinion of Justice Undersecretary Claudio Teehankee that the 1,717 ad interim appointments made by Mr. Macapagal and those by the President himself, expired upon the adjournment of the special session of Congress even if the Commission on Appointments were not constituted.

In his legal opinion, Teehankee draws support from the pronouncements made by Mr. Macapagal and Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal themselves when they were members of the House of Representatives in 1954.

Teehaakee's opinion is anchored on the constitutional provision that "the President shall have the power to make appointments during the recess of the Congress, but such appointments shall be effective only until disapproval by the Commission on Appointments or until the next adjournment of the Congress."

Pointing out that under this provision, ad interim appointments are subject to a resolutive condition (“disapproval by the Commission on Appointments”) and a resolutive period (“until the next adjournment of the Congress”), the Justice Undersecretary adds:

“As the provision is plain and free from ambiguity, I believe that there shall be no deviation from its literal import and that there is no room for interpretation which after all, is resorted to only when the meaning of the statute is equivocal or ambiguous.”

He likewise states that if the framers of the Constitution had intended to limit the application of the provision to the adjournment of the regular session, such intent would have been manifested in clear and unmistakable terms.

In the afternoon, the President inducts into office the officials reappointed or appointed.

Following their induction, the President repairs to his study where he resumes going over the draft of his message to the nation.

In the evening, the President hears Sunday mass at the Palace chapel with the members of his family.

January 24.—STRESSING economic development and better government in his State-of-the-Nation message to Congress, President Marcos reveals concrete plans for immediate construction of roads, bridges, and other public works projects as well as the utilization of the Armed forces in a wide range of socio-economic projects.

The President, in his message, calls for the revitalization of the judiciary, the national defense posture, the fight against crime, smuggling, graft and corruption in government.

Other topics discussed by the President in his message include financing, foreign policy, rice production, prices, public health, education, and the reorganization of the government.

The Chief Executive explains that the challenge to the nation was the problem of providing in ample measure for the basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, learning, and of enhancing human dignity and providing better opportunities for “our people to enjoy the benefits of economic progress.”

The ultimate goal however, he states, is more than just providing these basic needs and the necessary public services. The final goal, he declares, is to make the Filipino realize totally his “full spiritual and intellectual capacity,” and make him respond to the challenge of his country’s highest aspirations such that the nation can be truly great again.

In projecting the goals of his 4-year socio-economic development program, the President discloses that the administration will undertake immediately the construction of major infrastructure projects, including highways, electrification, waterworks and artesian wells, river control and drainage, air ports, better air navigation facilities, irrigation systems, ports and harbors, extension of the rail-road, and improved telecommunications.

Included in this program is the construction of 16,000 kilometers of feeder roads, some 30,000 lineal meters of permanent bridges, a generator with an additional electric power capacity of 1 million kilowatts, water services to service eight regions and 38 localities.

One of the important new proposals of the President is the revamp of the electoral law aimed at preventing the reoccurrence of last year’s electoral campaign which he described as “ruinous” and which “threatened to debauch the national treasury.”

Among the reforms sought are the limitation of campaign expenses of both candidate and political party, elimination of sample ballots, reduction of TV-radio propaganda to a “reasonable level,” and the restriction of the period of campaign to six months for national offices and three months for local offices.

He likewise proposes more powers for the Commission on Elections, to issue injunctions against candidates violating the limitations on expenses and the campaign period and to annul fraudulent votes; amendments to the new registration law that would penalize possession of voters' ID cards by persons other than the owners and increased penalties for public officials violating the election law.

The President also asks for amendments to the Constitution to synchronized elections, provide a single term of six years for the President, and increase the Senate membership.

Other new proposals of the President are the creation of new offices or agencies, including:

1. A department of interior to deal with local governments, without violating local autonomy and the decentralization of government functions.
2. A Maritime Commission to deal with the orderly growth and development of the shipping industry, for which no single official body now exists.
3. A National Export Trade Authority which shall unify and coordinate activities of government agencies concerned with exports and lend other aid to exporters.
6. An Investment Office which shall furnish all the aid and information needed by prospective investors, foreign and domestic.

The President points to the need for political and social stability as a prerequisite to increased investment and production which he stressed are the true and final answer to the country's economic ills.

To achieve this stability, the President will tighten internal and external security, and this in turn will depend on the military establishment and the police agencies. He proposed therefore a revitalization of these elements. To achieve this, the President recommends the following measures:

1. Extend the period of trainee service to 18 months and utilize trainees in regular military duties.
2. Modernize equipment, which entails the outlay of a supporting sum for operational costs.
3. Revamp of the military organization to restore corps spirit and morale.
4. Administrative reforms in the police forces to upgrade effectiveness and efficiency.
5. Mobilize AFP manpower, material, and equipment to assist in socioeconomic development projects.

The President further sharpens the necessity of increased investment and production by pledging the betterment of the climate for both through incentives such as easing tight credit, refinancing for ailing local industries, channeling of foreign investment to appropriate sectors that will not impinge on local industries and domestic investments, stabilize the exchange rate at the present level, hold the line on prices, maintain adequate international reserves, specify investment priorities.

In the area of financing, the President asks the Congress for new ceilings for loan under R.A. 1000 and R.A. 16, the first authorizing domestic: borrowing, the second foreign borrowing. Under the first authority, he asks for amended ceiling that would hike the limit from P1-billion to P2-billion; and under the second, a ceiling from P200 million to 81 billion.

In this connection, he proposes that all borrowings be made on a projects basis, and a clarification of the ceilings be made to make them apply to amounts outstanding rather than to amounts incurred.

President Marcos seeks early normalization of relations with Malaysia in the foreign relations field, an early resolution of pending treaties hardening the Philippines' economic and political relations with Japan, while maintaining commitments to friends and allies.

"We shall be friends to all nations that share our values and wish us no evil," the President declares.

He states that the nation will make common cause with new nations in Africa, Asia and Latin America seeking national and cultural identity, expand trade with other countries while keeping trade relations with the US firm, a trade which he says is "essential to the national economy."

The President expressed continued friendship for the US based on "common ideas and interests, of mutual respect and consideration," while exploring with the US government ways to eliminate irritants including the just settlement of claims of Filipino war veterans for benefits and reparations.

Early in his message, the President paints a dark picture of present conditions in the nation, saying that the country is "in crisis."

Toward the end of his speech, he states that he had come full circle, in that after the war he helped in the rehabilitation of the country and people, which as President he is now again doing.

He stresses that in this great task, the legislative and the executive are partners. "Our people now wait for us to act," he tells the Congress.

"I ask you and the rest of the nation to join with me in the massive and unrelenting effort to translate these weary hopes and expectations into action and accomplishment."

In the morning, the President receives the members of the special committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives who inform him that the Sixth Congress has convened.

In the evening, he receives Ambassador William McCormick Blair of the United States.

January 25.—PRESIDENT Marcos directs the bureau of forestry to stop the issuance of timber licenses and concessions until after the reorganization of the bureau.

The President makes the order during a conference this day with Vice-President Fernando Lopez, who is concurrently the secretary of agriculture and natural resources.

During the conference, the President and the Vice-President discuss plans for the improvement of national parks and reservations.

At the same time, the President orders Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas to secure from the National Parks and Wildlife Office a list of the areas over which it has authority, and to specify which have been declared national parks and reservations.

The President likewise orders the bureau of forestry to make survey of existing concessions to delimit and ascertain boundaries of forestlands.

He wants the survey to determine exactly the true areas of these concessions and whether the concessionaires could comply, or have complied, with the terms of their concessions and permits.

"At the rate these logging operations are going, we will denude our forests in ten years," the President warns.

Then, the President receives Rep. Tokio Nakamura of Japan who pays him a courtesy call following arrival the other day on a four-day visit here.

During his call, Nakamura delivers to the President a personal letter from former Prime Minister Nobosuke Kishi.

With Nakamura, on the call on the President, are Dr. Kochiro Akao and Sokia Kitamura, managing director and assistant director, respectively, of International Engineering Consultants Associates; and Exdras H. Santua and Annie Rubio, the firm's local representatives.

In the evening, the Chief Executive receives Undersecretary of National Defense Alfonso Arellano and PARGO chairman Bartolome Cabangbang who consults him on matters concerning their respective offices.

January 26.—THE Chief Executive directs the chief of staff of the AFP to declassify the record of Commodore Ramon Alcaraz, recently retired from the Philippine Navy.

He also orders the declassification of confidential reports, without divulging the names implicated in said reports, nor the identities of special agents involved, and their sources of information.

President Marcos confers with a large group of members of the House of Representatives who call on him this day being "Congressmen's Day" at the Palace.

His series of conferences with the solons and their delegations takes up most of the President's time this morning.

In the afternoon, the President confers with Japanese rice experts preparatory to launching the Administration's crash program for increasing rice production.

The Japanese technical team is headed by Kasumasa Kojima of the International Engineering and Development Company of Japan. The team is brought here under the reparations program and will work without expense to the government. Also at the conference are Vice-President Fernando Lopez, concurrently secretary of agriculture and natural resources, chairman Osmundo Mondoñedo of the Rice and Corn Administration and Director Nicanor Jorge and Antonio Quejado of the bureaus of lands and forestry, respectively.

In the evening, the President receives Administrator Constancio Castañeda of the Office of Economic Coordination who consults him on matters concerning government-owned and controlled corporations.

January 27.—PRESIDENT Marcos takes steps to discourage government men from issuing public announcements about investigations initiated by their offices.

The Chief Executive issues an administrative order enjoining all government officials and employees from issuing press releases pertaining to matters which are still being investigated in their respective offices, agencies or instrumentalities of the government.

The President's concern in issuing the directive is solely to prevent "trial by publicity" for the men or entities under probe. He observes that often in the past, investigations had been made sometimes in harassment of those probed, or in the case of legitimate irregularities without the "full facts marshalled to support the charges."

The strictures imposed in the presidential directive do not cover public reports on investigations but would only encourage strong factual support for charges and findings before being released publicly. The President seeks to protect the innocent and at the same time give the investigation every leeway for accomplishing its purposes in the public interest.

He feels that premature publicity on investigations is "inimical to public interest" and serious enough to call for stern penalties for those who make a practice of it.

Then, the President inducts into office two more ranking officials in the government, one in the department of agriculture and natural resources and the other in a government corporation. Both officials are appointed in acting capacities. They are: Isosceles Pascual as acting undersecretary of agriculture and Gregorio S. Licaros as acting chairman of the Board of Governors of the Development Bank of the Philippines.

Pascual is reappointed, his appointment by President Macapagal having lapsed with the adjournment of the special session of Congress on January 22. He is re-nominated to his old post.

Licaros is a former Malacañang financial assistant, chairman and general manager of the Government Service Insurance System, and chairman of the DBP board under President Magsaysay.

In the afternoon, the President receives some 200 regional, provincial and city representatives of the Ramon Magsaysay Foundation headed by Senator Manuel Manahan, chairman; Judge Guillermo Santos, vice chairman; and Col. Nicanor Jimenez, campaign director.

These representatives are currently attending a three-day seminar in Manila on the Philippines participation in the establishment of an RM Foundation center.

During its call, the delegation presents the President with a miniature model of a projected 16-storey foundation center building to be constructed at Plaza Militar on Roxas Boulevard. The group likewise invites the President to be the guest at kick-off ceremonies for a nation-wide fund-raising campaign for the establishment of the center.

Construction of the center will also be financed from the Rockefeller Brothers fund which will donate \$1-million and grant a long-term low-interest loan of up to P2 million.

Regarding the foundation's project to introduce modern farming methods in the rural areas, Col. Jimenez informs the President that the organization has put up 500 demonstration farms of one hectare each all over the country.

The President assures the foundation that the administration will extend all possible assistance to this laudable project.

In the evening, the President administers the oath of office to newly-elected officers of the Business Writers Association of the Philippines and the Philippine Chamber of Industries.

Following the ceremonies, the President receives officials of the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM) headed by Greg Feliciano.

The PRRM officials report to the Chief Executive on the progress of the training of youth in rural areas in progressive living. Feliciano states that the PRRM has trained not only Filipinos but youth from Asian and African countries as well.

Then, the Chief Executive meets at a closed door conference with military top brass headed by Defense Undersecretary Alfonso Arellano and Gen. Ernesto Mata, AFP chief of staff.

January 28.—IN response to the appeal for assistance made by Philippine National Railways General Manager Alfredo M. Santos, who points out the urgency of the improvement and rehabilitation of the state railway firm, President Marcos directs OEC Administrator Constancio Castañeda, PNR Chairman Salvador Villa and PNR Gen. Manager Santos to take up with Bureau of Customs officials the settlement of P22,151,904.70 due the state railway firm from the Customs Arrastre Service. Incurred when the Manila Port Service, operated by the government rail firm, transferred its materials and equipment to the Custom Arrastre Service in October, 1964.

The precarious financial position of the PNR is taken up by the President in his conference with OEC Administrator Castaneda, Gen. Santos and Col. Villa.

During the conference, Gen. Santos recommends that the President certify to Congress an enabling provision amending R.A. 4156 by setting aside P5 million annually to be included in the General Appropriations Act, as the annual subscription of the government to the PNR.

Santos states that with the release of much-needed funds and settlement of outstanding receivables, the PNR will be able to update the payment of salaries and wages, pay local purchases of supplies and equipment, and meet foreign obligations guaranteed by the national government.

He adds that because of the precarious cash position of the PNR, the salaries and wages of about 8,000 officials and employees were delayed for one month, adversely affecting efficiency and morale.

In the afternoon, the President receives Ambassadors Trevett Wakeham Cutts of Australia and Han Lih-wu of China.

Ambassador Cutts pays the President a farewell call preparatory to leaving for his home office after completing a three-year tour of duty here, while Ambassador Han pays the President a courtesy call prior to leaving for Taipeh on Monday to attend important conferences there.

January 29.—PRESIDENT Marcos clears the way for retired Commodore “Ramon Alcaraz to scrutinize the record on his case and at the same time present his side of the controversy on his retirement which had already reached Congress.

The President meets earlier with defense officials who make representations with him for opening the records of Alcaraz in order to clarify the situation to the retired naval officer.

During the meeting, Defense Undersecretary Alfonso Arellano shows deep concern over the unsettled state of the Alcaraz case, and makes strong recommendations to the President for the opening the records on the controversial retirement of the ranking Philippine Navy officer.

The defense undersecretary discloses that since the case involves the integrity, morale and safety of the forces operating in the field, it should be speedily resolved. That is why, he says, he and the chief of staff appeal to the President to clear the way for calling Alcaraz to the DND, both to examine the records of his case, if he so desires, and to present his side.

The President approves the request, cautioning the officials, however, to observe the usual security measures in declassifying the records.

Following the meeting, the President receives Undersecretary of Justice Claudio Teehankee, who reports on various investigations being conducted by his department, notably on certain fund disbursements made by then National Treasurer Amable Aguiluz who, in his present capacity, will then pass on the same disbursements.

Teehankee also discusses other important matters with the President.

The Chief Executive spends most of the time closeted in his private study clearing his desk of a pile of official papers.

Because of a series of conferences he had during the week with various government officials, national as well as local, the President did not have enough time to attend to the heavy paper work study.

Today, he takes full advantage of the let-up in Palace callers to work on important state documents brought to him for action.

January 30.—AS disturbing reports of intensive infestation of gamu-gamo (gnat-like fly or midges) reach him, President Marcos orders a concerted and coordinated drive against the insect infestation of certain Laguna towns.

In separate wires he dispatches through Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas, the President directs the Departments of National Defense, Health, Agriculture and Natural Resource and the Social Welfare Administration to “extend immediately all assistance possible in combatting the gamu-gamo infestation in certain Laguna towns.”

Secretary Salas discloses that the President had ordered the same government agencies two weeks ago to help the people of Laguna fight the insect infestation in their province.

The President’s intervention in the problem leads several government agencies to agree on three steps: 1) light trapping of the insects, 2) spraying of certain areas of Laguna Lake, and 3) fogging of infested localities.

At the same time, the President appoints former Press Secretary Jose C. Nable as presidential assistant on housing.

Nable was press secretary to former President Carlos P. Garcia and legislative secretary to the late President Ramon Magsaysay. He succeeds former Manila Councilor Pedro S. de Jesus as presidential assistant on housing.

Before he was tapped for the public service, Nable was a political writer and congressional reporter for the *Manila Chronicle*. He was also at one time president of the Congressional Press Club and one of the founders of the National Press Club, for which he was awarded an NPC citation.

In the afternoon, the President leads some 50,000 devotees in a mass prayer imploring Divine Guidance “so that as we advance in age as an independent nation, we may also advance in wisdom and grace before God and Men.”

The Chief Executive also leads the Catholic faithful who hear Mass at the Luneta consecrating the Filipino people to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The mass is celebrated by Cardinal Santos before an altar at the Independence Memorial Grandstand.

The solemn liturgical rites mark the closing of the nation’s observance of the fourth centenary of Philippine Christianization which opened in Cebu City last April 27.

A feature of the observance is the voyage to Manila of the Sacred Image of the Holy Child from Cebu where it had been enshrined for the last four centuries since it was first brought to the Philippines by Spanish missionaries. The President arrives at the grandstand at about the same time the Holy Image is entering the Luneta at the head of a long procession from the San Agustin Church in Intramuros.

Together with Cardinal Santos, the President helps carry the Image from the carriage to a platform beside the improvised altar on the grandstand.

Following the rites, the President returns to Malacañang where, after a short rest, he repairs to his study and works on a pile of official papers.

Meanwhile, President Marcos receives a report of the Budget Commission showing that items in the budget of the House of Representatives that former President Macapagal vetoed as congressional allowances were virtually restored by him after his veto through the transfer of presidential funds.

The report revealed that P15,249,830.58 representing various balances of unexpended appropriations under the Executive Department was transferred to the Lower House in payment of “prior years’ obligations.” The transfer was said to have been effected under Advice of Allotment No. 2-03, signed by the Budget Commissioner.

The items in the House appropriations vetoed by then President Macapagal the report explained, totalled P15,860,000, of which prior obligations during the three-year period totalled only P2,500,000. Payment for this sum was authorized under the same budget.

It was clearly understood that the sum transferred by the former Chief Executive to the House approximately matched the sum vetoed by him and, in effect, covered the amount utilized as allowances of congressmen, which the veto ostensibly set aside.

Aggravating the circumstances of transfer," it was reported, "is the fact that the amount transferred is culled from various items that would have funded important projects and public services."

As reported, the sum of over P15 million transferred to the House came from so-called unexpended appropriations covering the following items:

- | | | | | | | | | |
|----|--|------------|----------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------|----------------|
| 1. | Relief | of | Filipino | fire | victims | in | Manila, | P500,000. |
| 2. | | Panay | | Development | | Authority, | | P200,000. |
| 3. | | Samar | | Development | | Authority, | | P200,000. |
| 4. | | Mountain | Province | | Development | Authority, | | P100,000. |
| 5. | | Land | | Authority | | programs, | | P4,000,000 |
| 6. | | Fertilizer | and | certified | seeds | procurements, | | P1,000,000. |
| 7. | | Mindanao | | State | | University, | | P3,249,830.58. |
| 8. | Salary standardization fund, P6,000,000. | | | | | | | |

It was emphasized that these eight items were sacrificed in favor of payment of prior years' obligations incurred by the House in the printing or reprinting of records, journals, etc.; purchase of furniture and equipment; expenses for repair and maintenance; vacation, sick leave and retirement pay of members of the House and employees.

The report concluded that "it is clear that the veto of House allowances by then President Macapagal was not made seriously for shortly afterwards the same amount was restored almost intact, through the transfer of the said sum with more urgent public welfare appropriations suffering in the process."

January 31.—PRESIDENT Marcos orders the customs commissioner to report within 24 hours on the results of an investigation into the case of a Filipino war veteran who lost his belongings in the customs zone of the South Harbor late last year.

The victim is Pedro A. Calustro, a retired sergeant in the U.S. Army, who returned to the Philippines last November, lost most of his belongings, including gifts for his kin in Vintar, Ilocos Norte, and his U.S. Congressional Medal of Honor.

The President directs Customs Commissioner Jacinto Gavino to comb the whole area from top to bottom, if necessary, to solve the case and apprehend the culprits.

In the morning, the President confers with senators on the legislative program of the administration.

At the same time, the President, through Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas, directs all departments, government-owned or controlled corporations and financial institutions to submit recommendations and legislative proposals on the reorganization of the government not later than Feb. 28, this year.

The reorganization of the government was one of the prime proposals made to Congress by President Marcos, and was previously submitted to the special session of Congress which he called last Jan. 15.

Passed by the House in the regular session, the reorganization bill is now in the Senate, and it is expected that the Senate will pass the measure this week.

The President calls for the reorganization of the government in order to sharpen efficiency and cut back on public expenditures, through a judicious pruning of the government offices, many of which overlap in organization and services.

The revamp will streamline the machinery of public service in that superfluous offices will be eliminated and the bulk of casual employees will be trimmed down to a working minimum.

In the evening, the President confers with former Senator and newly-appointed chief of the Reparations Mission to Japan Eulogio Balao, who calls on him for instructions prior to his departure for Tokyo to assume his new post. Also present during the meeting are Jesus Evangelista and Manfredo Castro, first and second senior officials, respectively, of the mission.

February 1.—THE Chief Executive lifts the “ban” on press release originating from government offices relating to investigations being conducted by said offices, shortly after a conference with newspaper publishers and officials of the Philippine Press Institute.

The withdrawal of the administrative order restricting publicity on unfinished government investigations is made by the President during a conference in which the pros and cons of the controversial order are explained by both sides.

The publishers inform the President that misinterpretation of the order by government officials and employees had resulted in an “atmosphere” that tended to restrict the flow of news.

On his part, the President states that the order was issued primarily to protect innocent parties from “trial by publicity” and to infuse into government officials a hard sense of responsibility about facts.

At the conference, the President instructs the Malacañang Press Office, through Press Secretary Jose D. Aspiras, to facilitate access by the press to government offices and documents, particularly in such sensitive areas as the bureau of customs, bureau of internal revenue and others, where there are more strict security rules than usual.

President Marcos likewise declares that he will encourage public officials to give full and free access to the press in search of news.

National Press Club President Nereo Andolong supports the President’s order, saying that the ban is two-pronged: 1) To allow a more objective inquiry and 2) to uphold the innocence of the subject or subjects investigated until otherwise proven guilty.

The President stresses that the order at no time ever prohibited public officials and employees from submitting to interviews with the press, nor from cooperating in providing news and information, nor from answering direct queries from the press and radio.

At the same time, President Marcos issues a proclamation declaring the second week of February every year as National Press Week.

The President issues the proclamation in order to afford the people a “fuller appreciation and keener realization of the vital role of the press in safeguarding individual rights and promoting the national welfare.”

The Chief Executive, in his proclamation, urges the people to extend “their utmost support and cooperation in the proper observance of National Press Week to the end that the free and militant press shall be further encouraged to fulfill its noble mission so indispensable in a democratic community.”

The President also approves in principle the conversion of the Sapang Palay relocation center in San Ildefonso, Bulacan into a national training center in resettlement and rehabilitation techniques, with the assistance of the United Nations, in the effort to help present urban squatters and slum dwellers find security and a better environment.

He informs Morris Juppenlatz, UN housing expert, who pays him a call this day that the administration is ready to extend support to the, project, designed to solve the squatter problem.

Juppenlatz on his part, informs the President that the United Nations wanted to train urban squatters and slum dwellers in modern resettlement and rehabilitation methods which can be adopted as a universal pattern for all developing countries plagued by the same problem.

The plan is for the center to train squatters relocated there in methodical ways of resettlement in new communities, which can be opened in undeveloped regions of the country. Training will include practical know-how in such fields as health and agriculture. Should the Philippine project be adopted, he states, the United Nations will give assistance, including equipment.

The project, Juppenlatz continues, will require a counterpart fund of P1 million for, among others, the maintenance of equipment, buildings and personnel.

In the morning, the President receives visitors who stop over in Manila in the course of business tours of Asian countries.

First to call on the President is Byron Buck, president of the Book Publishing Program of New York and International Training Director of the Franklin Books Program, and a group of local publishers and librarians. Buck is on a survey tour of Southeast Asian countries.

During the call, the President directs Customs Commissioner Jacinto Gavino to look into feasibility of having the Tariff Code amended to lower the tariff on book paper and to correct the faulty classification of this material by customs appraisers.

The group informs the President that the recent raising of the Tariff on bookpaper from 5 to 30 per cent and the faulty classification of bookpaper by the customs have worked against the interests of the local publishing industry.

Following the call of Buck, the President receives Charles B. Love and Wilfred D. Wickendek of the Chemical Bank and Trust of New York who arrived recently on their annual visits to their company's local subsidiary.

Other foreign callers are Ellis Eisenstain and Donald Greplen of the Child's Securities Corporation, of New York who are in Manila for a survey of investment possibilities here.

In the evening, the President administers the oath of office to former Press Secretary Jose C. Nable as presidential assistant on housing, and former Iloilo Governor Jose Zulueta as presidential consultant on local governments.

February 2.—TO concentrate the entire efforts of the Philippine Constabulary on the accelerated anti-smuggling campaign and missions other than police work, President Marcos transfers the responsibility for training police officers entirely to the National Bureau of Investigation Police Academy.

Under the present setup both the Philippine Constabulary and the NBI conduct police training separately, with the PC conducting the training of chiefs of police at Camp Crame, and the provincial or company commander providing training for rank and file policemen, depending upon the needs of the particular police force.

The President points out that the NBI is particularly fitted for the task of training police officers because it has specialized in this field and is adequately equipped for such work.

The special course for police chiefs is conducted once a year and runs from four to 11 months, while the extent of training depends upon the needs, whether for discipline or for a more proficient organization.

The President also creates an office under the secretary of finance to handle the disposition of seized smuggled goods.

The President is impelled to create this office, by sizeable discrepancies observed in the quantity and value of goods seized from smugglers and the corresponding revenue realized from the auction of these goods.

He feels that this discrepancy can be averted if the disposal of seized contraband is centralized in one agency. He further explains that the continuing losses to the government through faulty disposal of these goods will nullify the government's efforts to fight smuggling and minimize its effects on the economy.

The disposition of seized smuggled goods is jointly made by the Bureau of Customs and the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Goods seized by the navy at sea are commonly classified under technical smuggling and turned over to the Customs for assessment of customs duties and taxes, while those seized by the PC are turned over to the BIR for assessment of specific taxes.

It was found that in the past few years there are huge differences in the value of goods seized and the amount realized from auction sales. The differences have never been satisfactorily explained.

The usual explanation being advanced by some quarters is that the goods, while awaiting disposal, are pilfered or lost under mysterious circumstances.

In the afternoon, the Chief Executive meets the Vietnamese envoy, Ambassador Pham Dang Lam.

At the meeting, the South Vietnamese envoy reiterated his government's requests for assistance from the Philippines in the form of "an engineering construction battalion with its own self-defense personnel."

Ambassador Lam returned recently from Saigon where he was called for consultations.

Then, the President receives Rogelio do la Rosa, Philippine envoy to Cambodia, and discusses with him the current Southeast Asian situation with emphasis on Philippine-Cambodian relations.

In the evening, the Chief Executive designates Leonardo E. Canoy of Toledo City as Assistant Press Secretary for Radio-TV-Movies, Dr. Heraldo del Castillo and Major Venancio Duque as members of the board, of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and the National Shipyards and Steel Corporation, respectively.

Canoy was program producer-director of ABS, Channel 9. A former infantry captain in the armed forces, he left the army after he was wounded in action during the war. He has a B.S.C.E. diploma from the Mapua Institute of Technology.

Dr. Del Castillo, the new PCSO board member, has been with the Quezon Institute for 52 years, the last six years of which he served as Director of the Sanitarium. He is President of the Philippine Medical Association, and the Confederation of Medical Associations of Asia and Oceania which is composed of 13 Asian countries.

Major Duque served in the office of the Senate President as an economist and chief of the Political and Veteran Affairs Office. A lawyer in active service, he served as defense counsel, PA headquarters; staff judge advocate officer, AFP Chief of Staff; chairman, Board of Review, AFP War Crimes Commission; and chief, Military Intelligence Legal Office, G-2, AFP.

February 3.—PRESIDENT Marcos hosts a series of conferences with various groups resulting in the formation of a Citizen's Action in the Philippines against Smuggling (CAPAS), a civic organization to assist in the government's anti-smuggling campaign on a nationwide scale.

The organization is composed of representatives of the private sector all over the country, including labor and religious organizations operating through local committees, coordinated at the top. The civic body, aside

from having a semi-official status, enjoys the full support and protection of the government.

In calling for the citizens' support, the President stresses the destructive effect of smuggling which, he states, has not only corrupted government officials and threatened the very foundation of the nation's democratic government but also eroded the economic base of the country.

"The basis for the campaign is not only the fact that has corrupted men and deprived the government of its due income but that failure in upholding the rule of law will mean" the failure of the government itself," he adds.

I feel that if it's a matter of survival for our people, such that if we miss, this opportunity to help stomp out smuggling, which has become the symbol of the breakdown of the rule of law, our democracy will fail the President, explains.

The Chief Executive asks the various leaders to call the attention of the people to the menace of smuggling by word of mouth, leaflets, posters and rallies all over the nation.

"Appeal to their patriotism and nationalism, and tell them that the salvation of the country also depends on them," he states.

The citizen, the President points out, can help in the drive by providing evidences or information on the movement of smugglers. Others can encourage witnesses to testify against violators, help people who want to help in the drive but do not know how to go about it.

Business and industrial leaders, the President says, have great stake in the drive, and he therefore asks them to call on their chapter members to participate actively in the campaign on the local level.

At the same time, the President designates Mamerto B. Endriga, a career man of 28 years service in the Department of Finance, as undersecretary of finance.

Endriga has been in the government service for a total of 39 years 28 of which were spent serving in various capacities in the Department of Finance. Starting as a law clerk in the Bureau of Internal Revenue in 1933, he later rose to provincial revenue officer and, in July 1950, was taken into the newly created technical staff of the Department of Finance then the premier division in the department.

In the technical staff, he was successively senior examiner, tax expert, senior economist, and then chief of the group. Subsequently, he was named assistant secretary of finance, the position he held until he was designated undersecretary by the President.

Following the meeting with the business and civic leaders, the President receives Dr. Salvador Araneta and Dr. Ernesto Sibal who take up with him the adverse effects of the new tariff on book paper, particularly on the student population of the country.

In the afternoon, the President receives James F. Crafts, chairman of the board of the Firemen's Fund American Insurance Company and F. Arthur Mayes, president of the American Foreign Insurance Association who pay him a courtesy call.

Crafts and Mayes arrive recently to look into the insurance business in the country. During their call, they discuss with the President the problems of insurance in relation to Philippine economic conditions.

In the evening, he confers with members of the different fishing groups in the country who are accompanied by Gov. Isidro Rodriguez of Rizal.

February 4.—THE Chief Executive orders the outright demolition of constructed fishpond dikes in Bulacan.

The President issues the order shortly after signing a proclamation revoking Proclamation No. 500 issued by former President Macapagal last November 20. The President's action is made in response to the petition of a large group of fishermen who call on him this day.

The proclamation of the former Chief Executive, which the Bulacan fisherman termed as "midnight proclamation," set apart from the communal fishing grounds of the province some 155 hectares of choice and strategic coastal areas. The fisherman state that this benefited only a few rich people.

The disputed coastal area is part of the 2,925 hectares of communal fishing ground reserved by former President Garcia in 1959 for the fisherman of Bulacan. This is done to discourage big fishpond owners from encroaching on the area.

President Marcos' proclamation will benefit some 100,393 people in nine towns of the province who depend on these fishing grounds for a living. The towns are Bocaue, Bulacan, Malolos, Paombong, Meycawayan, Obando, Hagonoy, Valenzuela and Bigaa.

In the morning, the President receives Sir Percy Claude Spender, president of the International Court of Justice, who pays him a courtesy call. The World Court president arrived the other day from Sydney Australia for an eight-day visit here as guest of the Philippine Constitution Association.

During their meeting, the President and Mr. Spender exchange impressions on government, particularly on the matter of electoral reform.

Following the eminent jurist's call, the President meet officials of the Manila Lions Club, the Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation and the GSIS Village Association.

In the afternoon, the President confers with Commissioner Gregorio Santayana of the Commission on Elections on electoral reforms.

February 5.—PRESIDENT Marcos underlines the administration's determination to stamp out syndicated crime and smuggling by urging greater cooperation between civil authorities and the military in upgrading law enforcement agencies in a conference this day with provincial governors, city mayors and ranking military officials.

The President impresses on those present at the three-hour long conference the need for closer cooperation and understanding between the military and the governors and mayors in order to meet effectively the problems of smuggling and rampant lawlessness.

While stressing the supremacy of civil authority over the military, he also asks for the understanding and cooperation of civil officials in the effort of military commanders to pick the best men for their assigned missions, and for the present effort of the military establishment to revamp its organization in order to deal better with the crime and smuggling problems of the nation.

Likewise taken up at the conference are the following proposals:

1. A coordinated program that will gear public works projects to the stepped-up food production drive.
2. A school financing program to be supported partly by U.S. war damage payments, \$28 million of which had been earmarked by the U.S. Congress for an Education Fund.

3. Revitalization of the Presidential Assistant on Community Development office and the Land Authority.

4. More participation of local governments in the utilization of national government tax income.

In the fight against smuggling, the President seeks the cooperation of the provincial and city executives, asking them to recommend measures for ensuring the success of the drive.

The President reiterates that the anti-smuggling drive will be pressed by the administration during his entire term, contrary to the doubts expressed in certain quarters that it will peter out in six months.

He declares that he will support any program that will strengthen the police forces of the country, and, in this connection, reveals that he had already directed the National Bureau of Investigation and the PC to tighten their investigation forces.

In regard to the food production program, the President states that initial public works projects will be dovetailed into the rice production crash program, with the construction of irrigation systems and feeder roads given high priority.

The President explains that this program will be financed, besides from the general fund and special highways fund, from three other sources: Japanese reparations payments, private financing, and public borrowing.

Pointing out that the problem of counterpart funds has stymied utilization of Japanese reparations, even in the use of such items as equipment, he states he contemplates harnessing foreign firms to do the road-building here, to be paid out of the reparations or loans through reparations.

The school financing program he proposes will utilize the \$28 million still unpaid from Philippine war damage claims on the US, which has been earmarked by Washington as an Education Fund.

The President asks for the cooperation of the provincial and city executives in enhancing the effectivity of the PACD and Land Authority, which are agencies directly involved with rural development, he states, and “will be more important in years to come.”

President Marcos proposes that these agencies be assisted financially through funds realized from the sale of idle government property.

The President asks the civil officials to “recommend ways of increasing the participation of local governments in the tax income,” declaring that “we can make decentralization work only if the provinces are economically stable.”

In the afternoon, the President receives Mayor Jimmy Rishwain of Stockton, California and Jose C. Alba, president of the Filipino delegation from Stockton, who pay him their respects. They arrived recently at the head of a 30-man mission from Stockton to formalize the sistership of Iloilo City and Stockton.

February 6.—TO facilitate access of the public to government agencies concerned in meeting their complaints, President Marcos creates an office under the Presidential Agency on Reforms and Government Operations (PARGO) to handle exclusively complaints and grievances from the public.

The new office under PARGO will channel these complaints to the proper offices and agencies and expedite action on the same. The office will give emphasis to complaints about tax collection and to matters concerning smuggling. It will be open 24 hours a day.

In the interim, the President states that Colonel Jose Lukban is still the acting director of the National Bureau of Investigation. He issues the statement following a conference with Secretary of Justice Jose Yulo.

The President spends most of his time this day preparing his message on the national budget for the fiscal year 1966-1967.

He has until Tuesday (Feb. 8) to submit the proposed budget to Congress.

In the afternoon, the President confers lengthily with Secretary of Foreign Affairs Narciso Ramos.

Following the conference, the President resumes working on his budget message in the seclusion of his private study.

In the evening, the President hears mass at the Palace chapel. With him are his children Maria Imelda, Ferdinand Jr. and Maria Victoria Irene and the First Lady Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos.

Meantime, President Marcos reaffirms support for a free Philippine press and intimates his administration's search for ways of "broadening the scope" of the press to make the Filipinos "one of the best informed in the world," in a message he issues on the eve of the celebration of National Press Week.

In his message the President lauds the "superior performance of our press in discharging its exacting duties and meeting its grave responsibilities."

The Chief Executive expresses the hope that the press and the people who "value and support" the free press of the country will not let each other down.

The President's message for the occasion follows:

"The celebration of Press Week once more projects before the nation the crucial role a free press plays in the life and times of a democratic country such as ours, and at the same time underlines the superior performance of our press in discharging its exacting duties and meeting its grave responsibilities.

"This administration is pledged to the support and perpetuation of free speech, and will continue to explore various ways of broadening the scope of our press such that it will be able to play an increasingly more important role in deepening the people's partnership with the government, and in the process make our people one of the best informed in the world about great issues here and abroad.

"My warmest felicitations to the members of the Philippine press, and to the Filipino people who value and support this vital element of freedom. May neither one let the other down."

February 7.—PRESIDENT Marcos issues a proclamation declaring Tuesday (February 3), as Constitution Day. In his proclamation, the President recalls that the late President Quezon had proclaimed February 8 of every year as Constitution Day "for due and fitting observance throughout the country, particularly in all public schools and institutions of learning."

The Chief Executive points out, however, that the "passage of time has underscored the importance of our people's setting aside at least one day of each year for the purpose of keeping in mind the great ideals enshrined in our Constitution and the hopes of the framers for a regime of justice, liberty and democracy."

He explains that "events of recent years have impressively demonstrated the importance and significance of the fealty and respect which every citizen must have for constitutional processes and the rule of law."

At the same tune, the President—in a message he issued on the eve of the observance of Constitution Day—focused attention on Philippine international relations, in a general foreign policy statement. The President's foreign policy statement follows:

“As we celebrate Constitution Day, it would perhaps be timely and useful to recall that the Constitution reposes the power to formulate foreign policy with the President. The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of the Executive Department following consultation with all parties concerned and with the leaders. In the final analysis, what is acted upon is the result of a sober and judicious study of facts received and carefully assessed. It would indeed be in the best interests of the nation and our people if there are frequent consultations with national leaders and some consensus were always reached before major foreign policy decisions are reached,

“While I have, in the past, already enunciated the bases upon which Philippine foreign policy should rest, once in my inaugural address and again in my State-of-the-Nation speech, I would like to redefine these principles as briefly as possible:

“Informing our international relations which now stretch throughout most of the world is our deep concern for the maintenance of our national security against external aggression. To this end, we seek to work in close cooperation with all nations which share our deep faith in the democratic values of living. We shall endeavor to preserve the integrity of our relations with our friends and allies within a framework of mutual respect, equal dignity and genuine identity of purpose.

“We move in a continuum of peril—both to the political choices we have made as well as to the very foundations of law and order under which we live.

In Asia, Africa and Latin America, these values stirring into life, are faced with direct threats from the communist world. We hold that these threats pose a very real danger to our own existence and survival.

“I wish to reiterate what I said on the occasion of my inauguration as President of the Philippines, to wit:

“What threatens humanity in another area threatens our society as well. We cannot, therefore, merely contemplate the risk of our century without coming to a decision of our own. Whenever there is a fight for freedom we cannot remain, aloof from it. But whatever decision we shall have to make shall be determined by our own interests tempered by the reasonability of that patriotic position in relations to the international cause.

“Of immediate concern to us is the present unhappy conflict in Vietnam with its overtones of international conflagration. We continue to support all moves that will bring about the end of the conflict on the conference table. Some observers feel that the fall of Vietnam would not necessarily mean the fall of the Philippines. But the least that can be said is that Philippine defenses would be weakened by the fall of South Vietnam. A communist victory there would encourage the Communists to step up the subversion of governments in Southeast Asia, including the Philippines, and weaken the resolution even of our own people already committed by the legislature to a policy declaring communist activity illegal. Our response to this crisis will depend in a large measure on the demands of the primacy of national survival and national commitment to the cause. Whatever we decide to do, we shall do not for any other country but principally for the Philippines.

I would like to mention another aspect of our foreign policy. It is true that many of our institutions—religious, political, legal and cultural —sprang from the West. On the other hand, it is equally true that we are Asians by destiny and aspiration. As Asians, therefore, it is our solemn obligation to strive as best we can towards the defense and economic well-being of the peoples within the region.

“We have, therefore, taken the first steps leading to the normalization of our relations with Malaysia, a sister nation and a friend of long-standing. In this regard, I must emphasize that the Philippine claim to Sabah (North Borneo) will not be bartered away and that we shall continue to press our claim in an amicable manner.

“In this connection, I would like to stress that in the interests of Asian solidarity, we shall strive to bring together those at variance and reconcile their conflicting views in a spirit of mutual accommodation and brotherhood. I am certain that our recognition of Malaysia will be accepted by Indonesia in this light. We view with cautious optimism the decline of the communist movement in Indonesia and express the sincere desire that the Philippines and Indonesia will continue to cooperate with each other.

“By the same token, we recognize the grave danger to our security emanating from Asian communism. We cannot ignore its inexorable goal of national expansion through the overthrow of constituted governments by so-called wars of national liberation.

“These immediate goals of our foreign policy find concrete expression in our memberships in regional associations such as the SEATO. The Organization plays an important role in discouraging the onslaughts of communist aggression and subversion within the treaty area. On a larger scale, our commitments to the objective of the United Nations and its sub-agencies will be honored to the best of our capacity.

“It is almost superfluous for me to state that no foreign policy can remain static. If it persists in ignoring the demands of flux and change in international relations, it cannot but fail. The Philippines, therefore, will maintain a watchful attitude in the face of international crises, adjusting to the political realities of the times without sacrificing national interest or honor.”

In the morning, the President meets at breakfast at the Palace newspaper publishers, editors and other prominent newsmen in connection with the celebration of Press Week ushered in by a special memorial Mass for deceased newsmen officiated by Cardinal Santos at the National Press Club.

In his remarks before the members of the press at the breakfast, the President strongly points out that “I am for a free press and that I will stand foursquare behind your efforts to maintain the freedom of the press

The Chief Executive assures his guests, “you shall be free and shall have access to whatever information there may be in the files of the government, except those that affect the security of our country.”

The President recalls that he co-authored a bill that guaranteed the inviolability of the confidential sources of newspapermen. This law was signed by President Magsaysay.

He declares that he believed in what Dr. Jose Rizal said, that a free press is an absolute necessity in government.” In this connection, he points out that the press has been instrumental in stopping abuses and crime perpetrated by those in authority.

He likewise touches on his recent administrative circular prohibiting government officials and employees from issuing press releases on investigations, when he calls on the press to avoid “trial by publicity.”

The President explains that the circular meant no more than limiting government press releases, for it did not curtail the newspapermen’s initiative to get at the news from government offices, nor did it ban government officials from opening their files, answering queries from the press, or from cooperating with newsmen following up developments on official investigations.

“In short,” the President states, “it merely meant that the public official should engage less in issuing press releases than in discovering the truth and the facts,” of the investigation being conducted.

He says that he rescinded the circular, however, when he was informed that it had established an atmosphere of concealment, which he feared will lead to the encouragement of official venality and abuse.

He stresses that “it is my hope, however, that in the same way that the administration has imposed self-restraint on itself as a rule of conduct,” the press will “in accordance with the noble traditions of the Fourth Estate,” practice the same restraint and responsibility to the end that it will not abet trial by publicity.

He concludes by congratulating the Philippine press for the “manner you have exercised the power of the Fourth Estate,” and adds that “perhaps, preservation of our democracy lies with you and the freedom of the press.” Immediately following the breakfast reception, the President receives the 26-man Italian Trade Mission led by its chairman E. Tosarelli, of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Trade.

The Italian mission arrived recently for an eight-day stay to explore ways and means of expanding economic relations between the Philippines and Italy.

Tosarelli informs the President that his mission is composed of leaders in various fields of industry and that they will be happy to assist in the economic development of the country.

The President in turn welcomes the mission into the country in behalf of the Filipino people, and expresses confidence that the visit will prove mutually beneficial to both countries.

After the meeting, the President confers with Mayor Pablo Cuneta and Brig. Gen. Segundo Velasco, PC chief, on the drive against smuggling, vice and criminality in Pasay City.

During the conference, the President directs Brig. Gen. Velasco to look into complaints of extortion and harassment supposedly committed by certain PC agents in Pasay City even as he asks Mayor Cuneta to crack down on gambling and prostitution in that city.

The conference is the first of a series of conferences the President will hold with executives of suburban cities in the drive against criminality and smuggling.

At the meeting, Mayor Cuneta reports on alleged indiscriminate raids conducted by agents of the constabulary in Pasay City. He says he had received many complaints about PC agents arresting them elsewhere for other purposes.

More often than not, the Pasay mayor states, the women are charged with vagrancy when the PC failed to get enough evidence of either graver offenses. While Cuneta will not say so categorically, he states there is every reason to suspect that the women are taken advantage of by these agents.

Mayor Cuneta reports that almost every unit of the PC from the Criminal Investigation Service based in Alabang, Camp Crame and Rizal province raids Pasay City ostensibly in connection with anti-vice drives.

The mayor explains that he has no objection to the PC making arrests in his city, but he stresses that such arrests must be conducted properly, and should not be made to harass city residents. He requests that arrests for crimes falling under the city ordinances be referred to the Pasay police or to the Pasay City fiscal.

The President expresses grave concern over reports of gambling and prostitution in Pasay, particularly along Roxas Boulevard which, he states, contribute to the moral degeneration of the people.

It is because of reports about bigtime gambling in that city, the President says, that he decided to meet with Mayor Cuneta first. He adds he will meet separately later on with the mayors of Caloocan City, Quezon City and Manila.

Mayor Cuneta assures the President of his full support and cooperation in the all-out drive against criminality, vice and smuggling, saying that he will soon call on all sectors and leaders of his city to help in the drive.

In the afternoon, the President receives officials of Baguio City led by Mayor Norberto do Guzman, and discusses with them pressing problems of the summer capital, including its inadequate waterworks system and the squatters on public lands.

The Chief Executive also swears in Mayor Jose A. Roño of Calbayog City as acting chairman of the board of the National Cottage Industries Development Authority (NACIDA).

Then, the President confers with Oscar J. Arellano and Bonifacio Gillego, president and manager-director and executive officer, respectively, of Operations Brotherhood, on the projects of the civic organization.

In his talks with the OB (Operations Brotherhood) officials, the President expresses deep concern for the welfare of cultural minorities and asks for the revival of the organization's projects in Mindanao and Sulu.

Arellano states that the OB had plans to extend its services to the Muslim areas in Mindanao, but they were abandoned when President Magsaysay died. He adds that Magsaysay was a staunch supporter of the civic organization.

The civic organization head and other officials seek the President's official endorsement of OB as the government's citizen arm to promote international assistance on a people-to-people basis. He says that while this organization has contributed significantly to the national effort to improve the people's lot, it has not received assistance from the government in recent years.

Mr. Arellano explains that the community projects being undertaken by OB are aimed at teaching skills to people out of school, and to displaced rural residents unemployed in urban and metropolitan centers.

In pursuit of its objectives, Arellano states that OB workers work in close collaboration with the Armed Forces of the Philippines and other civic organizations, particularly in establishing training centers for unskilled workers, and in the task of returning them to their places of origin in the rural areas.

The President asks Arellano to submit a list of such OB projects that the administration can support, particularly through legislation.

Following the conference, the President receives a delegation of 15 labor leaders headed by Democrito Mendoza, national president of the Philippine Labor Center, who submits recommendations on how to improve the working conditions of laborers.

The Chief Executive refers the various matters embraced in the recommendation to the proper executive departments for further study and possible implementation. Among the requests and proposals made by the labor leaders are:

1. Enactment of a law creating a Philippine Worker's Bank. The proposed bill is under preparation by the PLC executive board.
2. Creation of a labor advisory council by presidential proclamation.
3. Enactment of a law to authorize the President to sell a portion of the national government land to the Visayas-Mindanao Confederation of Trade Unions. A draft of the bill was submitted to the President.
4. Enactment of another law seeking tax exemptions for labor organization properties. A draft of the proposed bill, as submitted, seeks to exempt all labor organizations throughout the Philippines from taxes on all properties they own, whether real or personal.
5. Representation of the Philippine Labor Center in the government.
6. Enlargement and organization of the Court of Industrial Relations.
7. Recognition of the Philippine Labor Center (PLC) as the most representative workers' group in the country.

In the evening, the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, tender a black tie dinner in honor of President Sir Percy Claude Spender of the International Court of Justice, and Lady Spender.

The eminent jurist of the World Court arrived recently from Sydney, Australia as guest of the Philippine Constitution Association.

Meanwhile, President Marcos directs the Department of Justice to submit to him a full report on the status of NBI Director Jose G. Lukban's detail from the AFP to his present position, after which he will decide whether Lukban will continue as top man in the National Bureau of Investigation.

Since the appointment of Arturo Xavier as deputy director of the NEI had lapsed as a result of Congress' inaction in its last session on all *ad interim* appointments made by former President Macapagal, Serafin Fausto, third ranking officer in the NBI, will be the officer-in-charge of the bureau during Col. Lukban's absence.

The President will make his decision on the case of Lukban when Lukban returns from Taipeh, where he has been authorized to undertake an official mission. He will be away one week.

He hands down these decisions during a conference with Justice Secretary Jose Yulo and Undersecretary of Justice Claudio Teehankee.

At the conference, Secretary Yulo shows the President the Justice Department's files on Lukban and Xavier.

Lukban was designated acting NBI chief on May 23, 1958 by then President Garcia. Yulo says that such designations, according to the law, "shall in no case continue beyond the date of adjournment of the regular session of the Congress next following such designation."

The Justice Secretary also informs the President that under the special provisions of the current Appropriations Act, (R.A. 4642), as well as under similar provisions in past Appropriations Acts since 1958, no officer of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, such as Col. Lukban, may be detailed to any civilian position in the government for a period exceeding one year.

Yulo further reveals that according to the AFP files which were confirmed by Defense Undersecretary Alfonso Arellano, Lukban was last detailed on "detached service," meaning temporary service, with the NBI in 1954, by then Defense Secretary Jesus Vargas, by authority of President Magsaysay.

On Xavier, Secretary Yulo, reports that files showed the former had accepted an *ad interim* appointment as deputy NBI director from President Macapagal dated Sept. 28, 1965. He has taken his oath of office and assumed his position on Oct. 28, 1965.

February 8.—DISSOLVING the Program Implementation Agency, President Marcos creates in its place the Presidential Economic Staff which will provide him with the necessary assistance for day-to-day decisions and policy formulation in this area of government activity.

In his directive, the President orders the transfer of all records, personnel, properties, equipment, unexpended balances, obligations and pending work of the PIA to the new office.

The Presidential Economic Staff which will serve as the presidential technical staff for economic development matters will be headed by a director-general with the rank of department undersecretary. Its personnel will be drawn from qualified technical men in the various departments, bureaus, offices, and other instrumentalities of the government, with the approval of the Executive Secretary.

The functions of the new presidential economic staff are:

(1) Undertake economic development planning at a level in-between the overall aggregative view of the National Economic Council and the specialized view of individual government departments, corporations and financial institutions.

(2) Collate, analyze, coordinate and integrate plans, programs, projects and proposals of various government departments, agencies and instrumentalities in the formulation and development of policy recommendations, establishing priorities, and programming the utilization of public funds, manpower resources and equipment.

(3) Analyze, coordinate and initiate, with the approval of the President, major capital projects requiring utilization of available funds.

(4) Prepare necessary staff studies and formulate and develop recommendations for consistent domestic and foreign economic policies of government.

(5) Establish and maintain working relationship with various international financing institutions and assist government and private entities in tapping foreign sources for credit or other forms of assistance.

(8) Assist in the preparation of legislative programs designed to achieve economic development.

(7) Provide the necessary staff work for consistent day-to-day decisions affecting economic development.

(8) Operate and maintain a physical facility which will make available current status reports of all major economic development programs to the President.

(9) Perform other functions which the President may direct. Upon being informed that a huge conflagration had levelled one-fourth of Iloilo city the other day resulting in thousands of persons losing their homes and properties reaching close to P50-million, the President mobilizes all the relief agencies of the government to give immediate aid to the victims of the fire.

The President orders the initial release of P50,000 to meet the immediate relief needs of the victims.

The Chief Executive, during a conference with Vice-President Fernando Lopez, who had just returned from the scene of the disaster, creates a committee headed by Vice-President Lopez—who is from Iloilo—with Commissioner of the Budget Faustino Sy-Changco, Secretary of Health Paulino Garcia and Social Welfare Administrator Francisco E. F. Remotigue, as members to map out a plan for the rehabilitation of the victims.

The President likewise directs:

1. Secretary of Commerce Marcelo Balatbat, concurrently chairman of the National Marketing Corporation, and Chairman Osmundo Mondoñedo of the Rice and Corn Administration, to make available NAMARCO canned goods and RCA rice to indigent fire victims at reduced prices or for free, if possible;

2. Secretary of Education Carlos P. Romulo to suspend classes in the disaster area so that the school buildings could be utilized as temporary evacuation centers for the thousands of homeless;

3. Secretary of Health Paulino Garcia to airlift medical teams and supplies to the fire area to prevent the possible outbreak of diseases as a result of the breakdown of sanitary facilities;

4. Social Welfare Administrator Remotigue to airlift social workers and relief materials to the area;

5. The Constabulary to assist the local police forces in the maintenance of peace and order and to avert any undue spiraling of prices, particularly of prime commodities, by unscrupulous traders; and

6. The Department of Public Works to assist in clearing the area and the restoration of public works facilities in order to hasten normalization of the city.

Late in the afternoon, the President pays tribute to the surviving members of the Constitutional Convention at cocktails he tenders in their honor.

In his brief remarks, the President also reiterates his pledge to uphold and defend the rule of law.

He warns that without the Constitution there will be chaos in the country. He expresses the hope that with the enthusiasm of the surviving delegates the Constitution they devised will still grow beyond mere survival.

Following the cocktails, the President submits to Congress his budget recommendation for the next fiscal year totalling P2.333 billion, of which P1.872 billion is earmarked for the general fund. The P1.372 billion amount requested for operational expenses of the government is smaller by P13 million than the current year's appropriation of P1.885, and sets a precedent since, budget proposals always tend to increase each year.

The President indicates he is more determined to push through his policy of fiscal restraint without endangering essential services.

In the evening, the Chief Executive confers with Secretary of Foreign Affairs Narciso Ramos and Malaysian Consul Ali Abdulla.

He likewise meets with officials of the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) on his request for a joint FAO-World Bank team to conduct a study of the implementation of the Administration's agricultural plans.

Meantime, President Marcos sends a message to Premier Eisaku Sato of Japan conveying the "deepest sympathies" of the Filipino people for the recent air disaster which claimed the lives of 133 Japanese nationals in Tokyo Bay.

In his cablegram dispatched to Tokyo this day, the President assures the Premier of the "continuing friendship of the Filipinos toward the Japanese people."

February 9.—IN a conference with the officials of the Philippine Virginia Tobacco Administration, President Marcos directs them to act immediately toward giving maximum benefits to tobacco farmers, including making instant payments, eliminating middlemen and red tape.

At the same time, the President orders the PVTA officials to submit a report and recommendations on all transactions made at the close of the past administration.

His orders are issued at a meeting with the PVTA officials, where the President states the payment of tobacco farmers must begin immediately, following a system of priorities based on the order of acceptance of tobacco products by the government agency.

The PVTA still has to settle P28-million in back accounts to the tobacco farmers for the last crop year.

Earlier in the morning, the President officiates at the opening of the annual golf tournament of the National Press Club held at the Fort Bonifacio golf course. He formally opens the tourney by playing a foursome of nine holes with Nereo Andolong, NPC president; Undersecretary Alfonso Arellano and Luis O. Reyes.

In the afternoon, the President is guest of honor at the 27th anniversary celebration of the Philippine Navy held at the PN parade ground on Roxas boulevard.

In his brief remarks the President underscores the vital role of the Philippine Navy as the principal arm of the Armed Forces in the mounting drive against smuggling. He pledges to give the navy all the assistance and aid within his command and expresses the hope that he will be able to modernize its vessels and equipment and provide the support for their maintenance. In turn he asks the navy to use these tools in the best way they can.

He urges the navy men to live up to the expectations of the people, saying "I expect from you a continuing devotion to the principles for which the armed forces was created and to which it is dedicated." He stresses, "I ask you to perform your tasks with greater vigor and unswerving loyalty to your country and people."

The Chief Executive also warns that he will be stern with those officers and men who dishonor the navy. "I expect discipline," he tells them, "and I will be stern with wrongdoers. That is my painful task, but I shall perform my duty."

Congratulating the men of the navy, the President reiterates his confidence in them, and pledges to extend to the service all the assistance within his command.

During the ceremonies, the President presents awards to four naval officers and 11 newspapermen for outstanding services.

Back in Malacañang, the President receives officers of the Philippine Public School Teachers Association (PPSTA) who present him with resolutions embodying requests and recommendations for the improvement of the organization and its members.

Notable among the resolution was that in which the PPSTA offered its services and resources to the President in his drive against smuggling and venalities in the government.

February 10.—IN a two-hour conference with city executives, President Marcos call for closer liaison and intensified cooperation between various agencies in Manila and environs involved in the current anti-smuggling drive, saying that this could result in closing the outlets and clearing houses for smuggled goods, operating in these population centers.

The President also discusses with the city executives other means of combatting all other forms of crime and lawlessness in the metropolitan area in connection with the government's all-out campaign to restore the rule of law. Present at the meeting are Mayors Antonio V. Villegas of Manila, Norberto Amoranto of Quezon City, Pablo Cuneta of Pasay City, Macario Asistio of Caloocan City and Maximo Estrella of Makati.

The Chief Executive proposes closer coordination among the suburban police agencies on one hand, and the National Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Finance through the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs, on the other. He says he will establish a liaison service between the Finance Department and the suburban governments.

The city executives take the occasion to inform the President that one of their biggest problems is the harassing activity of some Criminal Investigation Service (CIS) agents. They report to the President that a common complaint is that when CIS operatives make arrests, those apprehended are usually taken to undisclosed places and local officials are often embarrassed when they cannot pinpoint the whereabouts of the persons arrested.

The Chief Executive pledges to act on all complaints within 24 hours after receipt provided they are supported by affidavits. He likewise directs his assistant, Col. Jaime Ferrer, to instruct the Philippine Constabulary to notify either the mayor or the chief of police of the suburban cities before its agents conduct raids therein.

On smuggling, the President observes that if the thriving market for smuggled products in the greater Manila area is plugged off, smuggling will wither by itself.

The Chief Executive concludes the conference by seeking the mayors cooperation in the overall drive, saying that even with the best efforts of first-rate intelligence operatives, the drive against smuggling and other crimes will fail if local governments do not help in the national government's campaign.

Following the conference, the President receives Sen. Fujio Tashiro of Japan and Kazuya Morita, secretary-general of Sokagakkai, an influential Buddhist sect in Japan, who pay their respects after their arrival recently in the course of a fact-finding tour of Asian countries.

Then the Chief Executive meets administration officials on the coordination of the relief and rehabilitation work for the victims of the recent fire, the biggest ever to hit Iloilo City in decades.

At the meeting, the President announces the possibility of utilizing a loan of P20-million from private U.S. financing institutions for the rehabilitation of areas ravaged by fire, notably the severely stricken Iloilo City business district.

The President states that he is now studying this plan, even as he releases another P50,000 from the Philippine Charily Sweepstakes Office as additional aid to the Iloilo City fire victims. This doubles the amount already released by Malacañang for that fire ravaged city.

In the afternoon, the President receives the loiter of credence of Dr. Marco Aurelio Lino Benitez as Argentine's ambassador to the Philippines.

Setting a precedent in Philippine diplomacy, the President—whose mastery of the national language has been amply demonstrated in his public speeches—accepts in Filipino the letter of accreditation of Argentine Ambassador Benitez in colorful ceremonies held at the Ceremonial Hall of the Palace.

In English, the acceptance speech of the President, translates as follows:

“Mr. Ambassador:

“I am happy to receive the letters by which His Excellency Dr. Arturo Illia, President of the Argentine Republic, accredits you as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Argentina to the Philippines, as well as the letters of recall of your distinguished predecessor.

“I share your Excellency's views that although the Philippines and Argentina are separated by geographical barriers, our peoples are linked together by their common dedication to the democratic ideal and to the advancement of the cause of peace throughout the world.

“The recently concluded Fourth Centennial celebration of the Christianization of the Philippines to which your Excellency's Government graciously sent a representative in the person of no less than the distinguished Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs, further strengthened the historical and cultural association between our two countries.

“Deeply cognizant of the vital role of economic advancement in the development of our respective peoples' well-being and prosperity, the Philippines looks forward to greater collaboration with Argentina in the furtherance of our commercial and trade relations.

“I wish to assure you, Mr. Ambassador, that in the performance of your assigned tasks, the Government and the people of the Philippines are prepared to extend to you all the necessary cooperation and assistance which you may need.

“Mr. Ambassador, I wish to reciprocate the sincere expressions and sentiments of friendship extended by His Excellency President Illia. Please convey to him my best wishes for his continued good health and well-being, as well as for the enduring amity of the government and people of the Philippines for the government and people of Argentina.”

The ceremonies are held in the presence of the members of the cabinet and officials of the department of foreign affairs and the Argentine Embassy, headed by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Narciso Ramos.

A doctor of dentistry, writer, sportsman and diplomat, the new Argentine envoy was successively director of dental services of the Ceni hospital, provincial deputy, president of the deputies of the State Civic Radical Union, and director of the institute of social services of Corrientes province.

He entered his country's foreign service in 1962 when he was appointed ambassador to Paraguay, which post he held until his transfer to Manila.

February 11.— THE Chief Executive receives a few callers in order to devote more of his time clearing his desk of important state papers preparatory to his departure for Iloilo City for an on-the-spot survey of damages wrought by the recent fire there.

Among his callers are Sen. Manuel Manahan, Sen. Eva Estrada Kalaw, Gov. Manuel Barretto of Zambales and Mayor Hector C. Suarez of Zamboanga City.

In the afternoon, the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, motor to Pier 9 where they board the Philippine Navy ship, the RPS "*Roxas*," for Iloilo City.

Also aboard the ship are P100,000 worth of canned goods, clothing, construction materials and other relief supplies for distribution in the disaster area.

President Marcos, before boarding the RPS "*Roxas*," indicates that he will help commercial establishments destroyed by fire in Iloilo City to rehabilitate through loans from abroad at reasonable rates, and to zonify the city to prevent future fires.

The President states that loans are now being arranged for businessmen who are victims of the recent fire. He says he has already asked the National Planning Commission to draft a plan for rebuilding the city including zoning to minimize fires.

He says he did not recommend a special calamity fund for Iloilo although Congress reportedly has approved a bill to meet the contingency, because he wants the government to do everything first within its means.

The President's trip to Iloilo City is his first outside of Manila since he assumed office. He feels it necessary because the Iloilo fire was the worst in a decade to hit the Visayas, and he wanted to show Iloilo that the national government is interested in that province's welfare.

February 12.—ARRIVING in Iloilo City late in the afternoon, after a four hour train trip from Culasi, Roxas City where the RPS "*Roxas*" dropped anchor to save time and also to inspect the damage wrought by a recent fire in Roxas City, President Marcos orders government financial institutions to make available to Iloilo City fire victims rehabilitation loans at very liberal terms.

The President states that he expects the Social Security Commission, Government Service Insurance System and the Development Bank of the Philippines, each to make available about P2.5-million to the fire victims, particularly to businessmen who suffered substantial or total losses in the conflagration.

Roberto Benedicto, president of the Philippine National Bank, who came here with the President, indicates that the PNB has some P2.5-million already set aside for loans to fire victims.

The President and the First Lady debark from the navy vessel some 400 yards off the shore and take a navy life boat to the beach where they are received by a huge crowd led by Capiz Gov. Antonio Reyes, Roxas City Mayor Lorenzo Arnaldo, Vice Mayor Mabini Altavaz and officers of the third PC zone.

From the port, the President motors to the railroad station passing through the plaza to inspect the fire area in Roxas City, which has not yet been rehabilitated.

The First Couple is wildly applauded all along the route to Iloilo City. Local residents had hastily put up welcome arches and signs and cheered as the presidential train passed.

At Dumalag, they are forced to alight to shake the hands of the insistent crowd. The train is likewise met at Passi, the first Iloilo town on route where Gov. Rafael Palmares met the party and rode to Iloilo with the President.

From Passi, the First Couple, along with Manila newspaper men proceeds direct to the devastated area upon arrival here and interviews the fire sufferers.

They also inspect evacuation centers, in public and private schools here and turn over to the local authorities relief goods for distribution to fire victims.

Following the tour of the ravaged area, the President and the First Lady proceed to the Jaro parish church where a *Te Deum* is sung in their honor.

After a conference at the Del Rio Hotel and dinner at the residence of Vice President Fernando Lopez, the presidential party reboards the *RPS "Roxas"* for the return voyage to Manila.

Meanwhile, President Marcos this day urges the collaboration of civic, educational and professional groups in a massive management, audit in connection with the administration's policy to reorganize the executive branch of the government.

Executive Secretary Rafael Salas announces that in his resolve to effect reforms in governmental operations, the President intends to mobilize the best talents available in the private sector, as well as those in the public service.

The Executive Secretary states that groups numbering about 330 will be topped for this purpose. They will be divided, into several committees to formulate recommendations on the various aspects of governmental operations, in order to achieve maximum, economy, simplicity and efficiency in the conduct of public affairs.

These groups include experts from, all institution of learning, both public and private, particularly the University of the Philippines institute of Public Administration which had undertaken extensive studies on the project, with the Executive Office in Malacañang as the secretariat.

In effecting the reorganization, the President will seek to gear government operations to developmental purposes, reduce expenditures, eliminate duplication of work and bring order and method to functions, services and activities.

The President earlier recommends to Congress the enactment of a measure authorizing the President of the Philippines to reorganize within one year the executive branch with the view to streamlining its functions and improving its services. He explains that the administrative machinery of the government must be regenerated to gear it to the requirements of national growth.

February 13.—ABOARD *RPS "Roxas"* en route to Manila, President Marcos orders the National Civil Defense Administration to mobilize a national effort to secure cities and towns from fires.

In a brief press interview, the President likewise outlines plans to create a committee charged with the task of mapping out ways of preventing fires. He also announces the upgrading the fire-fighting techniques of local communities.

The President explains that there is necessity for adopting zoning plans for cities whereby establishments deemed as fire hazards, like lumberyards, will be barred from the commercial district.

The President will have the NCDA establish on a national level the machinery for meeting fire hazards and for coping with fires of every degree and dimension. He envisions the establishment of water systems throughout the country.

He emphasizes that the national effort to prevent fires should include the teaming of local police forces in fighting fires and the formation of citizens' groups to augment the regular fire departments in times of emergencies.

The President tells newsmen he might use in the meantime some water pumps acquired through reparations for irrigation purposes, in the national effort to meet the hazards of fire. He says he was disturbed by the recurrence of fires during the last few weeks.

Taking note of the haphazard planning of cities, he points out that "it is time that a national effort is made to zonify cities."

At the same time, the President also states that the reported recall of Col. Jose Lukban, chief of the National Bureau of Investigation, to army service could be part of a plan for general reversion to active duty of some 600 military personnel holding civilian posts.

The President observes that it is necessary to return to military service officers occupying civilian positions "because they may lose their military capabilities if not recalled sooner."

He states that the recall of military personnel from civilian positions will pave the way for the appointment officials under more permanent status.

The President and his party leave Iloilo City at 4 a.m. after conducting an on-the-spot survey of fire damage and conferring with officials of the Belief and Rehabilitation Committee headed by Vice President Lopez.

The Committee which includes city officials and representatives of the various agencies participating in the relief work, discusses with the Chief Executive the relocation and rehabilitation of indigent fire victims, and the zonification of the city.

On board ship the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, hear Mass officiated by Fr. Ciriaco Escutin, chaplain of the Philippine Navy.

Then the President, accompanied by Commodore Felix Apolinario, chief of the Philippine Navy, inspects this vessel and takes up the problem of overhauling it.

In the evening, the President spends his time in his cabin going over state papers he had brought along on the trip. The President is expected to arrive Manila early tomorrow.

February 14.—THE President, arrives from a brief trip to Iloilo City where he and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, conducted an on-the-spot survey of the damage wrought by the recent fire and conferred with the members of the Relief and Rehabilitation Committee headed by Vice President Fernando Lopez.

They debark from the Philippine Navy ship *RPS* "Roxas" at Pier 9 before sunrise, arriving in Malacañang at 6 a.m.

After breakfast, the President receives Filemon Tanchoco and Waldo Perfecto, president and vice president, respectively, of the Association of Philippine Universities and Colleges; and Juan Nabong, president of the Association of Christian Schools and Colleges, who submit to him a proposal for the establishment of a private educational foundation fund to be financed from the \$28-million Education Fund from the United States under the War Damage Payment Act.

The foundation, they explain, will be a continuous source of assistance to worthwhile projects of private educational institutions which have yet to receive assistance from the government in spite of their considerable responsibility in meeting education needs.

Then the President confers with defense and military officials on the procurement and disposal of ammunition under RP-US military agreements.

At the conference, the President directs national defense and AFP officials to brief legislative leaders behind closed doors on the procurement and disposal of ammunition. The briefing will cover the procedures followed in such procurement, and disposal of ammunition and other materials under the RP-US defense pacts.

The President also orders defense officials to immediately reexamine, clarify and update the procedures and arrangements on the procurement of military equipment and the disposal of surplus.

At the same time, Undersecretary of Defense Alfonso Arellano states that the present procedures followed in the disposal of excess or surplus equipment furnished by the US had been set under previous administrations, ever since the signing of the Mutual Security Pact of 1951 and the Military Assistance Pact in 1949.

Arellano says that the disposal of ammunition, now under question, was agreed upon by RP and US representatives under the previous administration, with the talks taking place last year, from September through November.

The present administration is now merely implementing this agreement.

Arellano stresses that Philippine ammunition requirements are being maintained at the highest possible level and that the Philippines has more than enough today for "our purposes even with this disposal of excess ammunition."

The defense officials add that the AFP makes the declaration of excess ammunition, and the JUSMAG merely concurs "in accordance with the procedure already established by formal agreements between the two countries."

The President appeals, in this connection, to both our leaders and the public to exercise caution in discussing matters that might prejudice national security.

In making his appeal for circumspection in discussing publicly military affairs and defense plans, the President points out that such unguarded discussions may prejudice or even betray the country's defense posture.

He asks for the cooperation of every sector in the matter of guarding national security for, he says, it involves all political parties and the people. The President at the same time expresses confidence that legislative leaders wanted merely to point out defects in the procedures and in the agreements relative to the disposal of excess ammunition and equipment. He also says that he is confident the press had no intention of "sensationalizing" the case, nor would deliberately undermine national security through careless publicity.

The rest of the President's statement follows:

"I am confident that the intention of both the Armed Forces and the legislative leaders in calling attention to the disposal of excess ammunition is to point out defects in the procedure as well as in the agreements governing the disposal and declaration of excess or surplus equipment and material secured under the Military Assistance Program.

"I am also certain that the Fourth Estate has no intention of sensationalizing this matter to the prejudice of national security.

"I have therefore directed the Undersecretary of National Defense and the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces to immediately take steps in order that the leaders of Congress may be briefed behind closed doors on matters that may

be required for legislation. At the same time I have requested the same officials to immediately re-examine, clarify and update the procedures and arrangements on the procurement of military equipment as well as the disposal of surplus.”

The President also receives a group of student leaders from the University of the Philippines who convey to him the stand of the UP Student Council on, among others, the question of military aid to South Vietnam and the entry of American nuclear-powered vessels into Philippine waters.

He assures the student leaders that in the conduct of the country’s foreign relations, the administration is guided by the national interest.

In the afternoon, the President inducts into office Leopoldo Figueroa and Oscar Paguia as members of the boards of the Philippine National Railways and the National Marketing Corporation, respectively.

Then, the President confers with Herbert Reynaldos, anthropologist of Siliman University, who presents in behalf of some 500 members of the Manobo and Tiruray tribes complaints of landgrabbing against ranchers in barrio Salangsang, Libak, Cotabato.

In the evening, the President meets with NBI Director Jose Lukban and, following the meeting, inducts Dr. Fermin G. Caram, Sr. as Presidential Assistant on Health.

Meantime, President Marcos reveals that studies are now being made to ascertain the capabilities of the national government to protect the national interest in relation to reported activities of Filipino citizens involved in intelligence activities for foreign governments.

The President makes the revelation in a formal statement issued through Press Secretary Jose D. Aspiras, as follows:

“Studies are being made to ascertain the capabilities of the national government to protect the national interest in the face of reports of activities of certain persons gathering information or intelligence reports which are utilized by authorities other than the Philippine government.”

He points out that if the government employees and officials have sworn allegiance to another government, then they violate the law.

The President adds, however, that the matter is now under study by the government. He stresses that if these activities are true, then the internal security might be endangered, although he also emphasizes that as of now, he is not prepared to give it the military term of “internal security.”

In this connection, the President reveals that routinary checks have been made on sensitive areas where officials or employees must be given an absolute clean bill-of-health as to loyalty to the Philippine government.

He states that the government wants to be prepared for any developments, and will study what alternatives the government can take, or what counter-tactics may be adopted.

February 15.—TO find a formula that would stabilize the peace and order situation in Ilocos as well as end once and for all the political feuds there, President Marcos calls a meeting with Ilocos Sur leaders in Malacañang.

During the three-hour conference, leaders of the warring political factions in Ilocos Sur assure the maintenance of peace and order in that province as they forge a four-point agreement.

The President exerts a major effort to thresh out differences in the province after post-election disputes between the two factions threatened a deterioration of peace and order.

After explaining their sides, the leaders of the political groups in the province agree:

- (1) To stop their groups immediately from further belligerent actions;
- (2) To abide by the decisions of courts of justice and give them freedom to do their duty;
- (3) To leave to the Philippine Constabulary and the police the task of apprehending all persons wanted by the law; and
- (4) To surrender all illegal weapons.

The Chief Executive emphasizes that he will hold the leaders of both factions to their commitments, particularly in enforcing the agreement on non-belligerence or other hostile acts.

He tells the conferees that he is especially concerned about removing any cause for suspicion and bad faith, and about the impartial administration

“We have unburdened ourselves and presented our sides,” the President says, “let us continue working and if necessary let us continue meeting

The President points out that the time and energy spend on the conference will be wasted if the commitments made were not honored.

Expressing the hope that peace will be strengthened in Ilocos Sur, the President states he will take up their recommendations with the proper PC authorities.

Rep. Pablo Sanidad denies the allegation that the pre-election shooting in Narvacan which killed several of Crisologo’s followers was perpetrated by 29 men at the windows of his house, saying the only two windows in his house could not have been used by so many men.

Sanidad also proposes a complete change in the PC command in the Province.

Of the 20 persons linked to the Narvacan killing, Sanidad says he has already surrendered 17 of them and would try his best to contact the rest.

The President orders the PC to extend all possible assistance so that all wanted persons in the province will be able to surrender peacefully.

He asks the conferees to let the courts decide on easements concerning the feud and that whoever should lose must abide by the courts decision.

Rep. Crisologo states that the problem in Ilocos Sur is not only peace and order but also the irrigation of farms and the protection of people in the rural areas.

Alfredo Somera decries the failure to arrest suspects in the Narvacan shooting who are still at large. He reports that relatives of his were among the fatalities.

He praises the President’s efforts, however, to restore peace and order in the province, saying “we are for peace and order and the majesty of the law.”

For his part former Rep. Faustino Tobia suggests that all cases be screened. He likewise commends the “peace conference” called by the President, saying “nobody else can unite us but the President.”

Others present at the conference are Provincial Fiscal Jovenal Guerrero, PC Chief Brig. Gen. Segundo Velasco, Col. Rafael Ileto of the first PC zone, and Capt. Emilio Narcise, officer in charge of the constabulary in Ilocos Sur.

Following the Ilocos peace conference, the President receives Gen. Jesus Vargas, SEATO secretary-general; and Ambassador Rogelio do la Rosa, Philippine envoy to Cambodia, with whom he had an exchange of views on the political situation in Southeast Asia, particularly in Vietnam. In the morning, the Chief Executive spends the whole day in conference with Nacionalista congressmen at the *Pangarup* guest house across the Pasig River, where foreign affairs and army officials hold a briefing on the Vietnam situation.

At the meeting, the Nacionalista members of the House of Representatives agree on a party stand to send an engineering-construction battalion with adequate self-defense support to South Vietnam.

The congressmen also decide to file a bill appropriating funds for the support of the civic action group to be dispatched to the beleaguered country.

After the briefing given by foreign affairs and armed forces officials, the Malacañang spokesman issues the following statement:

“The Nacionalista congressmen unanimously approved the proposal, adopted as a party stand, to send an engineering construction battalion to South Vietnam with, the necessary support for self-defense.

“The N.P. Congressmen likewise agreed to take the initiative to immediately file a bill in Congress appropriating funds for the expenses of the engineering battalion.”

“The Congressmen reached a decision on the party stand on the dispatch of the Philippine engineering construction group after a two-and-a-half hour briefing given by Col. Leon Hernandez, AFP J-2, Col. Jose Banzon, Philippine *Military Attache* to Vietnam, and Foreign Affairs officials, headed by Undersecretary Manuel Collantes.”

The President also points out at the briefing to the NP legislators the stakes of the Philippine in the Vietnam struggle, stressing that a decision on the matter is now necessary.

He states that experience has shown, as in the cases of India, Pakistan and Indonesia, that Communist strategy encourages accommodation of friendly relations only to gain time for it to win a position of advantage.

Source: **National Library**

President's Week in Review: February 16 - March 29, 1966

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

February 16.—IN the wake of reports that smugglers have made use of strip stamps for imported cigarettes to pass off “blue seal” cigarettes as tax-paid, the Chief Executive makes a surprise visit to the Bureau of Printing to inquire into the procedure being followed in the printing of strip stamps for the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

The President, who had been informed about the easy access of unauthorized persons to the negatives of strip stamps, expresses concern that fakes of these stamps, contrived through photographic reproduction, are being used by smugglers to pass off “blue seal” as tax-paid.

In his tour of the plant, the President observes that the procedures are faulty and can be improved. He then directs BIR Commissioner Misael P. Vera to map out improvements in procedures and security control, and to make a thorough investigation of reports that BIR and strip stamps have been made available to cigarette smugglers.

He tells Vera that if irregularities are found to exist, the BIR chief must bring charges against those responsible for them.

He warns that utmost care must be taken in the safekeeping and printing of strip stamps, for they are worth P30-million annually in taxes.

During his tour of the printing plant, the President also observes the entire procedure of printing the stamps, from the issuance of the accountable forms to the final press run. He inspects the storerooms for the forms, molds, negatives, and watched the final printing.

Back in Malacañang, the President receives Madame Supeni, third Deputy Foreign Minister of Indonesia, who discusses with the President the question of Philippine recognition of Malaysia.

Madame Supeni, President Sukarno's diplomatic trouble-shooter, arrived from Bangkok Tuesday morning to ask for the suspension of normalization of Philippine-Malaysian ties.

At the meeting, the President tells Madame Supeni that the normalization of relations between the two countries was a *fait accompli* and, in fact, was already in the ministerial level.

In turning down the request of Indonesia for the postponement of the normalization of Philippine-Malaysian relations, the President explains to Madame Supeni that the normalization of diplomatic relations is “inescapable since the Philippines must deal diplomatically with Malaysia in its participation in the activities of the Asian Development Bank, the United Nations, the ECAFE and other instrumentalities to which Malaysia is also linked.”

At the meeting, the President, however, did not say when the Philippines will formally announce the recognition of Malaysia which was created in 1964.

Following the conference which was held in an atmosphere of cordiality, Press Secretary Jose D. Aspiras issued the following statement:

“President Marcos advised Madame Supeni that the normalization of relations between the Philippine Government and the Malaysian Government was a *fait accompli*, and in fact is already at the ministerial level.

“The President informed the Indonesian special envoy that the normalization was now a matter of elevating diplomatic relations from the consular to the embassy level.

“The President explained that the normalization of Philippine-Malaysian diplomatic relations was inescapable since the Philippines must deal diplomatically with Malaysia in its participation in the activities of the Asian Development Bank, the United Nations, the ECAFE, and other foreign instrumentalities to which Malaysia is also similarly linked.

“The meeting between the President and Madame Supeni was extremely cordial, and discussions included the better climate in which the two countries continue to strengthen the friendly ties binding them.”

Minister Supeni was accompanied to Malacañang by Indonesian Ambassador Abdul Karim Rasjid and Secretary of Foreign Affairs Narciso Ramos.

In the morning, the President meets Secretary of Education and UP President Carlos P. Romulo, who represents the various needs of the Department of Education and the University of the Philippines to the President.

The President then confers on legislative matters with some members of the Senate, among them: Senate President Arturo Tolentino, Senate Majority Floor Leader Jose J. Roy, Senators Gil J. Puyat, Eva Estrada Kalaw, Alejandro Almendras, Dominador Aytona and Wenceslao R. Lagumbay.

The Chief Executive also receives Pad Dmochowski, president of the International Telephone and Telegraph Company (ITTCO), who called to pay his respects. He is accompanied by Ike Joaquin, executive vice president of the ITTCO (Phil.).

In the evening, the President swears in officials of the Philippine Veterans Bank, the Philippine Association of Exhibitors on Rolling and Floating Exhibitions, the League of Administration Executives, and the Press Photographers of the Philippines (PPP).

Headed by Ramon Vecina of the Philippines Herald, the other PPP Officers are Romeo Vitug of the *Manila Chronicle*, 1st vice-president; Pablo Gullas of the *Philippines Herald*, 2nd vice-president; Ruther D. Batuigas of the *Philippines Herald*, secretary; Marcelino Roxas of the *Associated Press*, treasurer; and Resty Samson and Bob Duño of the *Manila Daily Bulletin*, Dominador Suba, Elpidio Rustia and Gualberto Keyes of the *Manila Times*, Jose del Rosario of the *Manila Chronicle*, and Orlie Barrera of the *Makabayan Publications*, members of the board of directors.

Following their induction, the PPP officers pledge their full support to the President’s anti-smuggling drive and request that PPP members be notified should any major anti-smuggling operation be undertaken by the administration so that they could give it full coverage.

February 17.— AFTER the bipartisan consensus is reached on the urgency of extending increased economic and technical assistance, President Marcos certifies to Congress a bill appropriating P35-million for an engineer-construction battalion the Philippines is contributing as assistance to beleaguered South Vietnam.

The bill points out that Philippine security, peace and freedom are at stake on the ability of South Vietnam to “resist communist aggression and subversion.” It adds that Southeast Asia Treaty Organization nations, as well as other free governments, have already provided such assistance, including technical, economic and military.

Philippine assistance will be economic and technical, according to the bill, and will augment the aid already authorized under R. A. 4162.

The South Vietnamese government makes the request for Philippine assistance after what is viewed as “the intensification of the conflict” in that country.

Meanwhile, President Marcos this day launches “Operation Pakikisama,” and is set to form a committee, which will be composed of representatives of civic organizations to handle the collection, shipment and distribution of the

donations to the people of South Vietnam, as proposed in the project. In launching the drive, the President appeals to the Filipino people to give their full support and sympathy to the South Vietnamese, in the same manner they had responded to the plight of the victims of the recent Iloilo fire and the eruption of Taal volcano.

Symbolic of hands stretched across the sea, "Operation Pakikisama" is a people-to-people project calling for voluntary donations of such items as *patis*, a delicacy dear to South Vietnamese as it is to Filipinos; dried fish, used clothing, blankets and mosquito nets, locally produced rubber shoes, slippers, textiles, drugs, candles, canned goods, soap and other detergents, and the like.

The project is deemed corollary to the proposed engineer-construction battalion which the Philippines hopes to dispatch to Vietnam as assistance to the South Vietnamese. The drive is proposed to the President by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Narciso Ramos.

The President likewise discusses at length with Rep. Jose Cojuangco the status of the Rice Subsidy Bill, which, Cojuangco states, is now with the conference committee. Rice production is top priority on the President's program.

Then the President inducts six more officials, including a deputy governor of the Land Authority and the chairman of the Abaca Development Board,

The new inductees are:

1. Benicio Eusebio, as deputy governor of the Land Authority;
2. Venecio Flores, as chairman of the Abaca Development Board;
3. Mrs. Adelina Rodriguez, as a member of the Board of the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation;
4. Mrs. Narda Camacho, as a member of the Board of the National Cottage Industries Development Authority; and
5. William F. Buquid and Rene Garcia, as members of the Board of Liquidators.

A law graduate of the Lyceum of the Philippines, Eusebio, who is the senior member of the Rizal provincial board, took graduate studies in economics and business administration at the Ateneo de Manila University, and in management and training at the UP Institute of Public Administration. He is a war veteran, the general manager of Rondo Industries and member of the Rizal Economic Development Commission.

Eusebio has also specialized in management and personnel training, and was a delegate to several conferences abroad. He has had wide experience in business and public administration, and holds membership in several civic organizations.

Flores, another lawyer, was formerly a technical assistant to the then Senator Pedro Subido.

One of the most active civic workers in the country today, Mrs. Rodriguez, wife of Governor Isidro Rodriguez of Rizal, is either an officer or member of over 20 civic organizations, both national and provincial. She holds the degree of Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Santo Tomas, and has received awards for their civic work from the National League of Puericulture Centers, Community Chest, Pamana, Rizal Boy and Girl Scouts, Rizal Federation of Women's Clubs, Philippine Society for the Prevention of Blindness, and others.

Mrs. Camacho, who is the public information officer of Gov. Rodriguez, majored in journalism, graduating *cum laude* from the Holy Ghost College, in 1948. She worked successively as education page editor of the *Philippines Herald*, private secretary to Gov. Adelmo Camacho of Bataan, and private secretary on the campaign staff of Senator Puyat in 1961. Mrs. Camacho is president of the Eulogio Rodriguez, Jr. Nursery School PTA, member of the VWCA, Friendship Inc., Rizal Red Cross, Catholic Women's League, and PRO of some six other organizations.

Baquid was a member of the provincial board of Camarines Sur, and active in community development.

The President also inducts into office the officers of the Philippine Veterans Bank, the League of Administration Executives, and the Philippine Chamber of Engineering Services.

In the evening, the President receives the officials of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) who pays him their respects following their recent arrival.

Following the call of the World Bank and IMF officials, the President directs the department of foreign affairs to issue the passport to former Secretary of Finance Rufino Hechanova, making his case an exception to existing rules which deny passports to Filipino Citizens facing criminal, civil and administrative charges in court.

The President takes this step even as he issues an executive order which liberalizes present regulations governing travel abroad by Filipino citizen, by making it possible even for citizens with pending criminal cases in court to travel nonetheless simply by getting clearance from the court that has jurisdiction over such cases. Cases such as administrative and civil will no longer bar a citizen from travelling.

In making an exception of Hechanova, the President is of the belief that the former finance secretary will return from his projected trip abroad.

The President decides to lift some of the existing restrictions governing travel abroad in order to conform closer to the spirit of the freedom of citizens to travel, which is guaranteed by the Constitution.

Among the regulations now being followed by the foreign office which a passport applicant must contend with, under oath are the following:

1. That there is no administrative, civil or criminal case pending against him in any government agency, national or local, or court of justice in the Philippines.
2. That there is no decision or judgment ensuing or which has ensued from any said agency or court of justice in the Philippines against him or against his property.
3. That he is not a communist or a member of any organization or society whose purpose is to overthrow the Philippine government or any of its instrumentalities.

In the interim, President Marcos appeals to the provincial and municipal executives to play a more persuasive role in the drive against smuggling and in effecting administrative reforms.

In a brief message to the League of Provincial Governors and City Mayors who met at the Filoil auditorium on Taft Avenue, the President cites the evils of smuggling which, he states, have locked the country "in an iron band of pain," and weakened the moral fiber of the people.

The President, in his message read by Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas, says that smugglers' illegal trade has proved so lucrative that it matches the national budget in annual volume. He stresses that it has however pushed back the economic growth of the country, and spawned syndicated crimes in the process.

The Chief Executive points out that to combat smuggling, all elements of society should be mobilized with local leadership playing a key role in the campaign.

He observes that the success of the drive rests to a large extent on the cooperation, loyalty, and initiative of provincial and municipal executives.

He announces that he will soon issue an executive order forming the Preparatory Committee to make draft proposals for the revision of the Administrative Code, and also that he will mobilize scholars, experts and public servants in an effort to effect “simplicity, efficiency and economy in government operations.”

Appealing to their vast experience and insight, the President invites the League to submit proposals for the amendments of the Administrative Code.

The President explains that amendment of the Administrative Code will result in convocation between the local governments and the national officials and need undersecretaries who are ready to act immediately on their needs.

February 18.—ADDRESSING the nation on television and radio, President Marcos states publicly the compulsion behind his decision to support the dispatch of additional assistance to beleaguered South Vietnam.

The President points to two urgent considerations that make up the basis for his decision. They are: the national interest and international commitments.

The Chief Executive likewise stresses that the alleged concessions from the United States, in exchange for the dispatch of an AFP engineer-construction battalion, are without basis.

“I deny this,” he states, adding that this consideration had never influenced the decisions he made.

On the basis of national interest, he presents four principles which, he says, underlay the action taken:

1. The Philippine hope for an early peace in Vietnam, if possible through the conference table, any move toward which the government will support compatible with Filipino values and ideals.
2. The essentiality of stopping communist aggression in Vietnam, which had widened the conflict from a civil war to an international war, now affecting Laos, Cambodia and Thailand, and involving North Vietnam and Communist China as active participants in the Vietcong side.
3. The unquestioned obligation of the Philippines, as a free country, to aid peoples of kindred faith in the defense of their freedom.
4. The protection of Philippine security, which might be seriously endangered by a victory of communism in Vietnam, not specially from external aggression, but from a resurgence of a revitalized communist insurgency within.

On the necessity for honoring Philippine international commitments, the President states that through these commitments the Philippine government had long ago resolved the question of aid to South Vietnam.

He points out that these commitments were dictated by the choice we had made on the side of freedom and against communism. Thus, he stresses, the Philippines outlawed communism under R.A. 7100.

The President traces the Mutual Defense Pact with the United States to the internal danger faced by the country from the *Hukbalahap* rebellion, the defeat of which involved “all our human, spiritual and material resources.”

Other facts followed, he says, with the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization which primarily sought to stand fast against communism; followed, with the same sense of danger, by the Manila communique of April 12, 1964, and by the London conference of ministers the same year wherein the Philippines promised moral and material aid to Vietnam.

“The problem of involvement of our government in the conflict in South Vietnam has been resolved,” the President states. “The only question presented to us is whether this commitment and this involvement shall be manifested by an increase in the aid thus extended to South Vietnam.

The President notes that the Philippines is for securing peace in Vietnam. The Philippines will support any move that will lead to peace, he says.

But while supporting initiatives toward peace, he states, “we regard it as essential that the relentless pressure of communist aggression in Vietnam be stopped.”

He stresses that the necessity for stopping this aggression was obvious. “If we sat by, complacently awaiting the uncertain arrival of peace, we might wake up to find that we had nothing left to negotiate about,” he says.

Meanwhile, President Marcos leads the nation in honoring the late Jose Abad Santos on the occasion of the hero’s 70th birth anniversary the next day (Feb. 19).

In a message which he issued on the eve of the hero’s birth anniversary, the President extols the virtues of the hero, who was a jurist, statesman and patriot.

The President states that the hero’s example “serves us well in these times of conflict and decision, when we must choose again and again between our ideals and values on one hand, and mere survival and accommodation on the other.”

Following is the text of the President’s message for the occasion:

“In remembering Jose Abad Santos today, we honor all Filipinos of his breed, who place God and country above self. A jurist, statesman, and patriot, he was a hero long before he made the choice between life and death. For the late Chief Justice Abad Santos had lived a heroic life all of his years, valuing duty and honor more than pomp and pelf.

“His splendid example serves us well in these times of conflict and decision, when we must choose again and again between our ideals and values on one hand, and mere survival and accommodation on the other. As Jose Abad Santos had so nobly shown, death can be life too—a life of light and meaning for a country and its people.”

February 19.—PRESIDENT Marcos directs a committee composed of fiscal experts to set the policies for extending loans to the business community, with emphasis on the needs of necessary industries at present faced by financial difficulties.

The President takes the step to meet the problems of financing and credit of the business community which had deepened during the past administration and today constitute the primary concern over the private sector.

The committee consists of the heads of the Social Security Commission, the Development Bank of the Philippines, the Philippine National Bank, the Government Service Insurance System and the National Economic Council, with Secretary of Finance Eduardo Romualdez as chairman.

In his directive, the President asks the committee to find ways and means to ease the distressed new and necessary industries’ problems, particularly as these problems affect growth and stability.

He likewise admonishes the committee to keep track of the Administration’s economic policies relative to development plans and projects, and to the enhancement of production in particular.

In the morning, the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda P. Marcos, leads the nation in honouring the memory of the late Chief Justice Jose Abad Santos on the occasion of the martyr's 70th birth anniversary this day by laying a wreath before a bust of the patriot at the Palace Heroes Hall.

Following the rites, the President receives delegates to the week-long conference of the Organization Iberoamericana de Seguridad Social (OISS) who pays him their respects.

In the afternoon, the President and the First Lady tender a *merienda* for provincial governors and city mayors who pay them a courtesy call following the end of the three-day conference of these officials held at the Filoil auditorium on Taft Avenue.

The President spends the whole evening in the seclusion of his study working on state papers.

February 20.—SPENDING a quiet Sunday at the Palace with members of his family, the President do not receive any callers.

It is a much needed respite for the President after an unusually busy week of conferences with advisers, congressional leaders, provincial and municipal officials, and visiting foreign dignitaries.

Waking up early in the morning, the President motors to the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in Mandaluyong, Rizal for a round of golf.

Following a brief rest back in Malacañang, the President retires to his private study where he works on a file of official papers.

In the evening, he hears Mass with members of his family at the Palace Chapel, with Major Juan C. Bautista, chaplain of the Presidential Guards Battalion, saying the Mass.

February 21.—THE Chief Executive issues a proclamation restoring certain government lots in Cebu province to their former status as forest reserves.

Located in the towns of Talisac and Minglanilla, the lots aggregating some 300 hectares were previously excluded from the local forest reserve and made available for disposition under Proclamation No. 487 dated Nov. 6, 1965.

The release of the area had been questioned by local residents who points out that it included portions necessary to preserve the watershed serving the locality.

Proclamation No. 13 issued by President Marcos recently, revokes Proclamation No. 487 and restores the lots to their former status as forest lands under the administration of the director of forestry.

In revoking the earlier proclamation, the President also points out that the concurrence of Congress, which is required by law in the conversion of forest into disposable lands, was not obtained.

At the same time, the President orders the confiscation of a large stock of remnants, embroidery materials and used clothing valued at more than P10 million, which has not been claimed since arrival at the South Harbor.

In a directive to Secretary of Finance Eduardo Romualdez, the President orders the seizure on the ground of abandonment.

The President issues the directive after a meeting with defense, customs and finance officials held to assess the progress of the anti-smuggling drive.

He instructs Secretary Romualdez to pinpoint responsibility for the importation and prosecute those found culpable for misrepresentation or misdeclaration of the imports.

Customs circles indicated that a prominent broker is involved in the unauthorized hauling of some of the goods under question.

The President likewise orders the prosecution of all such, persons, including any agent of the law, found to be responsible for “spiriting away” remnants and other questioned textile imports.

The textiles arrived in several batches, 70 per cent arriving during November and December last year, and the rest arriving in January and February this year.

The remnants consist of 2,612 bales of 700 pounds each valued at \$1,828,400 or P7,373,600; the used clothing numbered 5,614 bales of 1000 pounds each, valued at \$1,684,200 or P6,736,800; and the embroidery materials totalled 1,500 packages of undetermined value.

Undersecretary of Finance Juan Ponce Enrile declares that the customs code considers imports unclaimed after 15 days from the date of discharge from the vessel as abandoned if within that time the importer fails to file an import entry.

In the case of the said remnants and other goods, no importer has come forward to claim them since arrival at the piers. It was indicated that this failure is due to the inability of the consignees to establish price declaration, submit a commercial invoice, nor an export declaration certificate. These documents will reveal the true value of the shipments, which is believed to have been misdeclared.

In the afternoon, the President discusses the Administration’s policy on the 10th reparations schedule with Chairman Eulogio Balao of the Reparation Mission to Tokyo, Reparations Commissioner Gregorio Abad, Public Works Secretary designate Antonio Raquiza, and Undersecretary of Public Works Marciano Bautista.

Then later the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda Marcos, receive at cocktails delegates to the four-day Philippine-American Assembly to be held in Davao City starting Wednesday.

The group is headed by Secretary of Education Carlos P. Romulo, assembly honorary chairman; Emilio Abello and Clifford C. Nelson, co-chairman; Josefina Constantino and William K. Selden, co-directors.

Participants in the assembly are 43 Filipino and 34 American leaders in the fields of culture, economics, the military and public administration. They will exchange views and experience on major RP-US and international issues.

The assembly will make public the proceedings, recommendations and conclusions of its deliberations at the termination of the conference.

February 22.—TO accelerate economic growth in Asia and the Far East, President Marcos certifies to Congress the urgency of enacting four measures needed to hasten the establishment in Manila of the Asian Development Bank. The President describes the ADB as “a vital instrument in accelerating economic growth.”

In certifying the bill, the President submits the following proposals:

1. A Senate resolution ratifying the Asian Development Bank Charter.
2. Legislation to allocate P140-million (\$35-million) to cover the Philippine subscription quota to the capitalization of the bank.

3. Authority from Congress and funds for the construction of a building for the bank.

4. Appropriation to finance the relocation of the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy whose present site has been formally selected as the location of the future ADB offices.

In the morning, the President meets behind closed doors U.S. Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey.

During the meeting, the President is briefed by US officials on the latest developments in Vietnam.

In remarks addressed to newsmen following the meeting, President Marcos and Vice President Humphrey reaffirm the determination of both their countries to extend aid to beleaguered Vietnam.

The President expresses optimism that the bill he sent to Congress appropriating P35-million for sending 1,000 security troops, will be passed although there will be a "big debate."

On his part, Vice President Humphrey assures the President that President Johnson and the entire American people "shall never forget, the decision that you have made on your own, your free will, in behalf of your own people to join us in the common effort of defending freedom and independence and self-determination in Vietnam."

Vice-President Humphrey arrives here Monday night in the course of a trip through Asia to drum up support for the American effort in Vietnam. He is accompanied by Ambassador W. Averell Harriman, Ambassador Lloyd JVL Hand, Chief Protocol Officer; Jack J. Valenti, special presidential assistant, and Minister Richard Service.

The President's remarks to the newsmen following the conference follows:

"I have informed the Vice President of my decision to send an engineering-construction battalion to South Vietnam and that I have properly certified as urgent a bill to the Philippine Congress on this matter, appropriating a total of P35-million for about, 2,000 men an engineering-construction battalion with security troops.

"It is my feeling that it is the overwhelming opinion of our people to send this engineering-construction battalion. In fact, I feel that a majority of the people would like to send not only engineer-construction troops. However we are limited by both budgetary capability and by the request of the South Vietnamese Government

"The present Prime Minister has reiterated the request of the South Vietnamese Government for an engineer construction battalion and it is my belief that the Philippine Government right now can afford this kind of aid. But even if it would mean incurring a deficit in government spending to send this aid to South Vietnam, I will be ready to risk it.

"I feel that the House of Representatives will pass the bill very soon and that the Senate will follow suit. Of course, I know that there will be a big debate, as indeed a big debate is now going on in the Philippines, but I reiterate that a great majority of our people are for sending this aid to South Vietnam, and I am very happy to have been able to convey to the Vice President these developments in our government and in the Philippines relative to Vietnam.

"The Philippine government leaders realize the responsibility of having to maintain present security measures for our country, not only for today's generation but for future generations, and we are sending aid to South Vietnam, not only as a symbol of our belief in the cause the South Vietnamese people are fighting, the same cause which the United States is fighting for, but as a measure to strengthen the security of the Philippines. We are doing this not only under a state of hazy idealism but after a hard-headed and repeated assessments of the Philippine position in relation to Communism and other political ideologies.

"We feel that the Philippines must honor its pledges to support South Vietnam and democracy in this part of the world. We feel that if South Vietnam falls, the subversion of not only the Philippines but of Malaysia, Thailand, Laos and Cambodia will increase to such an extent that the Philippines and the other countries affected would spend

a hundred times more than what they will have to spend now by sending aid similar to that I have proposed to send to South Vietnam.

“In short, I know that if today we are spending P35 million for the engineer construction battalion, we may be compelled to spend P350 million say about a billion pesos, to fight Communism in our own country if South Vietnam falls.

“I reiterate, I cannot report in this public manner the information that has come into my possession as President of the Republic of the Philippines, but I must point out the danger that subversion, poses in this country. I know and I call upon everyone in the Philippines to join me in this proposal to send the engineer construction battalion to South Vietnam.”

Vice President Humphrey’s statement follows: “Mr. President:

“I deeply appreciate, as an emissary of President Johnson and the people of the United States, the information given us this morning concerning your own country and the program of action you have in mind for the benefit of your own people.

“Speaking for the American people, we shall never forget the decision you have made on your own, of your own free will, in behalf of your own people, to join with us in the common effort of defending freedom and independence and self-determination in South Vietnam.

“This decision means a very very great deal to the American people. We look upon our friends in the Philippines not only as friends but as compatriots. In common, we stood together in peace and in war, and your brilliant and incisive leadership is one of the most reassuring developments in this period of difficulty and tension.

“I want to thank you and assure you once again of our deep appreciation.

“May I also say this to the press: that Ambassador Harriman and myself have given the President and foreign minister and other officials of the government a review of our observation in our visits to other nations. President Johnson had already communicated with President Marcos on the Honolulu conference by personal communication. It was my privilege to fill in details and give a more intimate and precise description of what transpired at that conference and, once again, I wish to call attention to the great emphasis being placed by your own people on civic work, social and economic development, which is so desperately needed in Vietnam, in many countries in Asia, as well as the rest of the world.

“I deeply respect and welcome the leadership of the Philippines and the President of this Republic, not only on his leadership on the vital issue he has placed before Congress but the idealism and practical works for building a better Asia, where Asians themselves take this leadership.

“This is a most gratifying development also and so, Mr. President, we thank you. It has been a beautiful and pleasant visit that we had and it was essentially a visit of friends, not a visit to design policy. You design your own policy in conformity with the best ability to the best interest and your national interest. I can only say we find ourselves in full agreement and we are grateful, appreciative and ever be mindful of this decision.”

Meantime, President Marcos calls for an increase in sugar production by at least 300,000 tons annually, to meet not only local needs but also the increased sugar quota allotted by the U.S.

In his speech read by PNB president Roberto Benedicto, the President warns the sugar producers on the opening day of their 13th annual congress at the Manila Hotel this day that failure to increase production will mean loss of a big opportunity to earn additional foreign exchange which the country badly needs.

On the other hand, the President states, the sugar industry will not only increase its income, but also effectively assist the country to solve serious economic problems.

The President points out that in addition to the domestic requirement of 600,000 tons, the U.S. quota has been increased from 980,000 tons to 1.24 million tons, or a minimum requirement of 1.84 million tons in annual production.

He explains that the increase in production will guarantee an additional annual foreign exchange earning of \$33 million, or P165 million, up to 1971 when the U.S. Sugar Act is revised.

President Marcos warns that failure to increase production to meet the new quota will result in the permanent reduction of the succeeding year's quota and the permanent loss of a tremendous opportunity to earn additional foreign exchange.

Moreover, he states, when amendments to the U.S. Sugar Act of 1965 expires, it would be utterly difficult if not impossible to secure additional sugar quota from the United States.

The President urges the sugar producers to formulate plans and programs towards this objective as soon as possible so that the government agencies concerned can study and evaluate them with the view to providing all the assistance necessary.

He points out that the sugar industry, although one of the most potent pillars of the economy, has not kept pace with the fast growing labor force and the population explosion. As a result the industry is facing acute unemployment, milling and production problems.

He notes that the local sugar market is almost wholly controlled by middlemen in spite of the existence of numerous marketing organizations, notably the National Federation of Sugarcane Planters, Philippine Sugar Association and Philippine Producers Cooperative Marketing Association.

On the other side of the ledger, the President says, the sugar industry, compared to other agricultural enterprises, pays the highest wages, and still leads, considering that others suffer worse conditions.

"My friends," he states, "we cannot afford to be stagnant and let each one of us take care of himself. The acute problems facing us demand the utmost in our sense of responsibility and duty to our country and people. I urge all of you in the sugar industry to join this administration in its drive for national greatness and progress."

He asks the sugar producers not to undertake for the moment the complicated tasks of integrating, diversifying and industrializing the industry but to meet the immediate challenge of expanding production by at least 300,000 tons more beginning this crop year.

February 23—THE Chief Executive directs the department of public works to submit a P50-million public works bill to Congress that will primarily meet the needs of the rural areas.

The bill will embody the projects envisioned by the President to accelerate food production, including the construction and repair of irrigation systems, feeder roads, and other devices to aid the farmer and other rural workers.

In two other directives also centering on the development and well-being of rural areas and the rural population, the President asks:

1. The Presidential Assistant on Community Development to submit recommendations on the uplift of rural communities, through particular projects aimed at further improving conditions in the barrios;

2. The same agency to map out plans to put mobile hospitals in the field in order to meet the health and medical needs of rural folks;
3. The department of justice to submit a report on vacancies in the various branches of the Court of Agrarian Relations which need to be filled.

The President likewise asks the PACD that the initiative and cooperation of the PCAW should be utilized, and liaison established among machine suppliers, irrigation authorities and the agrarian workers organization.

In the morning, the President receives the members of the "Conscience Bloc" in the House of Representatives who assure him support in his decision to send an engineer-construction battalion to South Vietnam.

Then later, he meets with other members of the Congress who takes up with him problems of their respective constituents.

After attending to the congressmen until past 1 p.m. the President confers at luncheon on legislative matters with some congressional leaders, headed by Senate President Arturo Tolentino.

In the evening, the President takes time out from attending to callers to hear "Ash Wednesday" Mass with members of his family at the Palace chapel.

Following the Mass, the President receives Chairman Filemon Rodriguez of the National Economic Council, Undersecretary of Public Works Marciano Bautista and Reparations Commissioner Gregorio Abad who submits to him a draft of the proposed 10th year reparations schedule prepared jointly by their offices.

February 24.—IN a more determined effort to further tighten the anti-smuggling drive of the government, President Marcos issues several directives, including three executive orders designed to centralize responsibilities.

- 1) An Executive Order centralizing the custody and disposition of confiscated goods and the payment of rewards to informers;
- 2) An Executive Order creating the Anti-Smuggling Action Center; and
- 3) An Executive Order creating the Anti-Smuggling Fund Committee.

The Anti-Smuggling Action Center will be based in Manila, with regional offices in Cebu, Bacolod, Davao, Jolo, Legaspi and Aparri, according to the order. These offices will harness the capabilities of citizens to furnish information on smugglers and the location of smuggled goods. Based on the assessment of information received, the Center will then take action.

To compensate citizens for the risks they take in helping pinpoint smugglers, the President will have the Anti-Smuggling Fund Drive undertake activities similar to those of the Peace and Amelioration Fund Drive. Funds realized from this drive will supplement the initial release of P150,000 by Secretary of Finance Eduardo Romualdez earmarked for rewards to informers, which will include government personnel.

The President also expects the office created under the Department of Finance to take responsibility for the receipt and disposal of confiscated contraband.

The other directives and instructions issued by the President include:

1. A directive to the department of justice to create more panels of prosecutors to help regular fiscals in the prosecution of smuggling cases as well as the assignment of more fiscals to handle smuggling cases exclusively.

2. A directive to Commissioner of Customs Jacinto Gavino to initiate seizure proceedings against cargo in the piers long stockpiled beyond normal limits.

A supposedly misdeclared shipment is spirited away from the piers recently, prompting the President to order its confiscation after it is intercepted outside the piers by authorities.

3. Instructs Secretary of Finance Eduardo Romualdez to prosecute bureau of internal revenue men responsible for the loss of confiscated smuggled cigarettes and other goods in their custody.

He states that these men must be suspended immediately upon the filing of charges against them.

4. Orders that only inflammable materials and bulk cargo should be delivered shipside. All other imports must be unloaded at the piers.

The President says that he noticed that shipside delivery of cargo had been used by smugglers to bring in contraband.

5. Directs all intelligence agencies of the government to consolidate then lists of suspected commuters to nearby foreign ports who bring in untaxed goods so that the bureau of customs may profit from the list.

Meantime, President Marcos seeks the help of members of the Senate for the passage of administration bills in congress, particularly measures affecting the economic development of the country.

Meeting with the Senators in Malacañang, the President asks quick action on a bill amending the reparations law and a proposed P50-million public works bill.

The President wants the reparations law changed so that the bulk of the still uncollected reparations from Japan will be channelled to the government or public sector.

Under the law, the public sector gets only 40 per cent of reparations, the rest going to the private sector. The President wants this reversed or have all reparations go to the public sector.

The President observes that the utilization by the private sector of the bulk of reparations had not contributed to the economic development of the country as much as expected when the law was passed by Congress.

It is time, the President points out, that most of the remaining reparations from Japan be given to the government to start or complete urgent economic programs, particularly the rice production program.

In the morning, the President motors to Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in Mandaluyong, Rizal where he officiates at the opening of the 51st Philippine Open Golf championship by driving the first ball in the competition.

He tees-off at 6:10 a.m. as scheduled, after which he plays a foursome of nine holes with Senators Lorenzo Tañada, Dominador Aytona and Jovito Salonga, carding 2 under bogey, 43 to win the game.

Back in Malacañang after a brief rest, the President receives delegations from Bulacan and Pangasinan led by Reps. Teodulo Natividad and Cipriano Primicias, Jr., respectively; and John Billera, president of the U.S. Industries in New York who pays him his respects. Billera arrived recently in the course of a tour of his firm's subsidiaries in the Far East.

February 25.—IN a telephone conversation with Director Antonio Quejado of the forestry bureau this day, the President orders the bureau director to immediately cancel all logging permits and submit a formal report on the progress of the drive against illegal logging.

The President issues the directive upon receipt of reports that wanton cutting of timber still goes on in Bataan, with licensed concessionaires behind the activity. He orders Quejado to stop right away all logging operations in the province "and don't allow logs to get out of Bataan by road or by sea."

The Chief Executive likewise asks the bureau of forestry to coordinate with the constabulary command in Bataan in order to better enforce the ban against indiscriminate logging operations.

"Tell them that all logging operations in Bataan now are illegal because we have cancelled all logging permits of concessionaires there," the President tells Quejado.

In asking for a report from the bureau, the President wants to know what it has done to stop the illegal cutting of forest stands. The President points out that indiscriminate logging must be stopped because the country's forests are already dangerously thinned out.

Meanwhile, President Marcos states this day that he intends to invite Indonesian President Sukarno to Manila to discuss mutual problems particularly those affecting Indonesia and Malaysia.

In his prepared statement issued to the press, the President denies a report of Antara, Official Indonesian news agency, monitored in Singapore that he had already invited Sukarno to a summit meeting through Madame Supeni, deputy foreign minister, who visited Manila recently.

Commenting on the report, the President states that he viewed the idea of consultations with Indonesia on mutual problems as "always to be welcomed."

The President's statement, as released by his spokesman, follows:

"While there was no formal invitation to a summit conference in my message to President Sukarno, I view the idea of consultations on the mutual problems of the Philippines and Indonesia as always to be welcomed.

"In this spirit, therefore, in the spirit of *musjawarah*, I now intend to invite President Sukarno to Manila for such consultations, to discuss mutual problems, particularly those affecting Indonesia and Malaysia.

"I hope that President Sukarno will find it possible to make a visit to Manila."

The Indonesia President had previously announced that normalization of relations with Malaysia would be a violation of the principle of *musjawarah* (brotherly consultation), the underpinning of the Manila Declaration of 1964 agreed upon by the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia, then only Malaya.

In the morning, the President meets Philippine Ambassador Felipe Mabilangan, Sr. to Laos who arrived recently to attend the funeral services for his sister. Ambassador Mabilangan likewise transmits to the Chief Executive a message of congratulations from Prime Minister Prince Souvanna Phouma on the President's victory at last November's polls.

Then the President receives Ambassador Abraham Kidron of Israel, former Senate President Jose Avelino, Mayor Norberto Amoranto, Commissioner of National Integration Mamintal Tamano and Speaker Protempore Salipada K. Pendatun.

Ambassador Kidron pays the President a courtesy call while Mayor Amoranto formally invites the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, to be the special guests at the opening of the Quezon City Interscholastic Athletic Meet scheduled to run from April 17 to April 20, with the First Lady invited to cut the ceremonial ribbon opening the meet. Speaker Protempore Pendatun and Commissioner Tamano discuss with the President this year's projected Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca.

In the afternoon, the Chief Executive receives at tea some 500 officers and members of the Civic Assembly of Women of the Philippines, headed by Josefina Phodaca Ambrosio, president; Dr. Estefania Aldaba Lim, Medina Lacson de Leon, former Sen. Pacita Madrigal Gonzalez and Paz P. Mendez.

At the tea reception, the President announces plans to hold a general assembly of the country's leaders in various fields with a view to re-assessing and studying the problems facing the government.

"This assembly shall provide a forum for the meeting of all the minds in our society and in our country," he states, "an assembly perhaps of several hundred people who shall have the opportunity to determine, reassess and examine the present program of government and perhaps suggest plans that may be undertaken by the government."

The President appeals to the women leaders to help in this effort because, he says, "no matter how much a President or the Congress, may do, the policies, plans and programs of government will fail if they do not receive the support and aid of all the people."

Scanning the reports of the various CAWP commissions which were submitted to him, the President notes that the Filipino women has been transformed from "a source of inspiration to a source of strength and assistance."

The Chief Executive says that he will give the reports careful study, with a view to adopting many of the recommendations submitted by the women leaders.

He likewise announces to the group that he is considering appointing distinguished women to high positions in the government.

In presenting the organization's commission reports, Josefina Ambrosio, CAWP president states:

"Mr. President, we have come not to ask what the government can do for us but to ask what we can do to be of service to our people. We are concerned because we have a stake in the future of our nation."

Among the recommendations submitted to the President are:

1. Establishment of more Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts complemented with adequate probation officers.
2. Make an appeal to keep cities safe and clean for the people, with the NBI and the police alerted to preserve the sanctity of the nation's life.
3. Amendment of the Elections Code to remedy the flaws of election proceedings, with a study of experiences in England and South East Asian countries undertaken as possible guidelines.
4. Full implementation of the law which increased from P50 to P100 the monthly pension of war widows.
5. Harness knowledgeable men and women in the rural areas in the task of improving conditions in their communities, as proposed by Dr. Frank Laubach.
6. Establishment of more nutrition pilot projects similar to that in Bayambang, Pangasinan, in accordance with public health goals.
7. Appeal directly to smugglers to halt their ruinous activities.
8. Give priority to production, distribution and food preservation in government economic projects.

Following the tea reception, the President receives Lewin Edwards, district sales supervisor in the Far East of Colliers; CB Gov. Andres Castillo, PNB president Roberto Benedicto and Rep. Pablo Roman of Bataan.

Edwards presents the President with a set of Collier's encyclopedia. With him on the call at the Palace are Eleuterio A. Baeza, Antonio Sorigo and Edmundo Mendoza.

In the evening, the President receives delegations from the Reserve Officers Legion of the Philippines, PEFTOK Veterans Associations, Great Labor Organization, all of which presented resolutions supporting the Administration's position on Philippine assistance to South Vietnam.

February 26.—THE Chief Executive spends a comparatively quiet day with his attendance, along with the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, the gala presentation of "Flower Drum Song" at the Philamlife auditorium as the only highlight of the day's schedule.

The gala premier of the locally staged musical is set by the First Lady, in token of gratitude to those who had helped launch the fund drive for her project—the realization of a national theater and museum. Proceeds from the presentation of "Flower Drum Song" will go to the fund for a national cultural center, a project of the First Lady.

In the morning, the President motors to Wack Wack Golf and Country Club where he plays a round of golf.

Back in Malacañang after a brief rest, the President repairs to his study working on pending state papers.

February 27.—THE President announces the deployment of army engineer-construction battalions to public works projects, in line with his policy to use military elements in economic development.

One battalion will work on the 20-kilometer Manila-North diversionary road under construction, while another battalion is involved with the extension of the Manila-South Road linking Quezon province with Camarines Norte.

These roads are part of the national highway network and have been for the most part unfinished. The utilization of the army engineer battalions is expected to advance the work on these roads substantially.

More construction battalions are expected to be assigned to other priority public works projects as soon as the plans are finalized and found feasible.

The Chief Executive states that the military engineers are well-trained for such peace-time activities, and have also the equipment and manpower to carry out these missions effectively.

Meantime, President Marcos states that he is "keeping in close touch with developments in troubled Indonesia through Ambassador Modesto Farolan, who is now in Jakarta as the special envoy of the Chief Executive.

The President, speaking through his spokesman, says that he sent Farolan to Indonesia on a special mission and that he had arrived there before the present disturbances in Jakarta which followed the ouster of Gen. Abdul H. Nasution, who was relieved as Indonesian defense minister by President Sukarno.

Since then, the President states, he has been getting up-to-the-minute reports from Farolan and the Philippine embassy in Jakarta, headed by Ambassador Nareiso Reyes. These reports confirmed the removal of Nasution, his having gone into hiding, and the demonstration against the government in the Indonesian capital.

Meanwhile, the President, in a speech read for him by Gen. Mata before the graduates of the trainee course in Fort Magsaysay at Laur, Nueva Ecija; calls for a resumption on a wider scale of citizens training for military defense as he stressed the need for preparedness in an unsettled world.

It is the duty of the government, “a duty to ourselves and to posterity,” the President says, to train the youth to be soldiers, “for their own country’s defense,” until foreign aggression has become obsolete and “wars are no longer possible or necessary.”

The President refers to the time before World War II when the nation’s leaders believed in military training for the young men, to build a national reserve of citizen soldiers. He points out that these trainees proved themselves in battle and later became the basic fighting force of the resistance which “was the most efficient national guerrilla force in World War II along with France.

Today, he states, the state of national preparedness leaves “much to be desired.” He emphasized that the Administration has now moved to sharpen preparedness through reorganization of AFP Leadership. This was necessary, he points out, in the face of aggressive forces outside the nation and the vulnerability of the country’s coastline to foreign subversion and infiltration as proven by the ease with which smugglers bring in contraband.

The mobilization of the AFP in the war against smuggling, the President observes, is in effect a move to tighten national security, for smuggling is an act of sabotage directly undermining the foundation of economic development.

To guard national security, the President cautions, it is as necessary to make international arrangements for mutual defense as to rely on Philippine defense capabilities.

In this connection, the President recalls that the nation’s arrangements with the United States and the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization have mainly met the country’s needs, but it is also important to preparedness for a nation to show its willingness to fight for the cause it believes in.

That is why he states the Philippines has responded to the request for assistance from South Vietnam, not only because the national security is “clearly involved” in the outcome of the Vietnam war, but also because this nation is obliged to “stand for freedom” in the crucial Vietnam struggle.

A nation’s preparedness depends not only on superiority of military capability, he says but it can mean as well “a moral capacity to endure certain sacrifices to keep the option for liberty open to a neighboring people. This is the stake that we and all free mankind must be kept open to the people of Vietnam. The stakes are valuable enough to command our strongest response and, if necessary, our sacrifice.”

An important mission of the AFP was also underscored by the President when he stressed that his administration will develop and expand the construction aspect of the military effort in nation-building by its participation in civic action projects, such as the construction of roads, bridges and irrigation facilities.

February 28.—INTRODUCING an important innovation in the government, ” President Marcos asks Cabinet members to brief the Development Council, which is composed of himself and congressional leaders of all parties, on the accomplishments of their respective departments.

The briefing lasts the whole day in a small operations room of the Presidential Economic Staff at Arlegui street.

The President announces that the briefings will be held once a month with Cabinet members, heads of economic and social agencies and heads of government lending institutions and corporations to be asked to personally report on the achievements of their offices.

Under the new system, the Development Council submits the reporting Cabinet official to an oral examination on the facts and details of the claimed accomplishments of his office.

The President explains he called for the briefings so that the congressional leaders could scrutinize the activities of the various departments.

He likewise emphasizes that he wanted the Cabinet members to answer questions concerning the operations of their departments with documented figures.

Vice President Fernando Lopez, concurrently Secretary of Agriculture, reviews forestry and logging rules, sums up the situation on illegal fishing including the use of dynamite, and notes that logging permits on Mt. Apo in Davao have been cancelled as his department took drastic steps to stop illegal logging.

Lopez also reports on infractions on NAWASA watersheds and on the investigation of alleged irregularities in the purchase of insecticides by the bureau of plant industry.

Secretary of Education Carlos P. Romulo, the first to report, details the main problems of the public school system, notably the lack of adequate textbooks and classrooms which are at the heart of the perennial school crisis, the need for more vocational and technical schools, and for the 'implementation of the President's policy of disassociating the public school system from partisan politics.

Romulo suggests the establishment of around 25 more vocational schools throughout the country. He proposes the absorption of the Manila Science High School, which is now under the National Science Development Board, by the University of the Philippines, which is in a better position to secure scholarship funds from abroad.

National Economic Council chairman Filemon Rodriguez reports that the main concerns of the NEC at this time are planning, standardization of statistics and the proper administration of foreign aid.

Rodriguez traces the economic stagnation as caused by, among other factors:

1. Sudden decontrol and the subsequent credit restrictions that were imposed to ward off inflation;
2. The squeeze suffered by business and industry;
3. Rampant smuggling; and
4. Over-crowding of the constricted industrial field, resulting in disastrous competition in certain areas.

Chairman Rodriguez outlines a four-year development program encompassing, among others, agriculture, mining, trade and industry and communications. He states that emphasis will be given to agriculture but that this in turn, will generate a corresponding increase in industrial operations serving agricultural needs.

Rice and Corn Administrator Osmundo Mondoñedo reports on the steps being taken by the RCA to avert an artificial rice shortage. He says that if the administration's rice program is implemented early enough, there will be no shortage this year.

Undersecretary of Public Works and Communications Marciano Bautista reports on a crash program of irrigation construction in 49 sites, costing the government some P169.5-million.

On road building, Bautista states that the public works bureau has started on the Manila North and South roads, which are in the process of improvement.

Presidential Assistant on Community Development Ernesto Maceda recommends that small developmental projects should be assigned to the PACD for implementation. He explains that his agency had completed 850 kilometers of feeder roads at a cost of P2.5-million which normally will have cost P5.6-million but was accomplished at minimum expense because labor was provided on a self-help basis.

He reports that the PACD installed irrigation systems at a cost of P1.1-million instead of the expected P3.1-million for the same reason.

Recommending a bigger budget for the PACD, Maceda points out that rural people usually get discouraged when materials for projects they are undertaking are delayed for lack of funds.

Secretary of Finance Eduardo Romualdez reports that current indications show that the anti-smuggling campaign is gaining headway, notably because of the fact that tax collection has increased by P40 to P50-million.

Secretary Romualdez recommends, among others:

- 1) Revision of tax exemption laws which have caused losses in government revenue amounting to from P30 to P40-million annually.
- 2) Review of specific taxes with the view to increasing revenue from these sources.
- 3) Re-bracketing of income tax paying groups so as to make people who can afford, pay more; it is estimated that an increase of P50 to P60 million in revenue from these sources can be realized.

Returning to the anti-smuggling drive, Romualdez asserts that 80 per cent of the success of the intensified campaign will depend on effective intelligence work.

In the morning before proceeding to the Development Council meet, the President meets at breakfast with leaders of Congress to assess the defense posture of the Philippines in the light of political developments in Southeast Asia.

In the afternoon, the President takes time off from the meeting of the Development Council and meets at Malacañang Gov. Manuel Barretto of Zambales and Mayor James Gordon of Olongapo.

Meanwhile, President Marcos expresses confidence that “in the verdict of history President Quirino will loom large as a statesman and nation-builder.”

In a message issued on the eve of the 10th death anniversary of the late leader, the President recalls that this country was fortunate that during its difficult years after independence, it had men like Quirino at the helm of government.

President Quirino died on February 29, 1956, a leap year. In non-leap years, however, the Quirino Memorial committee commemorates his death anniversary on March 1.

In his message issued for the occasion, the President states:

“I am glad there is a new perspective on the Quirino years in Malacañang, a new understanding of the vital role he had played, highlighted by his informed appreciation of our immediate problems, by his unswerving commitment to his convictions, and at the root of his actions, by a warm human understanding of our people.”

The text of the President’s message follows:

“As we reflect today on the life and the passing of one of our Presidents, we would do well to remember that we are fortunate in that at the most perilous time of our recent history since ‘independence, we had men at the apex of our government structure ready and highly capable of preserving the continuity of leadership.

“Such a man was President Elpidio Quirino, who stepped into the sudden emptiness of the Presidency, and without breaking stride wielded the leadership that at that time was crucial to our survival as a nation, for we were then in the merest infancy of nationhood, and in fact groping for the way forward.

“I am glad that there is a new perspective on the Quirino years in Malacañang, a new understanding of the vital role he had played, highlighted by his informed appreciation of our immediate problems, by his unswerving commitment to his convictions, and at the root of his actions, by a warm human understanding of our people.

“I am confident that in the verdict of history, President Quirino will loom large as a statesman and nation-builder.”

March 1.— AFTER being briefed on the extent of squatting problem on private and government properties in both urban and rural areas, President Marcos directs Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas to organize a committee to study and recommend a solution to the long standing squatter problem plaguing the country.

A special report submitted to the President reveals that in Baguio City alone, 2,500 squatters have invaded places like Quirino Hill, portions of the Bureau of Plant Industry and Forbes Park.

The report underscores the biggest stumbling block to the squatter problem in Baguio City, which is the official attitude, described as “leniency bordering on tolerance on the part of the authorities concerned.” It adds that the support “of some city officials” given to the squatters have emboldened the latter to the point that even court orders for ejectment and demolition of illegal construction have failed to oust these people who are the source of a grave social problem.

In the morning, the President together with the First Lady,—Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, lead the nation in commemorating the 10th death anniversary of former President Elpidio Quirino.

The First Couple leaves Malacañang at 7:40 a.m. for the San Antonio Church in Forbes Park where a special mass is celebrated in memory of the former Chief Executive.

The President orders a detail of honor guards under Lt. Pedro Marquez Jr., of the Presidential Guard Battalion to keep vigil at the Quirino tomb in the South Cemetery.

Back at Malacañang about 9:30 a.m., the President meets the Council of Leaders to hear the report of Ambassador Modesto Farolan on his special mission to Jakarta.

The council meeting lasts up to 1:05 p.m., forcing the President to postpone his scheduled joint meeting with the Citizen’ Action in the Philippines Against Smuggling (CAPAS) and the Presidential Anti-Smuggling Committee for 10:00 a.m. the following day.

Following less than an hour’s rest during which he had lunch, the President proceeds to the Presidential Economic Staff building on Arlegui street where he attends another meeting of the Development Council.

The Development Council started meeting the other day to assess the present state of government affairs and the projected programs of various government offices.

During the briefing, the President directs the heads of the different financing institutions of the government to coordinate policies on loans to conform with the government basic policies on economic development and to submit a report on approved loans. The President wants the” loans received by the boards of the lending institutions and his economic staff.

The President also suspends all appointments to the Nacida Bank, following the report that the bank is in dire financial straits. NEC Chairman Marcelo Balatbat slates that the bank should either be closed or revitalized with financial assistance.

The President points out that the bank “cannot be left hanging,” and therefore its problems should be studied with a view to solving them.

On tax collection, legislative leaders at the briefing observe that the increase in revenue collection as reported by the BIR and the bureau of customs are not imperative.

GSIS General Manager Benjamin del Rosario and DBP Chairman Gregorio Licaroz inform the council that the chiefs of the different lending institutions of the government had already organized a committee and in a recent meeting discussed the redemption of treasury bills within the year to help local industries, the gearing of loans to the capacity of each financing institution to give, and the establishment of priorities.

The President directed that the four primary lending agencies of the government—the DBP, PNB, SSS and GSIS—submit a list of all approved loans to date. The directive was prompted by Del Rosario's observation that the commitments of the GSIS have swelled beyond the capacity of the agency to meet. Senator Puyat has made the same observation earlier.

Del Rosario reports that the GSIS has commitments that total some P500 million to date. He states that one of the things they would like to clarify is the question of priorities and loans for private homeowners. He wanted a common policy.

Senator Gil Puyat asks whether the GSIS could discern any element of politics in certain loans and Del Rosario said that there were indeed such kind of loans. However, he adds even so, some of these loans are still bankable on the basis of collaterals.

Licaroz says that the committee agreed to formulate a way to screen loans already "filed as well as those already approved but still pending implementation.

He states that the lending institutions will coordinate in determining the viability and conditions of industries applying for loans before the same are granted, to prevent loss including loss of the opportunity to channel resources to more profitable ventures that would help in the development of the country's economy.

The President stresses that financing agencies should observe the timing and injection of capital in the economy, and that studies should be made on the effects of these loans, especially in relations to inflation.

Reporting on the Social Security System, Labor Secretary Emilio Espinosa says that the SSS has P65.2 million available for financing schemes, including refund of treasury notes.

He admits that not all the members of the SSS are paying premiums which, he said, is due to lack of field personnel to make collections.

The SSS, Espinosa points out, collects from P4 million to P10 million every month. Monthly collections should be about P14 million if all members pay according to schedule.

In granting loans to industries, Puyat suggests that this must not be limited to industries in distress, but also to deserving ones which are in a position to expand.

The Senator also states that emphasis should be given not only to small loans but also to those industries which had initial releases so that they may be able to proceed as projected.

Back at Malacañang in the afternoon, the President receives the credentials of Ambassador Gustaf Harald Edelstam, the new envoy of Sweden to the Philippines.

During the ceremony, the President observes that the Philippines and Sweden are linked by a common aspiration for peace.

“It is for this reason that I am particularly pleased to receive You Excellency at this moment when the present world situation requires that all peoples band together in a common effort to prevent the further deterioration of international order in this region,” the President states.

The Chief Executive expresses the hope that the Philippines will find in Sweden “a ready and willing partner in the achievement of our mutual desire for increased commercial and economic cooperation.”

Ambassador Edelstam is the second envoy to present his credentials to President Marcos. The first is Ambassador Marco Aurelio Lino Benitez of Argentina who presented his papers at Malacañang last Feb. 10.

In both presentation ceremonies, the President Speaks in Pilipino and uses basi, a native Ilocano beverage, as ceremonial wine in the exchange of toast with the two envoys.

Ambassador Edelstam assures the President that the Royal Swedish government is “looking forward to increasingly keen commercial and otherwise economic intercourse between our two peoples.”

He likewise conveys to the President “the sincere wishes of His Majesty the King of Sweden, my August Sovereign, for the fulfillment of your high mission, for your welfare and happiness and for the prosperity of the Philippines.”

The new Swedish diplomatic representative to this country has been in the foreign service of his government for the last 36 years. He has served in Rome, Berlin, Oslo, the Hague, Warsaw, Vienna and Istanbul. He succeeds Baron Louise de Geer who had been recalled to the home office for reassignment after completing more than three years of duty in this country.

Following the presentation ceremonies, the President administers the oath of office to former Undersecretary of Finance Placido L. Mapa, Jr. as director-general of the Presidential Economic Staff.

March 2.—MEETING for the first time in conference leaders of civic and business organizations who group themselves into (CAPAS) Citizens’ Action in the Philippines Against Smuggling, President Marcos calls on them to help ferret out government officials and personnel who are tolerating smuggling in any form so that he could take stern action against them.

The CAPAS is formed in response to the President’s appeal for active citizen participation in the anti-smuggling campaign.

At the meeting, the President assures the CAPAS that the drive against smuggling will continue under his administration for as long as smuggling exists.

The President tells the members present to call to his attention any diminution of the campaign and to inform him if the organization discovers any public officials engaged in or tolerating smuggling.

During the meeting, the CAPAS submits a list of recommendations on buttressing the campaign.

Notable among the recommendation are:

1. Creation of an anti-smuggling commission to operate on a global scale, under the agencies of the United Nations.
2. Creation of a special team to check on sidewalk vendors and other retail sellers of cigarettes, with an eye to ferreting out blue seal cigarettes or keeping them out of circulation.
3. Conduct a nationwide information and education drive, particularly in schools, on the evils of smuggling.

4. Make Jolo, Sulu a free port of entry.
5. Unremitting follow-up of goods in the bureau of customs and misdeclaration of goods.
6. Stricter measures to balk bribery.
7. Stricter issuance of diplomatic passports, often used by smugglers who succeed in getting these special papers.

The Chief Executive lauds the interest and concern shown by the private sector in the government anti-smuggling drive, saying that CAP AS can help considerably in fielding a vast information campaign, doing intelligence work, and in a person-to-person campaign to enlighten the people on the urgent need to deny themselves the use of contraband.

He states that while the progress of the anti-smuggling drive is encouraging, no substantial gains have been made in the form of increased government income.

The government drive, he points out, has not fully gone into high gear because it takes time to organize the machinery, assess the situation and determine the policies.

President Marcos discloses that the government campaign is being conducted on several levels, one of which is from the viewpoint of the national security. He stresses that this approach is based on verified reports that subversive elements are encouraging the perpetuation of smuggling.

During the meeting the President likewise:

- 1) Appoints former Secretary of National Defense Alejo Santos as government liaison officer with the CAP AS, and Col. Simeon Medalla of the CAPAS as counterpart liaison.
- 2) Approves identification cards for CAPAS members to give them access to government offices.

In this connection, he asks CAPAS members to contact police agencies, including the NBI and the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency whenever they have information to pass on to the government.

Aurelio Periquet Jr., president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce, and CAPAS member, recommends the following measures:

- 1 Reforms in tariff policy to make existing duties and taxes more realistic and to remove the inducement or profit motive for smugglers;
- 2) Strengthening of the administrative machinery charged with the curbing of illegal trade practices and intensification of the police drive against smugglers;
- 3) More comprehensive reforms in existing economic policies with a view to making the climate for business and new investment favorable and providing more powerful incentives for productive and other desirable enterprises.

Expressing appreciation for the various recommendations, the President says he will examine them for purposes of implementation.

Among the CAPAS members present are Mrs. Concepcion Martelino of the National Federation of Women's Clubs of the Philippines, Ricardo Bonilla and Judge Antonio Quirino of Lions International, Col. Jose Barredo of Rotary Club, Roberto G. Garcia of the Philippine Association _ of National Advertisers, Buenaventura Lopez of the Kiwanis Club of Manila, Tomas B. Cabrias of the Philippine Government Employees Association, Geronimo

Cuadra of the Labor for Better Government, Macapanton Abas of the National Union of Students, UP, Jesus Perlas, Jr. of the Manila Jaycees, and Mrs. Josefina Phodaca Ambrosio of the Civic Assembly of Women of the Philippines.

Representing the public sector are Undersecretary of National Defense Manuel Syquiao, AFP Chief of Staff Ernesto Mata, PC Chief Brig. Gen. Segundo Velasco, Commodore Felix Apolinario, Undersecretary of Finance Juan Ponce Enrile, Jr., Commissioner of Customs Jacinto Gavino, BIR Commissioner Misael Vera, NICA Chief Ismael Lapuz, and former Secretary of National Defense Alejo Santos.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Marcos leads high government officials, military brass and members of the diplomatic corps in welcoming Prime Minister and Mrs. Thamon Kittikachorn of Thailand.

The Thai couple, here on an official visit, arrives at the Manila International Airport exactly 5:15 p.m.

The President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, meet Prime Minister Kittikachorn and his lady at the foot of the plane's ramp as they alighted from the jetliner which flew them in from Canberra. The Philippine Armed Forces renders military honors as 21-guns boomed in salute to the Thai Prime Minister.

President Marcos and Prime Minister Kittikachorn together troop the line of the AFP honor guard, after which the President introduces his guests to the members of the diplomatic corps and government officials participating in the welcome ceremonies at the airport.

Following the airport ceremonies, the two heads of state then boards an open convertible, while their ladies rides together in another car, as they headed a long motorcade to Malacañang. The route from the airport through Manila is thronged with cheering people. The motorcade arrives at the Palace 6:40 p.m.

Upon arrival at the Palace, Prime Minister and Mrs. Kittikachorn sign the Malacañang guest book. The Prime Minister then introduces to President and Mrs. Marcos the members of his entourage.

The hosts and honored guests spend some moments at the Palace music room, exchanging amenities while having refreshments.

Afterwards, the guests repair to the guesthouse across the Pasig River.

In the evening, the President and the First Lady tender a state dinner in honor of Premier and Madame Kittikachorn at Malacañang.

Among those present are ranking officials of the executive, legislative and judicial departments of the government and members of the diplomatic corps.

In remarks at the state dinner, President Marcos and Prime Minister Kittikachorn pledge strengthened and continuing Philippine-Thailand friendship.

The text of President Marcos remarks in an exchange of toast at the state dinner follows: Mr.- Prime Minister, my friends:

“On behalf of the Filipino people, I welcome you to my country. We are proud and deeply honored by your presence. We fervently hope that your stay in this country will be both pleasant and fruitful. Your acceptance of my invitation to visit us once again demonstrates the long and most cordial relationships between our two peoples.

“We are happy to recall the state visit in this country in July 1963, made by Their Majesties the King and Queen of Thailand. My people were captivated by their charm and their visit indeed went a long way in fostering the brotherly ties of our peoples.

“A study of Asian history shows that the Thais and Filipinos, along with other peoples of the Malay stock, have had prolonged and friendly contacts long before Western civilization set foot in Asia. Thus, a Filipino historian wrote that in 1521 Magellan landed in Mactan, one of the first foreigners he met in Cebu was a Thai trader already doing business in this country. Beginning in the 16th century, however, Western colonizers came to Asia and imposed their civilization. In due time, differences in life and practices arose among the Malay peoples. Among the Malays today, only Thailand has retained the purity of her Asian heritage because she had never been the colony of any Western power.

“Mr. Prime Minister, we are therefore proud to have you as the representative of a free, happy and independent people whom we still consider our Malay brothers.

“More than Asian sister-nations, Thailand and the Philippines have further strengthened their relations by finding themselves members of SEATO, a collective defense treaty set up to fight Communism. They are also members of ASA, a cultural and economic arrangement with Malaysia, designed to promote the cultural, social and economic well-being of their peoples. However, even among strong sister nations, there are bound to arise some misunderstandings. I am happy to state that in the long history of Thailand-Philippine relations, not one single incident can be recalled that marred those relations. These relations have been so perfect and free from any misunderstanding that it could be considered as a model of exemplary region but of the whole world hangs in the balance. We are now faced with friendship, cooperation and harmony between nations. I am confident that this visit of the Thai Prime Minister will further strengthen the cordial relations between Thailand and the Philippines.

“I consider your visit at this time doubly significant because the whole of Southeast Asia is seething in ferment and the peace not only of the region but of the whole world hangs in the balance. We are now faced with a common and ruthless enemy. And that enemy threatens not only the two countries but the free world as well. We have to be more vigilant and to adopt a firmer determination to annihilate the enemy if we are to protect the freedom, the peace and happiness of our peoples.

“I therefore take this opportunity to call upon Thailand to join the Philippines in sounding out a call for unity of all freedom-loving peoples in the common struggle against Communism. Mr. Prime Minister, may your presence With us now serve not only to strengthen the cordial relations of our country and peoples but it will inspire us to greater efforts to promote their common purposes and to contribute to the peace, property and happiness of all mankind.”

Response of Prime Minister Kittikachorn to the President’s remarks at the state dinner follows:

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

“I thank you for your kind words of welcome. My visit to the Philippines has been made possible through your kind invitation, which it has been my privilege and honour to accept, and for which we are very grateful. I am very happy to be here in Manila, and in coming to your country, I bring to Your Excellency and to the people of the Philippines, the greetings and sincere good wishes from the people of Thailand. Allow me also, Mr. President, to take this opportunity to offer you once again our heartfelt congratulations upon your election to the highest and most honourable office in your country. Under your wise leadership and guidance, I am sure the Philippines will continue to enjoy stability and even greater progress.

“The relationship between our two countries has always been close and cordial as it has been one of long standing. Indeed, it is recorded that as early as the Sixteenth’s Century, one of our Kings sent two elephants as a gift to the Philippines, and, as Your Excellency recalled, there was a Thai trader already doing business in this country in 1521. Some fifty years ago, Thai students came to enroll in various universities here, and since then there has been a steady flow of Thai youth who have come to pursue their studies in many fields. Now, with the signing of the Convention of University Equivalences in September of last year, there will be more exchanges of students and scholars, thus creating, at is were, a two-way traffic between Educational Centres of the two countries.

“Mr. President, our two nations are bound together less by the uniformity of our ideas as by the similarity of our ideals and aspirations. As pointed out by Your Excellency, the friendly relations between our two countries, which

are based on the solid foundation of our common membership in SEATO and our practical co-operation in the Economic and Cultural fields within the framework of ASA, have been further enhanced by the State Visit of Their Majesties the King and Queen of Thailand in 1963. Our participation in the collective defense arrangements clearly reflects our unshakable determination to face our common enemy, and to join with others in resisting Communist aggression and to foil Communist expansionist attempts and thus ensure our peoples the long lasting prospect of peace and tranquility. At the same time, we also seek to promote the cultural, social and economic well-being of our peoples. In the pursuit of their common goal, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand founded in 1961, the Association of Southeast Asia, which represents a first step towards joining endeavors in bringing about the economic, social and cultural advancement of our respective countries. The beginning in the right direction has been made, and now it remains for us to give a new vitality and impetus to our Association, to uphold the principles embodied in the Bangkok Declaration, and finally to build an Asian society which will reflect our traditional Asian heritage as well as the progressive and forward looking stimulus of our modern age. In this undertaking, the Thai nation is gratified to associate itself with the sister nation of the Philippines and to cooperate with it for the mutual benefits of our respective peoples.

“I now have the honour to propose a toast to the health and happiness of His Excellency the President and the First Lady, to the continued progress and prosperity of the Philippine nation and to the ever-lasting friendship between the Republic of the Philippines and Thailand.”

Following the dinner reception, the state guests are treated to a musical program which included numbers by the Bayanihan dance troupe.

March 3.—PRESIDENT Marcos orders the cancellation of all pasture leases on Mount Samat in Bataan which will be preserved as a national shrine in permanent commemoration of the gallant stand of Filipino-American troops against the Japanese invasion forces in 1942.

To be named “*Dambana Ng Kagitingan*” (Altar of Valor), the shrine will have as its nucleus a giant steel cross on the mountain peak and a chapel at its base. The steel cross will be bare and unadorned except for a system of illumination which will make it visible for miles around, including as far as Manila.

In his desire to have the foundations of the cross laid during this year’s observance of Bataan Day on April 9, the President directs the Engineer Corps of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to prepare the plans for the memorial and the bureau of forestry to undertake reforestation work in the area.

The shrine is a personal project of the President who fought in Bataan and was among those captured by the Japanese after superior enemy strength finally overrun the defenders.

The Chief Executive limits his callers this day in order to attend to more pressing matters of state, among which is the proposed 10th Year reparations schedule.

The President discusses the schedule with Chairman Filemen Rodriguez of the National Economic Council, Public Works Secretary-designate Antonio Raquiza, Acting Secretary of Public Works and Communications Marciano Bautista, former Senator Eulogio Balao who is chief of the Reparations Mission in Tokyo, and Reparations Commissioner Gregorio Abad.

A draft of the proposed reparations schedule was submitted to the President the other week by Rodriguez, Bautista and Abad.

The President bares a plan to channel a major portion of reparations payments to government projects designed to boost agricultural productions.

In the morning, the President motors to the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club for a round of golf with visiting Thai Foreign Minister Thanat Khoman and Senators Lorenzo Tañada and Gerardo Roxas.

Meantime, the President receives Gen. Ernesto Mata, Armed Forces chief of staff, who reports that the AFP is making studies and preparations for sending an engineer-construction battalion to Vietnam in accordance with the Chief Executive's instructions.

The Armed Forces chief of staff, impresses upon the President that the AFP has never considered sending a regiment, contrary to a statement attributed to Undersecretary of Defense Alfonso Arellano.

The chief of staff states that upon instructions of the President, the AFP started studies on the preparations for the sending of a force consisting of 123 officers and 1707 men, or a total force of 1830 personnel, broken down as follows:

Headquarters and headquarters personnel: 28 officers and 110 enlisted men; engineer-construction personnel: 34 officers and 708 enlisted men; security force: 32 officers and 664 enlisted men; logistical support: 12 officers and 155 enlisted men; station hospital: 17 officers and 70 enlisted men.

The AFP chief also informs the President that in his conversation with Undersecretary Alfonso Arellano the latter denied having testified that the aid to Vietnam force is regimental-size.

March 4.—UPON learning that government offices follow different procedures on procurement of supplies and materials, the President directs the standardization of procedures in this aspect of operations by national government offices, including government-owned or controlled corporations.

The President orders Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas, Secretary of Finance Eduardo Romualdez and OEC Chairman Constancio Castaneda to submit within two weeks a uniform system which must be implemented by government offices and corporations.

In another memorandum, the President asks Secretary Romualdez to coordinate the activities of the mayors of Manila and suburban cities and the President's Anti-Smuggling Committee "in order that our anti-smuggling drive may be prosecuted without let-up," and to submit progress reports.

Earlier, in a series of conferences he had with city executive, the President rallies them, to providing total support to the Administration's drive against smuggling.

At the same time, the President appoints Antonio Menor as general manager of the National Waterworks and Sewerage Authority. Menor, who is formerly engineering manager of the water firm, succeeds Jesus G. Perlas who was detailed as technical assistant to the President on public works.

Menor a career man has been with the firm since 1938, starting as assistant sanitary engineer. He is a graduate of the Illinois Institute of Technology where he obtained both his bachelor's and master of science degrees in civil engineering.

In the morning, the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, receive Prime Minister and Madame Thanom Kittikachorn of Thailand and members of their entourage, who call at Malacañang to bid them farewell.

During their meeting, the President and the Prime Minister issue a joint communique stating their common aspirations and hopes for their countries:

"The Prime Minister of Thailand visited the Philippines from March 2 to March 4, at the invitation of President Ferdinand E. Marcos.

"Meeting in the atmosphere of utmost cordiality and fraternal understanding, the President and the Prime Minister reviewed together, and exchanged views on, a number of subjects of mutual interest to them.

“Animated by a strong desire to continue and expand mutually beneficial endeavors for the advancement of the wellbeing of their peoples, the President and the Prime Minister agreed to further strengthen their collective efforts in regional cooperation through such economic and cultural cooperative organizations as the Association of Southeast Asia.

“Both emphasized the need for peace and stability in Southeast Asia and expressed the hope that closer cooperation among like-minded nations of the area would enable their countries to devote their efforts and resources to achieving greater progress and prosperity,

Following a review of the existing conditions in Southeast Asia, the President and the Prime Minister reaffirmed their common ideal of a free way of life, their common desire for peaceful settlement of international disputes, and the common aspiration of the peoples to fully enjoy the blessings of the twentieth century civilization.

In the afternoon, the First Couple motors to the Manila International Airport where they saw off Prime Minister and Madame Kittikachorn who left home following a two-day official visit here.

March 5 —MOTORING to Valenzuela, Bulacan early today, the President makes an on-the-spot survey of the progress made on the construction of the 29-kilometer Manila North Diversion road and observes at work the army engineers who have been thrown into the construction.

His visit to the construction site also marks the advent of his program to use armed forces engineering battalions in the construction of public highways.

Leaving Malacañang at 8:30 a.m., he is accompanied by Rep. Antonio Raquiza, Secretary of Public Works designate; Defense Undersecretary Alfonso Arellano, and General Ernesto Mala, AFP chief of staff.

At Canumay, Valenzuela, the President is briefed on the progress of the work and problems facing early completion of the project, by Colonel Pacifico Cabrera, chief of the AFP engineering corps.

Following the survey, the President returns direct to Malacañang where he confers with Rep. Raquiza and acting Secretary of Public Works Bautista.

At the meeting, the President orders that work on both Manila North and the Manila South Roads be done simultaneously and stepped up in order to complete them before the rainy season.

The President likewise issues the following orders:

1. Secretary of Public Works designate Raquiza, to expedite acquisition of lands for the highway, either by outright purchase through negotiations with private owners or by expropriation proceedings.
2. Undersecretary Arellano and Gen. Mata, to mobilize more heavy equipment in order that the armed forces engineer construction battalion could speed up completion of the project.
3. Both Defense and public works officials to prepare their recommendations and requests for the release of the funds needed for the project.

Following the conference, the President receives J. Howard Edmondson and Dan Kavanaugh of the Metropolitan Construction Company in the United States who inform him of their firm's readiness to engage in public works projects, including waterworks construction.

The President welcomes their plan and advises them to confer with officials of the Public Works Department and NAWASA Chairman Florencio Moreno to determine in what aspects of public works they could engage in, as well as the terms of their entry into public works construction here.

In the afternoon, the President meets Philippine Ambassador to Burma Benjamin Tirona who reports on conditions obtaining in his post. Tirona arrived recently for consultations with the home office.

In the evening, the President and the First Lady attend a reunion of the UP Law Class 1939 held at the residence of Land Registration Commissioner Antonio Noblejas.

March 6.—RE-STATING his commitment to the protection of press freedom in his speech at the traditional “Gridiron” show of the National Press Club of the Philippines, President Marcos pays high tribute to the role the Philippine press plays in the “preservation of our democracy” and vows that the commitment of his administration to press freedom “will grow deeper with time.

In his brief remarks, the President points out that as Chief Executive he was under a solemn oath to uphold the Constitution, which guarantees freedom of speech and of the press as mainstay of civil rights

“But,” the President cautions, “I seek to uphold press freedom, as President, not only because this is a constitutional mandate; I honestly believe press freedom is essential to good government.”

He likewise underscores the role of the Philippine press in the crusade for good government.

Highlights of the “Gridiron” show held at the Club’s Bulwagan Plaridel are the speech of the President, skits presented by members of the NPC and the induction by the President of the newly-elected NPC officers.

The President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, hear mass at the Palace chapel before motoring to the NPC building for the affair.

Earlier, the President and the First Lady tender a luncheon at the Malacañang Banquet Hall in honor of visiting American astronauts Walter Schirra, Jr. and Frank Borman on whom the President confers the Philippine “for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of Legion of Honor (rank of commander), outstanding service to humanity,” and the rating of Honorary Command Pilots of the Philippine Air Force.

The First Lady pins the PAF silver wings on the American astronauts. She is assisted by Brig. Gen. Hans Menzi, senior military aide who reads the orders rating Schirra and Borman honorary PAF command Pilots. The two astronauts present to the President a framed color photograph of Gemini 6 and Gemini 7 in their historic orbital rendezvous. The President also receives a framed miniature Philippine Flag with this inscription: “This flag was carried aboard Gemini 6 when it performed man’s first space rendezvous on Dec. 14, 1965 with Gemini 7.”

March 7.—ISSUING a memorandum making it a strict requirement to have government officials’ luggages inspected by the Customs, the President revokes completely an unwritten law that exempted these officials travelling on diplomatic or special passports from customs examinations.

The memorandum order, addressed to the Secretary of Finance and the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, and “all concerned,” stated that “effective immediately, all Philippine government officials leaving for, or returning from, official or unofficial trips abroad, and irrespective of whether they hold diplomatic or special passports, shall automatically open their luggage for inspection” by customs personnel.

The President points out that the order is linked to the current intensified anti smuggling drive of the government, wherein he feels government officials must “set the example.”

He opines that the public will cooperate “wholeheartedly in our anti-smuggling campaign as long as they can see that those of us who run the government are the very first ones to follow the law.”

He also stresses that there must be “strict compliance,” with his directive, and that no government official “shall be exempted.”

In the morning, the President addresses a special convocation at the University of Santo Tomas in connection with its 355th founding anniversary, thus becoming the first Philippine President since President Quezon to attend that institution's anniversary celebration.

Arriving at the university campus at 7:25 a.m. to be received by some 5,000 cheering students, the President accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, is accorded military honors by a UST ROTC honor company and then proceeds to the Santissimo Rosario Chapel to hear a faculty High Mass.

Following the Mass, the First Couple is led to the nearby auditorium where the convocation is held.

In his remarks, the President underscores the importance of two separate sectors of education, the private schools system as represented by the venerable Santo Tomas University, and vocational school training as administered by the government.

Assuring continued government sympathy and support in expanding the private schools' role in education, the President tells a special convocation at the UST, that private education is important to the country's progress and development.

The President points out that the Philippines could not have progressed as it had, had it not been for private educational institutions like the UST, which help the government provide education for the youth.

"IMAGINE a government without private universities to help it, a Philippines with a national government but without the aid of private universities," the President states.

The Chief Executive takes cognizance of the contribution of the UST by saying it is a landmark and a monument to the noble task of moulding the mind of the youth.

President Marcos states that the history of the UST could well be the history of the Philippines because the UST has been the cradle of intellectualism, producing such national heroes as Rizal and Mabini.

The President expresses confidence that the UST will continue to play a greater role in meeting the challenges of the times, particularly in supporting the execution of laws and policies of the government.

Following his address the President proclaims Tuesday (March 8) a special holiday at the UST before returning to Malacañang.

In another message to educators, read by Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas, the President tells the convention of vocational school superintendents that the long-standing problems of these institutions must be solved at this time when vocationally trained manpower is badly needed in the economic development of the country.

The President tells the superintendents that they have two important tasks: one to give proper recognition to the value of vocational training in the development of Philippine economy; and, two) to meet the responsibility of utilizing the resources at hand in the most efficient manner.

He explains that these two tasks are urgent because of the high unemployment rate of vocational school graduates, which indicated substandard training.

To achieve the "full potentials" of vocational education, the superintendents must play fuller roles, the President says, such that they will be able to integrate the "definition and orientation" of such schools "with the objectives of economic growth."

In this manner, he points out, the vocational schools can accomplish "more than the singular purpose of developing our human resources," by also helping in the "acceleration of social development."

In the afternoon, the President meets members of the Mutual Defense Board to assess the overall defense posture of the country.

Following the meeting, the President confers with officials of the National Economic Council, the Reparations Commission and the Department of Public Works, on the proposed 10th and 11th Year reparations schedules.

March 8.—THE Chief Executive signs the Rice and Corn Bill which provides greater incentives to rice and corn production and the necessary safeguards to protect the government and the public interests.

In another move, to give impetus to the administration's rice-sufficiency program, the President certifies to Congress a bill authorizing the Chief Executive to borrow money from the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development and other International financing institutions to finance an expanded program of irrigation development.

The President directs the Rice and Corn Administration to implement the cereal law immediately, shortly after he had signed it into law.

The new measure amends Republic Act 3452, and is primarily a price stabilization measure. It is the first bill signed into law by President Marcos and is one of the bills he had certified to the special session of Congress earlier.

In firming up rice and corn prices, the law also gives the farmer better prices for his harvest thus augmenting his production capital.

With the signing of the bill into law, the Rice and Corn Administration will now be able to purchase buffer stocks to ensure the stability of the price of rice and corn during the months when these commodities are in short supply.

Under the new law, the R.C.A. will buy a cavan weighing 46 kilos of clean and dry palay of ordinary variety "at prices to be determined by the board of administrators for the various rice-producing regions, taking into consideration the varying costs of production obtaining therein, which prices shall not be less than P16.00."

A cavan of corn weighing 56 kilos shall be bought at "prices to be determined by the board of administrators for the various corn producing regions taking into considerations the varying costs of production obtaining therein, which prices shall not be less than P13.00."

The measure signals the start of the first phase of the administration's rice and corn self-sufficiency program.

Besides fixing the floor price for the purchase of palay and corn by the R.C.A., the new law also:

1. Provides a system of payments to enable farmers tenants, growers, producers and landowners to dispose of their produce at fair prices immediately.

Under the new system the farmers depositing their palay or corn in a bonded warehouse designated by the RCA shall be issued a warehouse receipt or quedan, which may be cashed immediately at RCA designated banks.

2. Fixes the selling price of rice thus purchased by the R.C.A. at prices to be determined by the board of administrators which "shall not be less than P1.00 nor more than P1.40 per ganta and not less than P0.40 nor more than P0.80 for corn grits or P0.30 per kilo for corn grain."

3. Clarifies the existing provisions of law regulating the importation of rice by the R.C.A. either by direct government-to-government importation or through private parties.

At the same time, President Marcos orders Philippine diplomatic and consular officials to help stop technical smuggling by exercising tighter control over the pricing of imports, in a memorandum addressed to the secretary of foreign affairs.

The President underscores the need for eliminating technical smuggling, which has robbed the government of enormous revenues through undervaluation and spawned graft and corruption in the customs and consular services.

The President pledges his full support and backing of consular officials and employees who fulfill their responsibilities “faithfully and well,” which was interpreted as assurance of Malacañang’s determination to lift the terrific pressures exerted by powerful interests on consular officials, in behalf of technical smugglers.

In his memorandum, the President declares that underpricing of imports has also resulted in “unfair competition” with local products, and urged the officials concerned to stop the malpractice which he said has persisted despite the administration’s all-out drive against smuggling.

“I have been reliably informed that one of the main sources of graft and corruption in our consular offices abroad is underpricing of imported goods and that this malady still persists even with the advent of our new administration and in spite of our assurance that we will conduct our anti-smuggling drive without let-up,” the President says.

Technical smuggling, which involves mostly textile goods, has cost the government more in unpaid revenues than the smuggling cigarettes, according to Malacañang. The President’s memorandum was issued with this consideration in view, he notes.

The President’s directive urges the secretary of foreign affairs to ask Philippine consulates to stop immediately the underpricing of imports, “otherwise, I shall take drastic steps against the officials and employees concerned.”

In the morning, the President receives Vice Admiral John J. Hyland, commander of the U.S. Seventh Fleet, who pays his respects following his arrival today.

During his call on the Chief Executive, the commander of the world’s mightiest naval fleet, takes occasion to allay fears about the calls here on US nuclear-powered naval vessels.

Admiral Hyland explains that American nuclear-powered ships “are just like any other man-of-war,” they are only more modern and efficient.

“We hope our friends here will recognize that these ships are safe,” Hyland states. “They just represent a new generation of ships.”

Hyland tells the President of the stepped-up pace of Seventh Fleet operations and its increasing striking power, with the periodic augmentation of the vessels, composing the fleet. He, however, points out that while his command has been kept busy by the war in Vietnam, they are not overlooking their missions in other areas of responsibility.

Following Hyland’s call, the President receives Lord Rhodes, Parliamentary Secretary of the Board of Trade of England, who likewise pays him a courtesy call following his arrival for a two-day stay.

During the call of Lord Rhodes, the President and the British official exchange views on economic development and the prospects of foreign investments in the country.

At the close of the meeting, the British officials expresses the hope that the President will succeed in realizing the country’s hope for industrialization, in a way that will fit into the pattern of the country’s economy.

In the afternoon, the President receives Philippine Ambassador to Israel Emilio Bejasa and the members of the “Conscience Bloc” in Congress led by Rep. Benjamin Ligot of Cagayan.

March 9.—THE President meets at breakfast with the officers and members of the Radio-TV Federation of the Philippines.

In brief remarks, the President reiterates that his administration is committed to the enhancement of the freedom of expression, saying that the power of speech is better abused than curtailed.

He, however, cautions against irresponsibility in the use of the media because, he states, if there is anything that will wreck them, it is lack of credibility.

Following the breakfast reception, the President receives the members of the board of directors of the American Chamber of Commerce, who call to pay their respects.

The organization offers its help in any undertaking of the President which could appropriately utilize the chamber's services.

The Chief Executive discusses the Administration's anti-smuggling campaign, and asks the American Business leaders for their recommendations on how to improve the services of the Bureau of Customs.

President Marcos states that the administration hopes to completely reorganize the revenue-collecting agency of the government, and that he will appreciate any recommendation that will help the government attain this objective.

In the afternoon, the President meets Ambassador Phan Dang Lom of South Vietnam.

Then, the President confer with local officials on problems affecting their respective constituents.

In the evening, the President receives the officers of the Bus Operators Association of the Philippines (BOAP) who take up with him what they called "destructive competition" in the transportation business in Manila and suburbs.

Source: **National Library**

President's Week in Review: March 10-31, 1966

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

March 10.—THE President discusses the improvement of air navigational facilities in the country with Director Nilo de Guia of the Civil Aeronautics Administration.

In his meeting with the President, the CAA director proposes the amendment of the Civil Aviation Law, with a view to creating a commission that will supervise and coordinate the functions of the CAA and the Civil Aeronautics Board, for more efficiency, economy and professionalism in the civil aviation agencies of the government.

Director De Guia also petitions the return of the Balagbag airport which, he states, has been used since its turn-over to the Philippine Air Force in 1942.

At the same time, the President approves the rules recommended by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Narciso Ramos governing the travel of Filipino citizens to Communist countries. The Department of Foreign Affairs immediately issues passports to Senator Maria Kalaw-Katigbak and her party of 13 others who are slated to leave for Rod China.

The passports of Filipino citizens authorized to travel to Communist countries or communist-controlled territories, as recommended by the Secretary of Foreign Affairs and approved by the President, will bear the following statement:

(a) "The holder of this passport has complied with all prescribed regulations governing travel to all accessible countries of the world."

(b) "This cancels the limitations stamped on page of this passport."

The Chief Executive also signs a proclamation declaring March 17 of each year as "Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Day," beginning this year.

The day, however, is not a holiday, in line with the President's policy to minimize the proclamation of special public holidays.

In his proclamation, the President notes that March 17, the date when the late President Magsaysay perished in a plane crash in 1957, "will be remembered in history as the day when the Filipino nation and the entire free world lost one of her most beloved leaders."

The President decrees that observance of the day include the flying at half-mast of all Philippine flags here and abroad, the firing of 21-gun salutes at high noon in all Philippine military areas, and the holding of 30-minute programs in all public schools and government offices in which the Magsaysay Credo shall be read and a one-minute silent prayer be said.

In proclaiming the day, the President points out that Ramon Magsaysay, in his lifetime:

1. "Devoted himself unselfishly to improving the lot of the humble and the poor of his countrymen;
2. "Earned the gratitude of the Filipino people by bridging the centuries old gap between the government and the people and making the concept of government for the people a working reality; and
3. "Strengthened the cause of freedom and liberty not only for the Filipino people but for the entire free world by his valiant and unrelenting crusade against the enemies of democracy."

In the morning, the President receives the officers of the Philippine Council of Science and Technology headed by Lucio Javier, president.

The Council officers offer the services of the Council members in the administration's economic development projects.

In the evening the Chief Executive receives Philippine Ambassador to South Vietnam Luis Moreno Salcedo, Monsignor Ignacio Cordero of Laoag City and some 60 officers and members of the Philippine Confederation of Chiefs of Police who pay him their respects following the conclusion of their five-day seminar on law enforcement, and discuss police matters with the President, especially in connection with the Administration's anti-smuggling drive.

During their call, the President orders the nations police chiefs to coordinate efforts and intensify operations against crime and syndicate, particularly the anti-smuggling campaign.

The group presents the President a resolution requesting the proclamation of a Police Week.

The President states that he will consider the resolution favorably, and will issue the proclamation as soon as the presidential adviser on police matters decides on a feasible period during the year for the observance of Police Week.

President Marcos says that one of the chief problem of the nation today is the high incidence of crime which has, in many places, restarted economic progress, for economic development, lie point- out, must be based on a stable condition of peace and order.

He recalls that in his inaugural address, he had singled out lawlessness as one of the priority considerations of the administration. He states that he is determined to stamp out crime, and will do so if every element of the communities of the nation help, and with the police in the vanguard of the drive.

He stresses, "I will pursue the drive through all of the three years and 10 months remaining of my administration,"

He tells the police chiefs that smuggling has corrupted certain government sectors, robbed the government of enormous revenues and has mocked the majesty of the law. All the more reason, he states that the police should intensify its efforts to fight smuggling, for the police are sworn to uphold the law.

Monsignor Cordero calls on the President to "share" the honor and his joy at being promoted recently to *the Proto Notaria Apostolic Ad Inestar* Participantium (the right to exercise the duties of a Bishop, to say Pontifical Mass, to administer Consummation, and to wear the episcopal insignia short of the Baculum, the Bishop's cane).

Meanwhile, President Marcos, according to Press Secretary Jose D. Aspiras, is readying a bill which will junk the pork barrel system and in its place allocate P1,500 of each barrio of the country for self-help community projects.

The Palace spokesman says that the President will soon certify the measure to Congress.

The proposed bill seeks to redeem a promise made by President Marcos during the presidential campaign that he will do away with the pork barrel system.

In eliminating the system, the President expects to eliminate as well the pernicious practices connected with pork barrel, such as the partisan nature of allocations, which often gave legislators of the ruling majority a greater portion than those in the minority.

The pork barrel system had also been characterized by the President as wasteful for the funds acquired from the pork barrel are often dissipated in other non-productive work projects.

The new method of allocation of the fund will assure every barrio in the country of at least the sum of P1,500 to finance self-help projects. In the old system, there are many deserving barrios which did not get a single centavo from the pork barrel.

In proposing the elimination of the pork barrel as such, the President hopes to enable all 33,000 barrios of the country to get an equal share of the fund.

March 11.—FLYING to the Subic Naval Base in Olongapo, Zambales, aboard a US Marine helicopter, President Marcos receives two patrol boats given by the United States for the Philippine Navy, under the Mutual Defense Pact.

The President is accompanied by ranking officials of the executive and legislative departments, including foreign affairs and defense officers.

Before the ceremonies, the President and his party are guests aboard the USS *Enterprise*, a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier of the Seventh Fleet, now in Subic Bay.

He expresses appreciation for the two patrol boats, which will be used primarily by the Philippine Navy in the anti-smuggling drive.

The President states: "These ships represent not only the sentiments of the United States, but actual material help in our smuggling drive, which aid is indeed needed by us, for smuggling has eroded the industrial base of our economy, has undermined the morale of the people, and corrupted officialdom."

The patrol boats, called *Swiftcraft*, are shallow draft aluminum hulled boats that can navigate in shallow waters, with a maximum speed of 30 miles an hour, and are equipped with the latest-radar and radio devices, a twin 50caliber machinegun mount and a complement of Armalite rifles. Each will be manned by a crew of one officer and five enlisted men.

In his brief remarks, the President also emphasizes the alliance between the two countries for mutual defense and in support of freedom. He says, "I have said before, and I repeat, the Philippines will fight wherever free men fight for freedom, and as you are now fighting in South Vietnam, so will we fight alongside you."

The President is impressed with the USS *Enterprise* and the capabilities of the Subic Naval Base, saying that the power-packed aircraft carrier and base have "given me confidence that the United States will help defend the territorial integrity of the Philippines."

He also points out that the world today is watching "the partnership between the United States and the Philippines" and that the "arsenal" in the base is demonstrative of the reality of the partnership, and that this partnership will live "not only in my generation, but for generations to come."

He declares: "It is my hope and prayer that this arsenal will never be needed in defense of our homeland". He adds that if the Philippines is however attacked, he is confident that the "United States will come to the aid of our country and people immediately."

Following the ceremonies, the President proceeds to the Navy Officers Conference Room where he is given a 30-minute briefing by Admiral Baer.

Admiral Baer informs the President that with the shift of the theater of operations of the Seventh Fleet from the Japan Sea to South Vietnam, the activities of the US Navy at Subic have intensified because of the proximity of the U.S. naval base to the theater of operations.

He states that there is an acute housing shortage at the base and that he has been encouraging Filipino construction firms to put up housing units in Olongapo to take care of navy personnel who cannot be accommodated at the base. He points out that with the Subic based navy personnel spending \$10 million monthly, and the men of the Seventh Fleet spending \$13 million, Olongapo has become a very progressive town.

Back in Malacañang shortly before noon, the President receives some members of Congress and local leaders who consult him on problems of their constituents.

In the afternoon, the President meets superintendents of vocational schools from all over the country led by Atty. Andres R. Asistin, and a delegation from the Civic Assembly of Women of the Philippines.

March 12— OBSERVING that Philippine student have increasingly become outspoken on public issues and thus can be a force in shaping public opinion, the President endorses to the Department of Education, the proposal of the Citizens Action in the Philippines Against Smuggling (CAPAS), to enlist students in mass rallies against the evils of smuggling on Bataan Day.

In a memorandum to Secretary of Education Carlos P. Romulo, the President asks that students of all public and private schools participate in rallies jointly with other groups, including labor, women's clubs, industrial and commercial aggregations.

The President says he agrees with the CAPAs that "on April 9, Bataan Day simultaneous mass rallies be held in all cities and towns throughout the country" at which smuggling in all its forms will be discussed and revealed as destructive to the economy and to law and order.

He opines that students, and even the younger school children, should develop civic consciousness and participate in the government war against smuggling.

The idea of enlisting student support was broached to the President by CAPAS Chairman Simeon Medalla, who suggested to the President that during Bataan Day "something positive and constructive must be done by our people to combat a nationwide malady."

In the afternoon, the President confers behind closed doors with top foreign affairs and armed forces officials on the latest developments in Southeast Asia, particularly in Indonesia.

In the evening, the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, are honored guests at a black tie dinner tendered by the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, at the Philamlife social hall on United Nations Avenue.

In his brief after-dinner remarks the President lauds the armed services as a "stabilizing force in Philippine institution."

The President states that the military had on several occasions in the past the opportunity to take over the reins of government, but "that it did not do so was a tribute to its fidelity to Philippine institutions."

He also underscores the exemplary behavior of the armed forces during Philippine elections, when the services maintained the neutrality expected of them.

The President, however, deplores the tendency of some military officers to discuss in public matters that relate to the national security.

He states that if officers are compelled to discuss sensitive topics that touch on the security of the nation, they should put their views in -writing and submit their plans, ideas and recommendations to the proper authorities.

The President stresses that these matters will be studied seriously and given due consideration.

The standing policies of the government, he underscores, are continually being reassessed in relation to the shift in national and international events.

Thus, he says, the government is now studying the merits of diversionary trade in appreciation of needs of the economy, and again he points to the revised policy on travel to communist countries, which was relaxed recently.

March 13.—THE Chief Executive devotes his time going over a number of official papers that needed his immediate attention, then takes time relaxation to prime himself for an expected busy week ahead.

The President then resumes work with some Palace aides in his private study in the afternoon and part of the evening, acting on several state papers with “priority” stubs.

In the morning, the President motores to the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club for a round of golf, after finishing another week of taxing governmental business.

March 14.—EXPRESSING deep concern over the recurrent violence in the Muntinglupa prisons and stressing the need for improvements of living conditions there, the President directs the Department of Justice to devise ways of easing congestion at the national penitentiary in Muntinglupa, Rizal.

The President issues the directive in a meeting with Undersecretary of Justice Claudio Teehankee. In this connection, the President also issues a series of directives seeking:

- 1) The preparation of a dispersal plan, whereby prisoners would be transferred to other penal colonies in order to reduce, if not avoid, congestion at the Muntinglupa prisons; and
- 2) Submission of periodic reports on conditions obtaining at the national penitentiary.

At the same time, the President directs Secretary of Finance Eduardo Z. Romualdez to investigate the participation of Makati Maximo Estrella in the near-violence at the South Harbor two days ago, in connection with a labor dispute.

The President asks Secretary Romualdez to submit a report on the matter within 48 hours, and Mayor Estrella to submit a statement presenting his side of the affair.

In the morning, the President, receives Gov. Harold E. Hughes of Iowa, head of the 1966 Iowa Trade Mission to the Philippines.

Gov. Hughes informs the President that the Iowa Trade Mission hopes to foster trade and other economic ties between the Philippines and the state of Iowa.

The President on his part, informs Gov. Hughes that his administration is giving special emphasis to the development of agriculture to ensure food sufficiency.

He states that he had launched programs to increase rice and corn production.

Following the call of Gov. Hughes, the President discusses plans for the expansion of the Philippine Air Lines, with Benigno Toda, Jr., chairman of the PAL board.

Expansion plans include the acquisition of additional units of modern aircrafts and the construction of P30-million domestic air terminal.

Toda explains that the present domestic terminal has become too small to handle even present air traffic, and that provisions must be made for the expanding domestic air traffic which will grow bigger in the next 10 to 15 years.

In the afternoon, the President receives delegations from the Confederation of Rice and Corn Association of the Philippines and the Farmers Cooperatives in Northern Luzon.

The Confederation presents the President with a plaque of appreciation for his “vigorous rice and corn production program to insure sufficiency in food,” and “for his wisdom in giving the confederation the opportunity to participate in the formation of national policies regarding the rice and corn industry.”

March 15.—PRESIDENT Marcos meets members of the Senate on the ratification of the Philippine-Japanese treaty of amity, commerce and navigation and, after ranging over the entire treaty, decides to extend the discussions to another conference in Malacañang tentatively set for Thursday next week.

The conference is “purely consultative,” with the President and the senators exchanging views on the pros and cons relative to the provisions of the treaty.

From the talks, a general outline of the draft of official thinking on the treaty is seen emerging with three possible avenues presenting themselves for serious consideration.

One is the proposal of the President for protective legislation that will balance certain apparent inequities that might result from the treaty, pertaining to trade and commerce.

These safeguards will satisfy the objections of certain sectors who see one-sided advantages to the Japanese in the matters of immigration permanent residence and export and import privileges. It is feared (that these advantages might not be equally available to Filipinos intending to do business in Japan.

The second proposal is for the Philippines Security and Exchange Commission to give permits to Japanese businessmen to operate normally in this country. At present, Japanese business work through Filipino agents, and therefore are not liable for payment of Philippine business and other taxes. Through this method of operation, it is only Japan who profits from the taxes imposed on Japanese entrepreneurs doing business here.

The third proposal is for the Philippines to conclude only a pact of friendship and amity, with trade and navigation to be considered later. The aim of this move is to expedite normalization of relations.

Immediately after the conference on the PI-Japanese treaty, the President confers at luncheon with some NP Senators, and work on official papers in the afternoon.

In the evening, the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, attend the traditional dinner given in their honor by Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal and members of the Lower House and their ladies, at the Manila Hotel.

March 16.—THE Chief Executive directs the Reparations Commission to include in the 10th year and 11th year schedules of reparations payments, sizeable allocations for pre-fabricated public school buildings.

The greater portion of the government share in the payments will go to the construction of irrigation systems, bridges and roads, which are deemed essential to the success of the administration's rice production program.

The directive is issued during the conference with public works and reparations officials at Malacañang.

At the same time, the President also orders Gen. Ernesto Mata, AFP chief of staff, to use confiscated logs in Bataan for the construction of prefabricated school buildings.

In his directive to Gen. Mata, he asks the armed forces and the Bureau of Forestry to coordinate efforts in procuring the logs impounded by the bureau in Moron, Bataan.

The logs were impounded by the forestry bureau following the President's order to cancel all permits for logging concessions in Bataan. These logs are believed to have been cut only recently, in violation of the order.

The President orders Gen. Mata to assign an army engineer construction battalion to prepare the logs for use in the construction of school buildings.

The Chief Executive likewise authorizes the Quezon Memorial Circle Development and Beautification Committee to conduct a national educational and fund campaign during the period from March 16 to June 17 this year.

In a proclamation released by Malacañang the President observes that the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City aims to perpetuate the memory of a great leader who devoted his lifetime to the attainment of Philippine independence and the welfare of his people."

Stressing that the civic project undertaken by the committee to beautify the circle deserves the wholehearted support of all segments of the community, the President calls upon all citizens and residents of the country to assist in the drive.

In the afternoon, the President receives Major General Yitzak Rabin, chief of staff of the armed forces of Israel, who pays his respects following his arrival on four-day goodwill visit here.

During his call, Gen. Rabin presents the President with a sub-machinegun invented by the Israelites while still under the British rule, and fully illustrated history of Israel entitled "Use of the Biblical World." The Israeli General states that the historical work in four volumes is the result of a long study and research by archeologists.

In the evening, the President receives a delegation from the Philippine College of Surgeons headed by Dr. Romeo Gustilo, president. The group calls on the President to inform him that their organization is volunteering for service in South Vietnam.

The President also issues a statement relative to reports in certain sections of the press that infiltration of foreign agents into the country have increased to the extent of clandestine use of radio communications and airstrips.

The President's statement follows:

"I have no idea how these reports came about. While I am officially informed on infiltration of foreign agents, their activities are not at all widespread nor alarming.

"The proper safeguards against such infiltration have been in force at all times, and the Armed Forces have the situation well under control. The safeguards are considered sufficient for the time being and every change in the situation is being, and will be, properly met.

"I wish to particularly specify that I have made no statement on supposed clandestine radio transmitters being operated here by any foreign elements, Chinese or Indonesian communists.

"Lastly, I wish to correct the impression that the government has deferred or sought to delay the normalization of relations between this country and Malaysia, because of current developments in Indonesia, or for other extraneous considerations.

"The machinery for the restoration of normal relations with Malaysia is moving smoothly, with due consideration given to our friendly relations with other nations in this region."

Meantime, President Marcos says that the sudden death of President Ramon Magsaysay in a tragic plane crash nine years ago was grieved by the people not only as the passing of a President but also of a friend and brother.

In a message issued on the eve of Magsaysay's ninth death anniversary, the President recalls that the late Chief Executive had provided his people with new hope and determination "at a time when we needed these qualities to reaffirm our belief in our future and our destiny as a nation."

The President had previously proclaimed March 17 of every year as "Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Day," beginning this year. It is emphasized, however, the day is not a holiday in accordance with the President's policy to minimize the proclamation of special public holidays.

The text of the President's message for the occasion follows:

"The people of the Philippines need no reminder to honor the memory of the late President Ramon Magsaysay, who died nine years ago today, in a tragic accident that shocked and stunned the country.

"His death was felt by our people in a rare personal way, as though his loss was a family matter for great many Filipinos. His sudden demise was grieved not only as the passing of a President but as of a friend and brother vanished. Such was the man Magsaysay that he identified with everyone of us, giving us new hope, strength, spirit, and determination at a time when we needed these qualities to reaffirm our belief in our future and our destiny as a nation.

"We can remember him best, therefore, by reasserting the virtues that made him an exemplary man and leader, making these virtues ours as a people, in order that we may move forward once more and with greater vigor toward the noble goals he had envisioned, which were no less than, in sum, the fulfillment of the dream of greatness of our nation and race."

March 17.—MOVING swiftly in the wake of irregularities brought to his attention, President Marcos orders the complete revamp of the Philippine Constabulary Criminal Investigation Service (CIS) —relieving both the chief and deputy chief of the agency, and all of its other key officers.

The Chief Executive issues the order completely overhauling the agency during an hour-long conference with Undersecretaries of National Defense Alfonso Arellano and Manuel Syquiao and Gen. Segundo Velasco, P.O. Chief, at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City.

The presidential action is triggered off by revelations made by Senator Alejandro Almendras in a Senate privilege speech. Going direct to Camp Aguinaldo unannounced the Chief Executive convenes defense and PC brass behind closed doors.

The President likewise orders the immediate termination of the services of six women and one male CIS special agents and investigators, and the investigation of two regular women agents and investigators. In addition, he orders the outright relief of all enlisted men working in the Vice and Narcotics Section and the suspension of all agents who have pending police cases.

The President, before motoring to Camp Aguinaldo, coolers with Sen. Almendras following his expose the other night in a privilege speech on the employment of women CIS agents of alleged questionable reputations.

Following the conference with Sen. Almendras, the President states.

"I am constrained to take instant action, not only because of the seriousness of the irregularities, but because I want the CIS which is the highest investigative body of the armed forces, to be above suspicion.

“Indeed, I want the entire armed forces to be above any suspicion, for it can do its work effectively only if it enjoys full public confidence. That is why even as Undersecretary Arellano delves deeper into the case of the CIS, I feel necessary to relieve immediately all the ranking officers of the CIS, who have command responsibility for this venality.”

During the meeting with PC top brass at Camp Aguinaldo, the President issues the following directives:

1) The immediate relief and redeployment of Col. Robustiano Javier, chief of the CIS, Lt. Col. Daniel Lantion, deputy chief; and Col. Jose de Jose, PC comptroller.

The President names Col. Felizardo Tanabe, who is now deputy commander of the first PC zone and commanding the “Tamaraw” unit, chief of the CIS in place of Javier.

2) Outright relief and redeployment of the following CIS officers: Lt. Col. Mariano Ordonez, chief, Special Operations Branch; Major Rafael Yapdiangco, chief, Police Intelligence Branch; Colonel Benjamin Santiago, chief, Investigation Branch; Captain Ramiro Aragon, chief, Personnel Branch; Capt Calicano Luansing, chief, Service Operations; and Major Eusebio Hernandez, chief, Administrative Service.

3) Relief and redeployment of all other staff members of the Vice and Narcotics Section, including all the enlisted men.

4) Suspension of all agents with pending police cases, with instructions to Undersecretaries Arellano and Syquiao and General Velasco to expedite investigation of their cases.

5) Immediate termination of the services of six women and one male special agents and investigators.

6) Investigation of two women regular agents and investigators whom the President asked to be suspended as soon as the appropriate charges are filed against them.

At the same time, the President also: revives the Consultative Council of Students, which was first conceived by the late President Magsaysay; and signs a proclamation declaring Friday (March 18) as Liberation Day on the Island of Panay, to mark the 21st anniversary of the landing of American liberation forces at Tigbauan Beach, Iloilo.

In a memorandum circular issued through Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas, the President states that the reactivation of the Council will involve Filipino youth more actively in the program of the administration, and likewise honor the memory of the late President (Magsaysay).

The president explains that the Council will coordinate with the government the participation of students in the anti-smuggling drive, the Vietnam civic assistance project, the rice and corn sufficiency program, community development renewal, reforestation, cottage industries, tourism development and other allied activities. The Council will also provide public information service “for better understanding by the youth of government policies.”

In the morning, the President leads the nation in honoring the memory of the late President Magsaysay on the occasion of his ninth death anniversary this day by attending the kickoff of the national fund campaign for, and ground-breaking ceremonies of, the Ramon Magsaysay Center at Plaza Militar, Malate district. The President and the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, also send a wreath to the tomb of the late Chief Executive at the Manila North Cemetery.

Back in Malacañang, the President receives Monico Naganoma, director of the Iwai and Company, Ltd. In Tokyo, who pays him a courtesy call.

The President spends the rest of the afternoon and the evening in the seclusion of his private study working on voluminous state papers.

Meantime, President Marcos reiterates the government stand that Philippine aid to South Vietnam is dictated only by the national interest, and not by other reasons.

The Chief Executive issues the statement in direct answer to doubts raised by some critics as to the motivations of the aid to Vietnam proposal.

The President stresses that Philippine aid to the South Vietnamese government is in the form of an engineer construction battalion "because this is the wise and proper assistance to extend, in the government's estimate."

Commenting further on the proposition that the government give the public intimate details on the proposed assistance to South Vietnam, the President points out:

"It must be emphasized that any more details given out than already made public will become a matter of intelligence information. This cannot be done for this information is classified."

March 18.—ARRIVING in Baguio City this afternoon, the President reveals he will allocate \$3 million from the 10th year reparations schedule from Japan for the improvement of the water system of this city.

The Chief Executive bare this plan during a conference with Mayor Norberto de Guzman who headed city officials in welcoming the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, shortly afternoon today.

The President is here for his annual spiritual retreat at the Sunnyside Villa run by the Society of the Divine Word Fathers, near the presidential summer residence in this city.

Accompanied by Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas, Press Secretary Jose D. Aspiras, Presidential Assistant on Community Development Ernesto Maceda and other officials and their wives, the President and the First Lady board a special train at Tutuban Railroad Station early this morning.

Passing by Dagupan City about 9:30 a.m., the President is surprised to find a huge crowd waiting for his train and clamoring for a brief stopover with them. The President obliges and the train backs to the station. He and the First Lady then alight down among the people shaking hands, to the delight of the cheering throng.

Arriving at the Damortis Railroad Station in La Union about 11 a.m., the presidential party motors the rest of the way to the Pines City. The President arrives at the Guest House at 12: 35 p.m.

In the evening, the President enters the retreat house at 6 p.m. and is scheduled to stay until Sunday morning.

March 19.—THE Chief Executive orders the outright suspension of four employees of the Bureau of Internal Revenue caught smoking smuggled cigarettes at their offices.

The four BIR employees were caught red-handed by National Bureau of Investigation agents, smoking "blue-seal" cigarettes right in their offices, and subsequently found to have packages of the contraband in their possession.

The President views the acts of the four employees more reprehensible in View of their being with the Bureau of Internal Revenue, which is one of the agencies primarily concerned with the enforcement of tax and anti-smuggling laws.

The mere unexplained possession of articles subject to specific tax, the tax on which has not been paid in accordance with law, is punishable under Republic Act No. 4097.

Section 174 of the said Act provides that:

“Any person who is found in possession of articles subject to specific tax, the tax on which has not been paid in accordance with law, or any person who is found in possession of articles which are exempt from specific tax other than those the same is lawfully issued shall be punished by a fine of not less than ten times the amount of the specific tax due on the articles found but not less than two hundred pesos nor more than five thousand pesos, and by imprisonment of from four months and one day to four years and two months.

The President completes his first day at the Divine World Retreat House at the Sunnyside Villa in this city this day.

Among those with the President on spiritual retreat here are other ranking officials of the Executive and Legislative departments of the government.

He is expected to come out from the Retreat House- about noon tomorrow, in time to attend this year's graduation exercises of the Philippine Military Academy at Camp del Pilar at 3 p.m., as guest speaker.

March 20.— LEAVING the Retreat House at the Sunnyside Villa of the Divine Word Fathers at Baguio City, the President motors direct to the Mansion House to fetch the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos for the graduation rites of the PMA at Fort Del Pilar.

Upon arrival at Fort Del Pilar, the First Couple are given military honors including a 21-gun salute and a parade and review by the Philippine Military Academy cadets.

In an extemporaneous remark which lasted 20- minutes, the President declares that his decision to send troops to Vietnam is motivated by his belief that collective security was the nation's primary defense and “our only hope for survival in the region.”

The President says that the survival of nations, big or small, depended on collective security.

The proposal to send an engineer construction battalion to help in Vietnam, the President states, is part of the “overall plan for the security and defense of the Philippines.”

The Chief Executive says that the Philippines must depend on collective security for its survival. He explains that strength alone could not guarantee security days.

“More than ever, all nations, whether big or small, must have support of the great majority of humanity in order to make his ideology prevail,” the President opines.

Security, he says, meant collective effort. He adds “Anyone who turn his back on collective security is neither a realist nor an idealist.”

He discloses he will ask for a 30-percent increase in the strength of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to meet the requirements of collective defense and his plan to let the AFP engage in Civic action work.

The President warns the new batch of PMA graduates that the country's security was in danger from external aggression and subversion. He asks the cadets, who were commissioned second lieutenants in the AFP to discharge their duties with the greatest responsibility.

The Chief Executive also tells the cadets that they must not only be soldiers but also statesmen. He says soldiery was the last line of defense of the country's statesmen and diplomats.

But it is the need for more effective collective security arrangements that the President emphasized. He cautions that without an effective regional arrangement against Communism the Philippines and other Asian countries, would always be in danger.

After addressing the PMA graduates, the President and the First Lady proceed back to Mansion House where they tender a dinner for officials of both the Executive and Legislative departments who were with the Chief in spiritual retreat.

March 21.—IN an informal talk with newsmen aboard the presidential train enroute to Manila from San Fernando, La Union, the President expresses concern over the precarious condition of water supply facilities and appeals to the public to fully cooperate in conserving water.

The President discusses the National Waterworks and Sewerage Authority problems and projects, as well as problems of the Philippine National Railway and reforestation with Senator Gaudencio E. Antonino, PACD Chairman Ernesto Maceda and PNR General Manager Alfredo M. Santos.

He asks the people to “give more thought” to the conservation of water at this time of the year when water supply is expected to depress because of the summer season when rain is infrequent.

The President’s concern over the water supply ‘in the Greater Manila Area sparked by reports that the water level at NAWASA reservoirs had dipped down to about 70 meters at present. This is mainly due to the consistently rainless months since December.

He also directs the NAWASA to speed up its aqueducts construction and other projects designed to improve the water supply of Manila and environs. Among these projects are the Ipo-Bicti tunnel, the Bicti-Novaliches aqueduct, the Novaliches-Balara aqueduct, all of which the President wants completed by Oct. 1, this year.

The Chief Executive discloses that he had directed a re-study of the P35-million Marikina multi-purpose dam, with the view to converting it into a multi-complex single-purpose dam in order to make it serve as soon as possible the people of Greater Manila, as a source of water.

The dam was originally conceived to provide hydroelectric power, water supply, irrigation, and food control. The present project is to make it principally a source of water and to generate electricity from small hydro-electric plant.

Under present plans the project will be a joint undertaking of the NAWASA, Department of Public Works, and the National Power Corporation, for the NAWASA alone.

The President also discusses with:

1. PNR chairman Santos the rehabilitation of the government railway firm. He states the main problems of the rail firm are management and lack of financing. He asks Santos to expedite the P4-million loan from the Philippine National Bank, earmarked for the purchase of spare parts.
2. Sen. Antonino and Maceda of the PACD, the problem of reforestation, which he felt is urgent. He indicated that he will soon call a meeting of log exporters, particularly to take up the long export fee.
3. PACD Chief Maceda and two other officials, the coordination of plans and efforts of government agencies in the tasks of developing the rural areas, to improve the living and economic conditions of the people there.

Returning to Manila from Baguio City where he went into annual spiritual retreat, and later addressed this year’s graduates of the Philippine Military Academy in Fort Del Pilar, the President addresses the opening of the Northern Luzon Athletic Association meet at San Fernando, La Union this morning.

The President leaves Baguio City for San Fernando at 7:40 a.m. and is met at Burgos, the border town of La Union by a large delegation headed by local and school officials. Then he is escorted to the athletic field, at the head of a kilometer-long motorcade, where the opening ceremonies are held.

In the evening, the President confines himself to his study, working on state papers up to past midnight.

Meanwhile, President Marcos pays tribute to Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo as “one of the ‘imperishable names’ in Philippine history, whose leadership and devotion to the cause of the revolution produced the first modern democracy in Asia.

In a message on the eve of Aguinaldo’s 97th birth anniversary, the President states:

“Gen Emilio Aguinaldo, the first President of the Republic, is one of the imperishable names in our history. In him were reposed all the great hopes of the Revolution, and let it be said that he proved true to his trust, and thus brought forth the first’ modern democracy in Asia.

“He was a man of great conviction as well as of great heart, and he wielded leadership with a confidence and strength that arose from a total devotion to this cause, which was also the cause of the Filipino people of his time, and today.

March 22.—MOTORING to La Mesa Dam and reservoir in Novaliches for an on-the-spot assessment of the water situation, the President orders the NAWASA to mobilize all its resources in order to relieve the crisis including “drastic” measures designed to keep the water supply adequate for the needs of the Manila area and suburbs.

After viewing the depleted state of the reservoir, the President issues the following directives to the water firm:

- 1) Rush the construction of the water supply phase of the Angat multipurpose dam.
- 2) Request the United States Air Force at Clark Air Base, to lend appropriate aircraft for the task of rain-making. The US 13th air force has offered its facilities.
- 3) Activate emergency crews to seal leaks in major water mains underground, and to intensify the campaign against illegal connections.
- 4) Install more water pipes, on an emergency basis, as needed to increase the water supply, with purchase of pipes to be expedited even if public bidding must be dispensed with.
- 5) Rush completion of the water supply and distribution phases of the agency’s crash program which will assure 300 million gallons daily, again even without bidding on materials needed, in view of the crisis.

He also directed the Bureau of Forestry to intensify operations in preserving and improving watersheds.

The President shows deep concern over the water crisis which has fallen to 67, just one meter short of 66 meters, which would necessitate pumping. The reading as of this day, according to NAWASA, 69.10 meters at La Mesa Dam.

President Marcos is the first Chief Executive to conduct a personal survey of La Mesa dam, a trip compelled by the sense of urgency that he felt over the water crisis, the worst in five years.

At the same time, the President directs the various executive departments concerned with the prosecution of the relentless administration campaign against smuggling to submit to him progress reports on March 30.

In the same directive, the President asks the secretaries of foreign affairs, finance, justice and agriculture, and the undersecretaries of national defense, to meet him at 10 a.m. on April 1 to assess the success of the anti-smuggling campaign.

In their written reports, the President requires:

1. The Secretary of Foreign Affairs to report on the work done by the Philippine consular missions abroad which had been called upon to help stop technical smuggling.
2. The Secretary of Finance to prepare a report on the work done by his department, including those of the Bureau of Customs and the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

The President directs that the Secretary of Finance draw up a comparison of the volume of luxury goods brought into the country before and after the administration took over last Dec. 30.

The President also asks for a report on the volume of goods from Sabah, Singapore, Macao and Hongkong, which had decreased, and the volume of cigarettes which had been imported legally.

3. The secretary of Justice to report on the work of his department, together with those of the National Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Immigration, the Solicitor General, the courts and fiscals, on the illegal entry of aliens.

4. The Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources to report on the measures adopted by him to stop overshipment, underpricing and illegal shipment of copra and logs.

5. The Undersecretaries of National Defense to report on the progress of the anti-smuggling campaign undertaken by the Philippine Constabulary and the various arms of the armed forces, including those of the different area and zone commands.

The President wants that the reports specify the steps taken to implement his earlier directives on the prosecution of the anti-smuggling campaign.

Back in Malacañang, the President receives the 27-man Japanese goodwill mission sponsored by the Philippine Society of Japan. Headed by Mamoru Nagano, society president, the Japanese mission expresses to the President the desire of the Japanese people to foster friendly ties with the Filipino people.

In the evening, the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, tender a dinner for Ford Foundation representative and Mrs. Harry Case, who attended the launching of the fund campaign for the Ramon Magsaysay Center.

The President also receives the leaders of the Russian scientific expedition who came aboard a Soviet vessel that steamed into the South Harbor last Friday.

The Soviet visitors, who are oceanographers, informed the President that they are studying the “Kuroshio” currents in Philippine waters for the UNESCO.

March 23.—DUE to apparent confusion about bus fares—which has adversely affected regular commuters on the Manila-Quezon City routes, President Marcos asks the Public Service Commission to expedite the solution of the problems attending the hiked fares authorized recently by the agency.

In his communication to the PSC, the President strongly recommended proper action to solve the question once and for all, “in that the public interest will be fully served by public utility conveyance who are in business, in the first place, to render public service.”

The President suggests that the PSC officials meet with bus operators to thresh out the problem and thus end the present confusion on the fares to be charged by bus companies.

He also appeals to shipping companies to accommodate students and low-income groups by giving them special rates after the interisland shipping operators won increased rates from the PSC.

At the same time, the President authorizes the Philippine National Railways to proceed with the purchase of 10 diesel locomotives to bolster the motive power of the railway firm.

He gives his nod to the acquisition of additional locomotives in an effort to increase the earning capacity of the PNR which suffered losses amounting to about P8-million last year.

The 10 diesel engines will cost some \$2-billion, to be guaranteed by the Development Bank of the Philippines.

Then, the President confers with members of the Council for Economic Development (CED) headed by former PIA Director-General and NEC Chairman Sixto Roxas.

The CED members inform the President that businessmen have formed the Council to:

1. Provide the private sector with an integral vehicle for the articulation of its Views on plans and policies for developing the Philippine economy;
2. Offer assistance to the government, where proper, in economic planning, policy formulation and development promotion; and
3. Seek and cultivate among the different groups of the different sectors areas of common interest that would view problems from a national perspective and go beyond the specific interest of any particular trade, business or profession, and take the necessary action in cultivating these common areas of interest.

In the morning, the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, receive at breakfast visiting Argentinian Foreign Minister and Mrs. Miguel Angel Zavala Ortiz.

Following the reception, the President meets with the members of the House Committee on Appropriation to study the feasibility of submitting a supplementary budget for P74-million for the maintenance of schools and hospitals all over the country, and for the consideration of Congress.

In the afternoon, the President receives Sen. Maria Kalaw-Katigbak who had returned the other day from a 10-day trip to Red China.

During her call Sen. Katigbak shows to the President samples of Red Chinese literature in English—books, magazines, posters, and pamphlets, including five volumes of the selected works of Mao Tse Tung. The Senator from Batangas also submits to the President an English transcription of the three-and-a-half-hour conference of the Katigbak party of 11-Filipinos with Vice Premier and External Affairs Minister Chen Yi.

March 24—FOLLOWING officials controversy on the dual positions of certain elective officials—which had sparked opposing views from Secretary of Justice Jose Yulo and Commissioner Abelurdo Subido of the Civil Service Commission, the president asks the officials appointed to executive positions to choose between the two posts now hold by them.

The President decides to leave the mailers to the officials concerned in view of the position taken by majority party leaders on the inadvisability of holding these controversial positions.

In a letter addressed to the said officials, the President states: “Our party leaders” have insisted on the policy that “elective officials should not be appointed to other positions in the government, even on a part-time basis.”

He sets a limit for the officials to make a choice, emphasizing that if no answer is received by him within that period, he will infer that the elective official concerned “would rather remain in the position to which you were duly elected by the people.”

At the same time, President Marcos certifies to Congress the necessity of immediate enactment of bills seeking to allocate P1,500 to each of the 33,000 barrios for self-help public improvement community projects.

The Chief Executive certifies the bills to boost his program to help improve living conditions in rural communities. These bills certified by the President are House Bill No. 1618, and Senate Bill No. 134, authored by Rep. Magnolia Antonino and Senator Gaudencio E. Antonino, respectively.

The measure, among others, provides that such aid shall be spent within 120 days after its receipt, and that within 30 days after such expenditure, the barrio council shall render an accounting and accomplishment report to the auditor general, furnishing copies to the President, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and the municipal mayor.

In the morning, the President meets anew with members of the Senate on the Philippine-Japanese treaty of amity, commerce and navigation.

At the meeting, the President and members of the senate agrees to legislate safeguards against possible Japanese dominance of the local economy before taking final decision on the ratification of the Philippine-Japan treaty of amity, commerce and navigation.

On this basis, the President certifies to Congress five of the proposed bills. The bills, the enactment of which is also earlier recommended by the panel that negotiated the treaty, had been filed in the House of Representatives by former Speaker Jose B. Laurel Jr., House Minority Floor Leader, and the head of the panel that negotiated the treaty.

The five measures are:

1. An act amending certain provisions of the immigration law to facilitate the entry into the country of international traders and investors.
2. An act prescribing permanent residence and reciprocity as conditions to qualify foreign nationals to practice their profession or vocation in the Philippines.
3. An act limiting ownership of capital stocks of banking institutions to Filipino citizens and providing certain requirements for foreign banks here.
4. An act amending certain provisions of the tariff and customs code so as to empower the President to impose import quotas and other restrictions to protect domestic industries from serious injury.
5. An act regulating the registration and licensing of corporations or firms controlled by aliens doing business or engaging in economic activity in the Philippines.

The President at the same time, directs the Secretaries of Foreign Affairs, Commerce and Industry, and Justice to study steps that can be taken to further normalize the relations between the Philippines and Japan pending ratification of the treaty.

In the afternoon, the President receives David M. Kennedy and Joel Smith, chairman and secretary, respectively, of the Continental Illinois National Bank; and K. M. Modi, honorary consul general of the Philippines in Bombay, who paid their respects to the Chief Executive.

The banking officials are in town to visit their correspondent bank here, while Consul Modi and his wife are on a tour of Southeast Asia.

The President also receives officials of the Philippine-Chinese Society who requested the President to proclaim 1966 a Philippine-China Friendship Year.

In this connection, the President issues a proclamation declaring the remainder of the year 1966 from March 25, as Philippine-China Friendship Year. He issues the proclamation to promote "close and harmonious social and cultural relations between the Philippines and the Republic of China."

In his proclamation, the President notes the long historical association between the Philippines and China.

Because of cultural and economic ties, the peoples of both countries had enjoyed through the centuries a long standing friendship, the President observes.

In the evening, the Chief Executive confers with NAWASA General Manager Antonio Menor who also submitted to the President a report on steps taken by the water firm to conserve water.

During the conference, the President orders the NAWASA to take steps to relieve the light water situation as he issues the following directive:

1. Follow up immediately the U.S. Embassy offer to lend water-truck from American military bases in the Philippines.
2. Take advantage of the offers made by various business and industrial firms of the use of their water-trucks and other vehicles and facilities for distributing water.
3. Begin pumping water immediately into the reservoirs serving the Greater Manila area.

NAWASA General Manager Menor reports to the President on the following measures taken so far by the water firm in meeting the emergency:

1. Provision for the repair of leaks within 24 hours of detection.
2. Organization of commando teams to detect leaks, coordinate repairs, and report on illegal connections.
3. Solicitation of assistance and cooperation from city and municipal mayors, the harnessing of school officials to help in the drive against waste, along with market masters, fire chiefs, municipal public services and health departments.
4. Made representations for the closing of public swimming pool owners to stop the use of these facilities.
5. Appealed to all citizens to observe economy in the use of water, including in watering lawns and gardens, the immediate repair of leaks in house connections and office building system.
6. Put to maximum use the 64 artesian wells in the greater Manila area, and asked the owners of private wells to open them to the public.
7. Made arrangements for the cooperation effort of the Philippine and US air forces in making artificial rain when conditions warrant.

March 25.—TO forestall a serious denudation of our forest areas and to conserve our valuable timber resources, President Marcos orders the cancellation of all logging concessions within military reservations and in the EDCOR areas.

The President issues the directive in a memorandum to Director Antonio Quejado of the Bureau of Forestry, through the Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

In his order, the President wants Director Quejado to submit to him in a weeks time a list of logging permits canceled according to his instructions.

At the same time, the President takes now steps to preserve watersheds and forest stands as he orders new measures against illegal loggers and *kaingeros* who have depleted forest reserves and contributed to the water shortage now felt in Manila.

Focusing his attention on watersheds, the President dares Undersecretary of National Defense Manuel Syquiao and Gen. Ernesto Mata AFP chief to:

1. Stop *kaingeros* from further denuding the NAWASA water, beds in Angat, Bulacan.
2. Seize all illegally cut logs from this area and turn them over to the armed forces for use in the construction of pre-fabricated schoolhouses; and
3. Clear the watershed area of all squatters and prosecute them.

The President points out that the acute water shortage now being felt in Manila and environs is partly the result of the thinned-out watershed in Angat. He has previously observed that the country's depleted forest stands would endanger water supply and cause great floods if not sooner rehabilitated by the government.

In the morning immediately after a breakfast conference with defense reporters at the Malacañang state Banquet hall, the President discusses the creation of seven more engineering construction battalions to undertake missions in civic action projects with Undersecretaries of Defense Alfonso Arellano and Manuel Syquiao, Gen. Pelagio Cruz, former chief of the Reparations Mission to Tokyo; and Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco. The President then meets with the members of the Rice and Corn Coordinating Council on the progress of the food self-sufficiency program.

During the meeting, the President receives favorable reports on the initial phases of the rice and corn production program and at the same time acts on problems facing the program.

Tackling the problems of credit, irrigation and facilities, the President issues the following directives:

To meet the urgent need for irrigation facilities, the National Irrigation Administration is instructed to advance to the Presidential Assistant on Community Development P500,000 from its AID funds to finance communal irrigation projects.

Ernesto Maceda, Presidential Assistant on Community Development, said these communal irrigation projects would be more effective at this stage, while the main irrigation projects are being completed.

2. To meet the cost of the big irrigation construction program, estimated at more than P700 million, Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco and Finance Secretary Eduardo Romualdez are instructed to study means to finance the program.
3. To expedite construction, Secretary Romualdez is also instructed to look into the contracts for this job, with an eye to effecting better management and the establishment of a standard procedure for the processing of contracts.

4. To fix priorities, National Irrigation Administrator Tomas de Guzman is instructed to pinpoint irrigation projects needing more immediate attention.

5. To facilitate the use of irrigation pumps by small farmers, the Irrigation Service Unit is instructed to sell its pumps at reduced prices and ease up amortization requirements. The PACD is directed to receive applications and the Irrigation Service Unit to conduct surveys.

6. To control rat infestation in Mindanao and Central Luzon, Dean Dioscoro Umali of the U.P. college of agriculture and Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Manuel Collantes are instructed to follow up assistance offers from the West German and Japanese embassies in the eradication of the rodents.

In the afternoon, the Chief Executive meets labor leaders of the Philippine National Railways who call on him to air the gripes that triggered the strike of the Yard Crow Union headed by Sergio de Leon.

At the meeting, the President authorizes the Development Bank of the Philippines to guarantee a total P14,812,220 foreign credit accommodations to the PNR needed to enable it to embark immediately on its rehabilitation and improvement program, which the President deems essential in the face of the PNR's urgent problems.

Following the meeting, the strikers agree to return to work after the President made arrangements whereby they will be paid their salaries in the amount of P175,000 today, with the rest to be given on Monday.

March 26.— AS reports of rampant cattle-rustling in many areas reaches him, the President directs the armed forces to deploy battalion combat teams if the constabulary needs them for a more effective campaign against cattle-rustling.

The President's directive is embodied in a memorandum he dispatches to Defense Undersecretary Alfonso Arellano.

Cattle-rustling is not only a pernicious crime, the President states, but "it also affects to a considerable extent our program of bringing about rice self-sufficiency in the country."

The constabulary should be augmented by AFP battalion combat teams if needed to cope with the situation, the President says.

In the morning, the President motors to the De La Salle College campus in Green Hills, Mandaluyong, where he attended the investiture of his eight-year-old son, Ferdinand Jr., as a Cub Scout.

Back in Malacañang, the President works on urgent state papers preparatory to leaving for Tacloban City.

In the afternoon, the Chief Executive motors to the Nichols Air Base where he boards the presidential Fokker plane for Tacloban City.

The President arrives Tacloban City at 4:15 p.m. to join in the celebration of "Imelda Day" at the former St. Paul's College in this city.

From the airport, the President proceeds direct to Tolosa, the hometown of the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos.

March 27.—IN Tacloban City, President Marcos states he welcomes the projected congressional probe of reports that communist agents were behind recent public demonstrations.

The President says that the Executive Office, however, has been undertaking its own investigation of this possible tie-up and that the investigations were still going on.

The Chief Executive points out that although there may have been additional infiltration by foreign agents into the Philippines, there was no cause for alarm as these agents are under constant surveillance by the Government.

Following his conference this morning, with Col. Vicente Raval and PC provincial officials headed by Col. Dominador de los Reyes, the President sits down with local officials to thresh out their problems.

Then, the President joins the people of Leyte particularly-the officials, members of the faculty and the student body of St. Paul's College, in celebrating Imelda Day.

The St Paul College had set apart the day to honor the First Lady as the Leyte educational institution's "most distinguished alumna."

In the evening, the First Couple graces the alumna homecoming affair.

March 28— GIVING the rehabilitation and improvement of the country's irrigation system high priority in public works—because of the prime importance it has in the intensified rice self-sufficiency program, the President issues a memorandum to the Secretary of Public Works and Communications, the Presidential Assistant on Community Development, and the Reparations Commission chairman defining the new policies on the irrigation systems in the country, which, he says will take effect immediately.

The new policies set by the President follow:

1. The National Irrigation Administration shall give first priority to the repair and maintenance of existing irrigation systems, presently servicing 330,000 hectares, which provide irrigation water the whole year round.
2. Irrigation systems which presently irrigate 350,000 hectares only during the rainy season shall be repaired and or reconstructed, to insure that irrigation water is available the whole year round. This shall be second priority.
3. The third priority shall be the completion of irrigation system (a) already started by the present administration, and (hi those initialed by the previous administration but which are now in a state of abandonment.
4. In accordance with the above priorities, the Secretary of Public Works and Communications will submit the revised irrigation program within one week from receipt of the order.
5. Effective April 1, 1966, irrigation fees charged in irrigation systems which provide water throughout the year shall be increased from the current P12 to P60 per hectare.
6. The National Irrigation Administration is directed to reduce its overhead, compatible with economy and efficiency, and insure that its personnel perform their assigned duties and responsibilities and are not assigned elsewhere.
7. The Presidential Assistant on Community Development shall concentrate on the construction of small irrigation units covering less than 1,000 hectares. These units shall be installed in areas where they could have the greatest impact, particularly in places where rice can be heavily produced.
8. For this purpose, there shall be a working coordination between the PACD and the Irrigation Service Units of the Department of Public Works and Communications in the utilization of available ISU pumps.
9. The ISU shall hasten the technical feasibility surveys of areas indicated by the PACD, and
10. PACD may distribute the ISU pumps to the rice farmers even at a lose, at prices compatible with those of locally manufactured pumps.

At the same time, the President orders the closure of nine sawmills, eight of them in Bulacan and one in Dagupan City and the suspension of operations of another for violation of forestry rules and regulations.

The President issues the orders not only to prevent illegal logging but to save Philippine forest preserves and watersheds from complete denudation.

In the morning, the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, leave Tacloban City for Manila aboard the Presidential Fokker plane at 9:30 a.m., arriving Malacañang 11:45 a.m.

Back in Malacañang, the President resumes his Palace activities after a weekend trip to Tacloban City where he joins the First Lady who had flown to Leyte on her first homecoming since the last November elections.

In the afternoon, the Chief Executive is inducted as honorary president of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines in ceremonies, held at the Palace Heroes Hall.

In a brief remark during the ceremonies the President points out that the most valuable natural resources of the country are its human resources and that the scouting movement plays a vital role in preventing these resources for future leadership and endowing them with the heroic spirit.

President Marcos is the third head of state to be a boy scout, the others being King Bhumibol of Thailand and King Constantine of Greece. The late President Kennedy was also a boy scout.

Following the ceremonies, the President administer the oath of office to the three officers of the newly-created Anti-Smuggling Action Center (ASAC).

Gen. Pelagio Cruz (ret.), chairman; Brig. Gen. Manuel T. Flores (ret.), vice chairman and chief action officer for the disposal of confiscated smuggled goods; and Col. Uldarico Bacalagon, secretary.

In the evening, the President confers with NAWASA General Manager Antonio Menor, who reports to him on what appears to be the first successful rain-making operations.

In his report to the President, General Manager Menor states that:

1. Over the weekend over 130 leaks in waterpipes in Manila and environs had been repaired.
2. The big leak in the 54-inch main along Magsaysay Avenue had been isolated and controlled.
3. Nine wells had been repaired since last week, and functioning at full capacity.
4. Five purifiers returned by the armed forces are being installed at various water points in Manila and the suburbs.
5. Fire departments of Manila, Quezon City and Caloocan City have been helped in the distribution of water, although better coordination is needed.
6. Pumping at La Mesa Dam continues, with the expectation that the La Mesa Dam supply will last to June 28, delivering 150 million gallons a day from all sources even without rain.
7. Final arrangements are being made for the loan of US air force planes from Clark Field for immediate seeding when conditions are favorable to rainmaking.

March 29.—TO add more power to the Administration's intensified food production rural development programs, President Marcos orders the liberalization of loans and other credit facilities to rice and corn farmers.

In line with the President's efforts to get off the ground his massive rice and corn and rural government programs, various financial institutions of the government moved to widen credit for the farmers, with the following recent moves:

1. Central Bank Gov. Andres Castillo has mobilized resources of the bank to broaden limitations of loans from the Central Bank, and in the process generate about P200 million for loans to rice and corn farmers.
2. The Development Bank of the Philippines set aside P25 million for long-term loans to farmers, with an amortization period of from five to ten years.
3. The Budget Commission, on orders from the President, will release P1.5 million to the bureau of lands for the survey and subdivision of some 140,000 hectares of public lands which will then be apportioned to rice and corn farmers at from four to five hectares each.
4. Director of the Bureau of Lands Nicanor Jorge has readied for distribution to the rice and corn farmers 2,000 titles to public lands, and is set to distribute a total of 40,000 lands and titles by the end of this year.

At the same time, the President takes official notice of two recent incidents involving the Philippine National Railways which have further damaged the prestige of the government rail firm, and asks the PNR management to explain immediately the circumstances behind them.

The President directs PNR General Manager Alfredo M. Santos to report to him on the background and details of the two cases, one involving three young sisters who were molested by drunk-; on a northbound train and a school boy whose legs were run over by a train in Manila.

The Chief Executive, in his directive to the PNR manager, asks that immediate steps be taken to prevent similar incidents occurring on any of the passenger trains of the government rail firm. The President likewise observes that much still has to be done to improve the railway service, both in providing comfort and security to passengers.

In the morning, the President meets the commission on the revision of the code, and its research staff.

At the meeting, the President, in his brief remarks emphasizes the need to update the administrative code so as to provide for administrative machinery more responsive to the demands of modern government and the requirements of national development program.

He recalls that as a congressman, he had already undertaken studies with an eye to proposing the overhaul of the government machinery to give it maximum economy of operation, added efficiency and effectiveness.

The President states he had to give up the project after three terms in the lower house because he realized the enormity of the task which was too much for one man.

He expresses gratification that the work is now being done by talented men, all experts in their respective fields. He adds that the task is monumental one and that future generations of Filipinos would be thankful for the updating of the code.

The group expects to finish its work by December in time for submission to the next regular session of congress.

Then, the President is presented with a silver and brass teapot belonging to the late Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo and acquired by an American sergeant following the surrender of the revolutionary general to the American forces during the Filipino-American War.

The priceless museum piece is turned over to the President by Charles Burrows of California whose father, Sgt. Pinion F. Burrows, came with the Nebraska volunteers to the Philippines in 1808.

Following the call of Burrows, the President receives a delegation representing the Farmers and Laborers Union of Anno, Tarlac who submitted a copy of their petition for expropriation of their respective farm lots.

In the afternoon, the President receives Mrs. Waller II. Glynn, president of the American Legion Auxiliary who arrives earlier for a six-day visit here. She is on a counselling tour of American Legion units around the world.

March 30.—THE Chief Executive orders the Budget Commission to release P3 million to help the bureau of lands implement administration program of distributing public lands to farmers in conjunction with the food self-sufficiency program.

The program envisions the distribution of some 40,000 lots to as many farming families by the end of the year. Part of the funds will be used for the survey and subdivision of some 10,000 hectares of public lands, which will then be allocated in lots from four to five hectares to rice and corn farmers.

Various financial institutions of the government like the Development Bank of the Philippines have also joined the project by liberalizing loans to rice and corn farmers, upon orders of the President.

This new policy on loans and other credit facilities, the Central Bank estimates will need about P200 million cash outlay. The DBP also has set aside 125 million for long-term loans, from five to ten years, to farmers.

In the interim, the President certifies to Congress House Bill No. 1250 setting aside P100 million for the National Waterworks and Sewerage Authority as counterpart fund to the \$20.2 million loans of the agency from the World Bank.

The measure which was filed by Rep. Joaquin R. Roces is certified by the President as part of the administration effort to upgrade the water firm and thus eliminate once and for all the recurrent water crisis felt in Manila and nearby communities.

The funds to be made available by the passage of the bill is to be used by the NAWASA to complete its projects which will improve the water and sewerage facilities of Greater Manila.

In the afternoon, the President receives officers of the Radio-TV Federation of the Philippines and the Pan Pacific Surgical Association of the Philippines.

Led by Manuel Lagunsad, chairman, and Leon O. Ty, president, the Radio-TV federation requests for the proclamation of a radio-TV week.

March 31.—MEETING for the second time members of the Development Council, the President assesses the program of the various government projects to discuss means of solving the problems facing them.

During the day-long meeting of the Development Council at the offices of the Presidential Economic Staff on Arlegui, the President hands down the following directives, which squarely meet some of the urgent problems of the food production effort and other economic development projects:

1. The immediate release of P222, 000 for financing the better seed program to ensure availability of improved seeds, when is vital to the success of the rice sufficiency program.
2. Poised a revamp of the bureau of plant industry office directly charged with the development of better seeds.
3. Certified a bill to Congress authorizing the President to borrow some \$72 million from the World Bank for the irrigation systems program.

4. Created the Rice and Corn Production Coordinating Council which will coordinate the implementation of the food production program.

5. Directed Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas and Press Secretary Jose D. Aspiras to coordinate with the PACD, Agricultural Credit Administration and the Commission on Agricultural Productivity on informing farmers of the availability of credit for their food production activities as well as disseminating other information on all other phases of the food production program, including fertilizers and better farming techniques.

The President and congressional leaders, who are members of the Development Council, hear reports on the accomplishments and problems of the various executive departments, with focus on the food self-sufficiency program.

Back in Malacañang at 6:15 p.m., the President receives a group of American Tobacco businessmen. The businessmen is accompanied to the Palace by Ralph Nubia who is trying to interest them in the purchase of Philippine Virginia tobacco which has accumulated up to 110 million kilos and has to be disposed of.

In the evening, the Chief Executive confers on the 11th year reparations schedule from Japan with the commissioners of the Reparations Commission led by Chairman Gregorio Abad.

Then the President receives the officials of the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation headed by Chairman Ildefonso Cinco who explains the management side in the labor dispute at the government housing firm.

Meantime, President Marcos proclaims Saturday (April 2), this year, as "Francisco Balagtas Day" throughout the Philippines in commemoration of the birth anniversary of the Prince of Filipino poets.

In proclaiming Balagtas Day, the President points out that it is "fitting and proper to render homage to the great Filipino poet."

Balagtas is the author of *Florante at Laura*, generally considered an unsurpassed lyrical masterpiece in Pilipino.

Source: **National Library**

Official Week in Review: June 16 — June 30, 1966

June 16.—AFTER considering “the overwhelming reasons of national security, as well as existing government policies in relation to freedom of communications and dissemination of information,” the President decides to place under full government control the operations of the Philippine station of the global satellite communications system.

The President communicates this decision to the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, advising him at the same time to call off all the bids on the project, which was tentatively proposed for private construction and operation.

In taking over the Comsat (Communication Satellite) project, the President specifies that the government will pay the fee of \$750,000 for membership in the International Consortium for Satellite Telecommunications (INTELSTAT).

He proposes that this sum be collected from contributions of entities who would use the facilities provided by Comsat.

The President also indicates that he might utilize the reparations for establishing the ground facilities of the project, which he states will “ultimately be paid for by the persons and entities” benefiting from the system.

He directs Secretary of Foreign Affairs Narciso Ramos to ask the committee which he heads, named earlier by the President to take charge of the project, to proceed with the preparations for establishing the Comsat station here in accordance with his decision. The members of the committee are Secretary of Finance Eduardo Romualdez and Chairman Filemon Rodriguez of the National Economic Council.

The President had initiated action on Comsat as early as January this year, stressing the advantages of the communications system which will link the Philippines with 48 countries.

At the same time, the President orders the outright deportation of two Chinese nationals, Chua Liam alias Johnny Chua and Johnny Chua, Jr., who had been found guilty of smuggling activities by the deportation board.

The President direct Brig. Gen. Segundo Velasco, chief of the Philippine Constabulary, and the bureau of immigration to immediately implement his order to expel the two men as undesirable aliens.

Chief Prosecutor Florentino Flor had charged the two Chinese nationals before the deportation board with illegal possession of some 275 cases of untaxed Union cigarettes valued at P137,500, which the government asserted were smuggled into the country. The blue seal cigarettes were found by elements of the Philippine Constabulary in a bodega owned by the Chuas located in barrio Parobatia, Libmanan, Camarines Sur.

President Marcos also directs Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas to investigate the smuggling of foreign-bred race horses into the country, and to take drastic administrative action against officials and employees of the Games and Amusement Board responsible.

In his directives to Secretary Salas, the President deplores the smuggling of Australian race horses, made possible by connivance of customs and bureau of animal industry personnel, and passed off as native horses in local races.

The President stresses that the practice has succeeded because of the toleration by the Games and Amusement Board.

Under the law, only the native horses are authorized to run in the races. The harm in this racket, the President states, is that the imported horses are consistent winners and the horse racing fans therefore are victimized. It has likewise resulted in the decline of the once thriving horse-breeding industry in Batangas.

In the morning, the President meets with Chinese rice experts who arrived recently to conduct demonstrations on improved rice production to farmers in Central Luzon.

The seven-man Chinese team, led by Dr. T. H. Shen, chairman of the Joint Commission on Rural Reconstruction in Taipeh, are here under the technical assistance program between the Philippines and Nationalist China. Vice President Fernando Lopez, who visited Taipeh recently, paved the way for early arrival of the Chinese rice production experts.

In the afternoon, the President confers with RCA Chairman Osmundo Mondoñedo and Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Manuel Collantes in connection with the administration plan to import rice and corn.

Meanwhile, the President takes time out to swear in Senior Board Member Verulo Boiser as acting vice-governor of Davao to take the place of former Vice-Governor Paciano Bangoy. Bangoy became governor following the appointment of former Gov. Vicente Duterte as Secretary of General Services.

To succeed Boiser, Mayor Ramon de los Cientos of Bansalan, Davao, is also sworn in by the President.

June 17.—IN a conference with top military officials, President Marcos receives documented confirmation of the Huk affiliations of the five persons killed by operatives of the Philippine Constabulary in Tarlac last June 13.

Undersecretary of National Defense Alfonso Arellano tells the President that the armed forces of the Philippine Constabulary have “overwhelming evidence” showing that the five men whom the PC patrol fought were Huks or Huk sympathizers.

The conference is called by the President to discuss by the dissident problem and to receive the report on skirmish which Tarlac officials sought to be investigated.

During the meeting, the President direct the armed forces and to put into effect and intensify the civic action program which is an integral part of the anti-dissident campaign. The President specially directs the military authorities to coordinate this phase of their campaign with PACD chief Ernesto Maceda, who has been designated as coordinator of the drive, dubbed “Operations Central Luzon.”

The President orders the creation of civilian advisory boards, which are expected to fill a key role of the anti-huk campaign in Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac, and Bulacan.

At the same time, the President receives a report from the National Bureau of Investigation of the apprehension in Zamboanga City last night of two persons in possession of prohibited narcotics.

The drug consist of two bottles of morphine containing 250 grams each and could be sold for P500, 000. Arrested by NBI and Air Force Agents, according to Acting NBI Director Serafino Fausto, were Mrs. Charito Santos y Sanchez and Narciso Apostol y Patriarca.

The Chief Executive also directs two Mt. Province officials and three bureau directors to explain within two weeks the reasons for their failure to move aliens out of public lands within the Mt. Data National Park and Central Cordillera Forest reservations.

The President, in his directive, states that Executive Order No. 180 issued by the late President Magsaysay in 1956 gave aliens up to June 30 of that year to vacate or move out of the park and forest reservations in Mt. Province.

The order likewise establishes conditions for the release of some of these areas to actual occupants who are Filipino nationals.

He orders the Chairman of the Mt. Province Development Authority, the provincial fiscal of Mt. Province and the directors of the bureau of lands, forestry and soils to immediately take steps for the ejection of aliens who have managed to occupy public lands 10 years after they had been ordered to vacate the areas.

In the afternoon, the President receive L. H. Markuson, resident representative of the UNICEF and Oliver B. Johnston, executive vice-president of the Walt Disney, Co.

Markuson discusses with the Chief Executive the progress of UNICEF activities here. While Johnston who is visiting Walt Disney offices in Asia and Europe, called to pay his respects. With him is George R. Sherman.

Then, the President administers the oath of office to Chief Justice Roberto Concepcion, whose appointment was confirmed by the Commission on Appointments two days ago.

Justice Concepcion was nominated Chief Justice by President Marcos June 4 to succeed former Chief Justice Cesar Bengzon who retired May 29.

June 18.—DEVOTING most of the day to working on bills, President Marcos meets the midnight deadline set by law for him to act on some 250 measures passed by the Sixth Congress during its first regular session.

The 30-day statutory period which started upon the adjournment of the regular session last month ends this day.

The President is assisted by a committee headed by Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas with department undersecretaries as members.

At the same time, the President names Senate President Arturo M. Tolentino adviser to the Philippine panel to the joint Philippine United-States Commission to discuss pending claims of Filipino veterans against the United States.

He also designates Sen. Alejandro Almendras member of the panel, headed by former Senator Eulogio Balao, one-time secretary of national defense. The talks on the pending claims are slated to start in Manila on July 5. Members of the American panel headed by Gen. George H. Decker, are expected here July 4.

Sen. Tolentino will serve as adviser to the panel, together with Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal.

The first meeting of the commission will be held in Manila upon the request of the President, who had underscored the difficulty of transporting documents supporting the claims of Washington.

The Filipino war veterans' claim represents the unpaid balances the US still owes them by virtue of laws and proclamation promulgated and issued by the US government relative to compensations and benefits for Filipino soldiers who fought with the US troops during the last world war.

At 11 a.m., the President takes time out from his work to confer with several senators who called at the Palace to consult him on bills pending in Congress during the special session.

Among the legislators received separately by the President are Senators Rodolfo Ganzon and Gaudencio Antonino and Reps. Floro S. Crisologo of Ilocos Sur and Antonio V. Raquiza of Ilocos Norte.

The President likewise had consultations over the telephone with other solons including Senators Jose Roy and Manuel P. Manahan.

Meantime, the President Marcos calls upon the people to "keep faith with the great men of our land" in a message issued on the eve of the birth anniversary of Dr. Jose Rizal.

The President points out the decline in the morality of the people as evidence by the upsurge of criminality in the country and graft and corruption in public and private sectors.

“We may not find the true path again to unity, strength and virtue if we fail to keep faith with the great men of our land, men like Dr. Rizal whose birth more than a hundred years ago gave to our race the finest example of a patriot and hero,” he warns.

The President’s message for the occasion follows:

The birthday today of Dr. Jose Rizal will possibly pass quietly, as it had done in years past, for we no longer really feel very deeply for our heroes, not even our national hero. If we did, we will be more dedicated people, more conscious of our responsibilities, and altogether prepared to meet the challenge of our times, even if it meant great personal sacrifice.

“The decline in the morals of our people, the upsurge of crime in our country, the apathy and fear that grip us, so much so that many of us will not even seek justice against criminals, and the graft and corruption in public and private sectors, all underline the moral crisis of our times.

“We may not find the true path again to unity, strength, and virtue if we fail to keep faith with the great men of our land, men like Dr. Rizal, whose birth more than a hundred years ago gave to our race the finest example of a patriot and hero.”

June 19.—LEAVING Malacañang at 5:15 a.m. for the Philippine Air force Base operations at Nichols Airbase where he took off for Poro Point, San Fernando, La Union, the President returns to historic Bessang Pass to unveil a memorial set up by a grateful nation for the fallen soldiers of the famous USAFIP-NL, and to pay tribute to his comrades in arms.

From Poro Point, the President together with the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, and their children, Imee, Irene, and Bongbong, and some cabinet officials motor to Bessang Pass, east of Cervantes along the Ilocos Sur-Mountain Province boundary. Also with the President in the long and tortuous trip to the historic mountain trail 5,000 feet above sea level are members of the USAFIP-NL.

Bessang Pass is a narrow breach in the Cordillera Mountain Range where the Filipino guerillas of World War II turned the tide of war against the Japanese Imperial Forces. The decisive battle eventually led to the defeat of Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita and the surrender of the Japanese occupation forces.

President Marcos was one of the men who fought in the now famous battle. He held the rank of major at the time his heroic participation in the battle won him his second Silver Medal.

During the brief ceremony atop the Cordillera Mountain, President Marcos likewise confers decorations on 13 heroes of the Bessang Pass campaign.

Among the awardees are three newsmen, namely: Amante E. Bigornia of the *Daily Bulletin* and David Borje of the *Evening News*, who were decorated with Gold Cross Medals, and Manuel Abad Gaerlan of the *Philippines Herald* who was conferred the Military Merit Medal.

The President arrives at Bessang Pass 12:30 p.m., after a three-hour trip from Tagudin, to unveil the marker of the fallen heroes of Bessang Pass.

On the memorial were inscribed the following words:

“The battle of Bessang Pass began with the assault on the Japanese line at Bitalag, Tagudin, Ilocos Sur, by the United States Armed Forces in the Philippines, Northern Luzon USAFIP 8 January 1945, followed by the seizure of the enemy stronghold along Highway 4 and the Japanese defenders of the province 14 June 1945.”

On the steel marker are listed the names of the casualties of the hard-fought battle which led to the liberation of Central Luzon and the end of the Japanese occupation.

In his brief remarks, the President states that Bessang Pass was a battle similar to Bataan, but in reverse.

He obviously refers to the fact that while the Filipino soldiers in Bataan put up a valiant defense, particularly in their last stand on Mt. Samat, the Filipino soldiers at Bessang Pass made a bold assault on the Japanese Imperial forces holding out there, and won.

The President stresses proudly the fact that it was the Filipino soldiers themselves who liberated Northern Luzon. He states that Northern Luzon was the only Filipino territory freed from Japanese occupations by Filipino troops.

From Bessang Pass, the President motors back to Tagudin, arriving there at 3 p.m. The President takes his lunch at the residence of Capt. Emilio Narcisi, now PC provincial commander of Ilocos Sur.

After meeting a large delegation which greeted him at the provincial commander's residence, the President motors to the USAFIP-NL base hospital site in Tagudin where he paid further honors to the heroes of Bessang Pass.

The President lays a wreath at site of the wartime base hospital and addresses the crowd which had gathered there.

Later in the afternoon, the President proceeds to Camp Spencer, in Darigayos Point, where he also offers similar tribute to his comrades in arms.

With the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, the President unveils a plaque at the camp.

From there, the President motors back to Poro Point, San Fernando, La Union, arriving there late in the evening.

June 20.—FROM San Fernando, La Union, the President boards the “Queen Air,” a private plane, for Basa Airbase in Pampanga where he formally accepts 17 aircrafts given to the Philippines by the United States under the military assistance pact.

The President, who was returning from the commemorative ceremonies held the other day at Bessang Pass, arrives at Basa Airbase at 10 a.m.

Although Basa airbase is a major command of the Philippine Air Force, this is the time in 17 years that a visit was made by the President of the Republic to the base. The last President to visit this airbase was President Quirino, in 1949.

The aircraft turned in include nine F-5 jet fighters, two UH-34D helicopters and six U-17A light planes. US Ambassador William McCormick Blair, Jr. makes the presentation, while the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, christens the aircraft.

In his extemporaneous acceptance speech, the President declares that the turnover of the planes was symbolic of the strengthened partnership between the Philippines and the United States, “based on freedom, aimed at freedom, and utilizing the weapons of freedom.” He adds that it was a replenishment of the reservoir of goodwill between the two countries.

The aircraft represent the determination of the Philippines to remain free, Ambassador Blair states in his presentation speech, and the “continuing commitment of the United states to guarantee that the Philippines, like the United States, be allowed to live in freedom.”

The nine F-5’s have brought the 6th Fighter Squadron of the PAF to full strength. The UH-34D is described as versatile aircraft, which will give the PAF increased capability for airlift missions of personnel or supplies, during times of disaster or other emergencies. It can be used to reach remote areas with no means of transportation.

The U-17A is a light plane type, designed to give more mobility to the country’s ground forces and naval arm, in surveillance missions or actual operations needing the services of these planes.

After the rites, the President takes off for Manila, arriving at the Nichols Airbase at 12:30 p.m.

In the evening, the President receives Ambassador Harumi Takeuchi of Japan who makes a courtesy call.

Following the courtesy call, the President confers with Reparations Commissioner Gregorio Abad, Chairman Filemon Rodriguez of the National Economic Council and Public Works Undersecretary Marciano Bautista on the procurement of heavy equipment through reparations, badly needed for road construction projects.

June 21.—THIS day being one of his busiest day, President Marcos nevertheless finds time for a farewell chat with some key Filipino Ambassadors who called at Malacañang before leaving for their posts abroad.

Among the envoys are Ambassador Romeo Busuego who was assigned to Kuala Lumpur, Ambassador Juan Dionisio who is relieving Ambassador Busuego in Karachi, Ambassador Mauro Calingo for Bangkok and Ambassador Benito Bautista.

The President likewise receives Ambassador Trinidad Legarda who reported on her trip to Saigon where she turned over to the South Vietnamese government Philippine donations raised from private contributions under “Operation Pakikisama” of the President.

Mrs. Legarda informs the President that the Philippine donations had bolstered the morale of the Vietnamese people and at the same time enhanced prestige of this country. According to her, the donations also created the impression that the Philippine is not satellite of any nation.

Following the call of Mrs. Legarda, the President meets with Congressional leaders with whom he discusses the necessity of calling Congress to another special session.

Then, the President receives Sir Malcolm Frazer, Australian Minister of the army, who called to pay his respects. He is accompanied by Ambassador Francis H. Stuart.

At noon, the President motors to Manila Hotel where he addresses the 12th annual convention of the Bus Operators Association of the Philippines (BOAP).

In his extemporaneous speech before the BOAP, the President reveals the massive road construction program of the administration, totaling P600 million worth of concrete roads and highways.

He reveals the plan to give the transportation men a “bird’s eye-view” of the public works program of his administration.

The intention of the government to sell the Philippine National Railways is also brought out, when the President invited the transport tycoons to buy the rail lines, by way of answering the complaints against the stiff competition offered by the PNR bus lines against private land transport.

As outlined by the President, the road building crash program, to be undertaken in the next three years, will cement 2,667 kilometers of major trunk roads, pave 1,600 kilometers of secondary roads with high-type asphalt, replace 60,000 lineal meters of temporary bridges with permanent concrete-and-steel spans, and construct 1,500 kilometers of development roads for virgin areas relative to the intensified agricultural production.

The President declares that the P600-million has already been set aside, and has been allocated to underwrite the three phases of the program.

He states that the first year will have and P118-million allocation, P58-million of which will come from the special highways fund. He says that the government cannot allocate more because of the restrictions imposed by law, which requires that only 50 per cent of the total fund available be spent on road building and the other half to finance the maintenance of the roads.

Talking about the special highway funds, the President tells the bus operators that the amount collected from them and oil companies which make up this fund has reached P200-million a year for some years now. He adds that funds from the special fund could have cemented all of the country's main trunk roads long ago, but in the past four years only 70 kilometers of these roads have been cemented.

That is why, he states, the administration is trying to make up for lost time. He declares that this program benefits not only the bus companies but also farmers, industrialists and the public at large.

The Chief Executive likewise bares that he is reorganizing the Public Works Department to cope with the program, which in its first phase has 700 kilometers of roads to be built more than 17,000 lineal meters of bridges.

The target for the second year is 967 kilometers of concrete roads and 22, 359 lineal meters of permanent bridges. The sum set aside for this phase is P166-million. The third year will aim for 1,000 kilometers of concrete road and 20,000 lineal meters of permanent bridges, with a total of P162-million set aside for it.

In offering the sale of the government railway firm, the President explains that he was dissatisfied with the present condition of the company, and points to the high cost of overhead, particularly in salaries which he said exceeded the usual 35 per cent dictated by sound business practices.

On the problem of crowding in the land transportation field, the President says that he has been assured by the Public Service Commission that it will issue no more certificates to applicants in these saturated areas.

Back in Malacañang, the President receives Arnold Wychodil, managing director of Mercedes Benz, who arrived recently in the course of an inspection of Mercedes Benz subsidiaries in Asian countries.

Following the call, the President inducts into office Filomeno Kintanar as associate public service commissioner and Gaudencio Beduya as member of the board of governors of the Development Bank of the Philippines.

June 22.—TO break the long-standing mail jam in Manila post office, President Marcos strongly urges the outright up-grading of postal service in a directive to the Executive Secretary and the Commissioner of the Budget to study reorganization of the bureau.

The Chief Executive's directive is triggered off by the still unremedied mail backlog despite several injection of funds into the service, precisely to bolster service personnel needed to cope with the tide of mail coming to Manila.

He instructs Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas and Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco to conduct a management survey of the bureau of posts to determine the causes of the mail jam and to pinpoint responsibility for the delayed delivery of mail.

The President declares, “notwithstanding our repeated releases of funds for additional clerical assistance in the bureau of posts, a serious mail jam continues, resulting in numerous complaints from the public.”

Besides the survey, the President asks the two officials to recommend “specific and workable remedies” to the problem, and to make a report to him in one month.

Aside from the regular budget of the Bureau of Posts amounting to more than P23.5 million for the current fiscal year, it is reported, the Budget Commission has released since January several sums for the wages of “casuals” and for payment of overtime services, as follows:

Feb. 2, 1966	Wages of casuals	P200,000.00
	Overtime Services	50,000.00
Mar. 25, 1966	Wages of casuals	300,000.00
	Supplies	100,000.00
May 23, 1966	Wages of casuals	275,000.00

A total of P295,000 was released in three months since the beginning of the year aimed at breaking the mail jam, but so far no results have been seen, it is declared, causing the issuance of the President’s orders for what might be described as a move toward a shake-up of the postal bureau. These sums are in addition to the regular outlays of the bureau.

At the same time, President Marcos orders the immediate cancellation of permits to timber concessionaires operating in Cordon, Isabela to prevent the possible destruction of important watersheds in the area.

The President issues the order to the director of forestry after receiving report of wanton logging in the area, which has threatened the watersheds there.

Included in the order is the cancellation of the permits of four sawmills in the adjacent town of Diffun, Nueva Vizcaya, if it is established that these mills have received most of their logs from the said watersheds.

The watersheds specified shore up the Ilot, Kama and Lucban rivers, which the President described as “all important,” but the continued logging operations in the area might result in the possible destruction of these forest stands, as the President points out.

The administration has previously launched a program to preserve the country’s forests, including national parks and watersheds which are deemed essential to agriculture and in preventing floods.

In this connection the President had in the past ordered the cancellation of other logging permits, which had been abused by operators in that they had indiscriminately thinned out forests or encroached into forest reservations.

He further asks the director of forestry to submit a report within one month on the implementation of the Malacañang directives.

The Chief Executive also proclaims Friday, June 24, as “*Araw ng Maynila*” in commemoration of the 395th anniversary of the founding of the city.

In proclaiming the day, the President declares “it is fitting that the people of Manila be given ample opportunity to commemorate the occasion with appropriate ceremonies.”

In the morning, the President receives the officials of the Social Security System with whom he discusses the System’s capability to grant educational loans to SSS members.

At the meeting, the President directs the SSS to speed up approval of educational loans to make sure that the members of the System could make use of them when schools open in July.

The SSS had earmarked P30-million for educational loans. Under the arrangement a member of the system could borrow the equivalent of his one-month salary. The loan will be payable in one year without interest.

He calls the SSS officials to a conference in Malacañang to discuss this loan and other matters.

The processing of the loans , on a stepped-up basis, was started the other day at the SSS offices with Assistant Executive Secretary Flores Bayot representing the President.

The mass processing of the loans in undertaken in consonance with the desire of President Marcos to extend immediate assistance to SSS members for present needs. Some 1.5 million private workers are members of the system.

Acting SSS administrator Reynaldo Gregorio informs the President that about 10,000 applications for educational loans have already been received at the SSS as of yesterday. The bulk of applications consists of amounts ranging between P150 and P250.

In the afternoon, the President confers the award of the Philippine Legion of Honor, rank of commander, on Rear Admiral Jack L. Monroe, years of tour of duty in this country.

Following the award ceremonies, the President administers the oaths.

Among those inducted are:

1. Atilano R. Cinco, former governor of Leyte as administrator of the Philippine Veterans Administration and member of the board of directors of the Philippine Veterans Bank;
2. Mariano Noriel as first deputy administrator of the PVA;
3. Jose Cadiao of Antique as associate public service commissioner;
4. Dr. Godofredo Reyes, former governor of Ilocos Sur, as member of the board for medical examiners;
5. Jose M. Rodrigo as third assistant provincial fiscal, Cresencio Navi Busto as municipal judge of Baco and Cesario M. Cueto as municipal judge of Naujan, all of Mindoro Oriental; and
6. Miss Leonor E. Pablo as acting chairman, and Miss Evelina Pangalangan, Miss Petra R. de Joya and Mrs. Leonora S. de Guzman as members of the board of examiners for social workers.

In the evening, the President presides over an emergency meeting of members of the Peace and Order Council, the mayors and chiefs of police and intelligence agencies to assess the peace and order situation in the Greater Manila area.

At the meeting the President directs the Secretary of Justice to inquire deeper into financial standing of bonding firms which provide bail for persons arrested by the police, in other move to strengthen the anti-crime drive.

Following the conference of police and other officials, the President seeks to seal off another breach in the operation of law enforcement by hardening the base for the grant of bail, which today professional criminals find very easy to secure through fly-by-night bonding companies.

In his directive to the department of justice, the President points out that certain insurance firms backing up the bonding companies have been found to have questionable financial resources.

The President acts after being informed by police agencies that hardened criminals find it too easy to procure bail, and when these same felons are freed they often merely disappear and have to be re-arrested. Meanwhile, the bonding companies concerned fail to pay the forfeited bond because of non-existent funds.

Not so long ago, the President had ordered a similar inquiry into certain insurance firms dealing in surety bonds, in the light of the experience of the customs service, wherein forfeited bonds warehoused imports were not paid, also due to the inadequate finances of the surety companies.

June 23.—THE Chief Executive directs Ernesto Maceda, chief of the Presidential Arm on Community Development and chairman of Operations Central Luzon, to report on the specific roles of the various agencies participating in the program to better the social and economic conditions in the areas concerned.

In his directive to Maceda, the President asks him to specify the activities of each agency over a three-month period, a six-month period, and a full year.

He also tells Maceda and all the heads of the participating agencies “to make their presence felt in the area and to deploy all available personnel and funds in the project area so that the people could feel the immediate impact of the operations.”

Specific towns pinpointed as target areas are San Luis, Arayat and Magalang and city of Angeles in Pampanga, Bamban, Capas and Concepcion in Tarlac, and Talavera Aliaga, Zaragoza and Gapan in Nueva Ecija.

Meanwhile, the President issues a proclamation declaring Friday, June 24, a special holiday in Manila.

The President earlier had proclaimed the day as “Araw ng Maynila” in commemoration of the 359th anniversary of the City’s founding.

In the morning, the President meets with the Philippine panel which will discuss with its American counterpart the pending claims of Filipino veterans of World War II against the United States government.

In the afternoon, the President receives a 600-man delegation from the Philippine Public School Teachers Association headed by its president, Florencio Barrera, division superintendent of Davao City.

During their call, members of the PPSTA delegation whose four-day 23rd annual representative assembly opened at Quezon City this morning, witnessed the re-enactment by the President of the signing into law of Senate Bill No. 65 (H. B. No. 6801) otherwise known as the Magna Charta for public school teachers.

The bill is one of some 200 bills signed by the President the other week.

As a token of their appreciation and gratitude for the approval of the bill, the teachers had resolved to voluntarily waive in the meantime some of the rights granted them under the new law.

Among the provisions of the measure, which the teachers waived for the meantime are:

1. Their right to a one-year study leave with pay equivalent to 60 per cent of their salary after seven years of service.

This privilege is granted in addition to the existing leave privileges, and once implemented would mean an additional outlay of at least P200 million annually.

The teachers agree with the President that because of the huge expenses that would go into other essential services and the rural development program the government can afford these additional expenditures at this time.

2. Their right to automatic civil service eligibility after ten years of continuous service.
3. Their right to additional compensation for services in excess of six hours of actual classroom teaching, hardship allowances, cost of living allowances and automatic retirement promotion.

Under Section 14 of the bill of the teachers shall not be required to render more than five hours of actual classroom teaching a day and when required to render more than five hours of service they shall be paid additional compensation equivalent to their regular pay plus 25 per cent.

The teachers are also granted for a living allowance, a special hardship allowance of at least 25 per cent of their monthly salary and a one-range salary increase upon retirement.

4. Their right to be credited with services rendered in private teaching institutions for purposes of promotion and retirement.
5. Their right against transfer without their consent from one station to another.

June 24.—In a more determined effort to remove possible causes of criminality, President Marcos turns his attention on mass communications and entertainment media by ordering the board of censors to be “more judicious and rigid” in screening movies and depicting crime and glorifying sex.

The Chief Executive likewise wants the censors board to check on the quality of radio and television program.

“In view of the resurgence criminality, which may due to the improper influence of motion pictures and other media of entertainment and communication, you are hereby directed to be more judicious and rigid in the appreciation of moving pictures depicting crimes and glorifying sex,” the President orders.

In another memorandum to the Peace and Order Council, the President asks that the problem posed by the comic magazines, which had also been severely criticized for their tendency to play up crime and sex stories, be studied.

He requests the Council to set up a study group for this purpose, and to conduct continuous studies on the crime problem. The President asks that these studies, with the recommendations of the Council, be submitted to him periodically.

At the same time, the President orders and investigation of certain members of the armed forces in Cotabato who allegedly failed to assist farmers pleading for their assistance in the face of threats to their lives from lawless elements in the province.

Irrked by the reports of the farmers, the President orders:

1. The arrest and prosecution of all persons, who allegedly fired at the members of the Golden Plains Farmers Association occupying disputed lands in Rajah Buayan City. These persons were identified as followers of Conrado Alcantara, a prominent businessman and landowner in Cotabato.
2. The arrest of Alcantara, himself, if it could be established that he had ordered the firing at the members of the farmers’ association.

3. The confiscation of the arms of the persons who had fired at the farmers. The orders of the President are immediately delayed to Col. Wilfrido Estrada, P.C. provincial commander; and Col. Wenceslao Ellosa, BCT commander.

According to reports received by the President from the leaders of the farmers, the armed forces men, “refused them assistance” when men, identified to be followers of Alcantara, are firing at them.

The report also states that the farmers’ houses are being demolished or burned by the followers of Alcantara.

In the morning, the President boards an air force helicopter and inspects a number of government projects and checks on their progress.

He visits the Armed Forces pre-fabricated school-building plant in Montalban, Rizal, the Pulong Duhat and the Tabang portions of the 29-kilometer long Manila North diversion road in Bulacan. He views the extent of construction being undertaken at the Guadalupe Bridge, which is being widened to accommodate the heavier flow of traffic along the Epifanio de los Santos Avenue.

President Marcos is cited for his services to the Filipino people, his dedication to the cause of freedom, for his courage in war, and for his vigorous support of legislation to promote the economic and social well-being of the people.

Director Jesus Perpiñan of the Bureau of Private Schools, KR Supreme Commander, presents the decoration of the Chief Executive.

In his speech before the Knights of Rizal, the President declares that the present generation of Filipinos had the capacity and capability to live up to the tradition of greatness set by the national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal.

The President dismisses criticisms that the present generation of Filipinos was a “lost generation and a generation that did not respect its noble tradition.”

“I am confident that these critics are wrong, that this generation of Filipinos can be trusted, that whatever failures we have had in the past can be regained.”

He explains that Rizal remained a symbol that unites the Filipinos and like the national hero, some young men, when the necessity arises, would be willing to offer their lives and honor.

The President calls for vigilance in guarding the freedom enjoyed by Filipinos, saying it was the dream of Rizal. He warns that freedom must be won every day.

“Freedom is never a gift, freedom is not a legacy transmitted to every succeeding generation. Rather it could be lost by indifference,” he states.

He adds: Freedom is a trust fund which must be replenished in every undertaking if it should be handed over to the following generations.”

The Chief Executive explains that the self-denial of Rizal was one source of his greatness. The self-denial according to the President, was best exemplified by the national hero’s forsaking of a good life to protect a great cause – the freedom of the Filipinos.

“Every ideal he has taught the Filipino people must strike everyone because Rizal is not only a hero of the revolution but a hero of all time,” the President avers.

“Let us analyze his ideals and seek to determine in our own time if we could approximate the standard he had set for himself,” the President says.

June 25.—PRESIDENT Marcos orders the cancellation of the contract for the construction of the Guadalupe Bridge, and instructs Undersecretary of Public Works Marciano Bautista to take over the project within 24-hours and finish it in sixty days.

The President issues the directives following a helicopter survey of the highways complex in the Greater Manila Area. The President is accompanied by Rep. Antonio Raquiza and Undersecretary Bautista of Public Works, and Defense Undersecretary Manuel B. Syquiao.

He notes the heavy traffic jam along Epifanio de los Santos Highway caused by the bottleneck of the unfinished Guadalupe Bridge.

Under the contract, the private contractor is supposed to complete the bridge last June 19, but to date only 60% has been finished, allegedly because of lack of men and equipment.

The President also deplores the slow pace of the work on the Nagtahan bridge and the Manila City Hall underpass along Taft Avenue. He directs Secretary Bautista to also study the possibility of cancelling the covering contract of these projects and take over the job.

To further ease the flow of traffic in Manila, the President likewise directs Secretary Bautista, Chairman Filemon Rodriguez of the National Economic Council, and Reparations Commissioner Gregorio Abad to undertake the construction of the following projects, with reparations financing:

- 1.) Two elevated express highways crossing the Pasig from South Manila to Quezon and Caloocan Cities.
- 2.) Conversion of esteros into streets, instead of utilizing them only for parking space.
- 3.) Clover leaf interchanges on vital intersections on E. de los Santos from the Balintawak Monument in Caloocan to Pasay in the South.

These three projects are proposed by Secretary designate Raquiza to the President.

The President observes that no amount of fancy street devices or traffic juggling would solve the traffic problem in the area, because Manila, unlike most modern cities in the world which are served by a network of wide boulevards, has scarcity of broad thoroughfares.

He observes further that Manila is one of the big cities of the world saddled with too many cars which has further compounded the traffic problem.

At the same time, the President extends formal recognition to the Republic of Singapore in a message sent to President Yusuf Bin Ishak of Singapore.

The recognition of Singapore completes normalization of Philippine relations with Southeast Asia's newest states, Malaysia and Singapore, which the President had sought from the start of his administration in an effort to stabilize this country's ties with other free nations in this part of the world.

In his message to the Singapore chief executive, the President hopes for the continued “cordial and friendly relationship” between two countries, and conveyed the Filipino people's gratification over the establishment of the new republic.

It may be recalled that President Marcos had vigorously pursued efforts to restore amity between Malaysia and Indonesia, now a reality, while expediting Philippine reestablishment of diplomatic ties with Malaysia which was formally restored last June.

It remained for the Philippines to recognize Singapore to completely normalize relations with Southeast Asian countries who hold common cause with this country.

Singapore was originally a semi-autonomous state by virtue of an Act of the British Parliament passed in 1958. She had full powers to manage her internal affairs but external affairs and defense remained in the hands of the British government. On Sept. 16, 1963, the Federation of Malaysia was formed with Singapore as one of the member states.

However, on August 9, 1965, Singapore, led by Premier Lee Kuan Yew, seceded from the Federation and became a Republic, with Yew as prime minister. From that time on to the formal recognition today, the Philippines and Singapore had no diplomatic ties.

In the morning, the President confers with Col. Osmondo Mondoñedo, RCA administrator, who had just returned from Thailand.

Mondoñedo reports on the results of his mission. He was sent to Thailand in connection with the Philippines' plan to import rice.

The Chief Executive devotes the rest of the day and evening working on official state papers in the seclusion of his study.

June 26.—PRESIDENT Marcos directs the immediate implementation of a deportation order against two aliens for having extorted money from Chinese businessmen in different parts of the country.

The President issues the directive upon representations made by Ambassador Han Lih-wu, envoy of the Republic of China to the Philippines, and officials of the Federation of Chinese Chambers of Commerce.

Ordered deported are Lu Ka Ik alias Felix Lu and Cheng Tian Lin alias Thomas Cheng Tian Lin. They were found to have extorted from Chinese businessmen a total of P240,000 in Davao City, P16,000 in Zamboanga City and P18,000 in Jolo, Sulu.

The President orders Commissioner of Immigration Samuel F. Reyes to deport the aliens on the first available plane to Taiwan or China.

In the morning, the President boards a helicopter to Camp Olivas, San Fernando, Pampanga where he discusses with provincial and municipal executives, military zone and provincial commanders the Huk problem and the various programs of the administration designed to check the resurgence of activities of dissidents in Central Luzon.

The President leaves Malacañang 8:30 a.m. accompanied by Defense Undersecretaries Alfonso Arellano and Manuel B. Syquiao, Ernesto Maceda, presidential assistant on community development, Health Secretary Paulino Garcia and Brig. Gen. Segundo Velasco, and arrives 30 minutes later in San Fernando.

Right after receiving the honors, the President is closeted with top defense officials, who gives him a briefing on the extent of Huk activity and the over-all peace and order situation in Central Luzon.

The President spends three hours in frank discussions with governor, other provincial and municipal mayors from Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga and Bulacan, on the Huk activities as well as the problem of cattle rusting.

Following the discussion, the President inducts the officers of the Pampanga Mayors' League.

Then after the induction rites, the President returns to Malacañang arriving there at 3:30 p.m.

In the evening, the President hears mass with members of his family at the Palace chapel.

June 27.—THE President suspends the issuance of licenses to new insurance companies as he ordered tighter control of insurance operations in the face of irregularities in bail bonds which have contributed to the encouragement of crime.

The directives are relayed to the insurance commissioner, who was also required to investigate the bail bonding operations of insurance firms, with a view to cancelling the licenses of those firms unable to meet their obligations.

The President takes this step in an attempt to stop the malpractice of insurance companies with scarce financial resources who indiscriminately put up bail for large sums, then fail to settle up when those bailed out disappear. The practice has been extremely costly to the government in defaulted payments.

His attention is called to this laxity in government supervision of insurance companies, during the recent anti-crime conference in Malacañang. This revelation followed closely the reports that millions of pesos were lost to the government in customs surety bonds, when insurance companies guaranteeing the bonds pleaded insolvency.

A parallel is pointed out in the bail bond operations for persons charged with felonies, where insurance companies are quick to put up bail, thus liberating criminals from police custody. Then when the bail is forfeited by the disappearance of the persons charged, or because of violations of the bail regulations, the insurance companies involved cannot make good the bonds.

He instructs the insurance commissioner that he should supervise more strictly the operations of insurance companies, with emphasis on curbing shady bail bond practices.

At the same time, the President orders armed forces authorities to immediately implement his order to screen the personnel of the Philippine Constabulary to improve the quality of the force.

The President directs that the screening of the PC soldiers in the Central Luzon area be given top priority, pointing out that any abuses or misconduct on their part would adversely affect the civic action programs of the administration for the region.

The Chief Executive's order for the screening of the constabulary soldiers is a reiteration of a directive, issued earlier by him for the weeding out of undesirable elements in police agencies, both national and local, to bolster the peace and order drive.

In reiterating the order, the President states:

"Any injustice committed now by any soldier can be blown up into a big cause for lack of confidence, not only in the armed forces, but in the government."

"Hence, the armed forces should screen its personnel immediately and remove those who should be removed," the President says.

With barely two weeks before the opening of school, the President reviews the progress made so far in the prefabricated school building program.

He confers with Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco on the matter of financing the program. After meeting the budget commissioner this morning the President orders the release of P1.5 million to hasten the construction of the units earmarked for distribution this school year.

In the afternoon, the President receives another honorary doctorate degree this time from the Philippine Women's University.

He is likewise the principal speaker at the rites inaugurating Helen Z. Benitez as President of the Philippine Women's University.

In his extemporaneous speech, the President calls on the centers of thought, the universities, to help bring to fulfillment the revolution of great expectation which he said is manifested in the nation today.

"It is only in the universities," the President avers, "that there can be an objective appraisal of the problems of the nation," and it is only through scholarship that there can be a serious study made of these problems free of partisan influence.

He declares that the PWU is in a position of leadership, because it is a center of learning for Filipino women, and "women are soul and heart of a nation."

The nation, therefore, he stresses, looks to the PWU for the soul of the Filipino race, not only because it is a Women's university but because of its achievements in molding Filipino women and its tradition of leadership in national affairs.

"We are determined as a nation," the Chief Executive points out, "to correct the mistakes and abuses of the past," and to prove true to the expectations of the leaders who went before, "those who had hoped that the generations following them will seek to attain national objectives with the power of God had given them."

On the challenge of the PWU president for the nation to create an academic consortium, the President states that such a movement is now shaping up with a base of 300 men and women from the academic community, at the University of the Philippines.

June 28.—TAKING note of continuing reports of overloading – and in consideration of numerous incidents in the past where overloaded vessels floundered or sank causing the death of passengers and crewmen, President Marcos takes a crackdown on overloading of passengers by interisland vessels with a strong directive to the commissioner of customs and the Philippine Navy command to prosecute government personnel involved in this irregularity and to cancel the licenses of overloaded vessels.

Long considered as one of the black marks against local shipping, the overloading of coastwise vessels has been the target of public criticism over the years. But the connivance between customs personnel and shipping operators has made possible the continuance of the practice.

In his directive, the President mentions the fact that his collusion has become so brazen that it is often conducted openly. Such an incident, in the port of Catbalogan City is pointed out by the President, wherein many people witnessed customs officials bargaining with shippers on the amount of the bribe.

In view of this, the President instructs the customs commissioner to "exercise the strictest supervision to prevent the overloading of interisland vessels." He requires the customs chief to "insure that customs employees involved in this venality are immediately suspended and administratively or criminally charged."

His instructions to the navy is to make a headcount of passengers leaving or entering ports, in Manila and elsewhere, and recommend the cancellation of licenses of vessels violating the regulations against overloading.

At the same time, the President gives the go-signal for the department of national defense to proceed with the recruitment of additional men for the Philippine Constabulary and the armed Forces Engineer Corps.

Under the plan, the present strength of the PC, about 16,000 men and officers, will be increased by some 1,000 men. According to military estimates, the constabulary command has to have at least 25,000 men to effectively cope with its mission of maintaining peace and order.

The President spends the whole day and night working on state papers in the seclusion of his study.

June 29.—DECLARING that “deportees must be made to feel that they cannot defy Philippine laws at will,” President Marcos orders the detention of Ang Cho Kio and directs the Department of Justice to look into the possibility of making the alien deportee serve the mandatory portion of his prison term, after which he should be immediately deported.

Ang Cho Kio was sentenced to life imprisonment for the slaying of the co-pilot and purser of a Philippine Air Lines plane which he hijacked and tried to bring to Red China in 1952, arrive in Manila last Sunday under the assumed name of Ang Ming Huy.

The Chinese was pardoned by the then President Garcia in 1959 on the condition that he should never return to the Philippines. His presence here broke such condition. He was nabbed by immigration authorities in a hotel in Parañaque, Rizal and is now under detention by the bureau of immigration on Engineer Island.

Ang claimed another identity, saying he was a businessman on his way to the United States. He was scheduled to leave by plane this morning but had stayed over following up a petition for the extension on his stay to 14 days.

He made headlines in 1952 when he shot and killed Capt. Pedro Perlas and Eduardo Diego, co-pilot and purser, respectively, of the PAL plane. The plane was intercepted by Nationalist planes and forced to land on Quemoy where Ang was nabbed and turned over to the Philippine Government. He was tried for murder, attempted homicide, coercion and illegal possession of firearms and sentenced to life imprisonment.

However, in 1959, after serving over six years of his term, he was granted by then President Garcia on condition that he be deported to China and that he was never to return to the Philippines.

The President flies in the morning to Tacloban City to join the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, who went to that city as guest of honor at the provincial kick-off ceremony for the “*Alay Kay Magsaysay*.”

He leaves Manila at 8:30 a.m. and arrives there at 10:15, or 15 minutes after the arrival of the First Lady. He is met at the airport by the First Lady at the head of large welcoming delegation of her province mates.

At 11:30 a.m., the President officiates at the inauguration of the House of Refreshments at the city’s children’s playground. Then he addresses the executive seminar for barrio captains which were being held at Tacloban.

In his brief remarks to the barrio captains the President appeals for their support in the tremendous job of nation building. He states the help of the rural leaders was essential, pointing out that nation building must draw support from the rural community and leadership.

“Without your support and cooperation,” he says, “the national leadership cannot hope to succeed.”

He concludes that it is necessary for the nation to remember the greatness of its heroes.

From there, he motors to Tolosa, Leyte, the hometown of the First Lady. He arrives there after a 45-minutes motor ride.

June 30.—IN Tolosa, Leyte, the President focuses his attention on the problems of the fishing industry and in the process orders the National Bureau of Investigation to probe the illegal sale of chloride to dynamite fishermen.

The Chief Executive directs the NBI to ascertain the extent of the illegal trade in the chemical, the quantity of the supply, and its uses.

He likewise orders Justice Undersecretary Claudio Teehankee to prepare an order to be issued by the President regulating the possession and the sale of the chemical to fishermen who can convert it into explosive for dynamite fishing purposes.

In his directive, the President orders Col. Vicente Raval, Third PC zone commander, to hold the chemical which was earlier impounded, although Cebu City Judge Maambun had ordered its release. He says the government will appeal the decision of the city court.

Raval is also ordered by the President to hold the release of 325 big barrels of potassium chloride belonging to a Chinese businessman identified as Joaquin Ventura, pending verification of the ownership and the case of the chemicals.

At the same time, the President issues a proclamation declaring Friday, July 1, as a special public holiday in the provinces of Cotabato, Lanao del Sur, Lanao del Norte and Sulu, and the cities of Basilan, Cotabato, Ilagan and Marawi.

The Chief Executive proclaims the special holiday in connection with the Muslim feast of *Mauleed-en-Nabi*, an important Muslim feast.

He states he would like to give Muslim Filipinos ample opportunity to observe the feast day with appropriate ceremonies.

Muslim officials and employees, both of the national and local governments, stationed in provinces other than those mentioned in the proclamation will be exempted from their duties this feast day which will be considered a holiday insofar as they are concerned.

Source: Supreme Court Library

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1966). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 62(31), cclxi-cclxxvii.

President's Month in Review: July, 1966

President's Month in Review: August 1-15, 1966

President's Week in Review: August 16-31, 1966

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

August 16.—THE Chief Executive tackles a variety of state matters ranging from the urgent need to complete National Waterworks and Sewerage Authority projects to head off another water shortage in Greater Manila next summer, to the promotion of local science and technology.

In the morning, the President discusses with Rep. Andres Cosalan of Mt. Province the implementation of Republic Act No. 4695, enacted during the regular session of the Sixth Congress, which divides Mt. Province into four provinces.

He orders Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas to prepare the appointments of officials proposed for the new provinces of Benguet, Ifugao and Kalinga-Apayao.

Then the President meets members of the House of committee on appropriations who discussed with him the proposed supplementary budget totaling more than ₱100-million for schools, hospitals, and rural health centers.

In the afternoon, the President receives NAWASA general Manager Antonio Menor who reported on the problems of the firm in its efforts to avoid a repetition of the acute water shortage which hit Manila and suburbs last summer.

He authorizes the firm to procure the pipes needed to complete the projects through negotiated sales, in view of the injunctions that have delayed procurement of these materials through public bidding.

He also directs the state water firm to purchase directly its requirements through reparations, after proper representations and agreements between the Philippines and Japan.

During their talks, the President instructs the NAWASA that "henceforth, you shall blacklist, in all government contracts, any contractor who has unreasonably delayed the execution of NAWASA projects financed by loans from the World Bank through such tactics as injunctions designed to harass or misrepresentations made before courts of law."

The state water firm's projects have been suspended since November, 1964, because of various delaying tactics of disgruntled contractors or of the mismanagement of the loans obtained for the purpose by the past administration.

August 17.—TAKING steps to solve the problem of police abuses on the nation's highways which have victimized truck drivers and other motorists, President Marcos orders the disbandment of police officers and special agents working without compensation.

In calling for the dissolution of all "special policemen" the President points out that the actual order disbanding these functionaries was issued as far back as April 13, 1960, when Malacañang issued a provincial circular to all provincial, city and municipal executives to this effect.

The Chief Executive in his present directive declares that the "present and past, performances" of these peace officers "leave much to be desired."

He underlines the many indiscretions committed by the said special law enforcement officers, including exploitation by politicians, local vested interests, and on their own initiative involvement with cases of mulcting, extortion and abuse of authority.

He orders the Philippine Constabulary to arrest within 30 days after receipt of his order all such personnel still in harness and confiscate their firearms and prosecute them for "usurpation of authority, illegal possession of firearms" or other violations of the law.

At the same time, the President gives new impetus to the current campaign against corruption in public office, this time focusing on the Rice and Corn Administration, which he ordered to weed out undesirable employees.

In his memorandum to RCA Administrator Osmundo Mondoñedo, the President also specifies the trimming down of RCA personnel to the minimum, in line with the administration policy of fiscal restraint.

He orders Mondoñedo to screen the officials and employees of the RCA and weed out” all those involved in irregularities.

The President issues the order following reports of various venalities committed by certain personnel of the rice and corn agency, some of which date years back.

He added that it was high time the RCA, which plays a crucial role in public welfare, should be rid of the incompetents, the corrupt, and those who utilize their office for selfish ends.

The President spends the whole day closeted in his study working on official papers.

August 18.—PRESIDENT Marcos calls for the listing of all naturalized Filipinos and aliens found guilty of violating Philippine laws, with a view to initiating deportation proceedings against them. In several directives, the President orders:

1. The Internal Revenue and Customs commissioners to submit within 15 days to the Commissioner of Immigration the names of all aliens and naturalized Filipinos guilty of tax evasion, along with the records of the cases filed against them.
2. The Director of Forestry to submit to the Commissioner of Immigration within 15 days, the names of aliens and naturalized Filipinos guilty of illegal logging, unlawful exportation of logs, and other violations of forestry laws and regulations, along with the records of these cases.
3. The Deportation Board to immediately initiate deportation proceedings against these individuals upon receipt of the records of violations and decisions.
4. The Bureau of Immigration to take “a more active, positive and decisive action in these and similar matters.”

The President issues the directives in the light of the Supreme Court decision divesting Ernesto Ting and Francisco Co Keng, both naturalized Filipinos, of Philippine citizenship for infractions of the country’s laws.

At the same time, the President further tightens effective control of watercraft plying Philippine waters by setting the rules and regulations to govern the design, speed, color and identification of these vessels.

He seeks better control of domestic watercraft also in connection with the anti-smuggling drive, following instances where boats used by smugglers were observed to have copied the color and silhouette of Philippine naval units.

The President also orders the arrest and deportation of O Liam alias Pio Chua, a Chinese national, as an undesirable alien on recommendation of the Deportation Board headed by Undersecretary Claudio Teehankee.

It is found out that Liam violated the condition set by the Deportation Board by reporting once on May 31, 1965, and since then failing to appear before the National Bureau of Investigation.

President Marcos again gives priority this day to legislative matter as he closely followed developments in Congress, currently on its third special session, as it considered various Administration measures held vital to the welfare and growth of the country. In order to attend to this task, the President receives only a few callers.

In the morning, Frank Sobieralski, managing director for operations of the Electric Bond and Share Company of New York, who arrived in Manila recently to survey investment possibilities in this country, calls on the President to pay his respects.

Accompanied by Rep. Antonio V. Raquiza of Ilocos Norte and Jesus T. Quiambao, local representative of the New York firm, Sobieralski informs the President that his company has set aside some \$300-million for investments abroad.

The President tells Sobieralski to feel free to call on any government agency or official for any assistance or information he may require in the course of his survey tour of the country.

In the afternoon, the President confers with Vice President Fernando Lopez, concurrently Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Undersecretary Dioscoro Umali. The two officials report on their recent trip to Central Luzon to check on the progress of the administration's development program in the area.

Vice President Lopez reports to the President that all representatives of various government agencies engaged in the implementation of the program to improve social conditions in the region have made appreciable gains in their assigned tasks.

Meanwhile, President Marcos leads the nation in paying tribute to President Quezon.

In a message issued on the eve of President Manuel L. Quezon's 88th birth anniversary, the President calls on the people to keep faith with the ideals and principles set by President Quezon, which he said point the way to national greatness.

He notes that Quezon opened "new frontiers of government action" by establishing for all times the "Filipino commitment to freedom and nationalism," and the fiery leader of the Philippine Commonwealth initiated government reforms at the grass roots, which today still guide the programs of the national government.

August 19.—AFTER persistent representations from various sectors— including senators and congressmen, the President orders the weeding out of corrupt employees in the Rice and Corn Administration who were involved in any irregularities, including electioneering for any political party in the last elections.

President Marcos calls for this further action in addition to the charges already filed by the RCA against employees found to have illegal profits from fictitious purchase of cereal estimated in the amount of ₱50-million.

The President also sets the minimum charge of ten centavos for the transmission of complaints and grievances of citizens to the Land Authority governor, in connection with the implementation of the land reform program.

The minimum charge of ten centavos will apply to wires or other telegraphic services sent through or rendered by the bureau of telecommunications.

He declares that because of the importance of the land reform program, and due to the "manifold problems" that may be encountered in implementing it, it was essential for the proper authorities to pay the closest attention to any complaints or grievances from the public.

The benefits from the program, he adds, can only be fully realized if the government sector diligently attended to all the complexities involved.

Taking a breather from the daily stream of palace callers and official conferences, the President confines himself to his study where he worked on state papers, and went over preparations for the state visit to the United States and Japan.

In the morning, he starts his paperwork after playing a round of golf at the Malacañang Park.

In the afternoon, the President receives Ramon Nolan of the Sugar Quota Administration, who just returned from the U.S. Nolan reports to the President on his trip.

August 20.—THE Chief Executive submit a list of the sons of prominent families facing criminal charges to the Department of Justice with specific instructions to take a direct hand in prosecuting the cases.

The list contains some 20 names, and was furnished by Brig. Gen. Ricardo Papa, chief of police of Manila, at the request of the President.

The President orders the Department of Justice to pursue the cases with an eye to a speedy conclusion of each, even to the extent of dismissing or prosecuting in turn police officers or other government functionaries responsible for obstructing the course of justice.

In his directive, the President states that “I am certain many other similar cases all over the country involving sons of prominent families have been suspiciously dismissed, or are pending in court” under the same cloud of doubt.

He tells the Justice Department that “I cannot overemphasize to you the necessity for the speedy disposition of these cases, if only to prove to the people that under this administration, equality before the law is not an empty constitutional precept of our democracy.”

The President focuses his attention on official reports submitted to him by the different departments and agencies of the government, and other pressing matters.

Among such reports are those from the Department of National Defense on the Huk situation; from Secretary Ernesto Maceda of the Presidential Arm for Community Development on the Central Luzon Civic action program; and from Secretary of Finance Eduardo Z. Romualdez on the anti-smuggling campaign.

The President spends the rest of the day at work in the seclusion of his study.

In the evening, the President attends the sixth biennial convention of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in Mandaluyong, Rizal.

In his address, the President declares that the administration will be guided by fairness and justice in dealing with all citizens of the country and foreign nationals.

He at the same time warns, that he will not hesitate to deport or strip any Chinese found violating Philippine Laws.

The President recalls that he had ordered the deportation board to initiate deportation proceedings against Chinese tax evaders and those violating forestry laws and regulations.

He reveals that he observed that all of the reports he had received concerning trade, commerce and smuggling violations as well as of those regarding exploitation of natural resources, show that Chinese are among the offenders.

He appeals to the Chinese community here to cooperate in the enforcement of laws, in respecting the laws of the land, in the prosecution of government drives against crime and smuggling.

August 21.—THE President indicates that he will press for the prosecution of all parties responsible for mismanagement of projects under foreign loans, even as he took steps to expedite completion of said projects.

Taking note of reports that the World Bank and the Export-Import Bank were dissatisfied with the work on projects, and would withhold the unreleased balances of said loans because of this, the President:

1. Orders the director of the Civil Aeronautics Administration (CAA) to pinpoint responsibility for the failure to utilize as prescribed the \$5.6 million loan extended by the Export-Import Bank in 1962 for the installation of navigational aids;
2. Asks the Secretary of Public Works to submit the names of parties responsible for the poor utilization of seven dredges obtained through World Bank loans.

The unsatisfactory use of the navigational aids and dredges was among the instances cited by the international financing institution to the technical panel the President had sent to the United States to explore possibilities for additional foreign financing of the country's development program. The panel had been told that the equipment for navigational facilities had never been installed although delivered long ago, while seven big dredging machines are now in a state of deterioration for lack of use.

As a result of this negligence, the President says, the World Bank has expressed to the Philippine government reluctance to recommend further loans to this country.

Another case cited by the Export-Import Bank was the construction of Piers 5 and 15 at the South Harbour, programmed to be completed in 1962 and 1963.

At the same time, the President instructs the bureau of forestry to do the scaling of logs for exports itself, averring that the past practice of allowing exporters to scale the logs was irregular.

The President disputes the validity of the excuse given by the bureau of forestry, to the effect that lack of bureau personnel had made it necessary to harness log exporters' scalers to do the job themselves.

It is held that loggers who scale their own logs have been under-scaling their exports for many years now, as borne out by discrepancies in revenue.

The President states that personnel unwilling to work in the provinces as scalers should be replaced immediately with people amenable to the assignment.

The President spend a relatively quiet day this day working most of the time on official papers in his private study.

In the morning, the President receives Secretary of Education Carlos P. Romulo, who took up with him the proposed Philippine Health Science Center in Diliman, Quezon City. Secretary Romulo is the only caller received by the President.

As envisioned by Secretary Romulo, the Center will unite in one complex on the Diliman campus in Quezon City the U.P. colleges of medicine, pharmacy and dentistry, nursing and other schools giving courses in allied professions, including a 500-bed teaching hospital.

The plan calls for a P50 million appropriation over a period of five years, at P10 million a year.

August 22.—THE President orders a general revamp of offices closely linked to the implementation of the administration's development program, notably the bureaus and agencies under the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

In addition, the President directs that all officials and employees found to have been negligent in the implementation of projects under foreign loans, as well as in the utilization of equipment procured under these loans, should be immediately suspended, and the offices concerned also reorganized.

The revamp is ordered to make the agencies and offices concerned more effective in implementing the development program of the administration. Among the entities initially affected are the National Irrigation Administration, the bureau of public works, and the Civil Aeronautics Administration.

The reforms envisioned are designed to upgrade the efficiency of the administrative machinery of the program, to make it more responsive to the needs of each projects.

President Marcos confers with top officials on pressing government matters, and receives ranking foreign dignitaries who came on formal calls, while attending to both routine and special matters in the usual crowded way of the Presidency.

In the morning, the President meets with Commerce Undersecretary Fernando Campos regarding the Philippine participation in the World Fair to be held in Bangkok from November 17 to December 10, this year.

In the afternoon, the President receives U.S. Ambassador William McCormick Blair, Jr. Ambassador Blair returns from a four-week tour abroad a few days ago.

In the evening, the President meets with top brass of the Department of National Defense and various military services for a regular briefing on current matters involving these organizations.

August 23.—MEETING some members of his cabinet to assess the H-fever threat, and the progress of various development programs the President orders the release of P100,000 from the contingent funds to meet emergency needs of public hospitals in meeting the increasing incidence of the disease.

During the meeting, the President directs Secretary of Health Paulino Garcia to prepare a hospital development program with an eye to encouraging specially the private sector to participate in a long-range program for a more extensive health program.

To support the program, the President asks Reparations Chairman Gregorio Abad to include in the 11th year reparations schedule \$2 million worth of hospital equipment, with special attention given to requirements of provincial and other rural hospitals. This equipment will include mobile-laboratories to serve rural communities.

Following the meeting, the President receives the credentials of the Malaysian ambassador to the Philippines, H. E. Tan Sri Abdul Hamid Bin Haji Jumat.

During the presentation rites, the President invites the Federation of Malaysia to “pick up the threads of their common heritage and resume the close intercourse (with the Philippines) which marked the reign of their ancient datus, rajahs and sultans.”

Saying that the “goals of our two countries transcend common ethnic origins to find realization in wider regional collaboration,” the President declares that “this is the most significant historical event of our times—the metamorphosis of Asian nationalism into Asian regionalism.”

The Philippines and Malaysia resumed their diplomatic relations last June 3, after almost three years of diplomatic break since the formation of the Federation of Malaysia from the original states of Malaya, Singapore, and the North Borneo state of Sabah to which the Philippines has territorial claim.

In his statement, the Malaysian envoy notes “with deep satisfaction the achievements resulting from the close working relations between our two countries and with our sister country, Thailand, in the economic, cultural and social fields.”

Ambassador Abdul Hamid adds that these factors contribute to the “growing awareness among Southeast Asian countries of the value and importance of regional cooperation.”

In the afternoon, the President visits the San Lazaro Hospital on Tayuman, Sta. Cruz, Manila to check on mounting cases of H-fever, and conditions in the hospital.

In the course of his visit, the President issue the following directives and instructions to Secretary of Health Garcia:

1. To request the SEATO for the loan of an expert on H-fever.
2. To instruct all government hospitals and doctors to pay special attention to suspect H-fever cases and intensify the educational and information campaign on the prevention of the disease. He specifies that this drive be undertaken immediately, and spread as widely as possible.

He also asks all medical practitioners in the country, and professional groups, to rally to the government effort to check the spread of H-fever.

Meantime, the President invites local business leaders to join in the effort to tap available foreign capital for investment in the Philippines.

The President states that the administration was ready to provide incentives for the entry of foreign investment capital in the Philippines.

He urges local businessmen “to communicate directly with possible foreign investors and invite them to invest in appropriate projects in the Philippines.”

He asks the businessmen to join a group of business leaders constituted by the President, which is scheduled to leave for the United States, Europe and Japan to contact possible investors.

Among the incentives held out by the President are the following:

1. Remittance of profit at the free rate of exchange.
2. Entry of technical, managerial personnel who may remain until Filipino citizens are ready to take over.
3. Amortization of capital.

He likewise bares that he was establishing an investment center directly within his office in order to cut red tape and enable him to act on investment offers with dispatch.

August 24.—WITH the trimming down of the powers of the Presidential Agency on Reforms and Government Operations (PARGO) to investigations of purely anti-graft cases, President Marcos directs the agency to turn over immediately cases outside of this area to other government agencies with proper jurisdiction over them.

President Marcos also asks the PARGO to expedite the disposition of cases it is authorized to investigate, saying that further delay would be bad for the public service.

In his directive, the President specifies that the PARGO should turn over the following cases to the bureau of customs: Gonzalo Sy Trading, the Goodwill Valley Industrial Garments Manufacturing, the Carlos Lim, and the Valley Industries Co., Inc. These cases are to be turned over to the customs bureau, since they involve violations of tariff and customs laws.

The case of Chua Tak Tiok will be turned over to the National Bureau of Investigation, and that of the Pepsi Cola Bottling Company to the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the President further orders.

In its latest report, the PARGO declares that it has been proving into 48 cases. These are the cases the President asked the agency to finish as soon as possible, in order that the public service will not suffer further from the stigma that these instances of graft and corruption have brought on it.

He issues the directive so that the presidential investigating arm will not run the risk of public suspicion while at the same time giving it more opportunity to delve deeper into irregularities and malfeasance in government.

At the same time, the President orders the bureau of immigration to inquire fully into reports of irregularities in the documentation of deceased aliens, and to deal properly with any immigration personnel involved in the case.

The President takes note of the practice of certain foreigners temporarily residing here to hide the deaths of compatriots and instead substitute illegal entrants for those already deceased, to avail of identification papers and other requirements.

He raps the bureau of immigration for not sooner delving deeper into this venality, when the practice has been “common knowledge” for a long time.

The President adds that a sensitive office such as the immigration bureau should remove personnel who lend themselves to chicanery, in the same way that the government desires to “get rid of undesirable aliens.”

Specially noted by the President is the “very low incidence of deaths of aliens in the country, particularly among Chinese nationals.”

This had led to the conclusion that foreigners without proper papers take the place of demised compatriots, in order that they may get the proper documentation for staying on in this country.

President Marcos likewise issue two proclamations declaring a special public holiday in the towns of Noveleta, Cavite and San Juan, Rizal to commemorate” the 70th year of these towns’ uprising against the Spanish government.

The proclamations, numbered 90 and 91, declare respectively August 31 a special public holiday in Noveleta, and August 29 a special public holiday in San Juan.

In issuing the twin proclamations, the President notes that it was on August 31 that the people of Noveleta “rose in revolt against Spanish domination” 70 years ago; while August 29 marks “the 70th anniversary of the *Battle of Pinaglabanan*, an important event in our struggle for freedom” which he added is of special significance to the residents of San Juan where the battle took place.

The Chief Executive limits his activities this day to private conferences with, close aides, on some urgent problems.

The few people who meets the President included Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas, Press Secretary Jose D. Aspiras, and Presidential Assistant Jaime Ferrer.

In the afternoon at the *Pangarap* guesthouse, the President receive Roberto Villanueva and Washington Sycip who informed the Chief Executive that they will soon leave to attend a business conference in Honolulu. They are among those asked by the President to go to either the United States, Japan or Europe to sound out foreign investors interested in investing in the Philippines especially in the economic development projects.

August 25.—IN view of the pressing need to improve the peace and order situation in the country, the President instructs the chief of the Philippine Constabulary to restrict the activities of the Criminal Investigation Service to the anti-crime and peace and order drives of the government.

He asks Brig. Gen. Segundo Velasco, PC chief, to channel the energies of the CIS purely to the solution of crimes, in order “to enhance peace and order.”

In this connection, the President notes that the CIS has been investigating businessmen and private firms, which he said is extraneous to its prescribed duties. He stresses that the investigative arm of the constabulary would be of greater service if it concentrated on furthering the campaign against crime and criminals.

The President's directive is in line with his desire to increase the efficiency and effectivity of various investigative offices of the government by confining them to the specific tasks they have been charged to do.

At the same time, the President, upon being informed of a bumper corn harvest in Mindanao, directs the Budget Commission to release P4-million to the Rice and Corn Administration to finance the agency's purchase of the cereal.

RCA Administrator Osmundo Mondoñedo reports to the President that production of corn in Mindanao, particularly in Cotabato, was bigger than expected, causing the corn price to slide below P13 per cavan. He adds that despite the activities of 16 mobile buying teams in Mindanao, the RCA could not purchase all the corn crops offered by farmers in the area.

The release of P4-million to the RCA will provide sufficient funds for the unexpectedly expanded buying program of the RCA in Mindanao, because of the bumper crop in corn.

The President orders the RCA to step up its buying operations.

The approaching departure of President Marcos for the United States on the scheduled state visit has caused him to give practically more and more time to the consideration of the various problems he can take up with Washington D. C. leaders, as evidenced by his closed-door sessions this day with separate officials.

One of the officials he had a long consultation with is Col. Nilo de Guia, chief of the Civil Aeronautics Administration, on the needs and problems of the agency, specifically in its efforts to improve and modernize local airport facilities.

The CAA has long been considered by the President for rehabilitation and improvement, and the discussions held with De Guia are aimed at ascertaining its immediate needs towards this much desired updating and upgrading of facilities.

In the same way, the President, as in the last few days, meet such other officials as could be accommodated into his usually full schedule, to similarly discuss individual problems of their offices, with a view to assessing the opportunities for getting firsthand information in the United States as to what can be produced there to help expedite the improvement of these agencies for greater effectiveness.

Otherwise, the Chief Executive this day has his full quota of state matters to consider and act on, notably in three areas of government concern; the anti-crime drive, food production and supply, and the anti-smuggling campaign.

August 26.—PRESIDENT Marcos relates his requirement that consular invoices must first be presented before imported goods are released by the bureau of customs.

The Chief Executive accedes to the request of the Association of Customs Brokers, led by Pedro C. Sales, to allow the filing of bank guarantees for the release of goods from other ports pending submission of the consular invoices.

The requirement on consular invoices was imposed last month as part of the measures to curb technical smuggling.

Sales, in his letter to the President, states that while the customs brokers association believes the President's earlier order to be essential, it requested a reconsideration insofar as importations coming from the United States, European countries and Japan are concerned, on the following grounds:

1. Consular invoices are very much delayed in transmission because of the inability of our consulate abroad to issue the same with dispatch. Importations coming from Japan require two or three weeks waiting period from the date of the shipment's arrival in Manila before release because of the delayed consular invoices.

2. Delay in delivery of mails

3. It has been the practice in the past, sanctioned by law, to allow the filing of entry, even without the consular invoice, upon posting of a bond of guarantee the submittal of the invoice and to pay the corresponding surcharges in case of failure to do so.

The President acts favorably on the brokers' request after Customs Commissioner Jacinto Gavino endorsed it, saying that the proposal would prevent serious congestion at the piers, which in turn would result in decreased customs revenue.

Commissioner Gavino recommends that importers and their brokers be allowed to file bank guarantees in favor of the Customs bureau in an amount not exceeding 50 per cent of the duties and taxes due on the importations, as securities for the submission of the invoices later.

At the same time, the President issues a proclamation declaring Tuesday, August 30, a special public holiday in Bulacan province.

The President issues the proclamation in order to afford the people of the province an opportunity to celebrate the 116th anniversary of the birth of Marcelo H. del Pilar with appropriate ceremonies.

Del Pilar, the Filipino hero and patriot, who went under the pen name "Plaridel" in his fight for reforms in the Philippines during the Spanish regime, was born in Bulacan, Bulacan, on August 30, 1850.

In the morning, the President gives priority to legislative matters, and meet with some members of Congress on measures still awaiting action by both Houses in the current special session (third).

Following his meeting with some congressmen, the President discusses the preparation of the 11th year schedule of reparations from Japan with Reparations Chairman Gregorio Abad.

August 27.—THE Chief Executive orders the court-martial of five non-commissioned constabulary officers escorting Lino Bocalan at the time the latter descended on a control point in Panamitan, Kawit Cavite two weeks ago with other armed men.

Ordered to stand army trial are T/Sgt. Teodoro Mendoz, T/Sgt. Daniel Salamanca, Cpl. Ermelo Sotto, and Cpl. Ramon Corpuz. The Pfc a retired armed forces soldier is identified as MP Sgt. Cipriano Marasigan.

Investigation conducted by the Department of Justice and the Philippine Constabulary, upon instruction of the President, discloses that on the afternoon of August 14, Pfc. Rolando Memita was manning the control point in barrio Panamitan when a car owned by a sister of Bocalan, Mrs. Lucia Bocalan Calixto, came along.

The PC trooper stopped the car and requested Bocalan's sister to submit for inspection a bundle she was holding and to open the rear compartment of the car also for inspection which was a routine procedure at the check point.

In reply to Memita's request, the woman lambasted the trooper, which made him call up the 137th headquarters and request for an investigator.

Not long after, five cars bearing Bocalan and some armed men arrived. Bocalan inquired into the incident between his sister and the PC soldier.

Investigation further disclosed that the armed men with Bocalan advanced menacingly on Pfc. Memita, who backed up and brought his carbine at ready position to defend himself.

In their report to the President Undersecretary of Justice Claudio Teehankee and PC Chief Brig. Gen. Segundo Velasco said the conduct of Bocalan and his henchmen “demonstrated a scandalous show of force to assault or intimidate a sentry on duty.”

At the same time, the President orders the relief of Lt. Cesar Nazareno, commander of the 90th P. C. company in Pagadian, Zamboanga del Sur, for selling smuggled cigarettes in violation of existing regulations.

The President also orders the filing of court-martial charges against Nazareno.

Lt. Nazareno was reported to have been selling smuggled blue seal cigarettes seized by his unit.

The President spends most of his time in his private study browsing over a pile of state papers brought to him by aides for action.

August 28.—THE President dismisses a provincial fiscal and an assistant provincial fiscal on grounds of dishonesty, misconduct, and dereliction of duty while prosecuting a smuggling case.

Ordered dismissed are Fiscal Juan Salazar and Assistant Fiscal Eliezer Tengco, both of Laguna.

The charges against the two fiscal arises from the loss of 7,600 cartons of confiscated blue seal cigarettes, which were held as evidence in a smuggling case.

At the same time, the President directs the chief of the Philippine Constabulary to place under PC control immediately the provincial jail of Zamboanga del Sur and investigate the warden for allowing prisoners to build fishpond for private parties.

The President asks that the PC probe the warden at once, identified in the report only as Capt. Dalina, with an eye to administrative charges or possible criminal prosecution.

In other directives issued this day, the President directs Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas to:

1. Study the feasibility of exempting embroidery workers, particularly those who do piece work, from coming under the minimum wage law;
2. Prod the Department of Foreign Affairs into expediting negotiations with Malaysia for cooperation in the anti-smuggling drive so that Philippine Navy patrol boats may operate in North Borneo waters;
3. Ask Presidential Assistant Jose Nable on Housing to study slum problems in Manila and suburbs;
4. Inform farmers in General Santos, Cotabato, through the Agricultural Productivity Commission, not to sell their lands because of the banana project to be set up in that area which will be beneficial to them;
5. Study through the Presidential Economic Staff the proposed acquisition of real estate by the land bank, recommend to the secretary of finance reactivation of the position of customs attache; and study the bill declaring certain municipalities created by executive orders as duly constituted municipalities.

The President devotes the rest of the day going over preparations for his forthcoming state visit to the United States and Japan.

August 29.—PRESIDENT Marcos seeks to harness the country's ambassadors abroad to the effort of tapping all possible sources for loans to finance the administration's development program.

The President discusses the projects with Secretary of Foreign Affairs Narciso Ramos.

The President likewise receives the preliminary report of Secretary Ramos on his recent trip to Indonesia, during which he conveyed the greetings of President Sukarno and Prime Minister Suharto of Indonesia.

Ramos informs the President of the proposed plan for the disposition of the \$28 million education fund, created out of the balance of \$37 million paid out by the United States government in war claim to the Philippines.

The President instructs Ramos to utilize the services of Filipino envoys abroad in searching out all possible sources of loans in Europe and the Americas as well as other investment-rich countries, to supplement other efforts now being organized by the administration to obtain financing for the nation's economic development program.

In the evening, the President attends the inauguration and blessing of the Marcelo Wire Rod Mill as special guest and speaker.

In his extemporaneous remarks during the inauguration ceremonies of the P50 million wire rod mill plant, the President states that "not too long from now, the Philippines will be able to catch up" with other countries in industrial development.

He says he is proud of the present generations, which includes the Marcelo industrialists in whose efforts to extend their industrial enterprises, the country has seen not only self-reliance and coincidence in their skills and abilities but also in the country's future.

The new mill will be turning out 72,000 metric tons of steel wire rod annually, while increasing the capacity of the plant to an output of 100,000 metric tons a year.

August 30.—TO clarify conflicting reports on the presence of five constabulary personnel with the Bocalan group which had an altercation with a sentry in Cavite, President Marcos calls a conference of ranking officials of the defense department and the armed forces.

The upshot of the conference is the decision of the President to continue with the court martial proceedings against the five PC personnel.

The President specifies that he had not ordered any intelligence mission for the five troopers to undertake, nor was he aware of any such mission.

He also discloses that soon after the report of the presence of the five men with the group led by Lino Bocalan, he had ordered the five PC men to be interrogated. He asks that the interrogation be continued.

He had called the conference following various reports in the press and elsewhere, which did not agree on why the five PC men now facing court martial were identified as among the armed men Bocalan led to the sentry post in Kawit, Cavite checkpoint

Some reports states that the five PC men were on an intelligence mission, to infiltrate the Bocalan organization. Other reports states that the five were working for a congressman. who is investigating smuggling activities in Cavite.

At the same time, the President asks the Secretary of Foreign Affairs to require Philippine consulates abroad to validate consular invoices of importations to the Philippines, only after the data declared therein had been previously authenticated by an impartial and reputable entity in the places of origin.

Among these entities are chambers of commerce or trade or business associations which offer price verification services at nominal or no cost to exporters.

In the afternoon, the President conferred with Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas and Commissioner Blas Ople of the Social Security System, regarding problems in their respective offices.

Meanwhile, President Marcos pays tribute to the late President Ramon Magsaysay for giving the nation a new faith in itself "at a time when it seemed to have lost confidence in its capacity and will" to fight evil.

In a message issued on the eve of the 59th birth anniversary of the late Chief Executive, the President states that Ramon Magsaysay "took over the reins of leadership with such vigor and freshness of vision that were galvanized to action."

But most of all, the President points out, the late Chief Executive reawakened in the Filipino people a concern for the common man and a sense of mission in "correcting old injustices and wrongs done to him."

"As long as we keep faith with his vision and his hope for our country," the President states, "we will not honor his memory but, in a real way, bring to fruition the tasks that he began so well."

President Marcos likewise extolls the hero, Marcelo H. del Pilar, saying that very few Filipinos had given as much as he had to the cause of freedom and nationalism.

In a message issued on the 116th birth anniversary of the hero, the President says that Del Pilar "gladly suffered imprisonment, exile and starvation so that his brethren might awake to a regime of law, justice and liberty."

The President had previously proclaimed this day, August 30, a special holiday in Ilocos to give the people of the home province an opportunity to celebrate the day with appropriate ceremonies. The President's message for the occasion follows:

"In the pantheon of Filipino heroes, Marcelo H. del Pilar occupies a central place.

"Very few have given as much as he had to the cause of Filipino freedom and nationalism. He gladly suffered imprisonment, exile and starvation so that his brethren might awake to a regime of law, justice and liberty.

"He fought tyranny, superstition, injustice with his implacable mind and pen. Not once, in his long and hazardous career as journalist and pamphleteer, did he compromise his beliefs. So firm was he in his convictions that even his enemies on his death, were moved to say: . . . Marcelo H. del Pilar as a propagandist is doubtless the greatest produced by the Tagalog race.

"On this occasion, it is most appropriate for our journalists to turn their thoughts to Del Pilar and to measure their tasks and commitments by his canons.

"The dimensions of Del Pilar's achievement should be points of reference of contemporary Philippine journalism."

August 31.—CALLING attention to reports in the Manila press indicating that certain officials had been exerting undue influence in the allocation of reparations goods, President Marcos orders the suspension of the procurement of tractors through reparations and directs Reparations Chairman Gregorio Abad to conduct an investigation into alleged irregularities in their procurement.

The President orders Chairman Abad to conduct the investigation and to suspend the procurement of tractors of the 120 and 180 horse power type in the face of an alleged controversy between two pressure groups vying for the award of the reparations items.

He also directs Undersecretary of Public Works Marciano Bautista to return to Manila at once to shed light on the reported irregularities. Bautista has been in Tokyo following up procurement of public works equipment under reparations.

“To avoid further suspicion, return to Manila immediately with latest report on your conversations with the Japanese government pertaining to Japanese loans,” the President writes in a cable to Bautista.

The President tells Chairman Abad to withhold any awards for the purchase of tractors under reparations until the department of Public Works has indicated how the tractors would be used, and thus justify their purchase under reparations.

The purchase of the equipment had been opposed especially by the Agricultural Productivity Commission, which held that they were too large and heavy to allow passage in some of the bridges.

At the same time, the President issues a proclamation declaring Friday, September 2, this year, a special public holiday in Guinobatan, Albay.

The day marks the 101st birth anniversary of General Simeon Ola y Arboleda, one of the last Filipinos to surrender during the Filipino-American war.

The Chief Executive proclaims the special holiday in Guinobatan upon the request of the towns-people who wanted to celebrate the birthday of their distinguished townmate with appropriate ceremonies.

In the morning, the President briskly receive several callers, notably United States Ambassador William M. Blair, Jr., Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, and the board of governors of the Development Bank of the Philippines headed by Chairman Gregorio Licaros.

After discussing the DBP problems, the President ask the governors to make a study of the sectors of development where foreign investments could be of greatest use to benefit the country.

Following his meeting with the DBP officials, the Chief Executive has lunch with Michael Keon, regional adviser on information for Asia and the Far East of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and other officials of the UN body.

The FAO officials is here to pave the way for the coming visit here early next month of FAO Director-General Binay Ranjan Sen.

In the evening, the President presents the 9th Ramon Magsaysay Awards to four recipients at ceremonies held at the Philam Life auditorium on United Nations Avenue.

The four Asians, who received their awards from the President are:

1. Dr. Phon Sangsingkeo of Thailand, for government service;
2. Shirmati Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay of India, for community leadership;
3. Jim Yong-Ki of Korea, for public service; and
4. Phonangkeoh Phanareth and C. Hart Schaaf in behalf of the Committee for Coordination of Investigation of the Lower Mekong Basin and cooperating entities, for international understanding.

Source: **National Library**

President's Week in Review: September 1-15, 1966

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

September 1.—PRESIDENT Marcos certifies the strike called by the National Waterworks and Sewerage Authority (NAWASA) Supervisors' Association to the Court of Industrial Relations.

The certification, as signed by the President, is a continuing one, covering all other strikes in the future based on the same points of disagreement between the striking NAWASA union and the management, and citing the same causes.

The Chief Executive states that it is imperative that the labor dispute in the NAWASA be resolved immediately such that the water agency's operations are not disrupted.

Acting Chairman-General Manager Antonio Menor of the NAWASA reports to the President that the strike was called by around 500 supervisors early this day, and that it afflicted rank and file personnel as well who chose not to cross the picket lines.

The supervisors have demanded salary increases proportionate to the increases given last November to eight NAWASA officials by the previous NAWASA board. Menor states that while he considers the demand justified, the agency could not afford it at present.

In his report to the President, Menor also says he has told the striking supervisors that when the NAWASA improvement program is completed and the agency has increased its income, possibly by January, 1958, their demands will be met. If granted, the supervisors' demands would entail an additional annual outlay of P600,000 for salaries, which, if the rank and file were to claim the same adjusted increases, would add up to P4 million annually, Menor adds.

At the same time, the President signs into law House Bill No. 8791, providing greater benefits for the 1.5 million members of the Social Security System.

In the morning, the President has at the top his schedule a breakfast with David Rockefeller, a house guest at the Palace, who came here to represent the Rockefeller Foundation in the Ramon Magsaysay Awards ceremonies.

Following the breakfast, the President confers with Secretaries Eduardo Romualdez, Juan Ponce Enrile, and with Director-General Placido Mapa, Jr. of the Presidential Economic Staff, with whom he discussed various financial and economic matters.

During the conference, the President also names Enrile as acting insurance commissioner, vice commissioner Francisco Mandanas.

The President takes the step as an initial move to prevent further losses to the government.

The President instructs Enrile to immediately reorganize the insurance commission. With the aim of enhancing its efficiency, specifically ordering him to inquire into the financial status of bonding and surety firms.

In the evening, the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, give a formal dinner in honor of the recipients of the 1966 Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Awards.

September 2.—CLAMPING a ban on travel to the United States or Japan by government officials who appear to want to take advantage of the Presidential state visits to these two countries, President Marcos tells them to stay home and do their work.

The Chief Executive shuts the lid on travel by government officials to these two countries, in a memorandum issued to cabinet members, which specified that only those few officials needed on the state visits are authorized to leave the country.

Other officials planning trips to the US and Japan, under any guise, and even on their own expense, are told by the President to remain at their desks.

He declares that those officials not needed by him on the state visits have enough problems and work to do at home to even think of making unnecessary trips abroad.

At the same time, the President directs the Department of Finance to inquire into the operations of two Chinese owned corporations which have reportedly misused imports of raw materials resulting in the loss of substantial revenues to the government.

The President orders the investigation after receiving reports that the Superior Products Corporation and the Goodwill Steel Corporations had defrauded the government of taxes and revenues by selling their imported steel wire rods to other firms manufacturing steel products.

The two companies are allowed to import raw materials for their two factories, which produce galvanized wire. However, reports reaching the President showed that the Superior Production Corporation is not operating, and that both have been selling outright their raw materials to other firms manufacturing nails.

The President declares that these illegal operations have cost the government millions of pesos, much of which was the result of the loss of the 40 per cent differential allowed for raw materials importations.

President Marcos likewise designates a new administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration, with a mission to improve and speed up electrical facilities in the barrios and other localities.

Named as the new REA head is Rizalino E. Lopez, farmer and engineer of Moncada, Tarlac. Also designated is Leonardo Coloso, as acting REA deputy administrator.

The President instructs Lopez to expedite the installation of electric power and other electrical services in rural communities, which is necessary to the rural development program.

In the morning, the President receives several callers at his study. Among those who saw the President are Public Works Undersecretary Marciano Bautista, staff members of the *Weekly Nation Magazine* and members of the Tamaraw Toastmasters Club headed by former Ambassador Mauro Beradi.

Secretary Bautista, who arrived the other night from Tokyo, reports to the President on his mission to Japan to procure through reparations, machinery and other equipment for the administration's rural development and public works program.

The "Toastmasters" informs the Chief Executive that one of its members Alberto Cacnio, has won the first prize in the International Overseas taped speech contest of the Toastmasters International held in San Diego, California recently. The contest is participated in by representatives from 3,600 clubs in 48 countries.

In the evening, the President receives the officers and men of the Philcon III and congratulated them for their splendid performance while on the humanitarian mission to South Vietnam.

The 32-Man contingent composed of doctors, engineers, nurses and other technicians is needed by Capt. Dominador Seva and is the third batch of returnees after their one-year stint in that embattled country.

September 3.—INITIATING the revamp of the National Irrigation Administration, President Marcos orders the detailing of Administrator Tomas de Guzman with the Department of Agriculture and designates Alfredo L. Juinio as acting NIA administrator.

The transfer of de Guzman is the first step in the new attempt to revitalize the NIA to make it a more effective arm of the government in the implementation of the development program.

The reorganization plans for the agency include changes that would affect the engineers in the project level.

The directive to revamp the NIA was spurred by the failure of the agency to make use of foreign loans. It was also discovered that some of the irrigation projects and equipment had been neglected.

In initiating the revamp of the NIA, the President declares, “in view of the critical attitude of the World Bank as a result of the manner in which loans for the improvement of irrigation systems had been utilized by the NIA, it becomes urgent that a qualified administrator be appointed to head the agency.”

The National Irrigation Administration is the first agency to be ordered reorganized. Others ordered reorganized immediately were the bureau of public works and the civil aeronautics administration.

Juinio is a special assistant to U.P. President Carlos P. Romulo, on campus development in the U.P. He is known for his integrity and excellent record as civil and structural engineer. He is a product of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Class 1947, and past president of the Philippine Association of Civil Engineers.

At the same time, the President doubles the subsistence allowance of enlisted men in the armed forces engaged in the campaign against smuggling and the Huk resurgence in Central Luzon.

In directing Gen. Ernesto Mata, armed forces chief of staff, to increase the allowances of these enlisted men, the President states the government should give recognition in terms of compensation for the difficulties and the risks faced by these men. Those engaged in the anti-smuggling campaign and the campaign against the Huks risk their lives everyday, he adds.

The order of the President raising by another peso the daily subsistence allowance of enlisted men will benefit some 20,000 members of the Philippine Constabulary and the regular army.

In the morning, the President receives Monsignor Mariano Gaviola, who called on the Chief Executive preparatory to his departure for Germany to secure aid for the Catholic Charities.

Following the call of Msgr. Gaviola, the President received David Rockefeller and Alfred Wentworth, president and vice president, respectively, of the Chase Manhattan Bank of New York.

Rockefeller and Wentworth called on the First Couple to say goodbye before returning to New York. Rockefeller came to the Philippines to represent the Rockefeller Brothers at the 9th annual presentation of the Ramon Magsaysay Awards, which were presented last August 31, the 59th birth anniversary of President Magsaysay.

September 4.—IN an appeal to textile manufacturers and dealers, the President urges them to help the government in bringing down the price of textiles, which has purportedly increased considerably.

The President, in his appeal, points out that now that the local textile industry has recovered from the adverse effects of the economic policies of the past administration it was their turn to help the government in helping maintain prices at reasonable levels.

His appeal is accompanied by a warning that he is ready to adopt measures to lower prices, if the appeal was not heeded.

He states the government is ready to take more drastic measures to bring down prices including importation of textile through the NAMARCO.

At the same time, the President orders the investigation into an alleged scheme of certain public officials to “milk” Lino Bocalan and the alleged employment of men identified with Bocalan as agents by the Civil Affairs Office of the Department of National Defense.

The President issues the order to Undersecretary of Defense Alfonso Arellano. His directive is spurred by a letter of Cavite Gov. Delfin Montano claiming that “there was a protection racket scheme masterminded by Rep. Floro Crisologo and a certain Roque Ablan to milk Lino Bocalan” by using the President’s name.

Gov. Montano’s letter to the President is an off-shot of an expose made in the halls of Congress during a Congressional Committee hearing by Rep. Crisologo exposing the alleged involvement of armed forces men and other people in smuggling activities.

The President spends the whole day working in the seclusion of his study on official papers, including the appointments of officials bypassed in the last special session of Congress.

September 5.—TO step up the drive against smuggling and its attendant problem of criminality and lawlessness through the Courts, the President approves the nomination for ad interim appointments of 31 new municipal judges and two clerks of court.

The President, in speeding up the assignment of judges, seeks to hasten the resolution of criminal cases that have clogged the nation’s courts for a long time.

At the same time, the Chief Executive serves warning on smugglers that the government’s intensified anti-smuggling campaign will continue without let-up during his absence from the country.

He serves the warning following reports that smugglers plan to resume or intensify their operations during his forthcoming state visits to the U.S. and Japan.

It was gathered that big-time smugglers already had started offering considerable sums of money to certain ranking armed forces and police officers, in consideration for special favors during the President’s absence from the country, particularly in landing contraband.

Asking all those engaged in the campaign not to relax their vigilance the President in his memorandum, declares: “Smuggling almost ruined our economy, corrupted the morals of our people and sapped the vitality of the nation during the past administration that it is our bounden duty to carry on with the task against all odds.”

President Marcos likewise instructs Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas to take steps to cancel the lease of the Bureau of Forestry building in Binondo, Manila by the Philippine Progress, Incorporated.

The lease, entered into between the Bureau of Building and the Real Property Management and the Philippine Progress, was held as in contravention of Republic Act No; 4187. R.A. 4187 authorized the sale of the land with all the improvements therein owned by the national government.

The law provides that the proceeds of the sale of the property will be used for the construction of a building or buildings to accommodate the Offices of the Bureau of Forestry in Diliman, Quezon City.

The President receives a limited number of official callers to devote more time to the study of the nation’s primary problems.

The President is closeted the whole day in his study working on state papers.

September 6.—IN order to harness its considerable capabilities in the current anti-dissident, anti-smuggling and anti-crime campaigns, President Marcos directs the Undersecretary of Defense to reactivate the Peace and Amelioration Fund Commission (PAFC).

The Chief Executive instructs Undersecretary of Defense Alfonso Arellano to reconstitute the PAFC, moribund since two years ago, and utilize its machinery and the fund it can generate to intensify the government drives against crime and smuggling in particular, and the anti-dissident drive as well.

He seeks the reactivation of the PAFC in an effort to draw every effective element into the government drive aimed at restoring peace and order and preparing the ground for the massive development of the economy.

It is recalled that the PAFC in the years it was active helped substantially in prosecuting the campaigns against Huks, the drive to recover loose firearms, and against the then incipient but growing menace of smuggling.

The commission was originally created in 1954 to raise additional funds through voluntary contributions in meeting the threat of Huk dissidence and subversion.

In 1962, the PAFC was abolished by Executive Order No. 11, when regularly appropriated funds became available, then recreated in 1964. But it had been inactive since.

The President considers the reactivation of the PAFC as essential today because of the strain the government feels in its finances, as a result of the depletion of the public treasury in the past four years.

At the same time, the President issues an administrative order defining in clear-cut terms the government policy on foreign investments to dissipate the confusion and conflict, and to serve as guideline for all government offices and agencies.

Based on the constitutional provisions on foreign investments, the President's order was issued in the face of the "need to attract foreign investments to augment domestic resources required to hasten the progress of economic development.

The President's order stresses that all investors in the Philippines will be assured of basic rights and guarantees provided in the Constitution.

He directs the Central Bank and the National Economic Council to assume the responsibility of protecting these rights, among which are:

1. Repatriation of investment in whole or part, upon liquidation of the investment;
2. Remittance of earnings from the investment;
3. Remittance of such sums needed to pay the interest or principal of foreign loans;
4. Remittance of money to service foreign obligations arising from contracts of transfer of license or other processes of manufacturing and technical or managerial services.

The order also delineates the preferred areas for foreign investments to develop, namely:

Commercial and agricultural crops, livestock, marine products, mining, wood processing, food manufacturing, pulp and paper products, chemicals, non-metallic mineral products, basic metals, non-electrical machinery, electrical machinery, transport equipment, transportation, public improvement projects such as public works construction, storage.

President Marcos also orders the cancellation of the licenses of 120 retailers of the Rice and Corn Administration caught blackmarketing RCA rice.

The President's order is transmitted in a memorandum to Commerce Secretary Marcelo Balatbat and to Chairman and General Manager Osmundo Mondoñedo of the RCA.

Licenses to engage in the retail business issued by the Bureau of Commerce to those caught are immediately cancelled.

The President declares that merchants caught illegally trading in rice will be dealt with severely.

The Chief Executive spends the whole day working on state papers in the seclusion of his private study.

September 7.—PRESIDENT Marcos orders the speedy resolution of deportation cases involving two Chinese nationals for violations of Philippine laws.

The Chief Executive's order is based on a report of Secretary Bartolome Cabangbang of the Presidential Agency for Reforms and Government Operations (PARGO).

Tagged for deportation are Lao Pin Chiu and John Lao, owners and managers of the Kanebo Laboratories on Times street, Quezon City. The firm was "caught in the act manufacturing cosmetic without proper permit from the government authorities."

The duo are also charged with "deceiving or defrauding the public by giving the goods (they manufacture) the appearance of articles manufactured by another manufacturer."

During the search conducted by PARGO agents at the Kanebo Laboratories premises last June 12, it was found out that the plant was owned and managed by Chiu, with his son, John, and Lourdes Marcelo, a Filipino and daughter-in-law of Chiu, acting as officials of the firm. The laboratory is registered in Lourdes' name.

At the same time, the President directs the Philippine Constabulary to conduct its own search for the light plane which has been missing with four men aboard since August 27 and believed to have ditched somewhere along the coast of Ilocos Sur.

He had previously appealed to the people in the Ilocos provinces to extend all possible assistance to the search parties now combing the area where the missing plane was said to have crashed. The appeal was tape-recorded and broadcast by local radio stations in the region.

The President is kept busy by state papers, problems that reached his desk, and the usual quota of callers. Notable among his callers are:

Japanese Ambassador Harumi Takeuchi, who discusses the details of the coming state visit of the President to Tokyo, which will follow the state visit to the U.S. at around the end of this month.

Dr. Binay Ranjan Sen, director-general of the Food and Agriculture Organization, who is visiting here at the invitation of the government.

Dr. Sen had long scheduled a visit to this country, in connection with the food production program of the administration and the overall intensified agricultural development program, which the President had given equal emphasis with the industrial development program.

Between callers and meetings with officials, the President stays close to his desk in his study, working on government papers and other official business.

Meantime, President Marcos felicitated the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization on its 12th anniversary, saying that the organization has amply fulfilled its role in providing a deterrent to communist aggression and in extending the efforts to develop the Asian region.

The Chief Executive congratulates the members of SEATO for their continuing support of the organization, which he states fully deserves the trust and confidence of the free peoples of Asia.

He notes that since the establishment of SEATO, there has been a marked feeling of stability in the region, a sense of security among small nations, which he said is shared by even those who are not signatories to the treaty.

The President points out that the activities of SEATO in the area of peaceful pursuits have largely escaped the notice of the world, but he stressed that these activities have been considerable and invaluable in the pull of Asian nations toward greater understanding of each other corporation, and in the development of their countries.

He states that as long as the members of SEATO continue to work together in harmony and unity, the organization will grow stronger and more effective not only as a deterrent to aggression but as a true force for peace and progress.

September 8.—STARTING the day with a breakfast conference with Dr. B.R. Sen, director-general of the Food and Agriculture Organization, President Marcos takes up with Dr. Sen the agricultural food problems in the area and plans to convert the Philippines into a FAO project for the Far East.

Dr. Sen is here on a three-day visit as official guest of the Philippine government.

The Chief Executive receives very few callers this day, spending most of the day clearing his desk of all important matters prior to his departure for Washington on Sept. 12, and in consultation with his aides, among them:

1. Undersecretary of Justice Claudio Teehankee, who takes up with him problems of the department, including the appointment of judges, some of which appointments were bypassed by Congress during its last session.
2. Gen. Eulogio Balao, who briefs the President on the status of the Philippine veterans' claims now before the Joint US-RP Veterans Commission.
3. Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas, with whom the President takes up pending administrative matters.

At the same time, the President signs into law five bills passed by Congress during its third special session. The bills were brought to the Palace by Col. Moises Buhain, aide to Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal.

The bills signed this day are:

1. H. No. 6951 now Republic Act No. 4864 creating the Police Commission to improve the nation's police system.
2. H. No. 1 which becomes Republic Act No. 4860 authorizing the President to incur or guarantee foreign debts not exceeding \$1-billion (US) in behalf of the Republic, for economic development purposes.
3. H. No. 12 now Republic Act No. 4861 which amends R.A. 1000 so as to authorize the President to issue bonds not exceeding P2-billion to finance public works and self-liquidating projects for economic development.
4. H. No. 2035 amending Section 1 of R. A. 2686 which became Republic Act No. 4862 authorizing the President to negotiate for increases in the Philippines subscription to the capital stock of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and to its quota in the International Monetary Fund, such subscription and such quota not to exceed \$175-million (US).

4. H. No. 7351 which became Republic Act No. 4863 appropriating P100,000 to cover all expenses for the holding of the Asian Ministers of Labor Conference in Manila.

In the afternoon, the President receives P.K. Macker and Manuel A. Gaerlan, publisher and editor, respectively, of the *Philippines Herald*, and *Manila Times* columnist Max Soliven.

Meanwhile, the President signs a proclamation declaring Friday, Sept. 9, a special public holiday in Cebu province and in the Cities of Cebu, Danao, Lapu-lapu and Toledo.

Sept. 9 marks the birth anniversary of the late President Sergio Osmeña, Sr., second President of the Commonwealth whom President Marcos described as a “patriot, statesmen and staunch advocate of nationalism and Philippine Independence.”

September 9.—PRESIDENT Marcos remands to the Presidential Agency for Reforms and Government Operations (PARGO) six cases it had started, directing it to close one case and to pursue the investigation of the ourit others in collaboration with other government agencies involved.

The President also assigns the remaining seven of the original 48 cases submitted by PARGO to government agencies which have jurisdiction over the matters being investigated.

The bulk of PARGO cases were reassigned earlier to other government agencies which would proceed with the investigation or prosecution of the same.

In the morning, the President receives student leaders from the University of the Philippines who earlier led a demonstration at the Palace grounds to protest certain government policies.

In his brief talks with the student leaders, the President explains the nature of his visit to the United States.

In the afternoon, the President together with Dr. B.R. Sen, director-general of the FAO, meets representatives of the news media at a press conference.

During the conference, the President discloses he had signed an executive order that would declare a national emergency if hoarders and profiteers continued to manipulate the prices of rice.

The President notes that since he issued the warning on hoarding and profiteering last Monday, there had been a noticeable downtrend in the prices of the staple.

At the conference, the President also warns of the existence of a “security gap” in Asia due to a “militant and intransigent Red China.” He states Asian nations alone or collectively could not stand against Communist China. At the moment, he adds, only the American presence in the region could counter this “security gap.”

September 10.—THE Chief Executive reviews with members of his cabinet the problems of state that need his attention, prior to his departure for the state Visits to the United States and Japan on Monday.

He and his cabinet members go over the agricultural development program in general and the rice situation in particular, with emphasis laid on the progress of the Central Luzon Development Program in connection with socio-economic projects being pursued under this special body.

The President takes note of the school building program which to date has added some 69 new schools in that region, while the bureau of public works has built 37 other schools.

He tells the cabinet that he wanted the school building program accelerated, and instructs Undersecretary of Public Works Marciano Bautista to expedite follow-up of the procurement under the reparations program of 10 per-fabricating plants.

Other matters taken up at the cabinet meeting are progress reports on various projects and programs of the government, such as the anti-smuggling drive, the anti-crime drive, irrigation and public works projects, and others.

At the meeting, the President also defines the areas of responsibility of the Vice President, the Executive Secretary, and appointed Undersecretary of Defense Alfonso Arellano acting defense secretary in the Chief Executive's absence. He likewise appoints Vitaliano Bernardino Undersecretary of education for administration, raising him from his present post as director of public schools.

Meantime, President Marcos calls upon the Filipino people "to unite with the Armed Forces in meeting the dangers within us—those who will despoil us of our independence and liberty, whether directly or indirectly, overtly or by proxy."

The President sounds the call as he receives the Armed Forces' pledge of loyalty during a parade and review at Camp Aguinaldo, a traditional honor bestowed by the Armed Forces on the Commander-in-Chief on the eve of the President's birthday.

In an extemporaneous remarks prefaced in Filipino, the President emphasizes the heroic tradition and glories of the nation's armed forces.

This tradition, he states, goes back to the time when our forefathers first landed on these islands that came to be known as the Philippines, after fleeing the tyranny of the Madjapahit Empire.

These forebears of the Filipinos sought to create a new nation, the President states, based on freedom, This objective has not changed since, he adds.

He recounts how these early Filipinos lived in freedom, which was endowed with Arabic, Hindu and Chinese civilizations. The Filipino race developed in this oriental foundation, he says, and was later to adopt the civilization of the West.

The President notes that of Asian and African nations, the Philippines was the first to stage an anti-colonial revolution. But winning political emancipation is easier than winning economic emancipation, he continues.

Touching on the Philippine Civic Action Group, the main body of which will leave the next day for South Vietnam, the President declares that the group is not going on a hostile mission. They will go to Vietnam to bring the fruits of peace where there has been war, extend friendship where there was anger, and reestablish the conditions of freedom where these have been disturbed, the President explains.

September 11.—ON the occasion of his 49th birth anniversary, President Marcos extends executive clemency to a total of 73 prisoners.

Of those granted clemency, 18 are conditional pardons, 45 commutations of sentences, nine absolute pardons and one special absolute pardon.

In the morning, the President observes his 49th birthday by hearing an early morning Mass with members of his family.

Following the mass, the President entertains close friends and relatives at breakfast held at the Heroes' Hall.

After breakfast, the President motors to Fort Bonifacio where, as Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces, he personally sends off the PHILCAG team leaving for Vietnam. He also personally handed to Brig. Gen. Gaudencio Tobias, PHILCAG commander, the unit colors.

In brief, emotion-choked remarks, the President likewise gives the PHILCAG team its mission orders: "You shall not fire any shot in anger but rather ourit you shall utilize your weapons only in the protection of your own lives and succor the sick and the wounded of body and spirit."

He orders "Rehabilitate that ravaged land. Rebuild the homes and schoolhouses, reconstruct the roads and the bridges so that those aggrieved and oppressed people may know ultimately and at last that the greater portion of humanity, especially their Asian brothers, condole with them."

He exhorts the PHILCAG men to uphold their colors at all times for "it bears the traditions of your forebears."

He concludes his remarks saying "If these colors should go from your hands, let it fall from hands that have no more life in them and if you should fall and your men fall with you, fall with honor."

Back at the Palace about 11:30 a.m., the President joins the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, in receiving his thousands of well-wishers on his birthday.

He receives callers up to 1 p.m.

In the afternoon, the President administer the oath of office to Defense Undersecretary Alfonso Arellano as acting secretary of defense, and to seven colonels in the armed forces as brigadier generals.

The new one-star generals are Salvador Piccio, Reynaldo Mendoza, Ruben Maglaya, Emmanuel Casabar, Vicente R. Raval, Isauro Sison and Vicente Javier.

September 12.—IN line with a resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, upon recommendation of the Economic and Social Council, the President signs a proclamation declaring 1967 as "International Travel Year" and creates a committee to undertake preparations for its observance.

In signing the proclamation, the President notes that the Travel Year's purpose is "to impress upon the people of the world the contribution of international tourism in enriching the mind, and ourit breeding tolerance towards other people through a direct knowledge of their way of life and their problems."

He also states that this observance will help our people understand better the meaning of the universal declaration of the rights of man with particular reference to "the freedom to travel, the right to rest and leisure, and the right to participate in the cultural life and in the benefits of human progress."

Suitable preparations and appropriate observance of the Travel Year will be undertaken by a government committee with Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas as chairman, and the commissioner on tourism as executive vice-chairman.

When the UN adopted the resolution declaring 1967 as International Travel Year, it was its purpose, among others, "to make government aware of their responsibilities in the field of international tourism as well as for the realization of tourism's importance."

The Philippines was one of the twelve countries which sponsored the UN resolution.

At the same time, the President signs an executive order creating a presidential management task force to coordinate foreign-financed projects.

This move is made to insure the speedy and proper implementation of foreign-financed projects in order that available resources could be utilized to the optimum, specific targets met, and inter-agency cooperation enhanced.

In signing the order, the President states that the present organizational structures of the government requires an appropriate body to facilitate and coordinate the implementation and execution of these projects.

The new body, with Deputy Director-General (for operations) Apolinario Orosa of the Presidential Economic Staff as ex officio Presidential Action Officer to head the task force, shall have the following powers and functions:

1. To evaluate actual performance of each project, identify problem areas and their causes, and recommend appropriate measures. For this purpose, the task force has been authorized to—

a) conduct field inspections to ascertain the actual status of projects;

b) examine and/or secure directly from entities concerned financial statements, books of accounts and other pertinent records; and

c) establish a reporting system and require the implementing agencies to submit periodic accomplishment reports.

2. To coordinate and facilitate inter-agency participation required in project implementation, including funding and logistical support.

3. To establish and maintain direct liaison between the Philippine government and consultative organizations concerned with multi-lateral financing arrangements.

4. To submit regular fortnightly reports to the President on the progress of projects indicating the degree of completion of each project in relation to the established targets, reasons for delays in implementation and specific remedial steps to include disciplinary measures where necessary.

5. To follow up directives issued by the President to implementing agencies.

6. To perform such other related duties and functions as the President may from time to time direct.

The President's order empowered the task force to call upon any department, bureau, office or agency of the government for such assistance as it may require in the discharge of its functions.

All such government instrumentalities are directed to cooperate with and assist the task force in effecting the prompt and successful accomplishment of its assigned duties.

The task force head is also authorized to designate such assistants as may be necessary to constitute the Presidential Management Task Force.

In the afternoon, President and Mrs. Marcos enplane at 4:25 for the state visit to the United States, upon the invitation of President Lyndon B. Johnson.

The First Couple boards a Philippine Air Lines jetliner, PI C-801, which will take them on the first leg of the trip to Honolulu.

With them are Ambassador Benjamin Romualdez, the President's special envoy to Washington, US Ambassador William McCormick Blair, Jr. and Brig. Gen. Hans Menzi, senior military aide.

The President's party leaves Malacañang in a long motorcade a little past 3 p.m. and moves at a moderate clip along the route to the Manila International Airport, arriving there 4 p.m.

Crowds of people lined the route despite the inclement weather. An equally unexpectedly big crowd also jammed the airport premises, including the open decks of the MIA building and the airport finger.

Before his departure, the President issues the following statements:

"I am leaving today, more than eight months after I have assumed the Presidency, on a state visit to the United States.

"I have chosen this time to make this foreign journey because I believe we already succeeded in checking the many crises which faced the nation eight months ago and we are now well on the road to recovery and stable growth. Any crises that may develop in my absence can be attended to promptly and effectively. We have made adequate arrangements to meet any contingency that may arise during my absence.

"I, therefore, expect the ship of state to run smoothly during my absence.

"In the United States, I look forward to an opportunity to discuss with our American friends, especially President Johnson, some common problems which vitally affect our present and future relations and which are of great relevance to our efforts to develop and strengthen ourselves.

"The first problem of any nation in Asia today under the shadow of Asian communism is national security. I go to the United States, a country with which we are bound by treaty and other foreign agreements in matters of security, to clarify points of differences between our two countries and which can only be decided on the presidential level.

"At the same time, we must reinstate our international credit standing which has been impaired by previous performance. I need not reiterate that the situation requires the assurance of no less than a head of the state himself that reforms are being undertaken to prevent the mismanagement and misuse of these foreign loans. This is necessary in order to reestablish the faith of the international lending institutions in our government.

"I wish to remind our people that past performances compelled these international lending institutions to withhold release of the balances of loans already granted our government.

It is now necessary, therefore, for us to face this monumental task of reestablishing confidence in our capacity to administer foreign loans. Towards this end, I have initiated reforms in our administrative set-up to make our government offices more effective agencies in the utilization of foreign loans. I have also adopted adequate measures, among which is the policy of fiscal restraint, to improve the government's fiscal posture.

"I will also go to Japan, for whatever we may say, Japan is the leading industrial country in our region and is becoming the principal market for many of our products."

September 13.—ARRIVING in Honolulu 8:31 a.m. HST (1831 GMT), President Marcos, making his first visit to the United States since his election, is greeted by an enthusiastic reception by Philippine nationals and Hawaiian officials.

Upon his arrival, the President is officially greeted by Hawaii Gov. John Burns and Philippine Consul General Trinidad Alconcel. He briefly watches a hula dance and was draped with Hawaiian leis.

The President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, spends about 12 minutes walking along the wire fence shaking hands with the large crowd who were on hand to welcome them.

From the airport, the President proceeds to Fort Derussy where he boards a helicopter for Camp H.M. Smith, headquarters of the US commander in Chief in the Pacific, Admiral U.S. Grant Sharp. He receives a full briefing on American commitments in Asia.

The briefing lasts about an hour. It was attended by Admiral Sharp and each of his senior military commanders in the Pacific, representing the navy, air force, army and marines.

Rising up at 3 a.m., the President and the First Lady motor to the airport where they board the U.S. Air Force presidential jet to take them direct to Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland to begin a state visit in Washington, D.C.

Touching down at Andrews Air Force Base in nearby Maryland aboard a special US Air Force jet 9:30 p.m. (0130 GMT), 10:30 a.m. Manila time, President Marcos starts his state visit and formal talks with United States President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Upon their arrival, President Marcos and his party are welcomed by a large group of US citizens and officials led by William P. Bundy, assistant secretary of state for Far Eastern Affairs.

The Chief Executive states in a broad smile to Bundy and the welcoming group "I am very happy to be here."

"My primary objectives is to reaffirm the ties of affinity and partnership between our two countries," he declares.

A military guard of honor places a cordon of troops around the big silver-and-blue jet transport which carried the seal of the President of the Republic of the Philippines.

As he greet with warm handshakes and hearty smiles the crowd of welcomers, the President exclaims with pleasure when he saw Gen. Russel W. Volckmann of Morrison, Illinois: Army Capt. Donald Jamison of Pruma Valley, California, and Col. John Blackburn, a regimental commander of guerrillas under Volckmann.

The three Americans had fought in Northern Luzon with Marcos against the Japanese.

Also at the airport are Filipino student groups who crowded the air base to wish their President "Mabuhay."

The welcome rites at the airport turns into an informal but cordial affair, although protocol required the President to say nothing before his formal welcome at the White House Wednesday with a 21-gun salute.

From the Airbase, the President and the First Lady are escorted to the Blair House, official guest house for visiting dignitaries, where they are staying for the duration of the three-day visit to Washington.

September 14.—ABOARD the presidential limousine from the Blair House, the presidential guest mansion, President Marcos crosses Pennsylvania Avenue for the White House to mark the official start of his state visit to Washington.

Arriving at the White House a few minutes later, the President accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, is received by United States President and Mrs. Johnson, including U.S. officials and members of the Diplomatic Corps.

After ruffles and flourishes were sounded, a contingent of the U.S. army band plays the national anthems of the two countries.

Right after exchange of pleasantries the President and the First Lady accompanied by the President and Mrs. Johnson heads a parade of welcome through Washington; East on Hamilton Place to 15th Street; South on 15th Street to Constitution Avenue to 9th Street, North on 9th to Pennsylvania Avenue.

Then the motorcade joins the military escort, Northwest on Pennsylvania Avenue to 14th Street, North on 14th Street to New York Avenue to Pennsylvania Avenue, West on Pennsylvania Avenue, terminating at Blair House.

At the Blair House, the President is presented the key to the city of Washington by Walter N. Tobriner, president of the board of Commissioners.

After the presentation rites, the President attends a luncheon reception given his honor by Secretary of State Dean Rusk at the Benjamin Franklin room, Department of State.

In the afternoon, the President places wreaths at the tomb of the unknown soldier, the grave of the late President John F. Kennedy, and at the grave of the late Gen. Jonathan Wainwright at the Arlington National Cemetery.

From the cemetery, the President returns back to the Blair House.

Then after a short rest, the President goes to the White House where he confers with President Johnson privately for an hour-and-a half in the historic East room.

After the private talks, the President hurriedly dashes back to the Blair House to change clothes for the state dinner.

Back in a few minutes at the White House in time for the state dinner with the First Lady, the President is greeted by President and Mrs. Johnson together with some 180 guests, with roast sirloin of beef featured on the menu. Tables are set both in the state dining room and the blue room with chinaware from the administration of Presidents Harrison, Wilson, Roosevelt and Truman and the White House vermeil and minuet silver flatware.

At the toast, U.S. President Johnson speaks warmly of President Marcos as the “captain of a great country,” a great hero and an example “to all nations that economic and social, progress can be achieved without abandoning individual freedom.”

Glancing toward President Marcos, President Johnson states, “so we are not only friends, we are brothers.” Noting that Washington has been undergoing a summer-long drought, Johnson tells President Marcos, “you have also brought rain and that endears you to us greatly.”

Johnson declares, “we know that what your nation has, it has earned— and what you work for . . . you are ready to defend.”

President Johnson says that last Sunday, the Filipino leader’s 49th birthday, 2,000 Philippine troops went to Vietnam to take their place beside Australian, Korean, New Zealand, U.S. and South Vietnamese soldiers.

“I think I can understand your own feelings about this. As commander-in-chiefs, you and I know that it is never easy to commit men to battle. But we know that if a leader is to pass along to the next generation the treasury of liberty—he must do what must be done,” Johnson notes.

The U.S. Chief Executive tells President Marcos, “more than anyone here today, Mr. President, you know the price of freedom. You were wounded five times in its cause, you survive the Bataan Death March, and for two years led a force of guerrillas with legendary courage. You carry two silver stars. And you wear the Distinguished Service Cross—one of the highest rewards a grateful United States can give its heroes.

“Our people take pride in the independence and progress of the Philippines. Your nation of island belongs to those who champion freedom and labor unselfishly for it.”

President Johnson adds, “from the ruins of war you have built economy which gives your people great hopes and you are an example to all nations that economic and social progress can be achieved without abandoning individual freedom.”

In his reply, President Marcos offers the U.S. President the Philippines “intimate knowledge of Asia” and expressed hopes his two week visit would “deepen the understanding that exists between our two peoples.”

“What can the President of a small nation once the colony* of the United States have to say to the President of the most powerful nation in the world?” President Marcos asks.

“To your strength of body, we offer a fierce resolution of spirit for we have had to survive only on our fortitude. To the questions that perplex America, we come to offer our intimate knowledge of Asia, we offer our study of its mind and heart.”

The Philippines, Chief Executive states that today in Asia the ideals of the U.S. and the Philippines had shared in seven decades of warm relationship were under a severe test.

“We are asked anew whether the principles of freedom, equality and human dignity have the strength to prevail and endure in the face of continuous assaults by inimical forces,” the President notes.

He optimistically reveals that it was his hope “that on this as on other important matters of common interest we shall have an opportunity for a full exchange of view.

September 15.—PRESIDENT Marcos starts the day with an early morning breakfast with Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey of the United States.

During the breakfast, the President and the Vice President discuss matters of varied subject of interest to both of them.

The President also receive William Gaud, administrator of the Agency for International Development; and Undersecretary Leroy Collins of Commerce who paid courtesy calls on him.

Following the calls, the President addresses a joint Session of Congress.

In his address, the President takes up the Philippine veterans fight for benefits due them saying that “far too many Filipinos have long ago lost faith in your sense of fairness.”

The President’s 32-page address conveys three messages to the American people touching on Americans role in Asia and the world situation.

He starts his address after a prolonged ovation following his introduction by House Speaker John McCormack.

“There are rumblings among my people. Far too many of them including some of our intellectual leaders, have long ago lost faith in your sense of fairness.

Without necessary heeding the importunings of our communist enemies, they are harsh critics and have given up hope of American justice.”

“Many years are past. Time should have muted the tone of confidence and the tyranny of circumstances should have eroded the memory but still today, I say to you as I have said to my people: ‘America does not forget. America will not fail us.’”

President Marcos, voicing out the Filipino peoples demand for rightful benefits due Filipino veterans of World War II, spells out what he quoted as widespread sentiment on the claims issue:

“And it is paradoxically that after the Second World War we have had to endure American ridicule for our claims to equal rights under the veterans law of this country.

“We are unprepared for the rebuffs that we received but even less prepared for the hostility in the attitudes of some of your executive officials who have had to deal with us.

“Our former common enemy, Japan, had been patient and understanding. From you, our allies, we expected nothing less. But we did not get it.”

In his prepared address entitled “An Asian message to America—Trustee of Civilization,” President Marcos tells the U.S. Congress:

“So upon the invitation of your great President, I have come to you with leave of my people.

“When I sought their counsel, they told me—Go with our misgivings for we know only too well the Americans’ disdain for state visitors who go to their ideals and global objectives but with their palms and hands stretched out for aid.

“Do not beg for alms or aid for we do not solicit charity.

“But tell them loyalty is not for sale. There is no price tag for faith except justice.

On the Vietnam war, he says: “Our object must be to hold the line in Vietnam and, at least, to roll back communist power behind the 17th parallel.”

“This being achieved, we shall have provided a necessary basis for joint action among the Southeast Asian nations themselves in order to ensure their collective security,” he states.

“When this has been done, American military power could draw to existing bases in the outlying island and archipelagos: Japan, Okinawa, Taiwan and the Philippines.

“Together with the U.S. Seventh Fleet, this line of defense of the Asian mainland could be rendered completely impregnable while offering needed support to any mainland nation that may be threatened by communist power.

President Marcos declares “I personally know for a fact that the American presence in Vietnam provided—though quite unintentionally—encouragement and support to those who successfully resisted the attempted communist takeover in Indonesia.”

“It is certain that the U.S. Seventh Fleet in the China Sea as well as American airpower in the area rendered inoperative the so-called Peking-Jakarta Axis’ which the Indonesian communist party might otherwise have invoked in the extremity of its disastrous debacle in Java,” the President points out.

Following the address, the President is honored by Vice President and Mrs. Hubert Humphrey with a luncheon reception at Anderson House, 2118 Massachusetts Avenue, Northwest.

Back at the Blair house, the President receive Orville I. Freeman, Secretary of Agriculture, and Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara who paid him a courtesy call.

In the evening, the President and President Johnson hold their final meeting at the White House.

They confer for more than two hours.

After the meeting, a joint communique is issued with both leaders reaffirming the close ties between their countries.

The text of the joint communique follows:

1. At the invitation of President Johnson, President Marcos made a state visit to Washington D.C. September 14 to 16, 1966. This afforded an opportunity for the two Presidents to engage in the friendly and fraternal talks which have become traditional between the two countries.
2. President Johnson and President Marcos had a frank and cordial exchange of views on international developments of common significance as well as the cooperative arrangements which give substance to Philippine-American relations.
3. President Marcos set forth his vision of the Philippine future. He described the many frontiers that mankind faces—in space and in the ocean depths, on the farm and in the laboratory, in economic development in expanding the capabilities of the young. He expressed his determination to move his country forward across these frontiers, with the exertion of Philippine energy and initiative and with the cooperation of friendly nations, especially the United States.
4. *Scientific cooperation.*—Both Presidents recognize the need of promoting cooperation in areas of science and technology and the mutual exchange of information and scientific knowledge for peaceful purpose. Such cooperation will furnish incentives to public and private resources initiative of both countries in enhancing and cultivating scientific and technological endeavors as a fundamental basis of a mutually beneficial relationship on science and technology.
5. Specifically, the two Presidents discussed recent developments in space technology. President Marcos expressed his desire to encourage greater training of Philippine scientists and engineers in the peaceful applications of such technology, and President Johnson undertook to offer appropriate fellowship for this purpose in U.S. institutions.

The considerable economic loss suffered annually in the Far East from typhoons was discussed by the two Presidents, who agreed that the regional initiatives undertaken by ECAFE and WHO to improve technical capabilities for typhoon damage control deserved full support. President Johnson offered the services of a United States meteorological team to develop a joint program of typhoon damage control in the Philippine area in concert with regional planning, and President Marcos agreed to the desirability of such a program.

Finally, the two Presidents noted the cooperative programs already started between the Philippine National Science Development Board and the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, and agreed that these programs should be expanded so that private and public research efforts can be applied to the advance of knowledge about growing food on the land and in the sea in the tropics. The two Presidents noted the expanded efforts now under way by the U.S. Government in the field of oceanography, in which it was agreed that the Philippines would participate fully.

6. *Economic development.*—One of the principal matters dealt with was the vigorous approach of the new Philippine Government to the problem of economic development. President Marcos re-emphasized his four-year development program to raise the living standards of the Philippine people, along lines already made public and discussed over many months. President Johnson was particularly encouraged to note the emphasis which President Marcos placed on improving the lot of the rural people through increased agricultural productivity, better income and meaningful land reform.

7. To support President Marcos' program of economic development and progress, the United States assistance program will be substantially increased during the coming year. This expanded effort will give priority to President Marcos' rural development and rice productivity program, including loans for irrigation projects and grants for other aspects of this program.

The two Presidents agreed to begin immediate negotiations for sales of agricultural commodities under a liberal credit arrangement over the next year, the proceeds of such sales to be used to support projects or programs to be agreed upon in such fields as irrigation, drainage and flood control, land reform, feeder roads, agricultural credit and farmer's cooperatives. The United States Government will also provide support for programs and projects to be agreed upon in agricultural research, training and productivity, and pest and disease control, cadastral survey and land classification.

Extensive discussions are now in progress on these programs and projects. In addition, a new self-help program is being launched pursuant to the Food-For-Peace Program under which food will be provided as a grant to allow payment of wages in kind to rural workers engaged in local improvement projects, and a grant of feed grains will be made to stimulate the establishment and growth of livestock cooperatives.

U.S. assistance will also include a stepped-up malaria eradication campaign and planning for rural electrification, air traffic control and an integrated telecommunications network. The United States is prepared to extend credit to finance engineering feasibility studies to help develop other new projects for external financing.

8. *Further economic matters.*—The two Presidents noted that their representatives are continuing to identify, on an urgent basis, additional ways in which the United States can be helpful in assisting President Marcos' initiatives in agricultural, industrial, and other fields. Both Presidents recognized that the size of the task to be done requires the active participation of all interested governments and international institutions.

It was also recognized that the success of the renewed Philippine efforts depends to a great extent on raising the level of internal savings, both public and private.

9. The two Presidents recognized that orderly economic development required the full organization and utilization of available management talent. President Marcos described the measures he had taken to systematize economic development planning and indicated he would welcome additional United States technical assistance in this field. President Johnson agreed to make available a technical advisory team composed of both governmental and private experts for this purpose.

10. Recognizing that external assistance mobilized through the major international lending institutions would speed economic development in the Philippines, the two Presidents agreed on the desirability of closer consultations among all countries and international agencies having an interest in helping the Philippines. President Johnson assured President Marcos of full American support for a Philippine initiative along these lines, and of active American cooperation in such an effort. Pending completion of multilateral arrangements, the U.S. will provide assistance to the Philippines under a bilateral program.

11. As regards means for ensuring the fruitful participation of foreign private investors in Philippine development, the two Presidents emphasized the importance to the Philippines of a favorable investment climate to attract and hold foreign private capital. As a further means of stimulating new private capital flows to the Philippines, the Presidents were pleased to announce that an exchange of notes had taken place providing for an augmentation of the coverage provided under the current investment guaranty agreement between the two countries.

12. *Future Economic Relations.* The two Presidents agreed that an expansion of trade between the Philippines and the United States would also contribute to the development and stability of both countries. They agreed that there should be an early beginning of inter-governmental discussions on the concepts underlying a new instrument to replace the Laurel-Langley trade agreement after its scheduled expiration in 1974. Inter-governmental discussions should be conducted through a Joint Preparatory Committee to be set up before June 30, 1967. Both Presidents recognized the necessity of providing an adequate framework after 1974 for a fair and equitable treatment of new and existing investments, as well as for the expansion of trade opportunities between the two countries. The two Presidents agreed that the extension of parity rights under Article 6 of the Agreement would not be sought.

13. *Offshore Procurement.* The two Presidents agreed that the Philippines should participate on a full and equitable basis in supplying U.S. offshore procurement needs in Vietnam.

14. *Mutual Security.* Both Presidents recognized the strategic role which the Philippines plays in the network of allied defenses and agreed to strengthen their mutual defense capabilities. Both Presidents recognized that such defense construction projects as are presently under way and may be required in the future contribute to this end. President Marcos informed President Johnson of recent indications of resurgence of subversive activities, especially in Central Luzon. President Johnson pledged the continued assistance of the United States in the concerted drive of the Marcos administration to improve the well-being of the people and strengthen its capabilities for internal defense.

15. The two Presidents reviewed the current requirements of the Philippine Armed Forces for external assistance. In accordance with President Marcos' program to expand the army's civic action capability, President Johnson was pleased to inform him that the United States would within this fiscal year provide equipment for five engineer construction battalions to be engaged in civic action projects contributing to internal security, and would consider furnishing equipment for five more such battalions in the next fiscal year. President Johnson also informed President Marcos that delivery of a destroyer escort for the Philippine Navy was anticipated next year. The two Presidents agreed to keep the U.S. military assistance program under continuing review in order to ensure that the material and training supplied to the Philippine armed forces were kept appropriate to the changing requirements and missions of these forces.

16. The two Presidents pledged themselves to strengthen the unity of the two countries in meeting any threat to their security. In this regard, they noted the continuing importance of the mutual defense treaty between the Philippines and the United States in maintaining the security of both countries. President Johnson reiterated to President Marcos the policy of the United States regarding mutual defense as stated by him and by past U.S. administrations to the Philippine government since 1954.

17. The two Presidents noted that in the forthcoming Rusk-Ramos agreement, the U.S. accepts President Marcos' proposal to reduce the term of the military bases agreement from 99 to 25 years. The two Presidents reaffirmed that the bases are necessary for both countries for their mutual defense, and were gratified with the progress being made in the negotiation and resolution of various issues related to the bases agreement in the spirit of harmony, friendship and mutual accommodation. They agreed that the base negotiations should be continued with a view to the earliest possible resolution of remaining issues in the spirit of good will and cooperation which has characterized these negotiations to date.

18. The two Presidents noted the benefits to be gained if countries can share and profit from their common experiences in meeting communist infiltration and subversion in all its forms in Southeast Asia. In this connection, the accomplishments of SEATO and of individual countries were discussed as well as means by which the Philippines and the United States might make an added contribution to this significant work. The two Presidents concluded that the usefulness of a center in the Philippines which might serve as a focal point for this work should be explored and proper actions pursued.

19. *Veterans.*—The two Presidents noted that as a result of the recommendations of the Joint Commission which they appointed earlier this year, legislation to provide increased benefits to Philippine Veterans, their widows, orphans and other dependents has been introduced in the U.S. Congress. President Johnson assured President Marcos of his full support of these measures and expressed his strong hope that they would be enacted in the near future.

20. President Marcos put up the case of the Philippine veterans. President Johnson explained the problems and limitations from the standpoint of the United States. The two Presidents agreed that their representatives would discuss the means of restoring wartime pay to those recognized Philippine guerrillas who did not previously receive it and of compensating certain members of the Philippine Army for erroneous deductions of advanced salary from their wartime pay.

21. The two Presidents also agreed to adopt procedures which would minimize the adverse impact which additional payments to Philippine veterans might have on the U.S. balance of payments.

22. *Special Fund for Education.*—The two Presidents agreed to put to effective and creative use the special fund for education available from, and pursuant to the U.S. war damage appropriations for the Philippines. They directed the joint panels established last spring to accelerate discussions already under way on project proposals, and concurred in the rapid implementation of projects as they are mutually agreed.

23. *Developments in Asia.*—President Marcos discussed his efforts in concert with other Asian countries to bring about an all-Asian political forum to which can be referred any crisis in Asia, like the Viet Nam conflict, for settlement by conciliation or other peaceful means. President Marcos also stressed his country's recognition of Malaysia and Singapore and the acknowledgment by Asian countries of the Philippines role in helping pave the way toward the solution of the Indonesian and Malaysian question. President Johnson reiterated his support for an Asian conference to settle the Vietnam war and reaffirmed to President Marcos that so far as the United States is concerned it is prepared for unconditional discussions or negotiations in any appropriate forum. in an effort to bring peace to Southeast Asia. President Johnson reaffirmed that the basic U.S. purpose in Asia is to support the national aspirations of Asian peoples: the United States is ready to continue helping other nations which seeks its assistance in improving the welfare of their peoples and in strengthening themselves against aggression.

24. The two Presidents conducted a frank and searching review of the problems of international security in the Pacific area in general, and in Southeast Asia in particular. They were in complete agreement that the principal threat to peace and security in the region was the communist war of aggression and subversion being waged against the government and people of South Vietnam. President Johnson expressed his deep admiration as well as that of the American people for the action recently taken by the Philippines to send a civic action group of 2,000 men to assist the Vietnamese in resisting aggression and rebuilding their country.

25. The two Presidents reviewed events of the past few years which demonstrated the substantial progress being made in Asia toward regional cooperation. President Marcos noted, in particular the recent meeting of the foreign ministers of Asia and the Pacific in Seoul, and the meeting of the foreign ministers from the Philippines Thailand and Malaysia in Bangkok within the framework of the Association of Southeast Asia. The two Presidents noted that the establishment of the Asian Development Bank, with its headquarters in Manila, was a specific example of what imaginative statesmanship by Asian countries working together could accomplish. President Johnson welcomed the evidence of expanding cooperation in Asia and reiterated the willingness of the United States to assist and support cooperative programs for the economic and social developments of the region.

26. *Mutual objectives.*—Both Presidents agreed that the close personal relationship established between them during the visit will further strengthen the deep friendship and partnership which bind their two countries. President Marcos expressed his profound appreciation for the warm welcome and hospitality shown him and his party by President Johnson and the American people. The two Presidents recalled with pride the historic association of their two peoples who, once more, are standing side by side in the defense of liberty. They affirmed that their partnership reflects their long-standing and common dedication to the promotion of human rights and freedom.

In the evening, President and Mrs. Marcos give a reception in honor of President and Mrs. Johnson of the United States at the Regency room. Shoreham Hotel.

Also invited at the reception in honor of the American First Couple are U.S. officials and members of the diplomatic corps.

Source: **National Library**

President's Month in Review: September 16-30, 1966

President's Month in Review: October, 1966

President's Month in Review: November, 1966

President's Month in Review: December, 1966

President's Month in Review: January, 1967

President's Week in Review: February 1-8, 1967

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

February 1.—THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE again devotes a good part of his time to state affairs. He receives key officials who briefed him on current urgent matters, notably on the progress of the budget preparations, appointments to vacant posts in the judiciary, and public health problems.

Although still under the strict supervision of his doctors, the President exhibits growing vitality in the course of the day.

In separate conversations with Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas, Undersecretary of Justice Claudio Teehankee, Secretary of Health Paulino Garcia and Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, the President discusses problems that needed his immediate attention.

He scrutinizes the present status of the judiciary with Undersecretary Teehankee and Secretary Salas, particularly as it pertained to the appointment of judges to fill the still existing vacancies.

Steadily gaining in energy, the President takes every opportunity to do some walking.

February 2.—PRESIDENT Marcos meets with heads of executive agencies concerned with the implementation of the rural development program.

He discusses with them the status of government programs particularly those pertaining to rural community development, with emphasis on the program for the construction and rehabilitation of irrigation systems.

At the meeting, the President also instructs Director General Placido Mapa, Jr. of the Presidential Economic Staff, overall coordinator of economic projects, to follow closely the pace of the work, such that the program will adhere to schedule.

In the morning, the President's mother, Mrs. Josefa Edralin Marcos, receives several callers on behalf of the President while he was undergoing, his daily medical check-up. Among the visitors she received are former US Senator and Mrs. David van Alstyne, Jr., Mrs. Mary Webster, and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cham Say.

In the afternoon, the President receives Mayor Neal S. Blansdell of Honolulu and his assistant, Victor K. Gireon.

The Chief Executive is allowed to devote more time to official business and receive more visitors as he continued to improve physically.

February 3.—TO pinch off the illegal sales of PX (post exchange) goods in military bases, President Marcos orders the deployment of Anti-Smuggling Action Center (ASAC) personnel to help bureau of customs agents.

The President's move is in accordance with recommendations of the Department of Foreign Affairs, based on the recent agreement between the Philippines and the US to cooperate in eliminating the flow of PX goods to the black market or sale to persons not exempt from taxes.

The problem of PX goods falling into the hands of black marketeers or non-tax exempt persons was elevated by the Philippine foreign office to the US embassy, after the government launched its intensified drive against smuggling.

In consequent discussions by the two governments of the problem; the US agreed to promulgate base regulations against unauthorized sale of PX goods. It further conceded that the Philippines has the right to tax all PX goods sold to non-tax exempt persons.

The ASAC men are specifically instructed to work in coordination with bureau of customs men, who have already set up offices at the military bases.

At the same time, the President formally sets aside two parcels of government land in Pasay City for the Asian Development Bank and the United Nations Organization.

The lots, described as the private domain of the government, are given to the ADB and the UN agencies by R.A. 2006, enacted last June. The measure authorizes the President to turn over to the said agencies the two lots aggregating 12,200 square meters. They are located on Roberts street and Roxas boulevard, Pasay.

The reserved lands are two contiguous lots: No. 408, consisting of 4,900 square meters; and lot No. 409, consisting of 7,300 square meters. Statistics are based on the Pasay city cadastral survey.

In the morning, the President meets leaders of Congress led by Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr. and Speaker Protempore Jose Aldeguer.

The congressmen calls on the President at 8:00 a.m., a few hours after the election of Jose Laurel. They report on the outcome of the House session last night, which saw a change of leadership in the chamber.

Right after meeting with the congressional leaders, the President resumes work on pending official matters. He has been confined at the Veterans Memorial Hospital because of an operation for an inflamed gall bladder. The doctors had been allowing him gradually to devote more time to work, and to receive visitors, as he continued to regain strength.

The President also works on state papers brought to him by his assistants.

In the afternoon, the President meets a bigger group of congressmen with whom he discussed problems facing Congress. He asks the congressmen to take the initiative in pushing through vital administration measures.

February 4.— ALLOWED by his physicians to devote more time to attend to official business, President Marcos sets up an improvised desk and office at the Veterans Memorial Hospital in Quezon City.

He meets several groups of government officials, during which he discussed current government problems and took action on urgent matters brought to him for decision.

In the morning, the President confers with his fiscal advisers and certain other members of the cabinet on the national budget, to put it into final shape for submission to Congress next Tuesday, February 7.

The talks centers on the finalization of proposals pertaining to the bigger items on the budget, which are concentrated on economic development, social development, national defense and the maintenance of peace and order.

Among those present are Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, Finance Secretary Eduardo Romualdez, Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas, Education Secretary Carlos P. Romulo, Development Bank of the Philippines Chariman Gregorio Licaros, Chairman Constancio Castafieda of the Office of the Economic Coordination, Presidential Arm on Community Development head Ernesto Maceda, Director-General Placido Mapa, Jr. of the Presidential Economic Staff, Defense Secretary Ernesto Mata, and Gen. Victor Osias AFP Chief of Staff.

In the afternoon, the President works on official papers brought to him by his aides. In the process, the President issues a directive to Lt. Gen. Pelagio Cruz (ret.), chief of the Anti-Smuggling Action Center, to pinpoint the sources of the "blue seal" cigarettes which are still being peddled in Manila and suburban cities and towns.

He wants Gen. Cruz to ascertain exactly where these sources are so that Steps can be taken to seal off these sources and break up the syndicates still trading in the untaxed goods.

The President at the same time dispatches wires to all members of the Nationalist Party national directorate appealing for “sobriety and coolness” and for a suspension of any further moves to widen the rift between certain elements of the party.

In his wire to the NP national body, the President pledges to continue working to unite and strengthen the Nacionalista Party in the face of the developments in Congress which had appeared to realign some members of the majority party.

He request all NP leaders and members of the directorate to refrain from issuing any further statements and press releases, or drawing up any resolutions that would increase the discord “sown by our political enemies”

Meanwhile, President Marcos declares that the Philippine press should work as a dynamic partner of government and the people in nation building and in the defense of Filipino freedom” if it must “prove true to itself.”

He expresses this view in a message issued from his suite at the Veterans Memorial Hospital where he is still recuperating from an operation, in connection with the celebration of Press Week, which starts Monday. ‘

The Chief Executive, in Proclamation No. 8 last year, set the second week of February every year as Press Week, “for a fuller appreciation and keener realization of the vital role of the press in safeguarding individual rights and promoting national welfare.”

In his message, the President points out that the Philippine press has had a long tradition of freedom, and a fine record of response to the challenge of the times.

He declares that it is as much in recognition of the adherence of the press to this tradition as the fact that the press is a bridge of information and enlightenment between the government and the people” that Press Week is being celebrated.

The President’s message for the occasion follows:

“The Philippine press has had a long tradition of freedom. Even in those times of social and political repression, when the first outlines of a truly Filipino press were emerging, in a time of unrest and revolution, our press was miraculously free, valiantly responsive to the challenge of its time.

“This tradition has carried on to the present, and it is as much this close and unbroken adherence to this tradition of freedom and responsibility that we celebrate during Press Week, as the fact that the press has served as a bridge of information and enlightenment between the government and the people, between current history and the people.

“Today, the press must also be a dynamic partner in the building of our nation and in the defense of the other freedoms we cherish if it must fulfill its leading role in national affairs and prove true to itself.”

February 5.—SWIFTLY moving to prop up the plywood and veneer industry which had shown a sharp decline in the volume of exports in the past several months, President Marcos directs Foreign Affairs Secretary Narciso Ramos to start immediately discussions with the U.S. on greater Philippine participation in plywood and veneer trade in South Vietnam and other countries where there are U.S. bases.

In a memorandum to Secretary Ramos, Secretary of Commerce Marcelo Balatbat, Reparations Commission Chairman Gregorio Abad and Development Rank Chairman Gregorio Licaros, the President declares “it is imperative that the local plywood and veneer industry be assisted in its predicament.”

The President also directs Secretaries Ramos and Balatbat to take steps to find new markets for local plywood and veneer in Asia and Europe.

In the morning, the President receives some visitors who conveyed to him their wishes for his speedy recovery.

Then the President confers with Director of Forestry Antonio Quejado on proposed legislation for the conservation of forest resources, and the release of fishpond areas in order to boost fish production.

The President likewise receives Roberto Benedicto, president of the Philippine National Bank.

In the evening, the President together with the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos and their children hears mass at the Veterans Memorial Hospital chapel.

Meantime, President Marcos laudes the Catholic hierarchy and laity for launching a nationwide congress for rural development, saying that nothing shorts of the concerned effects of the government and all constructive forces of the community can hope to fully implement the program for rural development.

In a speech read by Vice President Fernando Lopez at the opening of Basal Congress at the Philamlife auditorium, the President also warns against the, "insidious danger" posed by the hungry millions of Asians.

"Our democratic institutions are on trial," the President points out, "they may not have a second chance to prove and to sustain themselves. It is history that sets an early deadline for our effort."

He says that "no one, not even the U.S. Seventh Fleet, can insulate US from the insidious danger lapping at all the Asian shores except our own mighty will for progress and freedom."

In the end, he declares, "our salvation lies within us, in the flexibility of mind and strength of purpose that we can bring to the task of development"

The President says that this grave danger did not come from communist subversion or from the Huk resurgence, but basically from the potentially explosive social conditions in our midst, the gross imbalance in the distribution of income and wealth in the Philippines."

Citing statistics compiled by the Joint Legislative-Executive Tax Commission, the President points out that:

Of the P7,004, billion income of 4.8 million house-holds, 42.2 percent went to 10 percent of the population while the remaining 57.8 percent was divided among the 90 percent. He said that only one percent of the family households belong to the upper income group with an average income of P20,p00 a year.

At the lower extreme, he said, 83.1 percent of the households belong to the low income group with an income of P836 per year, or P69.70 per month per family of five members.

According, to him, only 15.8 percent belong to the middle income group with an average income of P3,551 per year, while roughly 70 percent, constituting the rural households are at the bottom, earning between P300 and P400 a year.

"A country of 33 million with one of the highest birth rates in the world, and only 1.1 percent enjoying an income of P20,000 or more a year, while close to 70 percent has to survive on an income of P400 or less, is literally living on top of a social volcano that can erupt any day, even without the benefit of communist proddings," he warns.

Faced by such a situation, he states the country has no time to lose but must mobilize without delay all its resources, attack the social problems at the source, and launch a broad program of rural economic development.

But, he stresses, nothing short of the concerted efforts of government and all the constructive forces of the community, especially the churches, school and civic and religious organizations can bring about the full implementation of such far-reaching and fundamental objective as those set up by the land reform code to establish owner-cultivatorship and economic family-sized farms, as the bases of Philippine agriculture, and the diversion of landlord capital from agriculture to industrial development.”

The, President pledges the full support and cooperation of the government to the congress in carrying out its program of action. For he says, the Congress would be helping solve the serious problems to make the epoch of the present crisis an epic of hope and of social development.

He expresses the hope that the resolutions and programs of action of the Congress will not remain mere “voices in the desert” but will become living forces of renewal and transformation in the social and economic life of the land.

February 6.—PRESIDENT Marcos follows this day on an almost normal schedule of official activities. His schedule grows in: proportions, consonant with his ever improving physical condition.

Still confined at the Veterans Memorial Hospital in Quezon City on doctors orders, the President however has been allowed to work, and he took advantage of this by setting up an improvised office, and beefing up his schedule of conferences and consultations.

The President receives as well several unofficial visitors, including *Look* magazine foreign editor Robert Moskin, who called for an interview.

In the morning, the President receives Speaker Jose B. Laurel; Jr. with whom he discusses the legislative measures relating to the pending Philippine-Japan treaty on friendship, navigation and commerce.

Following the meeting with Speaker Laurel, the President receives a number of well wishers in his suite at the VMH.

In the afternoon, the President confers with Land Authority Gov. Conrado Estrella, Agriculture Under-Secretary Dioscoro Umali, ACA Administrator Vicente Valley and Wesley Haraldson, chief of the US-Agency for International Development here.

They discuss the AID-assisted project to support the Presidents rice production program. This project involves the distribution of farmers’ “Do it yourself” kits, which contain information on how to plant 2,000 square meters, or one-fifth of a hectare, to produce about 30 cavans of palay in only some 120 days.

At the same time, the President instructs Foreign Affairs Secretary Narciso Ramos to make certain that only one vessel is used to ferry Muslim pilgrims to Mecca.

He sets this policy to preclude any repetition of the fiascos in the past involving the pilgrims, which brought extreme hardships to the passengers and complications for the government.

Commissioner Mamintal Tamano of the National Integration Commission had earlier recommended to the President that only one vessel should be chartered for the trip. The CNI head states that one vessel will serve the purpose.

The President likewise directs the National Power Corporation to Continue providing electric power for Baguio City.

The NPC had earlier set 12 noon this day as the deadline for the Pines City to settle its more than P3 million obligation to the agency. Failure to do so will mean a power cut-off, the NPC says.

According to the NPC records, the City of Baguio has back accounts amounting to P2,514,426.30. It owes the NPC P609,716.60 for the year 1966 alone. The city debt amounts to a total of P3,124,142.90.

February 7.—DUE to his continued progress toward full recovery after a gall bladder operation January 24, President Marcos is allowed a full schedule of callers and official activities by his physicians.

The President's activities this day is capped by his submission of the budget message to Congress, which embodies proposed government expenditures for fiscal year 1967-1968, totalling P2.688 billion to cover government operations and development expenditures.

He proposes a general fund appropriation of P2.13 billion.

In his budget message, the President estimates the income of the government for the same period at P2.754 billion which means a surplus in all funds of P66 million. The expected surplus in the general fund is estimated at P30 million.

The budget registers an increase of P334 million from last year's budget, which increase however will be principally spent on the broad economic and social development programs of the administration.

Expenditures on the social development programs will go to education, health, labor, and welfare projects, amounting to some P1.016 billion, or an increase of P149 million over fiscal year 1967, which required only a total of 867 million. This area of government concern has the biggest increase in expenditure.

The allocation for economic development projects, which includes development of agriculture and natural resources, commerce and industry, transportation and communication, and other capital outlays totals P826 million. It shows an increase of P72 million over fiscal year 1967, which only carried P754 million.

Other major outlays go to national defense, which has an increase of P33.2 million. The planned seven additional engineer battalions and civic action centers will get an outlay of P12.9 million from the defense appropriation.

In his message, the President says that the increase in the budget request was demanded by the need for expansion of business and industry, and for the increasing requirements by a growing population for better facilities and public services.

The President points out that in preparing the budget, the administration has given priority to the following broad courses of action:

1. The improvement of capital and expansion of food production, which require a higher level of expenditure;
2. The expansion of services for social development;
3. The improvement of the revenue service, to increase general fund resources;
4. The use of borrowed funds for capital expenditures; and
5. To provide adequate funds for servicing public debts.

The outlay for general administrative expenses totals P197 million, which is P35 million more than the allocation for the current year, which was P164 million.

Most of the increase in this area of government expenditures will go to general salary adjustments of government employees, and additional personnel and facilities for the bureau of internal revenue, bureau of customs, bureau of prisons, and the General Auditing Office.

For the repayment of the public debt, the budget provides P58 million more than the previous outlay, which amount will come from the general fund.

The bond fund has also been increased to meet bigger capital expenditures for buildings, port facilities, river control, waterworks, artesian wells, irrigation, electrification, and the operations of the Land Bank.

Among government departments, the education department has the biggest outlay with P716.1 million, or 26.6 percent of the total budget. This represents an increase of P76.7 million over the current fiscal year's outlay.

Next in line is the department of public works and communications, with an allocation of P547.2 million, or an increase of P58.5 million. The department of national defense comes next, with an outlay of P394.4 million, or an increase of P46.5 million.

The various agencies under the office of the President ranks fourth with an outlay of P194.1 million, registering an increase of P18.8 million. Among these offices are the P.A.C.D. National Economic Council and Philippine Veterans Administration which are under Malacañang for administrative purposes.

The executive office itself did not get any increase in outlay in the new budget.

The increases are earmarked for rural projects such as multipurpose centers and prefabricated schoolhouses.

The government operating expenses under the general fund total P1 959 billion, or P250 million more than those of the present year which amount to P1.709 billion. From all funds, operating expenditures for the next fiscal year will total P2.217 billion, or an increase of P252 million over the current year's outlay of P1.965 billion.

Capital outlays amount to P470.9 million or P81.5 million more than those for the current year, amounting to P389.4 million.

Total revenue estimate for the next fiscal year is set at P2,754 billion. This is P383 million more than the P2.371 billion expected for this year.

General fund receipts excluding borrowings total P2,163 billion, or P328 million more than this year's estimate of P1.835 billion.

Of the expected increase in income, P170 million is to come from the BIR and P140 million from the bureau of customs.

The general fund income will come mostly from such tax sources as license and business taxes, income taxes, import taxes and excise taxes.

The President is well inside the deadline for the submission of the proposed budget, when he sent it to Congress shortly after six o'clock this afternoon,

He has till midnight tonight to submit the proposed government outlay for the incoming fiscal year pursuant to the provision of the Constitution. The Constitution requires that the President submit the budget within 15 days after the opening of Congress.

The Chief Executive signs the budget message in his temporary office at his suite at the Veterans Memorial Hospital.

In the evening, the President receives a group of 15 veterans led by Undersecretary of National Defense Manuel Syquiao, who reported on the progress of the work on the Mt. Samat national shrine in Bataan.

Meanwhile, the President issues a proclamation declaring Wednesday (Feb. 8), a special public holiday in Tiaong, Quezon, and Lipa City.

The President proclaims this day a holiday to afford the residents of the town of Tiaong and Lipa City an opportunity to celebrate with appropriate ceremonies the 77th birth anniversary of the late Claro M. Recto, who counted these two places as his native home.

February 8.—PRESIDENT Marcos directs Secretary of National Defense Ernesto Mata to expedite the equipping of the seven engineer construction battalions earmarked for civic action and development missions.

He specifies that the AFP engineer battalions should be ready to work by April this year, and that they should be deployed in the Visayas and Mindanao.

Defense Secretary Mata is also instructed by the President to step up the drive against crime and other forms of lawlessness, in order to sooner stabilize further peace and order condition ail over the country.

[Unreadable] to the defense secretary that if necessary the highly rated Tabak Division should be thrown into the civic action program to assist directly constabulary elements engaged in the peace and order campaign [unreadable] the social and economic development projects. He states that this area of [unreadable] for the DND is an important as the peace and order drive.

The President particularly refers to the installation of artesian wells in the [unreadable] areas. He underlines the importance of completing as many of these projects as possible in the face of the approaching summer season.

He notes that in many communities the supply of water is often depleted during the hot months. He states that the artesian wells planned for the rural areas will help not only in keeping water supply steady, but also in ensuring the potability of drinking water.

In the afternoon, the President temporarily checks out of his Veterans Memorial Hospital suite to play host along with the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos at cocktails in Malacañang given in honor of the surviving members of the Philippines Constitutional convention.

The President's physicians readily permitted the President to officiate at the affair in the face of his almost complete recovery.

He leaves the VMH at 4: 30 p.m. accompanied by the First Lady, arriving at Palace 20 minutes later.

During the affair, the President is presented by Agripino P. Escareal, the Samar delegate to the constitutional convention, with an 18-volume account of the constitutional convention. The President declares that the books are "uncontradicted repository" of the true records of the proceedings leading to the adoption of tile Constitution.

All through the affair, which was also attended by Vice President Fernando Lopez, the President exhibits his newly regained nerve and vitality.

He motors back to the VMH early in the evening, where he is expected to stay till the end of the week or at most up to early next week.

Meanwhile, the President calls for a new discipline, based on mature and responsible appreciation of the demands of self-government, in approaching national goals, saying that otherwise "we end up undermining our confidence in ourselves and ultimately in our Constitution."

Speaking on the "crisis in understanding" arising from the notion that the Constitution is an ineffective abstraction when viewed against the "harsh world of economics and social realities," the President warns that indifference and ignorance might result in a "constitutional crisis" as well.

The President emphasizes this theme in a speech delivered by Vice President Fernando Lopez at a luncheon today tendered by the Philippine Lawyers Association and the Philippine Constitution Association, to mark Constitution Day today.

The tendency of the people to regard the Constitution as a mysterious document, the President says, has weakened the concept that the fundamental law "engages all of us, from the humblest citizen to the highest magistrate, in the severe discipline of self-government."

The President particularly points to the misunderstanding about the "burdens of government and how to bear them," narrowing it further to the controversy over the economic goals of the nation and how to achieve them.

He states that although there seemed to be a general agreement on the fundamentals embodied in the Constitution, primarily those that pertain to democratic principles which apply to the means of attaining the common economic goal, which is development, there appears to be no real consensus on the democratic means of achieving this.

Rather, he says, the actual contention, as reflected on the platform and the press, exposes the "superficial character of this agreement." On the surface there seems to be agreement on economic development as the primary goal of the nation, with the government providing the initiatives. Implied therefore is the limitation of contention or dialogue to the policies, or methods of achieving this goal.

For example, he states, after the nation surmounted the crisis of the immediate past, discordant voices averred it was not enough as a beginning, that nothing had been accomplished.

The President declares that surmounting a crisis does not confer automatic prosperity. He asserts that progress entails sacrifice. He deplores the attitude of detractors who demand quick satisfactions, as though the resources of government were limitless.

"If a hundred miles of roads have been built," he stresses, unreasoning voices harp on "the nine hundred miles that have not been constructed; if a dozen bridges have been erected, there are a score more that have not been built."

The effect of such an attitude towards achievement, the President, declares, is to arouse extreme expectations from the people, in the false belief that democratic government is endowed with infinite powers.

This poor quality of dissent, he says, poses the danger of disaffecting the masses and softening them for those who promise "rice in exchange of their freedom," but the loss of freedom, he said, means the loss of everything.

He stresses that national goals cannot be swiftly achieved without regimenting the people, adding that "we do not aspire, and will never aspire, for a development that comes out of the barrel of a gun."

The President says, "Let us contend and disagree among ourselves but let us improve the terms of our contention."

There is a need, he declares, for informed dialogue and knowledgeable dissent. This is the only way out of the crisis in understanding. Otherwise, he points out, the public will soon regard discussion as mere talk, and demand for just any kind of action.

Opinion leaders, he notes, should recognize their obligation to be informed, candid, and responsible. They should “realize the dangers of simplification, for while this may serve immediate political ends, it can compromise our national future.”

The Constitution, he states, has proved invulnerable thus far to tyrants, but it might prove vulnerable to fantasy, on which the language of political and economic controversy more and more relies.

“If we feel deeply for our Constitution,” he says, “we must begin a new dialogue, a dialogue that does justice to the wisdom of our forbears and the intelligence of our people.”

This should be the initial amendment to the Constitution, he avers, and quoting the late Senator Claro Recto stated the best amendment is the “amendment of our lives,” the amendment of attitudes, outlook, actions, and the “realization that we are free men, and the resolution to live and act as free men.”

He says that the people should remind themselves that the Constitution makes “all of us, in varying degrees, stewards of the state.”

Source: **National Library**

Official Week in Review: February 9 — February 22, 1967

February 9.—TURNING his sights toward the conservation of the marine resources of the country, President Marcos issues an executive order designed to minimize and ultimately eradicate blast fishing.

In his directive, the President puts more teeth to the drive against dynamite fishing by providing stiffer penalties for violations of the rules and regulations, which were also sharpened, to govern control and supervision of the importation, sale and possession of chemicals used as ingredients in the manufacture of explosives.

The President only recently has issued directives to the Chief of the Constabulary, and the directors of the bureaus of mines and forestry, calling for stricter measures in the issuance of licenses for the purchase and transport of explosives by mining companies or timber concessionaries.

The new executive order, which amended Executive Order No. 9 dated Feb. 1, 1954, covers all chemicals used in the manufacture of explosives, particularly potassium chlorate and nitrates of ammonium, potassium and sodium.

The directive provides that any person or entity desiring to import, possess or sell any of the specified chemicals must first apply with the Chief of Constabulary, stating the purpose for which the license or permit is requested and such other information as may be requested by the PC chief pertinent to the request.

It is only upon approval by the PC chief, that the Firearms and Explosives Office may issue the license or permit applied for.

Only persons or entities issued permits to purchase certain quantities of any of these chemicals by the licensing office will be allowed to purchase from authorized importers or dealers.

In view of this, all importers, dealers and end-users of these chemicals will have to secure the necessary license within three months from the issuance of the executive order which will take effect 15 days following its publication in the *Official Gazette*.

Violation of any of the provisions of the executive order, including the rules and regulations that may be issued relative to its implementation, will be sufficient cause for the cancellation of the license and confiscation of all chemicals in questions. In addition a fine of not less than three months nor more than two years, will be imposed, at the discretion of the court.

At the same time, the President directs Public Highways Commissioner Baltazar Aquino to immediately begin the cementing of provincial highway between Calbayog City and Catarman a main artery of Catbalogan, following reports of damage which had rendered it impassable.

The bad condition of the road has isolated the northern towns of Samar from the rest of the province.

The President also instructs Commissioner Aquino to call for public bidding at once of the cementing of the provincial highway. He notes that the project should have been started earlier to forestall further deterioration.

President Marcos spends most of his day attending to state affairs brought to his attention by various government officials.

In the evening, the President receives newsmen covering Malacañang, who paid him a social call.

During the brief talk with newspapermen at his temporary office at the Veterans Memorial Hospital, the President says he would put the coalition (NP, LP, PPP) to a test by asking for its support for his appropriation bill, the investment incentives bills and the bills reforming the tax structure.

He likewise bares he would start conferring with Nacionalista senators tomorrow on his legislative program and on the possible need for a re-organization in the Senate.

On the criticisms of his budget proposals in the Senate and the House, the President expresses surprise. In fact, he confides, his budget proposal was one of the lowest in the government's history as far as funds for actual administrative operation were concerned. He declares the total expenditure increased only because the administration was paying off debts incurred by previous administrations.

He explains that because of increased income, his administration will be able to pay off previous public debts.

The President also declares he was recovering speedily and was anxious to get out of the hospital so that he could resume a full working schedule at Malacañang. He states he felt he could play 36 holes of golf and was becoming restless in the hospital.

Meantime, President Marcos reveals that the civic action program of the Philippine Navy will be expanded in the next few months, in a speech delivered by Defense Secretary Ernesto Mata at the ceremonies marking the 28th anniversary of the naval arm of the country.

He tells the navy officers and personnel present at the program that it was his desire that "more ships and personnel in the navy be enlisted for a massive civic action program which will embrace vital social services, from community improvement to health and education projects."

The President hails the navy for its initiative in fighting hunger, unemployment, ignorance in various parts of the country, where, he said, "civilian development efforts have not penetrated."

The present efforts in this area of social amelioration will be unified, states utilizing the "best available and most dedicated men from the schools, community welfare agencies, health services and the armed forces.

"This national partnership in peace," the President points out, "is the key to that reformation which we have long hoped to achieve."

This unification of efforts, he says, is not only possible, but must be organized and used immediately.

February 10.—PRESIDENT Marcos lifts a Malacañang order suspending the grant of industrial and commercial loans by the Social Security System.

The President instructs the SSS, through Administration Gilberto Teodoro, to reopen the industrial and commercial loan operation of the system, after he was informed that the financing agency is now in a position to extend these loans.

The commercial and industrial loan operations of the SSS were suspended last year, when the agency undertook a review of the loans granted by the previous administration. The review was made by the Development Bank of the Philippines.

The Chief Executive restores the lending operations to commercial and industrial enterprises, in recognition of the need for supporting financially those efforts in this area designed to move forward economic development.

At the same time, the President issues a proclamation extending Philippine-China Friendship Year which expired last December 31, to June 24 this year.

Under Proclamation, No. 23, issued last March 24, the remainder of the year 1966 beginning last March 25 was designated Philippine-China Friendship Year by the President.

In his proclamation, the President creates a committee to coordinate government participation in the activities designed to achieve fully the objective of the proclamation.

The Chief Executive also clears the way for the implementation of two forestry projects, one, expanding the culture of softwoods and the other, and widening research on quick growing timber species.

In his proclamation, the President sets aside 23, 398 hectares of timberlands in Agusan for the establishment of a *gubas* tree plantation, and another 5,418 hectares in Negros Oriental as a Bureau of Forestry-Siliman University experimental and educational forest reserve.

The joint project, Director Antonio Quejado of the bureau of forestry says, will conduct studies on the stabilization of forestland squatters, the cultivation of quick growing species, and other research projects on forests and forest products.

President Marcos starts the day early in the morning pursuing state papers and receiving callers at his temporary office at the Veterans Memorial Hospital.

The President's first visitors are Tristan E. Beplat and John H. Andren, senior vice president and executive vice president, respectively, of the Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company of New York, who came to pay their respects.

During the brief meeting, the President and the New York Bankers discusses informally economic and financial matters in general, and local public works projects in particular.

February 11.—FULLY recovered after 19-days of confinement following the removal of his inflamed ball bladder last January 24, President Marcos checks out the Veterans Memorial Hospital.

On his discharge from the hospital, his doctors certifies that he was "completely recovered." The President leaves the hospital at 5 p.m., accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos.

Before he left the hospital, the President receives all those of the VMH staff who had attended to him during his operation and recuperation.

The Chief Executive arrives in Malacañang well rested although he had worked as usual in the morning. He is received exuberantly by his children.

Later, he resumes working on state papers in his private study.

Meanwhile, the President proclaims 1967 as Economic census Year.

The last economic census was taken in 1962.

In his proclamation, the President states that "it is utmost urgency that another economic census be conducted in order to have a picture of the country's current economic situation."

The census will cover economic activities such as logging, mining and quarrying, manufacturing, construction, utilities, commerce, transportation, storage and communication and services such as government and education.

The President also orders the investigation of the irregular transactions of the immediate past management of the Home Financing Commission, which was recently uncovered during the regular audit of the firm's books.

He names a committee to investigate two specific transactions which the HFC auditor claimed were illegal.

They are:

1. The sum of P150, 000 in HFC funds which appear to be unaccounted for, being represented only by a certified acceptance of the Overseas Bank of Manila, which on its face value is of doubtful validity;
2. The investment of P659, 218.59 of HFC corporate funds, which is not authorized by the provisions of section 15 or R.A 1557, or the Home Financing Act.

Named to the investigating committee are Emilio Gancayco of the Department of Justice, chairman; and Alipio Calmacio of the Presidential Economic Staff and Marcelino Yumol of the General Auditing Office as members.

The irregularities are first detected by the HFC auditor in the course of the current audit of the firm's books. He brought this to the attention of the acting HFC chairman, Alejandro Melchor, who after examination of the housing agency's records recommended to the President an investigation of the matter.

In his recommendation, Melchor states that it appears the past HFC management had improperly used its authority, or had abused its powers.

The investment is found to be irregular because:

1. It was not authorized by the provisions of Section 15 of R.A. 1557. Otherwise known as the Home Financing Act;
2. The said acceptances were renewed without pre-audit in contravention of Circular 510 of the GAO, dated May 27, 1965, which restored the pre-audit system, and without prior approval of the Central Bank as required by CB Circular 220.
3. That the renewed acceptances were made payable to bearer, thus extinguishing the identity of the funds as that of the HFC.

February 12.—THE Chief Executive orders the Land Transportation Commission and the National Bureau of Investigation to probe and break up the syndicate within the LTC issuing irregular drivers licenses.

He takes the measure after receiving a report from the Department of Justice that 70, 000 drivers licenses and Traffic Violation Receipts have been "abandoned" by the violators in the courts of Manila alone.

This act, the Presidents states, is proof of the irregular issuance of licenses by certain LTC officials and employees, for it means erring drivers can easily secure new licenses to replace those confiscated by police and LTC agents.

In his directive, the President instructs Romeo Edu, LTC commissioner, to secure a copy of the list of abandoned licenses and TVRs (Traffic Violation Receipts) from the department of justice and check the names there against those newly issued by the LTC.

He then asks the LTC chief to pinpoint the culprits within the agency responsible for the irregular issuance of drivers licenses and take "stern disciplinary measures against them, including dismissal from the service if warranted."

He also instructs Commissioner Edu to study the feasibility of removing from the police the authority to confiscate drivers licenses. Instead, traffic policemen may only issue TVRs.

In the morning, the President accompanied by his three children strolls around the park.

The President spends most of his first day out of the hospital at the Malacañang Park where he relaxed with members of his family.

He returns to Malacañang the other day.

February 13.—IN the face of the continued smuggling of rice from southern ports to nearby countries, President Marcos directs the Rice and Corn Administration to take steps in improving the marketing facilities for the cereal in Mindanao, as well as other parts of the country.

The President takes the measure following a report from Lt. Gen. Pelagio Cruz (ret.), chairman of the Anti-Smuggling Action Center, that the smuggling of rice from Mindanao to ports abroad continues despite strict surveillance and countermeasures.

The report adds that there is also continued activity in the smuggling of copra from Indonesian ports to Mindanao and other southern ports.

To further discourage such activities, the President order:

1. The RCA to buy rice at competitive prices in order to stop the activities of speculators and rice hoarders.
2. The Department of National Defense to intensify naval patrols and provide air cover if possible, to better detect the movements of vessels used by smugglers.
3. The Department of Foreign Affairs to implement strictly the border-crossing agreement with Indonesia, with a view to shortening the validity period for border-crossing cards, from 30 days to ten days.

The ASAC report bares that smuggling of copra, notably from Celebes, amounts to about 55, 000 to 60, 000 tons annually. On the other hand, the rice being shipped out surreptitiously from Mindanao amounts to about 200 sacks a month.

At the same time, the President takes steps to head off any serious problems in rice by initiating new moves against rice hoarders and the speed up of the delivery of the cereal imported by the Rice and Corn Administration.

He likewise orders steps taken to assure the supply of fertilizers and irrigation water for the coming planting season.

In this connection, the President:

1. Creates an action committee composed of Finance Secretary Eduardo Romualdez, chairman; commerce and Industry Secretary Marcelo Balatbat and RCA Administrator Osmundo Mondoñedo as members, to tackle the problem of rice hoarding.

He instructs the committee to seal rice bodegas if necessary, if ascertained as sheltering hoarded rice, and to file a writ of distraint and levy, as well as to bring criminal action against illegal combines and monopolies which usually operate in restraint of trade in rice.

2. Orders the RCA to affect the earlier delivery of rice imports. The RCA chief states in this connection that the cereal purchased from Burma is expected here in the first week of March.

3. Directs the importation of fertilizers to be expedited as well. He names a committee to take care of the public bidding for the fertilizers, with Director General Placido Mapa, Jr. of the Presidential Economic Staff as Chairman; Gov. Vicente Valley of the Agricultural Credit Administration and a representative of the General Auditing Office as members.

He also creates an awards committee, composed of the finance secretary as chairman, Agricultural Undersecretary Dioscoro Umali and a representative of the GAO as members.

The President likewise moves to have the prices of fertilizers in Japan lowered, instructing Ambassador Jose Laurel III in Tokyo to follow up the representations already started to this end.

President Marcos also orders the closure of all drug stores found stocking and selling fake medicines, as the government moved to protect the public from the harm caused by these illegal products.

He issues the order to Dr. Luzonica Pesigan, Food and Drug Administration, following the submittal of a full report to him on these spurious medicines, which includes bogus anti-biotics. The report says these drugs are being sold in some drug stores in Manila and the suburbs.

The report also reveals that a wide assortment of fake drugs apprehended in raids on suspected establishments were all imitations, made out of such materials as starch, dyes and binders. These spurious medicines are being passed off as samples to gullible buyers and sold to unscrupulous drug store owners.

In the afternoon, the President motors to the South Harbor where he officiated at a simple ceremony, which marked the completion of the concreting of Pier 15. This is the first “outside” activity the President had since returning to Malacañang from the Veterans Memorial Hospital for an operation of an inflamed gall bladder.

Following tradition, the President throws in some coins into the concrete mixture poured into the last small uncemented portion of the pier floor.

At the pier, the President also discusses briefly with finance and public works officials, led by Secretary Eduardo Romualdez and Secretary Antonio Raquiza, the other proposed improvements in the South Harbor.

February 14.—THE President is back in full stride attending to state affairs and the usual quota of visitors, as though he had never been away from Malacañang.

Occupying an important part of his time is the discussion of legislative measures designed to support the administration program, with emphasis on economic development.

He discusses at length with Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas, Director-General Placido Mapa, Jr. of the Presidential Economic Staff and Presidential Legislative Assistant Ariel Bocobo, on the bills proposed for enactment by Congress.

Included among the high priority measures are the investment incentive bill, the bills amending the tariff and customs codes, and the internal revenue code.

At 11 a.m., the President briefly leaves the conference to officiate at a simple ceremony in his study, at which he conferred on Monsignor Joseph J. Harnett of the American Catholic Relief Services the Presidential award of the Golden Heart.

Msgr. Harnett is cited for his “inspired leadership and dedicated humanism” as Far East Director of the CRS, US Catholic Conference of Bishops.

Meanwhile, the President instructs the National Marketing Corporation to hold its proposed importation of meat products and study the offer of the Delta Manufacturing Corporation to supply all the requirements of the marketing agency.

The NAMARCO is set to import some P9 million worth of canned sardines and meat products this year, after it had ascertained that local food producers did not have the capability to supply these goods in sufficient quantity to meet national requirements.

The Delta Manufacturing Corporation however disputes this assessment Francisco Ortigas, Jr., president and chairman of the board of the firm, declares in a letter to NAMARCO with canned meat products at prices competitive with those listed by foreign manufacturers.

The President, who was furnished a copy of Ortigas' letter, directs the NAMARCO head, through Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas, to look into the offer of Delta to supply the marketing agency its needs in meat products at prices lower than foreign products, or on the same level.

At the same, the President also orders Public Works Secretary Antonio Raquiza to immediately utilize the 1,500 drums of asphalt in Tagbilaran, Bohol to pave national roads in the province.

The P75,000 worth of asphalt, stored at the Tagbilaran airport since 1957, has not been used by the past administration. It was originally ordered to pave the 1,200-meter Bohol airport runway.

The asphalt stockpile has not been used because there had been no appropriations set aside for the labor and other materials necessary, such as sand and gravel, for the runway improvement.

February 15.—PRESIDENT Marcos instructs the Presidential Arm Community Development to procure the services of more Japanese agricultural and ceramics experts following reports of the favorable results of the work here of the members of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers.

The President states that the request for more Japanese volunteers will be readily accommodated by the Japanese government, since this is one of the areas of cooperation taken up during the President's state visit to Japan last October.

He declares that four more rice experts could be utilized in the Mountain Province and in the Cagayan Valley, where rice production is being expanded.

For the same reason, the President says that two more ceramics experts and another two vegetable experts can be absorbed to good advantage in the Mountain Province. He observes that the growing vegetable producing industry in that province would benefit from the services of experienced Japanese, who in their homeland have made vegetable farming a major enterprise.

The Junior volunteers of the JOCV, which is an equivalent of the US Peace Corps Volunteers, have undertaken to instruct, demonstrates and direct programs here on sericulture, or the production of raw silk from silkworm cocoons; on forest development, management and conservation, and on the cultivation of Japanese green tea and Ceylonese black tea. These volunteers appear to have made great progress in imparting their skills to Filipinos.

The President, after working on a full schedule of official business and visitors, breaks off at noon to felicitate his mother, Mrs. Josefa Edralin Marcos, on her 74th birth anniversary.

Accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, the President motors to Calixto Dyco street in Paco where his mother resides. The First Couple present the celebrant with a gold wrist as their birthday gift.

Back in Malacañang in the afternoon, the President crosses the Pasig river for the "Pangarap" guesthouse at Malacañang Park, where he worked on state papers.

February 16.—President Marcos devotes his full time working on official papers, notably administration bills to be forwarded to Congress for enactment.

He works the whole day at the "Pangarap" guesthouse in Malacañang Park with this assistants and receives only a few callers.

Among those who saw the President are Robert Philips of the American Legion, and the Philippine participants in the air rifle tournament during the Fifth Asian Games in Bangkok last December.

During the call of the Philippine participants in the recently concluded Fifth Asian Games, the President is presented with an air rifle used by Lt. Leopoldo Ang in the air rifle event, a performance which won a bronze medal for the Philippine team.

At the same time, the President extends the fund campaign period of the Philippine Mental Health Association this year to February 28.

In extending the fund drive, the President declares that the association needed additional time to enable it to realize its campaign goal.

He has originally authorized the MHA to conduct a fund drive from October 15 to December 31 to last year.

February 17.—MEETING his cabinet officials for the second time this year, President Marcos lays firm emphasis on broadening government assistance to local producers of prime commodities and basic products directly boosting economic development.

During the meeting, the President stresses the advisability of providing government help to local canned food manufacturers and assessing their ability to supply the National Marketing Corporation (NAMARCO) all its needs.

The Chief Executive emphasizes the need for simplifying and expediting contracts by cutting red tape and decentralizing authority in the finalization of such agreements.

Notable among the other subjects taken up at the meeting are the government's recent moves to flush out the rice hoarders and other hidden rice stocks.

The President voices concern for local manufacturers in connection with the projected importation of canned food products by the NAMARCO, which was discussed during the meeting.

He declares that as much as possible the marketing agency should patronize local canned foods instead of importing such commodities.

As an initial step in this direction, the President asks Secretary Balatbat to meet with local manufacturers of canned goods and determine their capabilities for supplying the NAMARCO all of its requirements in these commodities.

Switching to another area of concern, the President takes up the problem of government contracts, particularly those relating to public works projects. The President notes that some projects had been delayed because of the delay in approval of contracts.

The President points out that there is need to re-evaluate this process, with a view to promulgating new rules that would expedite approval of contracts. One reason he gives for the needless delay is the inflexible centralization of authority.

He explains that present regulations require that contracts in the amount of P500,000 or more, and even those in the amount of P100,000, still must be forwarded to Malacañang for final approval. He suggests that department heads concerned may be given the authority to give final approval.

Toward this end, the President instructs the cabinet member to submit their recommendations on the problem, designed to simplify and streamline the process of drawing up contracts.

The President likewise expresses dissatisfaction with the present trend of prices charged against the government in the procurement of supplies and other needs. He tells Secretary Vicente Duterte of general services to study the price quotations of all the materials and supplies the government often purchases and find the solution to the problem of scaled-up prices.

He avers that the government is being charged by suppliers prices 25 percent higher than the average price quotations on the same commodities.

Following the meeting, the President meets Brig. Gen. Manuel Yan, chief of the Philippine Constabulary, who reported on the latest developments in the peace and order drive.

The President also orders Gen. Yan to prepare a military decoration and commendation for a PC trooper, Sgt. Corsino Destajo, who singlehandedly battled six smugglers in Talaga, Argao, Cebu several days ago, capturing their kumpit which was full of smuggled goods.

In the course of the day, the President inducts the new officers of the Newspaperwomen's Society, led by Miss Guillermina Mendoza of the *Manila Times*, president.

Meantime, President Marcos certifies to Congress the reorganization bill, one of the administration's most urgent legislative proposals.

In his formal communication transmitting the bill, the President also invites the attention of Congress to eight bills previously submitted, but which are still pending enactment.

The bills submitted by the President to Congress during its last session but still pending enactment, are:

1. An act amending several provisions of the reparations law, to give all remaining reapartions to the government, in the Senate, for second reading.
2. An act creating circuit criminal courts to relieve clogged court dockets approved in the Senate, awaiting second reading on the House.
3. An act providing for additional prosecutors in the department of Justice, approved in the Senate, pending in the House.
4. An act further amending Commonwealth act 120 and R.A. 2641 and R.A. 3043, regarding the capital stock of the National Power Corporation, pending in the House.
5. An act creating a Philippine Coast Guard, pending in the House, awaiting report of Senate Committee on National Defense.
6. An act to sell the Welfareville property in Mandaluyong, Rizal, approved in the Senate, pending in the House.
7. An Act creating the provinces of Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, and Davao Oriental, pending Senate third reading.
8. An act requiring judges of court to summarily try criminal cases with tourists or other foreigners as offended parties, pending second reading in the Senate.

February 18.—PRESIDENT Marcos for the first time since he returned to Malacañang from the hospital goes out to speak, as guest of honor, before the Municipal Judges League of the Philippines, at the closing session of its two-day convention at the Manila Hotel.

The President has a prepared speech, but he left the reading of the speech to Justice Undersecretary Claudio Teehankee. Instead, he briefly addresses the assemblage, leaving immediately thereafter.

In his remarks delivered extemporaneously before his main speech, the President also takes the occasion to stress administration policies aimed at stabilizing the whole range of consumer prices, particularly in prime commodities. He says that in the past year, from the beginning of his term, the administration has focused on firming up the finances of the government, which in turn was aimed at maintaining the strength of the peso.

Once the peso is devalued, he declares, the whole structure of prices will collapse, the people will have less to buy with their diminished peso, and there will be runaway prices.

He tells the judges that this year, the administration will start a nationwide building program to widen the nation's economic foundations and strengthen them, with basic public works projects, including better roads, bridges, more schoolhouses, and other constructions to deepen the nation's infrastructure.

In his prepared speech read by Undersecretary of Justice Claudio Teehankee, the President urges the judges to assure that justice is not delayed, which he said is the primary duty of these officials.

He reveals that he had instructed the department of Justices to study how the judicial process can be speeded up. He states he has taken steps to invigorate the judicial arms of government, including the reduction of red tape and the improvement of the quality of personnel.

He tells the judges that they can perform a great service in the campaign against crime by taking the lead "in the moral regeneration of your youth socially desirable goals."

He concludes by requesting the judges not to be influenced by outside pressures, to do their jobs with the highest integrity, for "when the people lose their faith in the judicial process system, they also lose their confidence in their government."

Back in Malacañang, the President confers with Highways Commissioner Baltazar Aquino on the status of highway construction projects, as well as of those projects to be undertaken soon by the government.

In the afternoon, the President crosses the Pasig River to the "Pangarap" guesthouse at Malacañang Park, where he discussed at luncheon with Undersecretary Teehankee and Solicitor General Antonio Barredo proposed legislations concerning the justice department and the judiciary.

Meanwhile, the President in a message to the members of the Confederation of Filipino Veterans, asks all veterans "to do their duties as citizens even as they had done nobly their duty as soldiers."

In his message read by Press Secretary Jose D. Asperas, on the opening of the annual convention of the organization, at the Rizal provincial capitol in Pasig, the President declares that "there is always a mission for old soldiers to accomplish, whether it is in working for better government, or defending the freedoms they fought and sacrificed for in war."

He adds however that the Filipino veterans in general have been "largely forgotten." It was in recognition of this, he states, that he had set out to help the veterans, "not in receiving recognition and honor, but also to find themselves."

He expresses the hope that the veterans will "continue the quest for their proper place in the scheme of things today, as well as to record more achievements in the public interest."

February 19.—TO speed up completion of important road projects in the city, President Marcos directs the Department of Public Works and the Public Highways Commission to extend all assistance to the City of Manila.

He orders these agencies of the national government to lend to the city road-building equipment and materials which may be needed to speed up work especially in the main city roads.

The Chief Executive has been receiving complaints from businessmen, who claimed that business in the city has been at a virtual standstill since the closure of certain roads in the city to vehicular traffic because of work on the Quezon boulevard-Claro M. Recto overpass and on Taft Avenue.

In the morning, the President confers with Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco and Public Highways Commissioner Baltazar Aquino. He is briefed by Commissioner Sy-Changco on the status of the proposed budget which the President submitted to Congress last February 7.

February 20.—PRESIDENT Marcos calls for the drastic acceleration of the public works construction program, and ordered the immediate release of P20 million of the P92 million earlier authorize for public projects to finance the immediate requirements of the program.

He tells the public works and other officials concerned with the program at a conference that special ways must be found to remedy delays in projects, including delays in the awarding of contracts and the release of funds.

The President likewise directs that work should be started immediately on the Agno river bridge, in the Mangatarem-Urbiztondo section of the national highways, with a target for completion six months from now.

In the morning, the President discusses administration bills in conference at the “Pangarap” guesthouse with Speaker Jose Laurel, Jr., Speaker Protempore Jose Aldeguer, and Reps. Marcelino Veloso, Leonardo Perez and Floro Crisologo.

Before lunch time, the President briefly takes up financial matter with Secretary of Finance Eduardo Romualdez.

In the afternoon, the President meets with Palace assistants on various administration matters, and for the rest of the afternoon till early in the evening worked on state papers.

February 21.—THE Chief Executive in a lively meeting with leaders of the Evangelical Churches, hails them for their individual and collective efforts to improve community life and conditions in the rural areas.

He tells those present that their work would reap more success if they coordinated their efforts with other church leaders, such as to widen the impact and success of their program designed to enhance economic and social development.

Following the meeting with the group, the President next receives Rice and Corn Administrator Osmundo Mondoñedo, who reported on the results of his rice-procurement mission abroad.

Mondoñedo, who arrived the other night, informs the President that rice shipments from Burma and Thailand will arrive in the first and second weeks of March, and additional weekly shipments will come thereafter.

In the afternoon, the President receives at the “Pangarap” guesthouse Brig. Gen. Manuel Yan, PC Chief, and Col. Felizardo Tanabe, chief of the PC Criminal intelligence service, who reported on developments in the investigation of the murder of Mayor James Gordon of Olongapo City.

February 22.—PRESIDENT Marcos suspends Gov. Jose E. Villarama of Bulacan after special investigator Dr. Gaudencio Garcia, found the provincial executive guilty of dishonesty, grave misconduct and oppression.

Dr. Garcia recommended the dismissal from office of the Bulacan governor, but this was considered too severe for the offenses and the President imposes instead a six-month suspension.

The case comes in the wake of charges brought against Gov. Villarama by the provincial board of Bulacan.

On the charge of dishonesty, Dr. Garcia's findings establishes that:

1. Gov. Villarama transferred provincial trust funds from the Philippine National Bank of the Philippines Commercial and Industrial Bank, which had filed estafa charges against the governor with the Manila fiscal's office, a case involving P182,165.98.
2. The Bulacan governor received P40,000 from the PCIB as a donation to the province, but which later was used to build a canteen, without however public bidding or the participation of the provincial board.
3. The respondent further was found to have used portions of 621 confiscated logs for political purposes, without the consent of the provincial board nor any accounting to the provincial treasurer.
4. The same irregularities were found in the governor's establishment of a hollow blocks factory. In the building and operation of the factory he disregarded the provincial board and the provincial treasurer, and also used the products for political advantage.

On the charge of oppression, Dr. Garcia notes that:

1. Gov. Villarama locked the provincial board's session hall when he was not present or not disposed to attend meetings; that during sessions he refused to recognize motions although properly presented, thus preventing the board from fulfilling its legislative function.
2. He delayed the signing of vouchers for gasoline allowances presented by board members.

On the charge of grave misconduct, Dr. Garcia establishes that:

1. The governor refused to turn over 24 dump trucks to the highway district engineer's office, and violated General Auditing Office rules on government vehicle markings by having his name inscribed on the trucks.
2. He disregarded the Supreme Court decision declaring valid and legal the actions of just three board members in regular session, by continuing to pay the salaries of employees whose positions were abolished by the board. He further failed to honor board resolutions turning over the dump trucks to the highway district engineer's office and suspending public works projects which had not been started at the time.
3. The respondent abused his powers and discretion by discriminating against officials along party lines, when he suspended and charged administratively NP Mayor Bienvenido Castillo of Pulilan for involvement in a fight, while with-holding the same charges against LP Mayor Roberto Chico of Baliwag, who had been charged through the provincial fiscal's office with malversation of public funds.

In the morning, the President confers with his financial advisers, with whom he discussed the funding of public works projects, particularly road and bridges construction job.

Following the conference, the President next meets the officials of the National Shipyards and Steel Corporation headed by Defense Secretary Ernesto Mata, the acting chairman, and Brig. Gen. Dominador Garcia (ret), general manager.

The NASSCO officials briefs the President on the status of the government's firm, its activities, and the problems confronting it today. Gen. Garcia also submits a plan for the transfer of NASSCO facilities from Engineer Island to a bigger site in the North Harbor area.

In the afternoon, the President motors to the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources office in Diliman, Quezon City, where he was guest of honor and speaker at the department's 50th anniversary celebration.

During the program, which lasted till early evening, the President also presents awards to the four outstanding farmers of the year, and 15 outstanding officials and employees of the DANR.

Likewise awarded is Robert Chandler, director of the International Rice Research Institute, for the development of selected rice seeds, notably the IR-8 or "miracle" rice seeds, as well as for the propagation of progressive farm practices, among other citations.

In his speech, the President stresses the urgency of conserving the country's natural resources, as he sounded a call for national participation in a massive campaign to attain this objective.

He reveals that the principal cause of the destructive natural disasters the country has experienced in the past few years was the wanton destruction of forests.

The administration, the President declares has already started a vigorous program of conservation, particularly in guarding national forests and parks against mindless destruction.

Source: Supreme Court Library

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1967). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 63(10), cxxi-cxxxii.

President's Week in Review: February 23 - March 4, 1967

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

February 23.—NOTING that the rice trade is still largely controlled by foreign or naturalized Filipino elements, President Marcos, asks for the full cooperation of the big rice traders in bringing down the prices of the cereal.

The President bluntly tells officials of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce, at a brief meeting in Malacañang, that the artificial increase in rice prices were due to the manipulation and smuggling of the cereal supply.

He reveals that reports reaching him place smuggled rice, specially from Mindanao, at 100,000 to 120,000 cavans a month. He stresses that because of the serious depletion of the supply through these activities, the government will be forced if necessary to close warehouses and search ships,

He urges the officials of the federation to help the government stabilize rice prices through unstinted cooperation in the implementation of rice policies.

If the present trend of rice prices does not change for the better, the President warns, he would "be compelled to import as much rice as possible and dump it on the market."

At the same time, President Marcos grants a last minute: reprieve to Emeterio Orzame, sentenced to die for murder tomorrow in the electric chair. The President's reprieve gives the death row convict a new lease on life up to March 30, 1967.

The reprieve is given to afford the board of pardons and parole to further scrutinize the records of the case, in connection with the convicts' plea for executive clemency Orzame was sentenced by the court of first instance of Nueva Ecija to die for the slaying of Juan Dulay, in a decision handed down. Sept. 30, 1960.

The court found him guilty of murder after establishing beyond reason able doubt that the killing of Dulay was attended by premeditation, with the aggravating circumstances of treachery and unnecessary cruelty.

Early in the morning, the President officiates at the formal opening of the 1967 Philippine Golf Club Championship tournament at the Wack Wack Golf Club.

The President also receive Colonels Salvador Villa and Nicanor Jimenez, chairman and general manager, respectively, of the Philippine National Railways, who called to inform the President on the activities of the firm, including acquisition of new facilities, such as the five locomotives, set to arrive from France.

In the afternoon, the President confers with Secretary Alfonso Calalang of the National Economic Council, on matters affecting the administration's economic programs.

February 24.—PRESIDENT Marcos names Fiscal Lucio Badoria of Olongapo City as overall coordinator of all activities of police agencies involved in the investigation and prosecution of persons responsible for the murder of Mayor James Gordon.

Even as the President issued the order, he receives report from Capt. Tomas Diaz of the PC, who is acting officer-in-charge of the Olongapo City police, that the main suspects in the case, besides the confessed triggerman, have been already arrested.

The Chief Executive had earlier directed the National Bureau of Investigation, the PC and the Olongapo City Police Department to coordinate fully their efforts, in order to expedite the solution of the murder case.

Capt Diaz also reports to file President that criticisms against the PC in connection with the investigation was properly coordinated from the start by Fiscal Badoria.

At the same time, the President takes steps to seat Southeast Asia in the Interim Committee of the International Telecommunications Satellite Consortium (Intelsat) as he instructed Ambassador Benjamin Romualdez to work for the pooling of shares of Southeast Asian members.

The President receives report from Deputy Director-General Apolinario Orosa, chairman and general manager of the Philippine Communications Satellite Corporation (Philcomsat).

The Interim Committee acts as the ruling body of Intelsat, with the United States Communications Satellite Corporation (Comsat) as manager.

The Intelsat constitution provides that any member or group of members with an aggregate of 1.5 percent share in the Consortium is entitled to a seat in the Interim Committee.

In his report to the President, Orosa states that the affairs of Intelsat are being decided mostly by European countries and that Southeast Asia is not represented in the Interim Committee, although the members from the region hold an aggregate of 2.85 percent of the total Philcomsat shares. This is more than the requirement for one seat but less than that required for two seats in the ruling body.

The Philippines, which holds a half percent share in Intelsat, has the biggest holding among the SEA countries, and on this basis is seeking a seat in the committee. The other members approached to pool their shares in support of the Philippines bid, include New Zealand, which holds .45 percent; Taipei, .1 percent; Thailand, .25 percent; Singapore, .10 percent ; and Indonesia, .30. percent. Counting the Philippines, these nations hold an aggregate 1.70 percent of Intelsat shares.

In the morning, the President receives A. Levin, a personal representative of the President of Zambia, who called to deliver a message from the Zambian head of government.

Following the call of Levin, the President receive next the leaders of the local banking community led by Col. Ernesto Rufino (ret.), chair man of the fund drive committee for the national shrines projects.

During the call of the local banking community, Jose Fernandez, president of the Far East Bank and Trust Company and chairman of the campaign subcommittee on banks, turns over to the President P218,000 as donation of the banks to the shrine projects. The amount overshoots the banking sector's quota by P18, 000.

In the afternoon, the President confers with government leaders from the Bicol region, and discussed with them the ways of speeding up the program on highways, feeder roads, irrigation and water control systems constructions.

After the conference, the President also receive Administrator Ramon Nolan of the Sugar Quota Administration and sugar industry leaders. Carlos. Ledesma and Alfredo Montelibano on the means to improve the country's sugar production.

The sugar leaders also discuss with the President such safeguards as might be necessary for the industry, following the termination of the Laurel-Langley Agreement in 1974, which is expected to directly affect the country's sugar exports.

Meanwhile, President Marcos underscores the need for quality in the opposition, stating that at present the critics of the administration lend to be superficial and too often motivated by partisan aims.

Addressing the convention of Rotary Clubs of Luzon, Mindoro and Palawan in Baguio City in a speech read by Finance Secretary Eduardo Romualdez, the President likens the Rotary spirit of “open-hearted and self-discipline” to the democratic virtue of self-criticism.

He points out that a democratic nation’s capacity for self-criticism is the same as the capacity for self-correction. He asserts that “democracy requires candor as its indispensable climate.”

It is unfortunate however, he declares, that the opposition has often succumbed to the temptation of blaming the government for “age-old conditions, thus excusing the effort required to look deeper” into the problems they deplore.

The President avers that “an opposition program based merely on the downgrading of public officials, in the hope of being allowed to replace them, cannot speak well of our society as a whole.”

He declares that if the party in power must be expected to perform well, on pain or criticism, “the same obligation must be presumed of the opposition parties in the exercise of their function as an alternative administration and fiscalizing body.”

On the other hand, the President notes, “the quality of dissent is the highest complement the dissenters can pay themselves.”

However, the President observes that “some of the opposition spokesmen. have shown themselves more partial to black propaganda, than to responsible criticism.”

This attitude, he says, is “taking the path of least resistance.” He declares that it is in effect “an abdication of the moral obligation of the opposition party to fiscalize the administration through responsible criticism.”

He maintains that the “cheap and irresponsible methods of propaganda” used by the opposition “debases the level of democratic dialogue and does irreparable harm to our democratic development.”

Black propaganda, he notes, “which relies not on evidence but on gossip, is inimical to the development of a climate of open-hearted candor and free inquiry indispensable to the health and vigor of a democratic society.”

The President asserts that his policy is “a policy of candor.” In a democracy, he emphasizes, “there is no alternative to a policy of candor.” Except where national interest intervenes, he states, “a democratic government must have nothing to hide.”

February 25.—THE Chief Executive announces that the Philippines has received offers from Belgium and Japan for the construction and installation of the Bataan Thermal Plant.

A \$12 million loan-application for this project is now under consideration by the World Bank. Final action on the application now only await completion of minor requirements.

The Bataan Thermal Plant is one of the major power projects included in President Marcos’ development program. It will supplement the power supplied by the National Power Corporation’s hydro-electric plants, and is primarily aimed at maintaining the peak power supply for the Bataan area during the dry season when hydro-electric power production drops.

Development of the plant will be done in three stages. Each stage calls for the installation of a 75 megawatt (million-watt) unit. When completed, it will have a total capacity of 225 MW, one-fourth of the present power capacity of Luzon power plants which is 900 MW.

President Marcos spends most of his time working on state papers. He receives only one group of callers, American high school students from Olongapo, Zambales.

In the morning, the President concentrates on state papers brought to him by his assistants.

Towards noon, the President crosses the Pasig back to the Palace, where he receives a group of students from the George Dewey High School in Subic, Olongapo.

After exchanging impressions with the students, the President returns to the "Pangarap" guesthouse for lunch. He takes a brief rest later in the afternoon, and then resumed his paperwork till evening.

February 26.—PRESIDENT Marcos directs Administrator Osmundo Mondoñedo of the Rice and Corn Administration to adopt additional measures to further improve the system of distribution of RCA rice.

Through Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas, the President instructs Mondoñedo to study the feasibility of distributing rice through the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System. Under the plan, these two agencies will take charge respectively of distributing rice to workers and employees in industrial and commercial firms, and government offices.

A plan for private industrial and business concerns to import rice for distribution to their workers and employees had also been approved.

He instructs Mondoñedo to start working on a more effective rice distribution system to ensure a stable supply of the cereal in all areas.

Right after an early morning breakfast, the President spends some time at the desk working on state papers.

In the afternoon, the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, accompanied by their children, motors to the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club to watch the concluding games of this year's Open Golf Championship tournament.

The award rites starts at 5 p.m. The ceremonies also affords the President an opportunity to congratulate the winners in the tournament.

February 27.—MOVING swiftly to ease the tension in Olongapo City, President Marcos relieves the two Constabulary units assigned there, following representations by Mrs. Amelia Gordon, widow of murdered City Mayor James Gordon, and other leaders of Olongapo.

In a directive to Brig. Gen. Manuel Yan, PC Chief, the President orders the immediate reassignment of the two PC units in Olongapo, one under the command of Capt. Tomas Diaz and the other under Capt. Teodoro Garcia.

The relief order covers the two officers and all the men under them.

At the same time, the President moves to decentralize executive power by issuing through Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas a memorandum circular directing all government lending institutions to approve loan applications filed with them.

The circular supersedes previous circulars stating that loans exceeding P500, 000 should be coursed through Malacañang for review and/or approval.

Affected in the order are more than 30 applications for loans, earmarked for industrial, commercial and agricultural projects, totalling about P200 million.

The directive also specifies that officials observe strictly the guideline-; and priorities established by the Monetary Board and the National Economic Council, in considering and approving loans applied for in government financing institutions.

In the morning, the President starts his day with an early meeting with Commissioner Baltazar Aquino of the Public Highways at the “Pangarap” guesthouse.

He gets a fill-in from Commissioner Aquino on the procurement of public works equipment and on the progress of work on projects

The President asks the highways commissioner to do everything within this bureau’s resources to help speed up completion of the projects for the general good.

Then, he goes to the briefing room at the executive building where, together with Vice President Fernando Lopez, concurrent Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and other officials, he was briefed on the progress of the rehabilitation and construction of irrigation systems and the work on the Manila North diversion road.

Administrator Alfredo Juinio of the National Irrigation Administration reports during the briefing that the NIA has added in 1966 about 25,000 hectares of irrigable area, with the initial completion of several projects out of a total of 68 irrigation systems under programs to be installed in 11 provinces.

February 28.—PRESSING on the sugar industry the need for exerting special efforts to realize its full potentials, President Marcos emphasizes that the industry is important to the economic development and stabilization of the nation.

He stresses that the industry must revitalize itself to meet the expanded quota from U.S., keep its status as a pillar of the economy, maintain its dollar earnings, and help in the food production program.

He warns however that the administration will not give special privileges to the sugar industry at the expense of other industries. He declares that the administration has never favored the so-called sugar bloc over and above the national interest.

On the other hand, he pledges all possible assistance to the sugar industry for its needed expansion of facilities, modernization of structure and methods, and increase in production.

He deplores the fact that the sugar industry had failed to respond to the request of the government to submit its recommendations on the assistance it needed, and on its views relative to the forthcoming negotiations with the U.S. on a new trade treaty to replace the Laurel-Langley agreement with emphasis on the requirements of the sugar industry.

He points out that the goals set for the industry are not unattainable. He states that all the government asked was that the industry produce more sugar, at least 300,000 tons more a year to meet both local and foreign demand.

He asks that ‘in expanding, the sugar industry should also consider producing crops other than sugar, to meet the demands of the growing population for more food. The sugar planters must “join in the national effort to produce more food,” he says, “by using part of their capital and land to raise rice.” and other food crops, as well as livestock.

President Marcos likewise proclaims Thursday (March 2) as a special public holiday in Cabatuan, Iloilo. The day marks the 76th birth anniversary of the late Tomas Confesor, statesman and outstanding resistance leader during the last world war.

In proclaiming the special holiday, the President states that the people of Cabatuan should be afforded an opportunity to celebrate the birth anniversary of one of their prominent sons with appropriate ceremonies.

Meantime, the Chief Executive urges total public support for the “voluntary tax compliance drive” launched by the bureau of internal revenue. “File your income tax returns promptly,” he asks taxpayers.

In his message, the President reminds the people of the great role taxes pay in the rehabilitation and progress of the country.

“We need money to build schools, bridges and roads; to pay decent salaries and wages to our policemen, teachers, nurses and other civil servants; to open up and finance new projects which will create new jobs for our jobless,” the President points out.

“The taxes you pay will support this administration in carrying out many of its social and economic projects aimed at improving not only the national economy but also the welfare of the laboring classes,” he adds.

The “voluntary tax compliance drive” launched by Commissioner Misael P. Vera urges those required to file income tax returns to do so “without waiting for the time when eventually the BIR will bear down on the non-filers with heavy penalties for voluntary tax evasion.”

The President, in his message, expresses faith in the patriotism and capability of the people, saying that at this stage of their national life, the people have become fully aware of their responsibilities as members of a “growing, moving society.”

March 1.—PRESIDENT Marcos meets his financial and economic advisers at breakfast to assess the financing plans for the various development projects.

He has made it a point to meet this groups regularly to keep himself posted on the financing and economic standing of his different developmental projects.

Following the conference, the President sits down with other officials in another important conference, to inquire into the progress of projects of their respective offices.

Then, the President receive Secretary Ernesto Mata and Undersecretary Manuel B. Syquiao of National Defense who reported to the Chief Executive on the status of the construction on Mount Samat to convert this historic place into a national shrine.

Undersecretary of Justice Claudio Teehankee and Solicitor General Antonio Barredo discusses with the President the principal concerns of their respective offices.

In the afternoon, the President receives Brig. Gen. Manuel Yan, PC chief, who reported on his part, the recent activities of his command, with emphasis on the peace and order situation of the country in general, and Olongapo City in particular.

The President also receives Colonel Godofredo Magallanes, outgoing chief of police of Olongapo City, who submitted his report in anticipation of the turnover of Olongapo’s police department to the newly designated chief, J. P. Roxas, Jr.

Roxas, prior to his designation, is a ranking official of the National Bureau of Investigation.

March 2.—MEETING members of the League of Provincial Governor and City Mayors at a conference at the Palace, President Marcos informs them that he was in favor of decentralization of powers and that he would sign the decentralization bill passed by Congress if serious doubts concerning its constitutionality and practicability were resolved in favor of approval of the measure.

The President, at the same time, asks the provincial and city executives to submit to him their arguments in favor or against the bill, to help guide him in making a decision on whether to approve or veto the bill.

In this connection, he likewise instructs Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas, the UP. Law Center and the Presidential Economic Staff to lead and coordinate the various studies being made on the measure.

The governors and city mayors, who had just closed their annual convention in Manila, meet with the President at Malacañang to discuss problems affecting the country and their constituencies.

The Chief Executive also brings up the question of rice importation before the League by asking the opinion of the members on the possibility of the government importing rice from sources other than those utilized in the past, particularly Hongkong and Singapore.

The league members expresses no objection to the importation of rice from whatever sources, abroad if only to assure a stable supply of cheaper rice.

Earlier in the day, the President meets at breakfast the new officers of the Business Writers Association of the Philippines (BWAP) led by Liberato Marinas of the Philippines Herald.

After breakfast, the President inducts into office the new officers of the BWAP.

Next, the President confers briefly with acting National Bureau of Investigation Director Serafin Fausto, National Police Commissioner Jose Lukban and NBI Regional Director Ponciano Fernando, to discuss peace and order matters.

March 3—FOLLOWING the expose of a woman executive of an animal feed firm of an alleged extortion attempt of two directors and one former director of the National Marketing Corporation, the President directs Dr. Gaudencio Garcia, chairman of the Crime Commission, to pursue the probe on them and to file criminal charges against them, if warranted.

The woman executive, Mrs. Nelia Gonzales, executive vice-president of A-1 feeds, names the directors during a joint Senate (Blue Ribbon and Government Enterprises) committee hearing the other day.

The same directors had earlier been investigated by Dr. Garcia on orders of President Marcos, who was then acting in response to complaint made directly to him.

On the strength of the findings of Dr. Garcia during the earlier investigation, the President did not reappoint Mardonio Estella, one of the Namarco directors named by Mrs. Gonzales at the Senate hearing. However, there is no evidence to show any responsibility of the other officials for the charges.

Dr. Garcia can not then pursue the investigation because Mrs. Gonzales declined to testify or unless shielded by immunity.

At the same time, the President tells Col. Godofredo Magallanes to vacate his post as acting chief of police of Olongapo City and turn it over to J. P. Roxas, Jr who was designated acting chief of police of the city two days ago.

The President in the interim, directs Brig. Gen. Manuel Yan, PC chief to take steps to install Roxas as acting chief of police of Olongapo vice Magallanes.

Col. Magallanes was designated acting chief of police of the city last August 17, 1966.

Trip relief of Magallanes as acting chief of police of that city is part of an effort to ease up tension in that city. His relief follows that of the two P.C. units assigned in Olongapo.

In the afternoon, the President receives William P. Bundy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for East Asian affairs, who called on him to pay his respects.

The U.S. state department official arrives early this afternoon to preside over a conference in Baguio City of American ambassadors in Asia. The meeting of the ambassadors start the next day.

After the call of Secretary Bundy, the President receives A.S.I. Ahmad, [unreadable] vice-president of the Meadow Brock National Bank of New York.

Ahmad is leaving the next day following a two-week long business visit here.

While receiving callers at his study, the President also joins the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda Ft. Marcos, at the Music room in welcoming the Miss Universe of 1965. Apasra Hongsakula of Thailand, here on a mission to raise funds for a charitable institution.

Meanwhile. President Marcos seeks the early enactment of Congress of electoral reforms as he certified the bill of Sen. Lorenzo Tañada providing for a shorter period of election campaign.

The President also directs Undersecretary of Justice Claudio Teehankee to draft a bill reducing the election expenses that may be allowed any candidate in accordance with his message to Congress on the State-of-the Nation last year.

Another electoral reform that he proposes is a law granting the Commission “the power to issue injunctions against any candidate, under pain of cancellation of Ms name from the list of candidates, for violating the limitation of expenditure and the period of campaign.”

The proposed law limits the expenses of any candidate to four times the annual salary for the position to which lie aspires.

At present, as provided by Section 48 of the Revised Election Code, embodied in Republic Act No. 180 as amended, the allowable expenses of a candidate should not exceed the equivalent of one-year salary of the position aspired for.

The bill of Sen. Tañada seeks to limit the period of campaign of four months and two months, respectively, for those seeking election to national or provincial office.

March 4.—HAVING failed in its mission to stabilize prices and had become a constant object of suspicion because of reported cases of rampant corruption, President Marcos decides to abolish the National Marketing Corporation (NAMARCO).

At the same time, the President creates a committee to take the legal measure towards the abolition of the 12-year old marketing firm created in 1955 under Republic Act No. 1345. Named to the committee are Justice Secretary Jose Yulo, Secretary of Commerce and industry Marcel Balatbat and Administrator Constancio Castañeda of the Office of the Economic Coordinator.

The President instructs Namarco General Manager Juvenal Almendras to cooperate with the committee, making available to it all the Namarco books and other records which the committee may need in its work. Almendras is also asks to submit to the committee the list of assets and liabilities, as well as all existing contracts of the corporation.

While the Department of Justice is instructed by the President to assess the evidence against any Namarco director, official, or employee responsible for or involved in any irregularity and to file criminal charges against them.

Secretary Yulo is instructed to make use of all available evidence in carrying out the presidential directive.

In deciding to abolish the state marketing firm, the President notes that the Namarco has failed in its primary mission to stabilize prices and to help Filipino retailers and businessmen gain greater participation in the procurement and distribution of goods.

He avers that the firm was no longer in a position to finance its operations, being heavily indebted with the Philippine National Bank.

He declares that he was particularly disturbed by the fact that the Namarco has been the constant object of suspicion because of reported cases of corruption.

The Namarco has an authorized capitalization of P20 million

In the morning, the President meets Nacionalista senators led by Senate President Gil J. Puyat and Minority Floor Leader Arturo Tolentino to discuss a number of subjects, including administrative bills pending in Congress and the Soviet invitation for Filipino trade and cultural groups.

Right after the meeting with the senators, the President returns to his study where he took up some aspects of the budget with Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco.

In the evening, the President receives American Ambassador to the United Nations Arthur Goldberg who called at Malacañang to pay his respects.

Ambassador Goldberg arrives earlier in the afternoon, in the course of a tour of Southeast Asian countries. He will attend the conference of American ambassadors in Asia which opened in Baguio city this morning.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: March 5-6, 1967

President's Week in Review: March 7-13, 1967

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

March 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS was guest speaker at the 32nd anniversary of the North Harbor of Manila in the morning, and in the afternoon, met with the participants in the Stanford Research Institute's Manila meeting.

He worked on state papers most of his time today.

In his study, the President:

1. Approved the granting of a temporary permit to Alitalia Airlines to operate in Manila, in line with the "open skies policy" of the administration towards foreign airlines.

2. Issued three proclamations:

- a) Setting aside some 70 hectares from the reservations which established the Central Mindanao University in Maramag, Bukidnon, and reserving it for landing purposes. The area reserved will be under the Civil Aeronautics Administration.

- b) Reserving for low-cost housing purposes two parcels of land of the private domain of the government situated in Talisay and Minglanilla, Cebu province, with an aggregate area of 197 hectares. The reserved site will be under the administration of the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation.

- c) Defining the proposed market site reservation in the Toril townsite residential subdivision in Davao City, with an area of about 13, 837 square meters.

In the afternoon, at Malacañang, the President had an informal conference with about 150 participants in the Stanford Research Institute's Manila meeting, composed of business executives in industrial and financial organizations from some 22 countries in Southeast Asia and elsewhere.

The delegates were led by Roberto Villanueva, president of the Trans-Philippine Investment Corporation and general chairman of the meeting; and Dr. Weldon B. Gibson, president of SRI-International.

President and Mrs. Marcos also honored the SRI delegates with cocktails at Malacañang in the evening.

March 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS returned early in the evening from trip to Capiz and Aklan after a full day's visit with the people of Roxas City, Kalibo and Barrio Esperanza of the town of Pontevedra in Capiz.

Accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda E. Marcos, the President received a rousing welcome and was engulfed by enthusiastic crowd from the time he touched down at the Roxas City airport throughout his trip to Barrio Esperanza, where the province's Federation of Associations of Barrio Councils honored him and the First Lady with a barrio fiesta.

The welcome given the President and First Lady was specially heartwarming for the couple because the region is considered as home grounds of Sen. Gerardo Roxas, LP president; and Rep. Cornelio Villareal, also a top opposition leader.

The President's plane landed at Roxas City at about 8:30 a.m. Besides the First Lady, those in the presidential party included Sen. Alejandro Almendras, PACD Secretary Ernesto Maceda, Rep. Rafael Legaspi, Executive Assistant Jaime Ferrer, and Assistant Press Secretary Jacobo C. Clave.

On hand to meet the President and the First Lady were Gov. Cornelio Villareal, Jr., Assistant Executive Secretary Flores Bayot, his wife Vice-Gov. Carolina N. Bayot, City Mayor Lorenzo Arnaldo, Former Rep. Carmen Dinglasan Consing, and other provincial and municipal officials. But what overwhelmed the President and Mrs. Marcos was the huge crowd at the airport, which swelled as the presidential party moved out of the airport and into the streets of the city. Observers said that no President before him was so cheered by so many people. Many of those in the crowd bore placards saying "thank you" for the administration's many rural and development projects in the region.

At one point, buoyed by the unprecedented welcome, the President walked almost one kilometer just shaking hands with eager citizens.

The crowds lined virtually the whole 30 km. route from Roxas City to Barrio Esperanza, where the barrio fiesta for the President and the First Lady was held. Many people from other towns and barrios had converged on the small community.

The main ceremony at Esperanza was the inauguration of a multi-purpose pavement, at which the President and the First Lady officiated.

It was about 12:30 p.m. when the President finally was able to sit down with provincial, municipal, and barrio officials, and discussed the projects now being implemented in the region, as well as other primary problems of the local governments.

From Barrio Esperanza, the President and the First Lady moved to Kalibo, Aklan, where the First Couple once more were received by crowds who sought to shake their hands. The President had time enough to meet local officials, as well as provincial leaders before he had to enplane for Manila.

Heading the crowd that welcomed the President were Gov. and Mrs. Jose B. Legaspi.

Before leaving Malacañang this morning, the President formally invited the Liberal Party, through Sen. Gerardo Roxas, LP president, to select a representative of the opposition who will sit in the board of supervisors of the Pan Philippine Highway project.

In a letter to Sen. Roxas, the President extended the government's invitation to the opposition for an LP representative in the supervisory board which will oversee the implementation of the highway fund. The Japanese government has agreed to an initial \$30 million loan in aid to the project.

Meanwhile, in a message issued on the eve of Jose P. Laurel's 78th birth anniversary, the President paid tribute to the late senator as a man "with a high concept of the destiny of the Filipino people, which he saw as one which only the people themselves could shape with their hands, mind and spirit."

March 9—

PRESIDENT AND MRS. MARCOS honored at a Malacañang luncheon today Mr. and Mrs. George Woods, who came to the Philippines to participate in the recently concluded Manila meeting of the Stanford Research Institute.

Mr. Woods is a former president of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, also known as the World Bank.

Present at the Malacañang luncheon were Central Bank Gov. Alfonso Calalang, DBF Chairman Gregario Licaros, Secretary of Commerce and Industry Leonides S. Virata, PNB Executive Vice President Eusebio Villatuya,

Undersecretary of Finance Roman Cruz, Jr., Sixto Roxas III, Washington Sycip and Gov. Delfin N. Montano of Cavite.

Most of the time, the President worked on urgent state papers.

He went over the records of the charges against Judge Jose M. Guray of Luna, La Union, and Assistant City Fiscal Ricardo Escueta of Quezon City.

Judge Jose M. Guray of Luna, La Union was ordered fined forfeiting his one month pay after being found guilty of dereliction of duty; and Assistant City Fiscal Ricardo P. Escueta, was suspended for six months.

He was found guilty of serious dereliction of duty and grave abuse of authority.

The President also ordered the transfer of P5 million of the government income from reparations payments from Japan to the Rural Electrification Administration to enable the agency to complete its on-going projects.

He likewise ordered all government offices to stop the importation of motor vehicles, and that vehicular requirements of government offices should be procured from local assemblers. He directed however that no purchase of vehicles shall be passed in audit unless accompanied by evidence of payments of the corresponding duties and taxes due on said vehicles.

The President issued two proclamations: the first, authorizing the Philippine Badminton Association, Inc., to conduct a national fund campaign from March 1 to August 31, 1969; and the second, authorizing the Quezon Memorial Circle Development and Beautification Committee to conduct a national educational and fund campaign from March 15 to September 15 this year.

March 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS flew to Romblon this morning where he conferred with local officials and checked on the progress of a number of development projects undertaken in that province.

Accompanied by Sen. Alejandro Almendras, the President took off from the base operations at Nichols Air Base for Romblon shortly before 8 a.m. He landed at Tugdan airport in the municipality of Alcantara, where a *Te Deum* was sung in his honor.

While in Alcantara the President was shown the new Rizal monument at the town plaza donated by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, in connection with her beautification projects.

Huge cheering crowds welcomed the President at the airport and in all places he visited during his four-hour stay in the province. They were all profuse in expressing their gratitude for the many completed public works projects in the province such as schoolhouses, roads, and bridges.

In brief remarks the President called on the people of the province to increase their participation in the country's development, stressing that the nation's growth would itself accelerate the economic development of their region.

At the conference held in Barrio Punta, Looc, on Tablas Island, the President received progress reports from mayors, councilors and barrio captains who had converged on that biggest island of the province to meet with him.

Gov. Jovencio Q. Mayor informed the President that a three-span reinforced concrete bridge connecting Odiongan with other towns of Tablas Island had just been completed.

The completion of the permanent bridge, Mayor said, was significant because Odiongan is the commercial center on the Island.

Some mayors were particularly thankful for the installation of irrigation pumps which they said, had saved Romblon from an acute rice shortage because of the long dry spell.

The President met with the local officials at the farmhouse of Rep. Jose Moreno in Barrio Punta, some 12 kilometers from the Tugdan airport. The President left Tablas Island at about 1 o'clock in the afternoon for Manila.

On board the plane on the way to Romblon and then on the return trip to Manila, the President worked on official papers.

In Malacañang later in the afternoon, the President signed the communication submitting to the Commission on Appointment's for confirmation the nomination of 107 newly appointed officials, headed by Supreme Court Associate Justices Claudio Teehankee and Antonio Barredo and seven members of the Cabinet.

The members of the Cabinet are Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, Secretary of Justice Juan Ponce Enrile, Secretary of Education Onofre D. Corpuz, Secretary of Health Amadeo H. Cruz, Secretary of Commerce and Industry Leonides S. Virata, Secretary of General Services Salih Ututalum, and National Economic Council Chairman Marcelo S. Balatbat.

March 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS stated that the need to better overall conditions in Asia is in effect "an Asian emergency" which must be met by (1) filling up the long-time inadequacies, and (2) counteracting the pressures from unabated population growth.

In a speech at the first luncheon meeting this year of the Mandaluyong chamber of Commerce and Industry at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club, the President said that the Asian emergency is how to improve present living conditions while also "laying the foundations for the comfort and security of our children years from now." (*See pp. 2580-2584 for full text of the President's speech.*)

Among his other activities were a conference with UST student leaders, an awards ceremony, an induction ceremony, and the usual meeting with callers and scheduled visitors.

In the morning, the President conferred the Presidential Merit Medal on Ian Pringle Bruce, outgoing president of the Shell firms in the Philip pines, for his lasting contributions toward the acceleration of the Filipinization of the Shell management and of share-holding in Shell firms here.

The awards ceremony, held at the President's study, was witnessed by the honoree's wife; Lucio Mazzei, the incoming chief of Shell in the Philip pines; PES Director-General Placido Mapa, Jr., and Defense Undersecretary Alejandro Melchor.

The President conferred with the officials of the Bureau of Posts, headed by Postmaster General Enrico Palomar, with Public Works Undersecretary Manuel B. Syquiao also present. The President gave orders during the meeting for the early sweeping revamp of the postal bureau, to eliminate the chronic inefficiency and to end once and for all irregularities committed by corrupt personnel.

Next, the President received a group of student leaders from the University of Santo Tomas who sought his help in liberalizing alleged onerous stricture issued by the Cooperatives Administration Office, which the students said prejudiced student interest. One of these is the rule prohibiting students less than 21 years old from becoming cooperative members. The President assured the students, led by Tita Datu, that he will look into the early solution of their problems.

The President also inducted this morning the newly appointed members of the Joint Local Government Reform Commission, as created under RA 5185, or the Decentralization Law.

The Commission will conduct continuing studies on the appropriate role of local governments as autonomous agencies, and prepare a local government code.

The oath taking was attended by members of Congress led by Senate President Gil J. Puyat and other executive officials.

Those inducted were Assistant Executive Secretary Flores Bayot, Gov. [unreadable] Rodriguez of Rizal and Melquiades Gamboa, Sr., representing the executive department; Senator Emmanuel Pelaez, Reps. Lamberto [unreadable] Artemio Mate, and Melanio Singson, representing the legislative department. The Senate representatives, Senators Leonardo Perez and Benigno Aquino, Jr., were absent from the induction ceremony.

The President also received a number of provincial delegations, among which were those from Nueva Ecija led by Reps. Angel Concepcion and Leopoldo Diaz and Mayor Amado Espino of Cabanatuan City: and from Bohol led by Gov. Lino Chatto.

The President then motored at about noontime to a luncheon meeting of the Mandaluvong Chamber of Commerce and Industry, held at the Wack Wack Social Hall. The President was fetched from Malacañang by Eugenio Puyat, chamber president.

In concentrating on some urgent state business late in the afternoon, the President:

1. Ordered the Budget Commission to release funds for Mindanao road projects and for the University of the Philippines' Law Center in connection with its studies of the Constitution.

The President ordered the release in response to the representations of the officials concerned, and in line with the priorities set for this year's development projects. The Mindanao construction projects have been given the go-ahead for early completion.

2. Directed the labor secretary and the legislative secretary to coordinate in finalizing the draft of legislative proposals aimed at meeting the serious problems faced by labor and peasant elements in the country.

3. Approved the air services agreement entered into between the Philippines and the United Arab Republic, in line with the "open skies" policy of the administration, which is based on reciprocity in the way of privileges.

March 12—

THE USUAL HARD day's stint of the Presidency was lightened somewhat when President Marcos was apprised of two salutary developments: (1) the establishment of a loan fund for poor but deserving students and (2) the development of a new drug to cure schistosomiasis or snail fever.

The President was apprised of the new drug during the visit, of an executive of Winthrop-Stearns, and was a witness to the signing of the agreement between the government and a local bank to establish the loan project.

For the rest of the day, the President was involved with urgent state matters and his regular schedule of callers.

Calling on the President to pay his respect in the morning was David .M. Corcoran, president of Winthrop-Stearns who was accompanied by his wife. Corcoran informed the President that his firm has perfected a drug called "hycanthone," which has proven to be effective against snail fever in Africa and South America. He added that further research will be made by his company in the Philippines to determine the particular strain which causes the fever here.

Others accompanying Corcoran were A.L. Burridge, regional director and vice president of Winthrop-Stearns; and Ernesto A Perez, corporate public affairs officer of the same firm.

The President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos were witnesses at the ceremony in Malacañang, which concluded the memorandum agreement between the Department of Social Welfare and the Philippine Commercial and Industrial Bank on the establishment of a direct student loan project. The project is an extension of the First Lady's integrated social welfare program.

In coping with state business, the President:

1. Approved the draft agreement between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Philippines on the establishment here of a pilot training project for reforestation and erosion control, to which the Philippines will contribute \$475,000, including the land value of the project sites.
2. Approved the recommendation of Vice President Fernando Lopez, concurrent secretary of agriculture and natural resources, and other officials of the DANR, to grant a grace period up to June 30 1970 to loggers operating within the Ambuklao-Binga watersheds before they should move out.
3. Instructed Secretary of General Services Salih Ututalum to proceed with the sale, in accordance with the proper procedures, of the national government cottages in Baguio City.

The President's other visitors were:

1. Braulio Criste and his family.
2. Officials of the municipality of Tacurong, Cotabato, led by Mayor Jose Escribano, who sought national government aid in constructing the Banga River Irrigation project, to serve the towns of Tacurong, Buluan, Norala, and Sultan sa Barenjis.
3. Ludovico Dellosa, president of the Barrio Captains League of the province of Camarines Sur.
4. Senators Magnolia Antonino, Leonardo Perez, and Helena Benitez; and Reps. Constancio Maglana, Jose Fornier, Lorenzo Sarmiento, Andres Cosalan, Ernesto Bascon, Fernando Pajarillo, Tereso Dumon, Jose Moreno, and Luis Hora.

March 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS took up such wide-ranging matters as low-cost housing, the role of rural radio broadcasters in economic development, and ways of producing steel at nominal cost, during a regular workday that also included inductions and a full schedule of callers.

In the morning, the President met with a group representing the Rural Broadcasters Council, to thresh out with them problems in connection with the dissemination of information to farmers relative to increasing agricultural production.

The group was accompanied by Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas and Assistant Secretary for Radio-TV-Movies Roberto M. Garcia.

The RBC officials and members present at the conference included Ramiro Alvarez, chairman; and Ben Amancio Nelmidia, Alice Aquino, Amparo Tayag, Willie Delgado, P. Rey Pacheco, Sofronio Larcia, Willie Llobrera, Silvestre Paulino, Jose Espinosa, Romeo Rivera, and David Corcega, members. Nicolas Fernandez of the PNB, RBC adviser, was also present.

The President next discussed plans for the Naga City housing project. A P4.5 million operation to develop a 31.8 hectare site. General Manager Sebastian B. Santiago of the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation briefed the President on the project.

Notable among other meetings was the President's conference with officials of the NASSCO on the details of the steel-making operations of its J. Panganiban (Camarines Norte) Smelting Plant, which calls for utilization of local materials,

Present at the meeting were NASSCO Chairman Angel Limjoco, Jr., General Manager David Ines; and Board Directors Manuel Salientea and Venancio Duque.

The President, in-between callers and conferences, inducted:

1. Dr. Igmidio Bondoc as member of the Central Luzon Study Commission; and
2. The officers of the Federation of Southern Tagalog Farmers Association; namely: Antonio Sieteriales, president; Leocadio Obiar, Ernesto Martinez and Perpetuo Laurito, vice presidents for Batangas, Laguna, and Cavite, respectively; Manuel Alviar, secretary; Ramon Pedriña, treasurer; Alejandro Almanzar, auditor; Ben S. Manas, PRO; and 12 directors.

In one of the directives issued in the afternoon, the President asked Police Commissioner Crispino de Castro to further intensify police training even as he was informed that 534 regular policemen are now undergoing such training, in line with the crash program designed to upgrade and professionalize police agencies in the country.

Gen. De Castro said that aside from the regular police trainees, the POLCOM now conducts a refresher for security guards of the Bureau of Posts and of the Bureau of Public Highways.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: March 12-18, 1967

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

March 12.—IN response to an appeal from the Horse Breeders and Owners, Inc., President Marcos directs General Manager Nereo Andolong of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office to probe into the alleged participation of blue-seal horses in local horse races, and designated former Solicitor General Edilberto Barot as special presidential investigator.

His move to look into the anomalies attending horse races is spurred by an appeal from Pedro M. Berberabe, president of the Horse Breeders and Owners, who alleged that in the grand derby race to be sponsored by the Philippine Tuberculosis Society on March 26, "out of the 29 horses entered in the race, no less than ten are smuggled 'blue seal' horses."

In his directive, the President asks Barot to conduct the probe immediately and to complete it not later than May.

Manager Andolong is instructed to extend to Barot all facilities of his office in conducting an impartial probe. He is also asks to make available to the investigator the National Bureau of Investigation agents detailed with the PCSO.

At the same time, the President asks all parties with proof of irregularities in any public works contracts to come forward with them, declaring that charges and insinuations of irregularity, many times unfounded, had seriously delayed the prosecution of the public works program.

He declares that he would act with utmost dispatch on all complaints of irregularities supported by evidence, possibly within 24 hours.

The Chief Executive cautions, however, against irresponsible accusations designed merely to malign or harass, inasmuch as these can only create an atmosphere of fear among public officials and thus render them incapable of making positive decisions and taking speedy action on pending jobs.

In this connection, the President also:

1. Appeals to suppliers of public works equipment or contractors for public works to refrain from employing the services of influence peddlers or middlemen or seeking the intervention of politicians. He asks them to present their offers, assuring them that these will be better entertained without political or other pressure.
2. Advises public officials not to entertain any influence peddlers or middlemen and counselled them to view unsupported charges or insinuations of irregularity as the ordinary hazards of a public office, and should not deter them from proceeding with what in their conviction was proper, moral and legal.
3. Expresses determination to implement the public works program, declaring that all contracts would be awarded this year, and that he himself was ready to view charges or insinuations of irregularity as among the risks which a leader must face.

In a separate move, the President dispatches a wire to Councilor Remigio Tierro of Olongapo advising him to desist from assuming the post of vice mayor in the absence of a formal appointment.

He sends the wire upon receipt of information that Tierro has assumed the office of vice mayor of Olongapo City. Tierro took his oath without benefit of an appointment from the President last March 9. Tierro reportedly claims the post by right of succession.

The post of vice-mayor became vacant with the assumption of the post of mayor by Vice-Mayor Jaime Guevarra upon the death of former Mayor James Gordon.

In the afternoon, the President, with his three children motors to the Manila Polo Club in Makati where they witnessed a match between a Philippine team and a group of Malaysian polo players led by His Highness, Tengku Mahkota of Pahang.

March 13.—TO develop and coordinate a national sports development program aimed at elevating the standards of local athletics, President Marcos creates the Presidential Committee on Sports.

He constitutes the committee on the recommendations embodied in the special report submitted to him by Education Secretary Carlos P. Romulo.

The Chief Executive has earlier ordered Secretary Romulo to inquire into the status of Philippine Amateur sports and to provide remedies to the decline of this country in international sports competitions.

The committee is directed to buckle down immediately to the task at hand, which is to “bring our promising young athletes up to high international standards so that they could perform creditably for the country.”

The President also instructs the committee to submit to him its first report on their activities within one month.

In his report to the President, Secretary Romulo points out that lack of facilities, the ebb in sports consciousness, poor methods, and wrong attitudes on the part of athletes themselves have contributed to the decline of Philippine sports.

Romulo suggests a possible revamp of the Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation, particularly in membership, and the allocation of funds to the 19 affiliated national sports associations. He declares that a commission type of administration could replace the PAAF, but because of “the threat of proliferation,” he suggested that a committee can meanwhile function in this regard.

Saying that a long-range, broad-range program would be more feasible in improving local sports, Secretary Romulo opts however for a crash program in the face of “public impatience.”

The newly created committee does not supersede the PAAF, and the latter is in fact represented in the body, in recognition of the important part it will play in the overall task.

In the morning, the President receives officials of the League of City Judges, who paid a courtesy call on him following the end of their three-day long convention in Manila.

In his brief remarks, the President enjoins city judges to place in proper perspective the true image of the judiciary by dissipating the fears of the citizenry that “judges can be bought.”

He urges them to “work out a plan to remove this image of justice in our country.”

Adding that most people tend to discount anything good about public-administrators but would believe any ugly rumor concerning them he told the judges that this is the psychology of “our people which we shall have the change.”

He concludes, “so I appeal to you to please correct any wrong impressions of the public, and strengthen the weak parts of our legacy. This is part of the burden that you must bear with me.”

Then he receive at his study two groups of foreign visitors. The first is led by Foreign Minister Abba Eban of Israel, who is on a goodwill visit here and guest of the Philippine government.

The other group is headed by Ambassador and Mrs. Viljo Ahokas of Finland, who called on the President. The couple have been here for three weeks to promote Philippine-Finland relations, and they will return in their official residence in Tokyo the next day.

Later upon the invitation of the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, the President takes time out from receiving callers, to listen to the Vienna Boys' Choir, who sang a few selections at the Music Room.

Right after the performance by the Vienna Boys Choir, the President goes to the reception hall where he officiated at induction ceremonies. He first swears in Luis A. Lopez as acting chairman-general manager of the Mindanao Development Authority.

In another ceremony, the President inducts the new officers of the Philippine Chamber of Wood Industries led by Jose C. Puyat, the chamber president.

In the afternoon, the President attends the distribution of "miracle rice" seeds to members of women's clubs at the Heroes' hall, which was sponsored by the First Lady. He gives a short address during the affair.

In his short remarks, the President underscores the role Filipino woman hood should play in the government effort to increase rice production, which is to use their power, talents and influence in mobilizing the people to engage in planting rice.

"If the women of the Philippines can make it fashionable to plant rice, then the leaders in society, not the frivolous society but our existing society, should make it fashionable," he says.

The Chief Executive tells the women not to be taken in by the efforts of some quarters to belittle their participation in the campaign, saying that these criticisms are to be expected in any kind of crusade or movement.

March 14.—PRESIDENT Marcos suspends the negotiations for the purchase of \$31 million worth of heavy road construction equipment from the United States by the Department of Public Works.

He takes the measure to make sure that there was no anomaly in the projected purchase as charged by certain quarters.

The purchase of the equipment has been approved by the Cabinet last December 30 after it was authorized by the auditor general, the executive secretary and the secretary of justice who concurred with the secretary of public works and the commissioner of public highways in finding the awardee firms the most advantageous to the government.

The purchase has been assailed by Rep. Ramon Felipe in a statement last Saturday. He charged that there had been an anomaly in the projected purchase.

Rep. Felipe dinged that the Philippine National Bank had opened 20 letters of credit with an aggregate face value of \$31 million in the name of "wildcat" financing company capitalized only at \$50,000.

At the same time, the President directs Secretary of Education Carlos P. Romulo to coordinate with the Department of Labor in developing vocational education in public schools.

He instructs Secretary Romulo to introduce innovations in the school system that would vitalize vocational training, to the end that in the next few years the country could count on a pool of skilled workers to take over industrial jobs.

The primary consideration enunciated by the President relative to his order is to prepare as many high school student as possible for useful occupations, which will give them at least a living wage when they quit school.

In the morning, the President starts his activities with a conference at the “Pangarap” guesthouse with Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas, Assistant Executive Secretary Flores Bayot, Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco and Alfredo Montelibano, president of the Chamber of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Crossing the Pasig at 10 a.m. to Malacañang, the President first meet with the officers of the Press Photographers of the Philippines, who he inducted into office.

Following the induction rites, the President receives Ambassador Pham Dang Lam of South Vietnam who called on the President to deliver a message from his home government.

Then, the President receive Miss Barbara Canto and Stephen Lee Fleckinger who led the group of American students, who were accompanied by Rep. Floro Crisologo to Malacañang.

Former Chief Justice Cesar Bengzon pays a farewell call prior to his departure the next day for the Hague to assume his post as member of the International Court of Justice.

March 15.—THE Chief Executive orders the closure of 53 drugstores all over the country found to be dealing in fake drugs.

He reach the decision following submission of reports of the Food and Drug Administration and the National Bureau of Investigation, the two government agencies which conducted investigations into the sale of fake drugs.

According to these reports. 53 drugstores out of 127 in peeled were found with evidence of trafficking in fake drugs.

The President orders Mrs. Luzonica Pesigan, FDA Administrator, to close the drugstores, if possible within the next 24 hours.

He also instructs Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco to release sufficient funds to the FDA so that it could intensify its drive against manufacturers and dealers of fake drugs.

In the morning, the President sits at breakfast with newspaper publishers and editors.

Following breakfast with newspaper publishers and editors, the President confers with his financial advisers on the allocation of available funds for priority projects of the administration, notably road-building, school building construction, and the rice production program.

In the evening, the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, attends the traditional Gridiron and dinner at the National Press Club. Amante Bigornia, NPC president, fetched the First Couple from Malacañang.

March 16.—DECLARING that the task of restoring the people’s faith in democratic institutions and the government itself is crucial, President Marcos exhorts the members of the judiciary to act decisively in elevating the standards of the administration of justice.

He makes the exhortation in an address at the convention of district judges and judges of the courts of first instance.

The Chief Executive states that court delays and maladministration of justice have corroded the people’s faith in their democratic institutions.

Calling for a candid self-analysis, the President specifies five factors which have caused delay and denial of justice. They are:

1. The misuse of due process and the abuse of legal technicalities.
2. Political intervention in court cases.
3. The litigation explosion in the country today.
4. The dilatory tactics of lawyers.
5. The neglect and laxity of judges.

Discussing the first, the President declares that due process “occupies a high and inviolate place in our system of law,” but that it has been abused by invoking technicalities that, rather than speed up the dispensation of justice, “impede and frustrate it.”

On the second, he states that politicians intercede in court cases as a matter of practical politics, but in so doing they contribute to “the failure of justice.”

It is the judges’ duty, he explains, to resist all political and other outside pressures. He pledges his support to all judges who denounce and fight these pressures.

He points out, “I cannot and will not tolerate or condone the commission of gross miscarriages of justice, which cannot but undermine the people’s faith in the impartial administration of justice.”

On the third, the President says that the proliferation of court cases today may be viewed as a sign of growth of political maturity. On the other hand, he continues, it may also indicate a propensity to resort to needless litigation, an abuse of the right to go to Court,”

On the dilatory tactic of lawyers, the President shares the view of legal luminaries that the lawyer who resorts to dilatory tactics beyond the reasonable demands of due process is in fact obstructing justice.

Saying that he was heartened by every report of “triumphant justice,” citing the recent speedy decisions on smuggling cases, the President states that “every effort you make to speed up decisions, especially on crime and smuggling cases, is a meaningful contribution to the task of making democracy work, on which the ultimate security of our Republic lies.”

At the same time, the President calls on the veterans now in government service to “rescue our people all over again during the trying days of this crisis facing our Republic” as they did during the war.

He voices this challenge when he addresses the opening of the two-day third annual convention of the Government Employees World War Veterans League at the GSIS auditorium.

The President declares that if in the past we raised the flag of faith in ourselves, faith in our people and faith in our capability to meet all the problems that may be thrown before us.”

He has faith in the veterans, the President declares, because he was tried and found true in combat, and would therefore stand his ground against all odds and temptations in his job today.

President Marcos also names Dean Cesar Virata of the UP College of Business Administration as deputy director for investment of the Presidential Economic Staff.

The investment center is established by the President to cut red tape and enable him to act on investment offers from abroad with dispatch.

Dean Virata, who holds a master’s degree in business administration from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, until his appointment is with management service division of the Sycip, Gorres, Velayo and Company.

In the morning, the President meets the members of the French Economic Mission in the Far East, led by Emmanuel Mayolle, vice chairman of the Federation of French Industries (Conseil National du Patronat Francais).

The French mission, here to assess the prospect for industrial investment, relayed to the President the group's offer to finance the proposed construction of a new runway for the Manila International Airport.

At 10 a.m., the President is fetched from Malacañang by Civil Service Commissioner Abelardo Subido and Chief Prosecutor Emilio Gancayco, national commander of the Government Employees World War Veterans League, to bring him to the GSIS auditorium where the President addressed the opening of the two-day long third anniversary national convention of the GEWWVL.

In the afternoon, the President relaxes in a game of golf at Malacañang Park with Gen. Robert Campbell, vice president and managing director of *Newsweek*.

Match 17.—PRESIDENT Marcos launches the distribution of new pre-fabricated schoolhouses as he personally dispatched a convoy of army trucks loaded with components of prefabricated schoolhouses, earmarked for some five provinces urgently in need of them.

After seeing off the trucks loaded with the prefab units, the President motors to the Manila Hotel, with Roberto Tulio, president of the Confederation of Filipino Rice and Corn Association. He is guest speaker at the opening of the two-day sixth annual convention of the confederation.

In his speech, the President asks the private sector engaged in rice and corn product on, milling and distribution to direct their efforts, in coordination with the government to giving maximum benefits to consumers.

He appeals to them "as Filipinos first, rather than merchants and traders; as patriots first rather than businessman, in and behalf of our people and the generations to come."

The President also asks them to "convert the conflict between the private sector and government into an area of goodwill and cooperation with the end in view of raising surplus quantities for export in the next few years.

During the rites, the President is awarded a plaque by the confederation "in grateful appreciation of his sincere and determined crusade for self-sufficiency and stability in the rice and corn."

From the Manila Hotel, the President returns to Malacañang and inducted into office Fulgencio Buenaflor as municipal Mayor of Kalamansig, Cotabato.

At 11 a.m., together with the First Lady. Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, and their children, the President takes the whole hiarh of the presidential car to lead a motorcade which symbolically opened to traffic the new 16 Kilometer stretch of the modern, concrete eight-lane Manila North Diversion road.

The new stretch of road is part of the 30 kilometer segment being constructed by the army engineers, in coordination with the Department of Public Works. This will connect with the McArthur highway at Barrio Tabang, Guiguinto, Bulacan.

Started in March last year, the P30 million project, which includes major bridges and underpass, is on a schedule timed to end next September.

The President drives up to the Philippine National Railway station in Balagtas (formerly Bigaa) Bulacan, where he and his party boarded the PNR presidential coach for La Union.

At Damortis, the President's party transfers to cars for the rest of the trip to Baguio City. At the main city check point, the party was met by a delegation of city officials led by Mayor Norberto de Guzman, who escorted the First Couple to the Mansion House, arriving there 5 p.m.

In the evening, the President checks in for his annual spiritual retreat at the Mirador Hill retreat house of the Dominican Fathers.

Meanwhile, President Marcos issues a proclamation declaring March 25, as a special public holiday.

March 25 is sandwiched between Good Friday and Sunday and therefore may be declared as a special public holiday without prejudice to the public interest, the President notes.

Proclamation of the special holiday, which is traditional, will likewise give the people a chance to have an uninterrupted weekend observance of the Holy Week.

March 18.—IN Baguio City, President Marcos spends the whole day in meditation and prayers at the retreat house on Mt. Mirador.

He checks in at the retreat house run by the Dominican Fathers at 8:30 o'clock last night.

The Chief Executive is expected to check out of the retreat, house sometime the next day in time to be guest of honor and speaker at the graduation exercises of the current crop of cadets of the Philippine Military Academy.

The President is also scheduled to confer with officials of this city and of Mountain Province on pressing local problems.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: March 19-25, 1967

President's Week in Review: March 26 - April 1, 1967

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

March 26.—PRESIDENT Marcos returns to Malacañang early in the evening from Baguio City where he and his family spent the Holy Week holidays.

The President motors to the Pines City Friday, March 17, primarily to go into his annual spiritual retreat at the retreat house run by the Dominican Fathers on Mirador Hill.

The Chief Executive, together with the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, and their children, leaves the Mansion House shortly after 2 o'clock in the afternoon, arriving in Malacañang in the evening.

While still at Baguio, the President confers early in the morning with leaders of the newly-created mountain provinces on problems affecting their respective regions.

After breakfast, the President and the First Lady watches their children and their friends go on a hunt for the Easter egg at the amphitheater ground behind the Mansion House.

He then confers with Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas and went over papers of prisoners forwarded to him by the board of pardon and parole.

The President also meets Chairman Gregorio Abad and Commissioners Feliciano Ocampo and Anacleto C. Mangaser of the Reparations Commission who reported on the progress of procurement through reparations of fertilizers, water pumps and other materials needed for rice production.

Abad informs the President that the first shipment of 16,000 tons of the 51,000 tons of fertilizers being procured through reparations are due in Manila by the middle of next month.

After the series of conferences which lasted till past noon, the President takes lunch, and after a brief rest motored Manilaward with his family for Malacañang.

March 27.—AT a luncheon meeting at Malacañang, President Marcos and the Foreign Policy Council declines the invitation of the Malaysian government to send observers to the forthcoming polls in Sabah (North Borneo) to elect members of the legislature and to vote on its status with Malaysia.

The President and the members of the Council decides to decline the invitation, on the ground that the coming polls on both matters were a purely internal affair.

The referendum on Sabah's status in Malaysia is in accordance with an understanding between Malaysia and Indonesia, to which the Philippines was not a signatory. This understanding is viewed by the President and the Council as, itself, an internal affair of Malaysia.

Secretary of Foreign Affairs Narciso Ramos is instructed by the President and the Council to summon the Malaysian ambassador the next day to inform him of their decision.

In the morning, the President is guest speaker at the opening of the five-day 20th national convention of the Provincial, City and Municipal Treasurers and Assessors Association at the VIP building at Roxas boulevard.

In his speech, the President pledges the "creative use" of the taxes collected from the people, to advance the progress and economic stability of the nation.

He calls on the members of the association to intensify their efforts in collecting the funds due the government, so that the work of development can continue and broaden.

Stating that the present goal of the administration is to build a firm and broad foundation for continued progress, he points out that this must have been the same goal of other administrations. Then he asks, "why have they failed?"

The reasons are many and complex, he declares, but the main reason is the lack of physical underpinnings, or a strong foundation on which to build. "These underpinnings," he states, "my administration proposes to build."

March 28.—THE President orders a crackdown on illegal radio stations operating clandestinely, even as he formed a committee to update what he regarded as obsolete radio laws.

He acts to dismantle and penalize illegal radio operations in the country, after receiving reports indicating that some 18 radio transreceivers, 11 of them apparently without license, were found operating in areas along the eastern coast of Luzon, a region normally lightly supervised by police agencies.

The President points out that if these operations have prospered in this region, there must be illegal activities of the same nature going on in other areas of the country.

According to reports naturalized Filipinos of Asian origin own these transreceivers, which are said to be capable of communicating with other stations in Southeast Asian countries. The power output of the transreceivers mentioned are rated as high as 300 to 500 watts.

The President also asks the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency and the Radio Control Office to coordinate in tracking down these illegal radio stations, and impose the full penalties for violations of the country's radio laws.

Noting that the existing radio laws are of pre-World War II vintage, and now obsolete in the light of the tremendous advances in electronics and communications, the President asks that the said laws be situated with an eye to updating them to meet present needs.

At the same time, the President commutes to life imprisonment the death penalty imposed on three condemned convicts and upheld a resolution of the board of pardons and parole which chose not to disturb the death penalty for three convicts as affirmed by the Supreme Court.

In the first case, the President acts on the recommendation of the board of pardons and parole to commute to life imprisonment the death penalty meted out to Florentino Cabada, Aquilino Aguilar and Esteban Pacudan, who have been scheduled to be executed on March 30.

In the second case, the President decides to uphold a resolution of the board of pardons and parole which stated that "it sees no reason to disturb the decision of the lower appellate courts" to impose the supreme penalty on Balbal Sigayan, Bautil Pedro and Emereterio Orzame.

President Marcos concentrates on urgent administrative matters relative to rice, notably warehousing problems and irrigation, and on tobacco and nickel mining activities.

He summons officials involved with these matters to Malacañang and discussed at length the problems facing them, and received the officials' reports on the progress of the activities of the agencies concerned.

Among those called in by the President are Col. Osmundo Mondoñedo, chairman and general manager of the Rice and Corn Administration; Federico Moreno, officer-in-charge of the Philippine Virginia Tobacco Administration, Antonio Arrizabal, Jr. of the Presidential Economic Staff; and Esteban Ocampo, administrator of the Irrigation Service Unit.

The President discusses with Mondoñedo the project to improve warehousing facilities in rice-producing areas. Moreno, who is also the board secretary of the PVTA, reports on the present status of tobacco stocks and the agency's plans for the disposal of these commodities.

While Arrizabal, who is the technical consultant of the Surigao Nickel Development Board, reports to the President on the current status of the offers made by private entrepreneurs to explore the possibility of exploiting these minerals. He has been assigned by the President precisely to make studies of all the offers.

March 29.—IN line with his desire to “upgrade the government’s capacity for providing justice to every citizen,” President Marcos dismisses three municipal judges who had been found guilty in administrative cases involving dishonesty, dereliction of duty, and gross ignorance of the law.

Ordered dismissed in separate administrative orders are Municipal Judges Fernando B. Fuentes, Jr., of Nunungan, Lanao del Norte; Crispin N. Menchavez of Santa Fe, Cebu; and Vicente M. Salumbides of Tagkawayan, Quezon.

The administrative case against Judge Fuentes of Nunungan, Lanao del Norte, arose from a complaint of one Jose Holmas, whose son had died in a traffic accident involving a jeep owned by one Lucio Matalam. The complainant charged Fuentes with dishonesty arising out of his acts as a practising lawyer.

According to the record of the case, Judge Fuentes received from the owner of the jeep the amount of P1,300 as payment to Holmas for the settlement of the latter’s claim for damages. Holmas complained that the amount was misappropriated by the respondent.

The administrative case against Judge Menchavez is for ignorance of the law and for dishonesty arising from his actuations in connection with a criminal case in his court.

The records show that Jesus Fariolan, Melanio Almocera and German Batiancila were charged on October 18, 1963 before Menchavez’s court for illegal fishing with the use of dynamite. It was clear, according to the investigations, that the judge had no jurisdiction over the case, since it involved punishment beyond his authority to mete out. However, the judge not only took cognizance of the case but sentenced the accused to six months imprisonment each and having thus convicted them, obtained custody of them and made use of their personal services in his farm and piggery.

The administrative case against Judge Salumbides arose out of a charge of neglect and dereliction of duty. According to the record of the case, the respondent conducted the preliminary investigation of Criminal Case No. 1535 of his court charging one Feliciano Balais of qualified seduction. After the termination of the investigation, however, Judge Salumbides failed or refused to transmit the records to the court of first instance of Quezon province, as required by law, despite repeated requests by the counsel for the complainant over a long period.

At the same time, the President issues an executive order fixing a five-hour half-session workday for all government employees during the period April 15 to May 30, this year.

He shortens the period for the half-day summer sessions, which was traditionally observed from April 1 to June 15, because of the urgent demands on the public service for pushing top priority administrative projects for ward.

The office hours set by the directive begins at seven-thirty o’clock in the morning and lasts through to twelve-thirty in the afternoon, Monday through Friday. In the observance of the half-day sessions, the order states, the five hour office schedule shall not, in any case, be further reduced.

In his directive, the President makes it clear that half-day session in the government offices will be observed in such a way that it will not impair the public interest, adding that there is need for dedication “especially at this time when we are strengthening the foundations of a sound and efficient public service.”

The President requires that at least one-half of the personnel in any government office, including corporations owned or controlled by the government, should be on duty in the afternoon, so as not to prejudice action on important matters.

The President's order does not apply to public offices in the City of Baguio, whether national, provincial or municipal. The order does not, among others, cover government offices and employees engaged in field work.

The Chief Executive spends the whole day working on state papers in his study room.

President Marcos creates a committee to receive all views, both for or against, on the Decentralization Bill, and collate them for the guidance of the President in assessing the merits of the measure before taking final action on it.

The President names the following to the committee:

Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas, chairman; Secretary Constancio Castañeda, who heads the Office of Economic Coordination; Secretary Ernesto Maceda of the PACD. Undersecretary of Justice Claudio Teehankee, and Undersecretary of Agriculture Dioscoro Umali, members.

In his instructions, the President directs the committee to transmit to all those interested, including members of the League of Provincial and City Mayors, and members of Congress, all the studies and comments on the bill now in the possession of the executive office.

He also asks the committee to invite written comments on the views already expressed in the studies made, and if necessary to meet all interested parties and get their opinions of the measure. He indicated that he would be available to anybody who might wish to discuss the bill with him.

The President gives the committee up to April 15 to submit to him its assessment of all the views it can gather and collate.

The committee created during a cabinet meeting this day, which is especially called to discuss more thoroughly the provisions of the bill recently passed by Congress.

The President seeks the widest possible appraisal of the bill, through solicited comments in order that he may have a broad basis for guidance in his personal assessment of the measure.

Among others, Secretary of Education Carlos P. Romulo, who submitted a written comment, and expresses his views on the bill during the cabinet meeting, said that the quality of education may be adversely affected by the provision apportioning national revenues to provincial governments.

He points out that the "country is so varied economically" that it was necessary for the national government to manage finances for budgetary flexibility.

"Unless the national government retains the ability to allocate finances for education among the various school divisions," Secretary Romulo says, "and for various types and levels of education critically needed for development, financial autonomy for the provinces might only lead to differences of educational adequacy in different regions."

In sum, the secretary of education stresses that poor provinces "might see their poor schools become even less satisfactory, and the contrasts in educational opportunities might become sharper than they are now."

Secretary of Health Paulino Garcia also advances several objections to the bill, which he saw as impractical, insofar as it relates to the health department.

He states that the transfer of rural health work from the jurisdiction of the department to the local governments will mean grave problems in technical efficiency, coordination of programs and implementation of policy, the formulation of which is retained by the department.

Secretary Garcia says that the transfer of jurisdiction will result in a total lack of technical supervision because “the imperative nature of the arrangement will make the authority impotent.”

Comprehensive studies had been made on the bill by the U.P. Law Center and the department of finance, both of which have already been made public.

Other offices which had submitted studies on the bill included the bureau of internal revenue, the Agricultural Productivity Commission, Bureau of Public Highways and department of public works and communications.

The Center finds constitutional defects in the bill, including violation of the uniformity of succession, the principle of separation of powers, nullification of the power of the President to exercise general supervision on local government, cuts the presidential power to control implementation of national policies, denies equal protection of laws, and impairs the power of the President to appoint, and the authority of the Commission on Appointments to confirm such appointments.

On grounds of policy, the Center states that the bill “provides for subsidy and not autonomy to local governments.”

The department of finance, in its separate study, says that the bill will further fragment the limited fund available for economic development, thus setting back the national program.

The finance department also cites the fact that the bill returns to the local governments responsibility for fundamental services which they have not been able to meet adequately in the past. Thus it was that Congress gave this responsibility to the national government.

These services include agricultural and health services, which local governments were glad to relinquish to the national government’s charge.

March 30.—PRESIDENT Marcos suspends two municipal judges found guilty of administrative charges brought against them, and denies the petition of a former municipal judge for reinstatement after having been separated from the service for negligence and inefficiency.

Ordered suspended by the President are:

1. Judge Alfredo P. Cabasaan of the municipal court of Basey, Samar, for six months without pay, after being found culpable for grave abuse of authority, dereliction of duty, and ignorance of the law.
2. Judge Alfredo C. Mabbayan of the municipal court of Roxas, Isabel a for three months, after being found culpable for gross negligence and dereliction of duty.

In the third case, former judge Rodolfo S. Azanza filed a petition for reinstatement after being separated hum the judiciary while acting as judge of the municipal court of Mandaon, Masbate. Azanza had asked for the reconsideration of the order dismissing him, alleging that the punishment was “too severe” for the offenses committed.

The President, after a careful study of the case, denies the request for reconsideration, stating that the respondent’s negligence and poor performance as Judge did not entitle him to be returned to the service.

He, however, modified the penalty in that Azanza's separation "shall be without prejudice" to his being paid whatever benefits he may be entitled to under the law. This consideration is given the former judge for his long service in the government.

Judge Cabasaan was charged by Paulino Encallado of violating Rule 126 of the Rules of Court, when the judge accused Encallado of grave oral defamation in his own court, issued a warrant of arrest, and caused him to be detained in the municipal jail for eight days.

The district judge who investigated the case found judge Cabasaan guilty of grave abuse of authority. Judge Cabasaan is found guilty of:

1. Dereliction of duty when he refused to accept in his court a complaint for homicide filed by Diego Odenanda, against Federico Lancanan, brother of the Basey town mayor, even after the provincial fiscal urged the judge to give due course to the complaint.
2. Ignorance of the law when Judge Cabasaan ordered the arrest of Conrado Cabonsan for vagrancy, when the latter appeared to be a college graduate and a citizen of good standing. The judge was also found to have shown his ignorance of the law when he issued a warrant for the arrest of Cabonsan. In cases where the penalty is only *arresto menor* or a fine of not more than P200, no warrant of arrest need be issued, unless the dependent is a recidivist, fugitive from justice, or charged with physical injuries, or neither resides in the place where the violation of the law occurred nor has any known residence.

In the case of Judge Mabbayan, which was also investigated by a district judge, the following facts are established.

The judge was found guilty of gross negligence and dereliction of duty when he allowed his cadastral clerk, Felix B. Bulan, to prepare the decisions in certain cadastral proceedings, then signed the papers without conducting actual hearings on the cases.

The result was the erroneous adjudication of the lots, including the award of a lot to Bulan, himself, and another claimant. The awards were found by the investigators as irregular.

The President says that as cadastral judge, the respondent had exclusive responsibility for making the adjudications and his failure to do so constituted gross negligence in the performance of his duty.

Both judges are warned that repetition of the same offenses will be dealt with more severely.

In the morning, the President receives Ambassador Librado Cayco, the newly named Philippine ambassador to Mexico, who paid a farewell call on the President. Ambassador Cayco leaves the next day for his new assignment.

Consul General Simeon Roxas, who is also leaving for his new assignment in Hongkong, is instructed by the President "to look into the reported underpricing of goods listed in consular invoices there."

The Danish diplomat, charge d'Affaires H.A. Djurhuus, bade the President good-bye on the eve of his departure for Denmark after completing three-years of duty here.

The Chief Executive, in the course of the day, also receives Alexander Ligas, a retired American soldier who has established residence here. He presents to the President his proposal to produce small types of windmills which he says are suitable for rural areas where it could pump water to irrigate farms with an area of about five hectares.

He also meets farmers from San Jose, Occidental Mindoro, who petitioned that they be allowed to continue as leasees of P.N.B. lots in their province. The President assures the farmers that their petition will be given serious consideration.

March 31.—FOLLOWING a hectic schedule, President Marcos hold a number of meetings before and after fulfilling a speaking engagement with the Government Prosecutors' League of the Philippines.

Earliest to see the President is Defense Secretary Ernesto Mata, who briefed him at the "Pangarap" guesthouse on the progress of the development work in the Fort Bonifacio military reservation.

Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas and Secretary Ernesto Maceda of the Presidential Arm on Community Development also sees the President at the "Pangarap" guesthouse for consultations, Secretary of Commerce and Industry Marcelo Balatbat also calls connection with his forthcoming trip abroad.

Secretary Balatbat is leaving Sunday for Tokyo to head a Philippine delegation to the two-week ministerial ECAFE conference which starts April 3. The President gives him final instructions concerning his mission.

At exactly 10:40 a-m., the President accompanied by Justice Undersecretary Claudio Teehakee motors to the Ateneo University on Padre Faura, where he addresses members of the Government Prosecutors League of the Philippines now in Manila for their sixth annual convention.

In his address, the President exhorts government prosecutors to re double their efforts in expediting the disposition of cases to the end that public confidence in the processes of the law will be further strengthened.

He outlines to the fiscals three steps by which they could speed up the administration of penal laws:

1. Cut down to the minimum the period of preliminary investigation, possibly by dispensing with technicalities.
2. Coordinate with the judge or the clerk of court in calendaring criminal cases for hearing, suggesting that if possible the trial should be uninterrupted till its conclusion.
3. Oppose consistently any moves by the defense to drag out investigations or trials through dilatory tactics, and oppose motions for postponements on unwarranted or flimsy excuses.

The President stresses that there is need for improving the machinery of justice because of the weakening of moral fabric by grave crises experienced by the people in the past, as brought on by World War II, the rise of communist dissidence, the severity of the years of want and suppression under economic austerity and controls.

He says that if not checked, the resulting "outburst of license," would lead further deterioration of the moral climate of the country, and might eventually erupt into widespread disorder and anarchy.

He enjoins the fiscals, "who stand in the very frontlines of justice," to do their utmost in firming up an orderly society "through the faithful and dedicated application and enforcement of the laws of the land."

He states that "competence, integrity and efficiency" are the specific virtues required of every fiscal in discharging the duties inherent in the position.

"A fiscal may be a master of law," he says, "but without integrity and zeal in the performance of his work, he will be more of a liability than an asset to the administration of justice."

He particularly deplores the slow judicial processes, which he said have shaken "the faith of the people in our judicial system."

The fact of clogged dockets, he points out, shows there is something wrong "not necessarily in the system, but with the men behind it."

He notes that of the 42,375 cases filed with fiscals in 1966, some 22,594 (which includes complaints filed prior to 1966) are pending investigation, and those pending trial number 33,079.

He adds, however, that of the cases filed by fiscals in the same year in various courts, 8,762 resulted in convictions, with only 940 getting only acquittals. This he states, and the records showing headway in the anti-smuggling drive, are heartening. Again, he notes that of 1,408 smuggling cases, there were 100 convictions.

He cautions, however, that “by no means, have we fully attained our objective in the war we have waged on smuggling and other forms of criminality.” He then urges the fiscals to push harder if we are to restore complete peace and order and conquer criminality.”

He cites such alarming incidents as the recent murder of a judge while the man was in church, and he reports that he had asked the department of justice and all law enforcement agencies “to spare no efforts to bring the killers to justice for this despicable affront to God and our very institutions.”

He tells prosecutors to resist every pressure to corrupt or impede the processes of justice, and he assured them full presidential support in the proper performance of their duties.

He says that they should not abuse their powers and discretionary prerogatives, and to beware of being used as tools of corruption or as vehicles for revenge.

Concluding, he tells the fiscals that “on the whole, yours has been a satisfactory performance” in the past year. “But this is not enough,” he states, emphasizing that “nothing but optimum performance is called for in the crucial times we live in.”

He declares, “I am confident that you can stand up to the challenge of the times, and that, put to any test, your zeal, your courage and your patriotism will not be found wanting.”

Back at Malacañang shortly before noon, the President receives Ambassador William McCormick Blair, Jr. who pays a call.

Following the call, the President then meets separately Brig. Gen. Manuel Yan, PC chief, Sebastian Ugarte, publisher of the *Philippines Herald*; a group composed of Sen. Dominador Aytona, Rep. Fernando Veloso of Samar, former Sen. Decoroso Rosales and Fernando Jacinto.

Between callers, the President administers the oath of office to Federico Garcia and Gavino Rañoa as acting chief of the Manila Fire Department and acting assistant city engineer of Manila respectively.

After his callers had left, the President stays until mid-afternoon at his study where he went over official papers and communications.

Meanwhile, President Marcos orders visa requirements of the foreign affairs department waived for all veterans and members of their families coming to the Philippines for the observance of the 25th anniversary of the fall of Bataan and Corregidor.

The Chief Executive directs Foreign Affairs Secretary Narciso Ramos to instruct all missions in the United States and Canada, as well as in other countries where veterans are residents, to extend every assistance in expediting the processing of the travel papers of those who desire to come to the Philippines for the anniversary.

He also instructs the bureau of immigration to relax its rules in accommodation of the veterans and their families and the bureau of customs to do the same in order that the entry of these visitors will be facilitated.

The veterans from overseas and their families are expected to participate in the ceremonies and other activities commemorating the fall of the last two great bastions of the Fil-American forces defending the Philippines during the early part of World War II. Bataan fell on April 9, 1942, followed shortly by Corregidor's capitulation.

The measure taken by the President to facilitate the entry of the veterans into the country is in keeping not only with Filipino hospitality, but a way of honoring these veterans who had participated in the defense of the Philippines.

April 1.—ACTING on the findings of probers and the recommendations of the Department of Justice, President Marcos dismisses the municipal judges of Panganiban, Catanduanes and Clark Field, Pampanga after they had been found guilty of administrative charges filed against them.

Removed from office are Horacio T. Aquino, municipal judge of Panganiban, Catanduanes and Eloy David, municipal judge of Clark Field, Pampanga.

Investigation conducted by a district judge finds Judge Aquino guilty of grave misconduct and habitual drunkenness.

Judge David is found by investigators guilty of gross incompetence and ignorance of the elementary rules of court procedure, and a lack of "concern for the due administration of justice."

Probers find Judge Aquino guilty of insulting guests at a party by Dr. Alfredo Canoy at the Viga Emergency Hospital dining hall while the judge was drunk, after which the respondent destroyed two glass windows of a hospital ambulance.

Judge Aquino is also found guilty on a charge filed by Francisco Talion, which alleged that the judge, again drunk, embraced and kissed the complainant's wife while she was awaiting medical examination at the same hospital.

The same judge was previously suspended, in 1960, for misconduct, also while under the influence of liquor.

In the case of Judge David, the investigators established that he was remiss in his duties, in connection with the preparation of the case against the men who held up the NCO Club at the Clark Field air base, and kidnapped two women dependents as hostages in making their escape.

According to the findings, Judge David, who conducted the preliminary investigation of the three men arrested, on the strength of a warrant he issued betrayed gross incompetence and ignorance of judicial procedure when he:

1. Failed to transmit the papers on the case to the court of first instance of Pampanga, after the transfer of the hearing of the case to that court;
2. Dismissed the case against the three men arrested for lack of evidence, despite the fact that two of the men had admitted culpability for the robbery and kidnapping, and that there had been no proper hearing then as yet.

In the face of these failures, the investigation recommends suspension of the judge. But the department of Justice, after reviewing the charges and the findings, views the matter as too serious for mere suspension. The department recommends dismissal of Judge David.

The President therefore takes action on the basis of the justice department's recommendations, saying that the judge is "the type of official that emboldens criminal elements and undermines the people's faith in the administration of justice."

At the same time, the President extends the tour of duty of four brigadier generals and nine colonels, who were set to retire this day following 30 years of service in the armed forces of the Philippines.

Retained in the service indefinitely in their present ranks “for the good of the service” are Brig. Gen. Manuel T. Yan, Chief of the Philippine Constabulary; Brig. Gen. Cesar B. Jimenez, deputy chief of staff; Commodore Pastor G. Viado of the Philippine Navy; Brig. Gen. Antonio R. Romeo, commander of the third military area; and the following full Colonels: Paterno V. Oppus, commanding officer of the fourth PC zone; Marte N. Iglesias, commanding officer of the AFP supply center; Fidel T. Reyes, commanding officer of the Basa Air Base; Ramon Fernandez, Jr., Jose Ma. Sanson, Francisco N. Punzalan, Benedicto A. Alejo, Leonardo T. Miciano and Cecilio C. Leoncio,

With the exception of Oppus and Alejo, who belong to the field artillery branch of the AFP, the rest of the colonels are with the Philippine Air Force.

In the morning, the President receives a group of officials of the Gulf Oil Corporation of the United States. The group calls on the President at the end of their brief visit here, to pay their respects to the President. They are set to depart for Korea the next day.

Following the call of the Gulf Oil officials, the President and the First Lady accompanied by Teodoro F. Valencia motors to Fort Santiago to examine the progress of the restoration of the national shrine.

In the afternoon, the President again leaves Malacañang, this time for Tanay, Rizal, where he was principal speaker at the inauguration of the Philippine ground station, linking this country to the international satellite communications system.

In his speech, the President hails the triumph of Filipino resourcefulness and ingenuity,” as he cited the extraordinary achievement of the Philippine Communications Satellite Corporation (Philcomsat) in setting up the interim ground station here in one-fifth the time it normally takes.

He declares that although the component of the station were manufactured in the United States, “the initiative and direction” of Philcomsat established the station here in one and a half months instead of the four or five it takes to set it up.

He likewise stresses that the achievement of Philcomsat in raising the worth of the entity, from a P55, 000 corporation at the start to the P20 million organization is today. He states that it is cause for national pride for the

Philcomsat and its sister organization, the Philippine Overseas Telephone Communications Corporation (POTC), are 100 per cent Filipino companies.

The President points out that this fact vindicates the efforts to organize a purely Filipino operation, against which pessimists objected, and critics railed.

He at the same time reveals that the government will integrate the nation’s telecommunications facilities under one organization, saying that it was necessary for “we are probably the only nation in the world, outside of the United States, that does not have full control of our telecommunications facilities.”

He explains that for reasons of efficiency, economy and public interest, the telecommunications needs of such agencies as the CAA, the weather bureau, the National Civil Defense Administration, the AFP, and of the general public, should be served by one integrated network.

The worldwide network, which will utilize a space satellite positioned over the Pacific Ocean, is in implementation of the United Nations resolution binding more than 50 countries under a cooperative program of global communications.

Philippine participation is under the supervision of Philcomsat, which operate, under the National Science Development Board. Actual management and operation of the Philippine Station has been awarded to POTC, a private firm.

The temporary ground station will be replaced with a permanent one to be located near the interim station, possibly within 11 months.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

Official Week in Review: April 2 – April 10, 1967

April 2.—PRESIDENT Marcos leaves for Laoag City to participate in two special events: the inauguration of the Marcos Hall of Justice, named after his father, former assemblyman Mariano Marcos; and the opening of the Bureau of Public Schools Interscholastic athletic meet where he was guest speaker.

The President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, arrives at the local airport at 9:20 o'clock in the morning where a huge crowd led by Ilocos Norte Gov. Jose Evangelista was on hand to welcome them.

Military honors, including a 21-gun salute, are rendered the President, after which the President and the First Lady proceed to the St. William's Cathedral where a low mass was said by Monsignor Basilio V. Fortuna, now more than 70 years old and retired as a bishop a few years ago.

Mons. Fortuna was the parish priest of Laoag during the incarceration at the municipal jail here while awaiting trial some 30 years ago.

Following the Mass, the First Couple attends the inauguration of the Marcos Hall of Justice, with the President delivering the principal speech.

After the President's speech, the First Lady unveils the marker and cuts the ceremonial ribbon of the restored detention cell where the President was confined some three decades ago.

The cell is complete with a gas lamp, a bed and a bookshelf containing law books. It was while confined in the cell that the President prepared for the bar examination, as well as for the defense of his case before the Supreme Court.

On the marker was inscribed the following:

"In this cell, the sixth President of the Philippines, Ferdinand E. Marcos, spent a brief but grim period of his life. As a young law graduate he was held here in 1939, unjustly convicted of murder.

"Secure and serene in the knowledge that he was innocent of the charge against him, he reviewed for the bar examinations and prepared his own defense before the Supreme Court where his appeal was soon to be heard. His faith in himself, his unshaken belief in the triumph of justice were affirmed, first, by his acquittal by the Supreme Court and, second, by his passing of the bar as toptotcher.

"In marking this cell as a historical place, it might also be remembered that here, perhaps, the President reached the crossroad in his life. From the soul-searing experience within its confines, he went on to become a hero in war and a dedicated national leader in peace, finally receiving full justification of his life from the Divine Providence and his people when he was elected President of the Philippines in 1965."

After the rites, the President and the First Lady also officiates at the inauguration of the local branch of the Veterans Bank of the Philippines, with the President making the first deposit in the amount of P1,000.

From the bank, the President proceeds to the local compound of the Department of public works where he turn over materials for 50 Marcos-type school buildings allocated to Ilocos Norte.

In the afternoon, the President formally opens the 1967 Public Schools Interscholastic Athletic Association Meet.

In his brief remarks, the President calls on sports authorities and athletes "to propagate the doctrine that sports are not diversions for the idle, but activities necessary for both individual growth and national development."

He also urge the recapturing of the tradition of "the whole man" with a sound mind in a sound body.

The President calls attention to the decline in sports consciousness among the people. One sad thing about it, he said, is that our athletes do not regard international contests in terms of national honor.

They join athletic delegations not to win honors for their country but for their own selfish interests, such as to travel, to go sight-seeing and to shop, he says.

The President says he was fully supporting the revival of sports development, by revitalizing the physical education courses in the schools, as well as the setting up of a coach development program.

Recently, the President received from Secretary Carlos P. Romulo of Education a comprehensive report on the country's sports and athletic programs. He had asked Secretary Romulo to make studies following the debacle which met Filipino delegates in the Asian games in Bangkok last year.

April 3.—THE Chief Executive returns to Malacañang 7 a.m. after a two-day long inspection trip of public works projects in the Northern provinces, during which he found mass support for the administration's projects, particularly road construction and the prefabricated schoolhouses building programs.

The President tours points in Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur and Pangasinan to see for himself the progress in public works constructions and to turn over additional units to local officials of prefab school buildings.

Everywhere the President goes he took pains to talk directly to the people, from whom he received reports of their problems and complaints, notably in the distribution of RCA rice, which the people said was faulty.

He also discovers popular endorsement of the plan to distribute government rice through public schoolteachers. Many of the people he talks to in various municipalities suggests as well that barrio officials be harnessed in the distribution of RCA rice.

In the course of the trip, the President accepts the affiliation to the Nacionalista Party of provincial and municipal officials formerly associated with the Liberal Party.

The President turns over 50 prefab schoolhouses to Ilocos Norte officials, 50 units to Ilocos Sur, and 25 to La Union, all of which are additional units to those already received earlier; 50 units are also turned over to Pangasinan officials.

The President, who was accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, on the trip, is received enthusiastically by huge crowds everywhere along the route he took.

At the rallies he attended in San Fernando, Vigan and Dagupan, the crowds are the biggest seen recently, and the President and the First Lady are virtually engulfed by the surging waves of handshakers and well-wishers. In Vigan, where the First Couple attended mass at the cathedral the crowd is observed to be phenomenal.

Upon arrival in San Fernando, La Union, the President's party is greeted by a large turnout of townspeople and local officials led by Rep Magnolia Antonino.

Huge crowds in Pangasinan also receive the President and First Lady including at the Lingayen airport, in Dagupan and in Binmaley. The President inspects irrigation projects in the province, and in San Fabian he is once more swamped by a lively crowd of welcomers.

In pangasinan, the President and his party is welcomed by Gov. Francisco Duque, Rep. Aguedo Agbayani and Land Authority Governor Conrado Estrella.

The San Fabian irrigation project is one of the biggest development constructions in Pangasinan, designed to irrigate a large area of farmlands. The total cost of the project is estimated at P3.5 million.

The President also inspects the highways in the Ilocos provinces he visited, which are being cemented by the public works construction teams. The progress of the work is noted with satisfaction by the President.

April 4.—PRESIDENT Marcos transmits to the Senate for ratification the Convention between the Philippines and Sweden, which seeks to eliminate double taxation and prevent evasion of taxes on income and capital, among nationals of both countries affected by the two countries' tax laws.

The convention, now under consideration, is signed in Manila April 12 last year by Foreign Affairs Secretary Narciso Ramos and Ambassador Gustaf Harald Edilstam, in behalf of their respective governments.

The convention covers agreements as well on such areas of mutual enterprise as business projects, ships and aircraft, dividends, interests, royalties, independent personal services, employment income, public entertainers, cultural visitors, teachers and researchers, students and business apprentices, tax credit, exchange of information, consultation, and taxpayers' claims.

In general, the Convention gives assurance to nationals of the contracting states that no double taxation on the same income will be imposed in one or the other contracting states, if this has already been paid in one of the states concerned.

The agreement will also help each contracting state to prevent tax evasion through a free exchange of information. It is seen that the arrangement will encourage the flow of investments into the Philippines.

At the same time, the President declares the period April 9 to April 15, this year, and the week within which April 13, falls every year thereafter, as Inventors Week.

He issues the proclamation in consonance with the Constitutional mandate that "the state shall foster scientific research and inventions," and in pursuance of which Republic Act No. 3850, otherwise known as the "Philippine Inventors Incentives Act," was signed into law on April 13, 1964.

In issuing the proclamation, the President stresses that it is but fitting and proper that Filipino inventors be given recognition and encouragement "to induce them to use their God-given creative talents for the benefit of our country and people."

In his message to the Filipino Inventors Society, Inc., which is spearheading the celebration of the week with an exhibition of local inventions, the President points out that a nation is often recognized through the "creative achievements" of its people.

"It is particularly true with inventors, who do not only innovate but often pioneer," he states.

The President expresses the hope that with the incentive given under R.A. 3850, those who have the talent to create new devices and products useful to people "will strive to use this talent to contribute to the early development of our country, to the end that our people will have a better life."

He calls on all government agencies and offices, as well as on the business sector, to extend every possible assistance and cooperation in making the celebration of Inventors Week a success.

The Chief Executive also sets aside in Proclamation No. 192, 50 hectares belonging to Fort Bonifacio in Rizal for the site of the Veterans Center, which will house many services for veterans and their dependent.

The center will house the facilities for the rehabilitation of incapacitated veterans, medicine services, and vocational training.

The President has set a policy of assistance to veterans, in recognition of their services to the nation.

In this connection, he also directs a reassessment of the laws, executive orders and policies on veterans, to update them and gear them to a closer accommodation of the vital needs of veterans, such as channeling benefits only to needy ex-servicemen, and providing more scholarships.

The proposed center was originally envisioned as a place for providing medicare, rehabilitation and vocational training, but the President enlarge its scope to provide as well space for other activities of the many veterans organization in the country.

In the morning, the President receives Ambassador Johann Karl von Stechow, who pays a farewell call. He plans to leave for home on March 18, following completion of his three-year tour of duty here.

Then, the President receives close relatives of the late Judge Carlos Valdez, who was murdered last week in the Tacurong (Cotabato) parish church while receiving communion, saw the President, who expresses his condolences to the family for their loss.

April 5.—THE President holds a series of conferences topped by a meeting with his Cabinet which lasted from 12:30 to 3 p.m.

He first meets with the officials of the police commission and the constabulary, with whom he discuss the progress of the drive against criminality.

The Chief Executive also receives an official report from Major Angelito B. Cruz, chief of the criminal investigation service of the first PC zone, on the investigation of the killing of Geronimo Asto, a tenant from Central Luzon last February.

In this connection, the President orders the PC and the justice department to give all out prosecution for the tenants affected by the killing of Asto, and to commence prosecution in court of those responsible for the crime.

He at the same time, receives the report of Col. Jose Lukban, member of the Police Commission, that the anti-carnapping drive has already broken up the carnap gangs so that the PC and the police forces could now take over from the Police Commission team.

Col. Lukban recommends the disbandment of the POLCOM anti-carnap team. He also informs the President that the drive has resulted in the prosecution of 51 persons.

At 12:30 p.m., the President joins the members of his Cabinet led by Vice President Fernando Lopez, concurrently secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

He meets his cabinet on various programs of the government, notably public works, rice production and distribution of RCA rice, irrigation and the purchase of fertilizers and irrigation pumps.

At the meeting Secretary of Public Works and Communications Antonio Raquiza and Commissioner Baltazar Aquino of Public Highways give their explanation surrounding the controversial purchase of public works equipment worth \$29 million by the bureau of public highways

After going over the report and listening to further testimonies of Sec. Raquiza and Commissioner Aquino, the Cabinet confirms the findings of the three-man committee composed of Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas, Justice Undersecretary Claudio Teehankee and Auditor General Ismael Mathay.

In its report, the committee recommends that the contracts for the purchase of the equipment should be “left undisturbed” as there was no proof of any “overriding consideration or vitiating factors” that would justify cancellation of contracts.

In its inquiry into the contracts the three-man committee also establishes the following:

1. That the offer of Continental Ore Corporation was the “lowest and most advantageous,” pointing out that the financing scheme offered by the awardee was the “best available.” Specifically, the report said the prices offered on the equipment were lower than those of the other offerors, with the interest charged on the unpaid cost of the equipment as also the lowest, at 6.5 percent.
2. That the department of public works and the bureau of public highways conducted a thorough canvass of suppliers, thus giving every opportunity to all firms interested to present their offers, before entering into any contracts. This, the report said, was equivalent to conducting a public bidding.
3. That the interested parties were given every opportunity to submit their offers and were even advised to improve them in instances where the bureau of public highways considered that their terms and conditions could be further scaled down to meet government requirements.
4. That direct or negotiated purchase made without public bidding within the conditions of Executive Order 298, series of 1940, as amended, have invariably been recognized as valid, and in fact adopted in cases of urgent public need, and in other cases advantageous to the government.

Cited in the report are several cases in the past, under both the Garcia and Macapagal administrations, when direct acquisition of government equipment were made, through negotiated purchases, under the same deferred or amortization plans, in consideration of the urgency of the need for the equipment.

5. That all intervening parties had categorically said under oath that no kickbacks or commissions or gifts were given or will be given to any official or third parties.
6. That the committee received no evidence or discovered any evidence to show that the transaction was attended by immorality or impropriety.
7. That the equipment were bought at certified factory list prices, and letters of credit were opened directly in favor of the manufactures, thus precluding the possibility of overpricing of the equipment.

In their statements in answer to questions from members of the Cabinet, Secretary Raquiza and Commissioner Aquino:

1. Assures the President and the members of the Cabinet that no official or third person received any “kickback” in the transaction;
2. Assures the President and members of the Cabinet that while no public bidding was held, the department and bureau of public highways conducted a canvass of suppliers of the equipment needed and gave all parties interested ample time to present their offers and to improve them afterward.
3. Reaffirms that the offer of Continental Ore, Inc. was the “lowest” and the “most advantageous” to the government. They stress that the equipment were purchased at the factory list prices; the firm charged only 6.5% interest on the cost of the equipment which were to be procured on a deferred payment plan; and the expenses for freight and insurance were to be spread out over a five-year period, instead of the usual payment on delivery.
4. Informs the Cabinet that there exists a considerable lag in the procurement of public works equipment, with the \$29 million purchase filling up only 33 percent of present requirements. Other sources of public works equipments are the reparations, the US, through pledged assistance to the armed forces in the equipping of engineering construction battalions, and outright cash purchases.
5. Assures the Cabinet that there was legal authority for the purchase of the equipment under a deferred payment plan under Republic Acts 917, 1435, 4860, 4861 and public works appropriation laws.

Aquino reveals the payment may be made from the Highways Special Funds. In case of fund deficiencies, the equipment may be paid from foreign borrowings under authority of Republic Act 4860 or from the sale of bonds under Republic Act 4861.

6. Cites the following advantages of purchasing the equipment from Allis Chalmers. Huber Corporation and General Motors Corporation:

a. That under the deferred payment plan offered by these corporations and the Continental Ore Corporation, only 6.5 percent interest would be charged on the cost of the equipment:

b. That the cost of freight and insurance would likewise be paid on a deferred payment plan of five years, unlike the other offers which made these charges immediately payable;

c. That the procedure followed by the government enabled it to standardize its equipment.

d. That public bidding had unduly delayed, if not crippled public works projects in the past, citing as examples the procurement of asphalt in 1963, water pipes by NAWASA also in 1963 and other equipment under Reparations, all of which up to the present are still pending.

e. That the price of the equipment was the lowest, with prices of certain items comparing favorably with those under Reparations.

The intervening parties mentioned in the report, consisting of persons both from the public and private sectors, all categorically declared, under oath, that no kickbacks, commissions or gifts were given or will be given in connection with the purchase.

Sworn statements are made by Jarvey R. Katz, Southeast Asia manager of Continental Ore, Jose N. Pineda, general manager of Continental Ore (Philippines), James S. Moir, vice president and general manager of Honiron (Philippines) Inc. and Secretary Raquiza and Commissioner Aquino.

Secretary Raquiza states that he had voluntarily submitted to making a sworn statement, although it was against his belief that an official who had done his best should suffer such indignity.

He declares that "I have not received and will not receive, directly or indirectly, any gift, commission or any other benefit from any source in connection with this transaction."

He affirms that "there was no political interference whatsoever in the purchase and negotiation."

Commissioner Aquino swears that he too did not receive any gift, commission or other benefits from the purchase, and that he, like Secretary Raquiza, objected to being made to make a deposition on the negotiations particularly because "all my actions and decisions on this matter were moved by no other consideration than the best interests of the government and our people."

Among the cases of direct purchase cited by the report are:

1. The procurement of dredging equipment, auxiliary units and spare parts totaling \$5,261,500 under deferred payment by the bureau of public works during President Garcia's administration.
2. Acquisition of 20 motor truck chassis by the Manila Railroad Co from International Harvester at a total cost of \$105,900, under the Macapagal administration.
3. The acquisition of 10 diesel electric locomotives from the General Electric Co. by the MRR at the original cost of \$1,862,666.09, later increased by \$10,000 to meet hiked freight charges, under the Macapagal administration.
4. The acquisition by Nawasa of 10 billing machines and one addressograph machine through Erlanger & Galinger in the amount of \$112, 975.50, on the amortization plan, under the Garcia Administration.

The acquisition by the National Power Corporation of 8 units of IBM data processing equipment for a contracted price of P241, 360.05 in 1963.

And some 12 other instances of direct purchases of needed government equipment under past administrations, all of which did not go through public bidding, but were nevertheless held valid under the special conditions authorized by Executive Order No. 298.

In its report, the Committee observes that public bidding had been dispensed with many times in the past by previous administrations under authority of Executive Order No. 298, series 1940.

The advantages from the purchase through the Continental Ore Corporation are sharply seen, the report bares, against the guidelines set by the public works department.

1. Terms: to supply \$32,688,000 worth of construction equipment at 6.5 percent interest payable in equal semiannual installments over a period of five years, with no down payment. The first installment will be due six months after shipment. Prices of equipment were CIF Manila.
2. Prices; the registered manufacturer's export price list, which remains the same regardless of the buyers or their countries of destination and regardless of whether the purchase is through a dealer or directly from the manufacturer.
3. Quality: Allis Chairman, General Motors and Huber Corporation, which will supply the equipment, are three of the biggest heavy equipment manufacturers in the US, and their products are among the best known in the world.

The method of procurement, through direct purchase, without public bidding, is found by the report to be valid, as authorized by Executive Order No. 298, series 1940, as amended.

The report says that public bidding is not statutory requirement in government transaction concerning procurement of supplies, materials and equipment. It pointed that the requirement for public bidding in Section 1917 of the Revised Administrative Code applies only to contracts covering public works construction and repair.

Executive Order No. 40, series 1963, provides that contracts for public service or supplies may not be submitted to public bidding for extraordinary reason to be determined by a committee composed of the executive secretary, the auditor general and the secretary of justice.

Guidelines for "extraordinary reasons" are those which include meeting projects or emergencies which cannot be delayed without detriment to the public service, provided the purchase is made after a thorough canvass of the market.

The public works department did not only make a complete canvass, the report declares, but also gave the other offerors plenty of time to better their offers, as against the offer of Continental Ore and even studied late offers after the contract with Continental Ore was closed, finding even then that they were not as good as the former.

In concluding, the report avers that "the present administration has embarked on a massive program of road and bridges building designed to establish the foundations for long-term national growth and development to realize this expectation we must act decisively as in the present case."

The report further gives credence to the urgency felt in procuring the equipment immediately, in the light of the delay already caused for lack of proper equipment one full year behind schedule.

Meantime, President Marcos orders Director Nilo de Guia of the Civil Aviation Administration to stop immediately all extra sections (flights) not authorized by the Civil Aeronautics Board.

He also tells De Guia to submit to him within 48 hours the plans for the new Manila International Airport runway, which need improvement to meet the requirements of modern aviation.

The President calls a stop to all unauthorized extra flights of local airlines, following complaints by the Filipinas Orient Airways against the grant of extra sections.

The Filipinas Orient Airways alleged that there were discrimination and partiality in favor of the Philippine Air Lines in the granting of extra flights.

April 6.—PAVING the way for the opening of additional virgin lands for resettlement by relieving the armed forces of responsibility for administering EDCOR (Economic Development Corps) projects, President Marcos assigns to the AFP units concerned the specific mission of opening up new resettlement areas.

He orders Defense Secretary Ernesto Mata to turn over the EDCOR farms to the Land Authority, which will henceforth administer the projects.

The Chief Executive at the same time directs the bureau of lands to furnish the defense department with all the data necessary on virgin lands and other areas which may be opened to resettlement.

He lifts the burden of administering the EDCOR farms from the armed forces, to utilize the units experienced in land resettlement in this new efforts to open up new lands for cultivation. He specifies to Secretary Mata that new lands made available for settlers should be set aside for war veterans.

The EDCOR farms were opened first by the late President Magsaysay, as a resettlement project for surrendered *Huks*. It was deemed a constructive way of rehabilitating those *Huks* who had decided on returning to a peaceful life under the law. Since that time, the EDCOR farms, under the administration of armed forces units, have fully developed.

The President asks the officials concerned to report to him within one month, on their implementation of these directives.

At the same time, the President demands an explanation from the members of the board of directors of the National Power Corporation for their alleged “unwarranted interference” in the management of the government corporation.

He takes the step after being informed that because of the interference of the NPC directors, the management of the corporation has not been able to function effectively.

The directors of the firm are given 72 hours to give their side of the controversy. Each board member is asked to submit his own explanation of the five-point specifications of interference filed against the board.

In his memorandum, the President points out to the NPC directors that the specifications against them were serious, and that if allowed to continue might prejudice the interests of the firm.

The specific instances cited in the report to the President are:

1. The demand of some members for offices of their own in the NPC building.
2. Total disregard by some members of established managerial procedures in the NPC, resulting in internal friction and misunderstanding within the organization.
3. The arbitrary establishment of P280 as the minimum salary in the NPC, which with the present P150 cost of living allowance, would result in a floor wage of P430.
4. The employment of unnecessary technical assistants and proteges at high salaries, thereby causing demoralization in the NPC ranks.
5. Hindering the early completion of the Angat River Hydroelectric Project by delaying fund disbursements to the contractor.

President Marcos, in a memorandum to Secretary of Public Works and Communication Antonio Raquiza, directs that no monument or public edifice erected during his administration be named after him.

Instead, the President directs Raquiza to change the name of a pier in Orion, Bataan from Ferdinand E. Marcos pier to that of any other Filipino veteran who fought in Bataan.

He suggests the name of Major Gen. Mateo Capinpin, who commanded one of the most cited divisions in the battle for Bataan, among others.

The President also informs Gov. Pedro Dizon of Bataan, Rep. Pablo Roman and Mayor Floro Roxas, president of the Bataan Mayors League, of his instruction to Sec. Raquiza for their guidance.

The pier was constructed as part of the President's project to develop Mt. Samat into a national shrine commemorating the epic defense of Bataan. The pier will serve those who may visit the shrine from the sea, instead of taking the land route.

In the morning, the President receives first at his study a group of American druggists on a visit here. The group includes Mr. and Mrs. David Corcorran of the Sterling Drug company, Thomas Serpa, and Mr. and Mrs. Paul C. Wren of Winthrop Stearns.

At 10:30 a.m., the President is fetched from Malacañang by Administrator Atilano Cinco of the Philippine Veterans Administration who accompanied him to the World Veterans Federation conference on Asia and Far Eastern Veterans affairs held at the WHO building on United Nations avenue.

In his address, the President challenges Asian soldiers to take the initiative in realizing a forum for peace in Asia, saying that "where dedication and courage can succeed."

"More than anyone," the President states, "it is the soldier who passionately oppose war knowing its wastefulness and vicious destruction of human values." He adds, "so am I obsessed with peace."

He then urges the Veterans to work for an Asian forum "for all Asian countries irrespective of political beliefs, where a crisis like the Vietnam war can be discussed."

He stresses, "Let the soldiers of Asia, often identified with senseless war, lead the way to reasonable peace."

Pointing out that it is inherent in human nature to respond to adventure and excitement, a feeling often satisfied by fighting a war, the President states that this compulsion can be fulfilled by "a moral equivalent," which lies in the arduous tasks of building nations to an "adequate level of peace, of development," and in meeting the "challenge of development and democratization."

These challenges, he notes, are particularly real and urgent for the new nations which World War II had released from colonial bondage and age-old apathy. Projecting the power of war to innovate and father new societies, he points out that World War II gave rise to new nations all over the world.

These new nations, he continues, have taken divergent paths of development, but that whatever their differences, the salient fact is that their peoples have clamored for "wider and stronger democratization of society and of the government."

He states that "it is in this sense that the second world war came to Asia as a liberalizing and democratizing force," during which "feudalism became rapidly outmoded."

Declaring that all soldiers are comrades, even when they had fought on opposite sides of the trenches, because they are bound by the “common bond of courage in the face of death,” the President says that this “comradeship in war could contribute to a just and enduring peace and richer human freedom.”

From the veterans conference, the President drops in at the Manila Doctors Hospital, where he visited Secretary of Justice Jose Yulo and Rep. Vicente Peralta (Sorsogon), both of whom are confined in the hospital.

Back at Malacañang at 12:30 p.m., the President receives the delegates to the veterans conference, whom he honors at luncheon.

In the evening, the President motors to Fort Bonifacio, Rizal, for another speaking engagement.

Besides being guest speaker, he is the principal sponsor at the formal presentation of the official chapters of the American Legion, Philippine department.

April 7—PRESIDENT Marcos further sparks the participation of the private sector when he launched at a breakfast meeting in Malacañang the National Rice Action Group. Present at the day-long conference are government officials in the rice program and prominent citizens already participating in the intensified rice production effort.

The National Rice Action Group (NRAG) is an organization which the President declared will serve “as the bridge between the public and private sectors” in the effort.

The President shows high spirits as he presides at the breakfast meeting, where he inducted the 52 chairman of the provincial councils of the NRAG, distributed “appreciation” plaques and literature on the modern technique of rice production as well as gave away the traditional headgear of farmers, the *salakot*, to each of the group.

Manuel J. Gonzales is over-all coordinator of this citizens participation in the rice production program under the NRAG.

He notes that as the government has organized a coordinating council on rice production, also will the action group organize the greater portion of the private sector in the “pivotal and crucial crusade” for self-sufficiency in rice.

“We must get each and every farmer to participate in this program,” the President states, “for only upon the cooperation, enthusiasm, and devotion of the private sector can we base any successful effort to attain the goals of this program.”

The President stresses that the government has committed all its resources to the rice problem because it is the principal problem of the country. Now, he continues, it is necessary to correct the gross oversight in previous rice production programs, which is the failure to enlist the full participation of the private sector.

Vice President Fernando Lopez, who is also the overall coordination of the rice and corn production program, in his brief remarks to the group, emphasizes that this is the first administration to conceive a systematic and vigorous campaign to increase rice production.

He points out that the solution to the perennial rice problem is “not the responsibility of the President alone, or of the government agencies concerned, but the solution primarily lies in the hands of the citizenry in general, principally the rice farmers throughout the archipelago.”

The launching of the NRAG is the latest in a series of steps the President has taken to galvanize the private sector into greater participation in the rice production effort.

Earlier he had welcomed the participation of various church groups in the rice program, and offered them the cooperation of the government. During the meeting, the President withdraws several times to receive visitors. Vice President Lopez presides in the interim.

Dr. Arturo de Santos calls on the President, along with members of the Supreme Council of the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor. He turns over to the President the only recording of the message of Gen. Jonathan Wainwright of the USAFFE, when, on higher orders, he surrendered the Philippines to the Japanese Imperial Forces on May 6, 1942.

The President is presented with a life time membership card by Art Bressi, president of the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, as honorary national commander.

Also turned over to the President, among others, is a contribution of \$3,900 from Mayor Samuel W. Yorty of Los Angeles, California for the "*Dambana ng Kagitingan*" national shrine on Mt. Samat in Bataan

After receiving his callers, the President returns to the conference still going on at the state dining hall.

At noon, the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R Marcos takes lunch with the conferences.

Following the conference, the President spends the rest of the day preparing his speech for the Bataan Day observance on Mt. Samat tomorrow.

April 8.—PRESIDENT Marcos leads Filipino and American veterans, widows and orphans of the last war, as well as government officials in a pilgrimage to Bagac, Bataan to dedicate the "*Dambana ng Kagitingan*" on Mount Samat.

The President, accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, arrives at Mt. Samat at 11:30 a.m. for the dedicatory rites. The First Lady unveils the marker of the national war memorial. The dedicatory speech is made by the President, a hero of the battle at Mt. Samat. Solemnity attends the ceremonies.

A feature of the program is the recitation by Norman Reyes of his broadcast on the fall of Bataan. Reyes was then the radio officer of the USAFFE headquarters. With a voice slightly changed by age, Reyes repeated his broadcast that moved the veterans present.

In his speech, the President pledges that "this generation, and generations after, will keep faith with Bataan,"

To keep this faith, he states, Filipinos must prove true to the legacy of Bataan, which is self-dependence, as well as the responsibilities that go with freedom.

He reminds the people that they are the inheritors of Bataan's legacy, which must be preserved and enlarged in "the quiet tasks of peace," which he says entail the same "courage, passionate devotion and undying love" that the "young, gallant men" who fought in Bataan had displayed.

He stresses, "The problems that beset us demand our courage and resolution; they command discipline under overwhelming odds; above all, they demand clarity of mind and indomitability of spirit."

He bares that Filipinos, proud of their freedom, "dream of a world in freedom." Pointing out that slaves have no history, only fate, he asserts that "we seek that world in which all men to all races shall make their own history."

With this dream and this quest, the President states, "the presence of our brothers in an agonizing spot in Asia" is required. He refers to Vietnam.

Explaining that nations cannot always dictate the terms of the challenges imposed by history, the President declares that the Philippines nevertheless has tried “to raise above war’s clamor the compelling voice of reason.” He emphasizes. We try and shall keep on trying.”

After the dedicatory ceremony, the President and the members of his party takes lunch at Litson Point on Mt. Samat tendered by officials of Bataan.

The First Couple then motors to Mariveles for the unveiling of a historical marker at the point where the infamous “Death March” along a hundred kilometer road to Capas, Tarlac, started.

On his way to Mariveles, the President makes stops at two historical markers that tell of the heroic stand made by Filipino troops along the road leading to Mt. Samat.

The first marker kilometer 132, speaks of the final battle of Bataan. It was at that point along the highways, known as the final North-South Trail 4 to the military, where the 230th Infantry Regiment of the Philippine Army was positioned, and which was subjected to artillery and aerial bombardment on the morning of Good Friday, April 3, 1942.

The second marker was about a kilometer away, and was erected in recollection of the battle of Trail 2.

In his brief remarks in Filipino and English, the President recalls the march as something which had shown the best and the worst in men, adding that the marker will remain as a tribute to the Filipino and American partnership.

The President and his party arrives in Orion at 10 o’clock this morning aboard the RPS “The President.” The ship docks at the newly-constructed pier of the town which he inaugurates upon arrival.

The First Lady cuts the ceremonial ribbon formally opening the pier. The President addresses the crowd that had gathered to meet him, as well us to attend the pier inauguration rites.

He thanks the people of Bataan for insisting that it be named after him, but then, he states, he would not like any public works project named in his honor for as long as he is alive. He names the pier after Gen. Mateo Capinpin instead.

The President and his party leaves Bataan at 5 p.m., arriving in Manila two hours later.

April 9.—MOTORING to the “Libingan ng mga Bayani” in Fort Bonifacio and then to the U.S. Military Cemetery in Makati, Rizal. President Marcos leads Filipino and American Veterans, widows and orphans of World War II, as well as the general public in paying homage to the Filipino and American soldiers who died in the World War.

The President is accompanied by among others the First Lady Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, and Ambassador William McCormick Blair, Jr.

At the “Libingan ng mga Bayani,” the President and the First Lady attends an early morning Mass officiated at an improvised altar fronting the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by Fr. Francisco Avendaña.

Mrs. Marcos lays a wreath on behalf of the people of the Philippines at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Following the rites at the “Libingan ng mga Bayani,” the First Couple proceeds to the nearby U.S. Military Cemetery for similar honors for the American soldiers who died in the Philippines during the last war.

In the afternoon, the President together with the First Lady and their three children motors to the Luneta where a grand military parade and program are held to climax the three-day long observance of the Fall of Bataan.

Upon his arrival, the President receives full military honors from the Presidential Guard Battalion commanded by Col. Nicolas Ojeda.

This is followed by a military parade which featured the participation of the Philippine and American Defenders. The latter, numbering about 200, came here purposely to join the observance. These are heavily applauded as they went past the grandstand. The President stands on the platform throughout the parade.

Other features of the rites are the one-minute silence accentuated by the sounding of sirens at exactly 4:30 p.m. in honor of the Philippine and American war dead; and the presentation to the President of a Shield of Honor, degree of chief commander, by Gen. Arellano in behalf of the Defenders.

In his speech, the President describes the defense of Bataan as “an epic of the human spirit,” which is what Filipinos celebrate.

The unifying experience of Bataan, he declares, and the “great exertions of the human spirit, (the) major acts of courage” make Bataan kin to the “other high points of our experience as a people,” including the present challenge of nation-building and “the task of making democracy work in our country.”

The will of the Bataan defenders to endure and to die despite great odds, the President declares, could be “turned purposefully to the tasks of peace and development.”

He states that Bataan will be “seen to fall in place” as one of the more spectacular manifestations of the national purpose, which is to write “our epic of development as a modern nation a permanent bastion of liberty in this part of the world.

Upon departure from the grandstand, the First Couple riding in an open ceremonial car, are mobbed by the vast crowd all along their route up to the National Library building. The First Couple officiate at the formal opening to the public of the Bataan Day exhibits.

Back in Malacañang, the First Couple gives cocktails in honor of all the Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor.

April 10.—THE President orders the Department of Justice to start investigating immediately all officials and other parties who may be involved in the smuggling of Chinese into the Philippines and to prosecute without delay all those against whom evidence may be found.

He takes the steps at the same time that he instructs Brig. Gen. Manuel Yan, PC Chief, and CIS chief Felizardo Tanabe to submit their report on the apprehensions of groups of Chinese in Pangasinan and La Union.

The Chief Executive further instructs the two armed forces officers to coordinate with Undersecretary of Justice Claudio Teehankee in the latter’s investigation of the new racket in human cargo.

The smuggling of Chinese, which culminated in a dramatic expose with the arrests effected last week, has been the object of counter-intelligence effort conducted over the past several months.

Coordinating in the quiet drive are local intelligence agencies and international police agencies. Their joint effort resulted in the accumulation of evidence on the existence of a syndicate manufacturing fake passports to make the illegal Chinese entries possible.

The President had earlier been informed that officials and employees in the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Bureaus of Customs and Immigration, the Manila International Airport, as well as employees of certain airline companies, were involved in the smuggling of Chinese into the country.

In the morning, the President accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, motors to Fort Bonifacio, Rizal where the President formally declares open the 50-hectai-e land in Fort Bonifacio as the Veterans' Center.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

Marcos, F. E. (1967). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 63 (21), cxciii-ccv.

President's Week in Review: May 1-27, 1967

President's Week in Review: May 28 - June 3, 1967

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

May 28.—DISEMBARKING at Pier 15 at 8 a.m. from RPS "The President," the Chief Executive immediately flies by helicopter to College, Laguna upon his return to Malacañang from a trip to Palawan, Cebu, Ursula Island and the growing community in Balabac.

The President, accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, and their three children, hears mass at the deck of the presidential yacht celebrated by Fr. Ciriaco Escutin before disembarking.

At the College, the President addresses the sixth national convention of the Federation of Farmers Association.

In his speech, the President stresses the importance of developing agriculture to the industrialization program of the government.

He notes to develop agriculture was to lay the foundation for industrial development, for industry could best thrive where there was a strong domestic market for manufactured goods.

To develop the domestic market, he states, the government must help the farmers increase his income so that he could save enough money for the purchase of goods produced by industry.

He likewise bares that the administration has laid the foundation for the production of rice, corn and other agricultural products. It is now, he adds, engaged in meeting the problems of storage of these products and in developing a stable market for them.

He states the government had launched a program that would encourage the construction of warehouses. To provide better marketing facilities for farmers' crops, says, the administration was working on the establishment of a Farmer's Market in the Greater Manila area.

Back in Malacañang in the afternoon, the President receives the credentials of Ambassador U Sain Bwa, the new envoy of Burma to the Philippines.

In his reply to the new Envoy's remarks at the presentation rites, the President urges the widening of the fields of cooperation between the Philippines and Burma not only for the mutual benefit to the two countries but also for the good of the region.

The President points out that other fields of cooperation between the Philippines and Burma remained untapped. He declares these fields "challenges our goodwill and imagination."

"I am confident that Burma and the Philippines will not fail to meet this challenge," the President says.

In his remarks, the new envoy of Burma pledges to "cultivate still further the close friendly relations between our two countries."

The new envoy arrives at Malacañang at 5 p.m. At the Palace front door, he is met by a guard of honor made up of a contingent of the Presidential Guard Battalion in their blue gala uniform.

The presentation which was held at the ceremonial hall of the Palace is attended by members of the Cabinet led by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Narciso Ramos.

The President delivers his remarks in Filipino. Following the ceremony, he and the Burmese envoy exchange toasts, using *basi*, an Ilocano beverage, as ceremonial wine.

May 29.—PRESIDENT Marcos launches a book printing project to meet at the deficiencies in textbook requirements of the public schools, with an initial P11 million earmarked for the project.

He explains that P10 million of this amount will come from the special Education Fund deriving from the US war damage payments, while the P1 million will be provided from the government's general appropriations fund.

The President also asks the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, to launch a book drive, with the assistance of civic organizations, to augment the government book printing project, and in connection with her own cultural program.

The department of education has been assigned to take charge of the whole book printing project, which has set an immediate goal of 3.3 million textbooks within the next year. The overall requirements total 11.4 million textbooks, which is the present deficiency.

The President hopes to cover this deficiency with an intensified book-printing effort. The project is a companion measure to the pre-fabricated school building program of the administration, which in recent months has gathered momentum.

He has set a goal of 30,000 prefab school buildings during the next three years. About 1,000 prefab units have been distributed thus far, and the President has spurred the effort, setting the goal of 6,000 units before school open this year.

At the same time, President Marcos directs Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco to release the necessary funds to pay the salaries of Pasay City high school teachers.

He issues the directive following receipt of a complaint from a young student in Pasay City, who preferred to remain anonymous. The student wrote the President last May 10, calling the attention of Malacañang to the unpaid salaries of high school teachers in Pasay City, and other problems relating to the city high schools, including lack of schoolhouses.

The student, in the letter to the President, decries the apathy of government officials in relieving the plight of public school teachers, whom the student said, must be suffering extreme hardship, what with the children that many of them have to support.

The President also issues a proclamation declaring Thursday, June 1, as "Makati Day," making it a special public holiday in the municipality of Makati, Rizal.

The day marks the anniversary of the founding of the Rizal town.

In the morning, the President meets with leaders of Congress, to paw the way for congressional consideration of the urgent measures to be taken up in the coming special session opening June 1.

The meeting focuses on:

1. Setting the priorities for the 31 measures certified by the President to the special session;
2. The proposed transshipment zone to be established in Manila or another part of the country;
3. The proposed electoral reforms.

The Chief Executive, during the conference, is fissured of cooperation by the congressional leaders on speedy action on urgent bills, notably on the appropriation bill, the public works bill, the investment incentive bill, a number of tax proposals, amendments to the customs and tariff code, the circuit bill, and the government decentralization bill.

On the tax proposals, there is bipartisan agreement to give top priority to the following tax bills:

1. The act amending the provisions on inheritance and gift taxes by increasing the said taxes
2. The proposal to increase corporate taxes
3. The proposal to increase the gasoline tax.

May 30.—PRESIDENT Marcos creates the Inter-Agency Technical Committee on Foreign Economic Policy to advise the government on problems affecting international economic relations and to otherwise cope with matters pertaining to economics.

He points out that in the conduct of economic relations with other countries, the Philippine government regularly encounters problems involving different government agencies as well as the private sector, which need competent study and knowledgeable solutions.

“There is a necessity for a specific agency to coordinate and consult with other government agencies and the private sector,” the President explains “to insure that their positions and policies are in conformity with established foreign economic policy.”

The President specifies the salient functions of the newly-created body, namely:

1. It shall serves as the official body responsible for conducting studies and research on matters pertaining to Philippine foreign economic relations
2. It shall recommend the Philippine position in international economic negotiations, after consultation with other government agencies and the private business sector; and
3. It shall recommend to the President such other policies of an economic character as would most effectively advance the national interest.

The committee shall be composed of a Chairman from the Department of Foreign Affairs and a representative each from the Department of Commerce and Industry, the Department of Finance, the National Economic Council, the Presidential Economic Staff, the Central Bank of the Philippines and the Tariff Commission, as members.

At the same time, the President orders the release of funds for the vacation salaries of public school teachers, shortly after he learned that many of these teachers had not been paid since the close of the regular school term.

Acting on the President’s orders, Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco remarks some P56 million for the payment of the delayed salaries.

The President learns of the delayed payment of teachers’ salaries only this day after being informed by various officials that the public school mentors in many provinces have long been waiting for their vacation salaries to be paid.

Public schoolteachers receive their salaries even though they conduct classes during the two-month Vacation. On the other hand, even during their vacation teachers are often busy with professional seminars, or take special courses for self-improvement, or again are asked to serve in community projects.

In the morning, the President sits down with Teodoro Locsin, *Free Press* editor, and Edward Kiunisala, staff member of the weekly, for an interview. Also present are Director-General Placido Mapa, Jr. of the Presidential Economic Staff and his deputy, Alejandro Melchor, Highway Commissioner Baltazar Aquino and Acting Press Secretary Jacobo C. Clave.

After the interview, the President receives Senate President Gil J. Puyat and Speaker Protempore Jose Aldeguer, who came for consultations.

A respite from official business is provided by 14-year-old Alano Pahallwan Aradain, the Muslim youngster with an eye ailment, whom the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, spotted during the recent presidential tour on Mindanao and Sulu and brought to Manila for treatment.

The boy bids the President goodbye, after the successful operation of the eye. He thanks the First Couple for their help, and promises the President that he will study hard and be a good citizen.

After a spell of paperwork, the President once again breaks off to induct Gov. Esteban Bernido of Bohol as Presidential Assistant on Housing and as general manager of the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation.

He likewise inducts Vice-Gov. Lino Chatto, who will take over as governor of Bohol.

Recently arrived Administrator Gilberto Teodoro of the Social Security System and GSIS General Manager Benjamin del Rosario, members of the Philippine delegation to the United Nations-sponsored conference on social security in Leningrad, calls on the President to submit a preliminary report on the meeting.

Early in the afternoon, the President instructs Assistant Executive Secretary Gilberto Duavit and Ambassador Benjamin Romualdez, whom he dispatched to Daraga, Albay immediately after receiving word of the derailment of the Bicol Express this noon to make on-the-spot decisions in assistance to the victims, particularly the injured.

The two officials are ordered by the President to the scene of the mishap, which was reportedly fatal to ten passengers, with several others seriously injured, to make a personal assessment of the tragedy.

The President also orders an army paramedic team to aid the injured, and directs Col. Nicanor Jimenez, general manager of the Philippine National Railways, to fly to the Bicol town with a team of PNR doctors.

May 31.—PRESIDENT Marcos directs all law enforcement agencies to submit monthly reports on crimes for the government drive against lawlessness.

In an executive order, the President states that an accurate picture of the overall crime situation is necessary to guide law enforcement agencies in the campaign against crime and congress in the enactment of proper legislation.

The Chief Executive prescribes a uniform reporting system for all national and local law enforcement agencies, which were directed to submit their monthly reports to the chief of constabulary for consolidation, after which the data will be relayed to the Inter-Departmental Committee on the Coordination of Crime Statistics.

Required to render monthly reports are all chiefs of city, municipal and municipal district police forces; the Chief of Constabulary the director. National Bureau of Investigation; the chairman, Anti-Smuggling Action Center; the Commissioner of Customs; the Commissioner of Immigration and heads of other national law enforcement agencies.

The directive states the report should indicate whether a particular crime was handled exclusively by one agency or jointly with other agencies and also to specify whether it was or was not recorded in any city municipal districts police blotter in the case of crimes investigated by national police agencies.

At the same time, the President approves the request of two famed Filipino artists to perform in the Soviet Union and other countries behind the Iron Curtain.

The two, Misses Conchita Gaston, an opera singer, and Carmencita Lozada, concert violinist, have won recognition here and abroad as artists. They are both now in the Netherlands.

Foreign Secretary Narciso Ramos, who favorably recommend the trip, declares that performances of these two Filipino artists "will be a distinct boost to Philippine culture."

The President also orders the release of P1 million to the Philippine National Railways for the improvement of its lines especially in the area of the derailment of the Bicol Express in Albay.

He instructs Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco to make the sum available at once, so that the PNR can start work on the project immediately, particularly the relocation of the railway between Daraga and Legaspi City, where the accident occurred.

The improvement of this portion of the PNR lines was ordered after the President receives from Col. Salvador Villa, chairman of the PNR board of directors, a preliminary report on the derailment the other day of the Bicol Express.

The report reveals that the portion of the PNR lines in the Bicol has long been a hazard to trains because of the steep grade of the railways, which moreover twists dangerously. Thus, trains running in this area must negotiate this portion with extreme care, often going at virtually a snail's pace.

In the morning, the President goes on a two-hour long inspection of important road-building projects north and south of Manila.

The President boards an air force helicopter at 8 a.m., from the Malacañang Parks he flies to the Manila North Diversion Road project.

The President's unscheduled visit comes a cheerful surprise to the construction soldiers, who were even then already busy at their work.

Col. Sergio Isada, commanding officer of the 51st Engineer Brigade which is taking charge of the north road construction, joins the President's party in Balagtas (Bigaa) where the remaining 4.5 kilometers to Tabang in Guiguinto, Bulacan is being completed.

After this inspection, the President proceeds to the Angat Dam construction site in Norzagaray, Bulacan, close to the foothills of the Sierra Madre Mountains. He notes that the construction of the dam was almost complete.

From Angat Dam, the President flies south to look over the Nawasa projects, particularly the aqueduct being built between La Mesa Dam and the Balara Filters. He also views the progress of the work on E. de los Santos Avenue, and the projects in the South Harbor area, particularly Piers 3 and 15.

The President returns to Malacañang at 10 a.m. In his study, he immediately commence receiving callers.

The President, among others, receives L. H. Barnard, deputy leader of the opposition in the Australian Parliament, accompanied by Australian Ambassador Francis H. Stuart, pays a courtesy call. Mr. Barnard is here to promote parliamentary intercourse with members of the Philippine congress.

Then, the President confers with his financial advisers.

At the conference, the President instructs Gov. Andres Castillo of the Central Bank to study the problem of dollar purchase for unspecified purposes.

The President asks Castillo to study the whole matter of dollar remittances including identification of those who have been remitting big sums in various places abroad, for no known purposes.

The directive is partly aimed at tightening further the government drive against smuggling, which often begins with the flow of so-called invisibles out of the country.

In this connection, the President asks the CB to pass on the results of its study and the names of purchasers to the bureaus of internal revenue and customs, the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency, the Anti-Smuggling Action Committee, and the Department of National Defense and Justice.

The conference also considers the problem of promoting further foreign trade activities, which in the past year has shown a marked increase. He specially asks for a study of new markets for Philippine export products, and relative to this, the development of new export products.

Meanwhile, the President suspends for two months without pay Municipal Judge Julio Abad of Tanza. Cavite for "dereliction of duty."

The order of suspension carries with it a warning that repetition of the same or similar offense will be dealt with more severely.

The case against Judge Abad springs from his refusal to issue a search warrant to the Philippine Constabulary command on June 16, 1966, which had act a raid on several houses in Barrio Amaya, Tanza, Cavite, suspected of concealing untaxed "blue seal" cigarettes.

June 1.—PRESIDENT Marcos orders all governments officials and employees to refrain from soliciting subscription or contributing for any purpose, unless authorized by the Social Welfare Administration.

The directive is embodied in an executive order further amending Executive Order No 13 dated May 16, 1907, as amended by Executive Order No. 20 dated July 22, 1907.

In his directive, the President stresses that the practice of soliciting so-called "voluntary contributions" for public or semi-public causes by government personnel is "seldom justifiable and frequently productive of abuses."

He asserts that this malpractice on the part of government officials and employees exist in many localities.

Because of frequent lack of justification and the abuses arising from such solicitations, the President states, "a feeling of injury or resentment is often engendered among people who are unable to distinguish between collections made in this manner and those made through taxation."

At the same time, the President creates two advisory councils to upgrade quality and standards in their respective fields, namely, education and manufacturing.

The advisory council on education will make studies and then recommend to the President the steps to be taken in elevating the standards of education the country.

The Other advisory group, called the Philippine Standards Council, will cope with the ever increasing need for rigid specifications, quality standard and appraisal of local and international products sold 'in the Philippines.

Secretary of Education Carlos P. Romulo will head the advisory council on education, with the following members: Dr. Sotero Laurel, Dr. Waldo Perfecto, Dr. Augusto Caesar Espiritu, and Director of Public Schools Juan L. Manuel.

The council will have the following functions:

1. Recommend reforms in the public and private education systems according to the objectives laid down by the Constitution and pertinent to the changes in social, political and economic conditions.
2. Recommend basic policies in this field, with a view to formulating an integrated education pattern for the nation, and coordinating Philippine standards with those set up by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.
3. Examine various phases of vocational education with an eye to helping the government from policies relative to economic development.

The President creates the standards council after noting the difficulties encountered by the Bureau of Standards in coping with the ever increasing scope of its activities, aggravated by inadequate facilities and lack of technical personnel.

The body will be led by the representatives from the Department of Commerce and Industry, with the members composed of one representative each from the bureau of standards, the department of education, the department of public works and communications, the department of general services, the national development board, the Philippine Chamber of Industries, and a representative from among the exporters importers and consumers.

In the morning, the President meets for the second time this week his financial advisers to discuss further early implementation of the various ways of developing the country's natural resources, with an eye particularly to stimulating production of export goods.

He directs the Development Bank of the Philippines to study how easier credit may be given to other firms, in the way that rice and corn producers have been provided more liberal credit; so that they may acquire better facilities and expand their operations.

The President specifies that if necessary these loans can take the form of supervised credit.

The meeting this day is a follow-up of the previous conference, this time to consider the concrete ways of helping stimulate local production of export goods as well as the wider development of natural resources.

He points out that despite surveys showing that there are still large areas of mineral deposits untapped there has been no perceivable intensified activity in the development of these resources. Only a few pioneering firms are now engaged in this development, and some of them are hampered in their efforts by lack of financing.

He adds that the assistance given to rice and corn producers, and which has sparked added momentum in this field of industry, may also energize the development of the country's other natural resources.

In the evening, the President receives at 6 p.m. the special congressional committee who called to inform him that the legislative body has been convened for the special session, in compliance with the President's proclamation of last May 18, to consider urgent administration measures.

June 2.—KEEPING the public adequately informed on the activities and encouraged to do its share in intensifying rice and corn production, President Marcos authorizes the Rice and Corn Production Coordinating Council to form its own information office.

The information office will be headed by a director to be designated by the chairman of the RCPCC, and equipped with full staff, on the authority of the chairman of the RCPCC.

The center has the following functions and duties:

1. Coordinate the information services of all the agencies, and instrumentalities of the government participating in the rice and corn program under the RCPCC.
2. Assist in the programming of information, particularly as it pertains to the production and dissemination of information materials, with an eye to avoiding duplication, insure wider and more effective dissemination, and compile accurate data on facts, figures and statistics.
3. Collect, gather, and evaluate all information materials produced by the information agencies, entities, and/or instrumentalities under the program, and recommend ways of attaining total accuracy in the data gathered.
4. Provide complete and reliable information on the rice and corn production program under the RCPCC, and other matters relative to the RCPCC projects.
5. Discharge such other functions and duties as may be assigned to it by the RCPCC chairman.

In his executive order, the President likewise orders that all heads of departments, bureaus, agencies and instrumentalities of the government involved in, or concerned with, the rice and corn production program under the RCPCC extend full cooperation to the information office.

In another directive, the President reassigns responsibilities for certain functions held by Malacañang, notably on prison matters, the issuance of permits for firearms to government officials, claims for benefits by government personnel, the granting of franchises to public utilities operators, negotiated contracts for government services or supplies, and authority for local travel by government personnel.

The latest initiative taken by the President in dispersing, executive powers is in accordance with his policy of decentralization, which he had already started implementing in recent months. The dispersal of these powers will continue, he declares, although the pace may be slow since each step requires full study.

The President's directive transfers the following functions:

1. The allocation of plate numbers for motor cars, to the Land Transportation Commissioner.
2. The issuance of permits for possession of firearms to government national officials, and to dealers in firearms, ammunition and explosives, to the Philippine Constabulary chief, acting for the President.
3. The issuance of permits to local government officials for possession of firearms, and to dealers in firearms, ammunition and explosives, also the PC chief, again acting for the President.
4. Action on matters relating to the forfeiture of the certificate of deposit issued as security for licensed firearms, also under the same section of the code, to the PC chief, who shall act for the President.
5. Action on the claims for benefits under Section 699 of the Revised Administrative Code and on applications to teach, practice their professions, or engage in business outside of office hours, or acquire public lands, by personnel under the office of the President, the heads of which are of cabinet level, to the heads of the offices concerned.
6. Action on requests for authority to travel locally not exceeding three months from personnel of cabinet level offices under the President, to the heads of the Offices concerned.

7. Action on request for the transfer of property between offices of cabinet rank under the President, pursuant to Section 641 of the Revised Administrative Code, to the heads of the offices concerned.

8. Action on requisitions of offices of cabinet level under Malacañang to the heads of the Offices concerned.

9. Action on requests for meal allowance while working overtime by personnel of offices of cabinet level under Malacañang, to the heads of offices concerned.

10. The payment of prior years' obligations, or related matters, as provided under Section 7-1(27) of C. A. No. 246, by offices of cabinet level under Malacañang, to the heads of the offices concerned.

11. Authority for granting meal allowances in lieu of additional compensation for overtime work to local personnel to provincial governors and city mayors.

12. Action on request for the use of the AFP band to the defense secretary.

13. Action on prison matters, including confinement of provincial and municipal prisoners in the national penitentiary, or vice-versa, reports and inspection of local jails, recommitment of pardoned prisoners for violation of the conditions of the pardon, classification of prisoners, and requests of prisoners to pay a last visit under guard to recently deceased relatives, to the secretary of justice, who shall act "by authority of the President."

14. Approval of franchises for public utilities granted by municipal councils, to the secretary of justice.

15. Decisions on negotiated contracts for supplies and services to I lie government, involving amounts of P50,000 or less for national government agencies, and P100.000 or less for government-owned or controlled corporations, to the secretary of general services for national government agencies, and to the administrator of economic coordination, for government or semi-government corporations.

16. Action or requests for authority to appoint special policemen by private firms or semi-government institutions, to the Police Commission.

17. Decisions on negotiated contracts wherein the government plays in advance for services not yet rendered and/or for supplies and materials not yet delivered, in the amounts of P50.000 or less for national government agencies and P100 000 or less for government or semi-government firms to the secretary of general services for the national government, and to the administrator of economic coordination for government or semi-government firms.

18. Action on contracts for the lease of private buildings, rooms, lots or spaces, for the use of national government entities or government or semi-government firms, to the officials name above under the same specifications.

The executive order repeals or modifies all other executive orders in the past which may conflict with the present directive.

Other recent directives which decentralized the functions of the President's office, include the delegation to the heads of government lending institutions the authority to approve applications for loans exceeding P500,000 which formerly required Malacañang's approval; the delegation of powers or authority to ranking officials of such agencies as the PACD, the ACA, the ISU, and others in the rice and corn production program and the economic development program, including the Land Authority.

The President had given the heads of these offices the authority to delegate some of their powers to their key officials, in order to expedite accomplishments and streamline functions.

At the same time, the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, meet 347 members of the Lapiang Malaya at Malacañang, prior to their departure the next day for their homes. The President is specially interested in inquiring into their problems.

The President has earlier gone to bat for the misled members, and is instrumental in discharging them from the rebellion case filed with the Pasay City Court of First Instance. The court handed down its decision earlier this day releasing the group from the charges.

He bids them to go back to their homes and live peacefully.

In the course of the meeting, the President orders the Social Welfare Administration to extend full assistance to the LM members released by the court so that they could go home immediately.

In the morning, the President confers with officials and receives the usual long list of callers in his study. He confers at breakfast with the Reparations officials with whom he discussed the 11th year schedule of Japanese reparations.

The President also inducts the newly appointed officials of the three provinces created out of Davao province. They are Gov. Paciano Bangoy and Vice Gov. Leopoldo Lopez of Davao Oriental; Gov. Ramon de los Cientos and Vice Gov. Cresencio Lascuña of Davao del Sur; Gov. Verulo Boiser and Cecilia a de la Paz of Davao del Norte; and several board members.

Following the induction rites, the President receives the report of the Mindanao Development Authority officials and their project studies on the economic development of the area.

June 3.—PRESIDENT Marcos spends most of his working day working on official papers, a self-imposed weekend practice.

He emerges from his private study later in the morning to receive Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco and Undersecretary of Finance and Customs Commissioner Juan Ponce Enrile who took up with him budgetary and financial matters.

In the afternoon, the President addresses the commencement exercises of the Philippine College of Commerce held at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum. During the rites, he also receives the degree of Doctor of Economics, honoris causa.

In his speech, the President again emphasizes the need for total national support to the economic policy of balanced development of an agro-industrial economy, with the primary stress on the rapid strengthening of agriculture as the base for industrialization.

He also discusses the implications of present educational trends, and proposes that education should be geared to social and personal development as well as to infuse the youth with a concern for social and economic progress.

In the course of his speech, the President bares he will set aside a portion of Fort Bonifacio in Makati, Rizal, as a permanent site of the Philippine College of Commerce.

The past year-and-a-half, the President declares has been instructive in the task of “building a good material life for our people.” He says that he has recognized the vastness of the task as well as the capacity of the people to solve the immense problems attending this task, through earnest work and a high sense of responsibility.

He points to the recent gains in this effort, notably to the reduction of smuggling, the increase correspondingly in customs and internal revenue collections, and the growing improvement of the infrastructure and agricultural supports.

The President declares that it is essential to recognize that successful industrialization depends upon the attainment of “an agricultural surplus level,” This, he states, has already been accepted by local economists, who are now concerned with solidifying the “interrelationship between agricultural and industry.”

Rapid industrialization, he states, depends on a widespread mass market which must include the agricultural sector. Otherwise there will be an industrial sector that “caters to and subsists by itself.”

In the afternoon, the President again delivers a speech as guest of honor at the final session of the 7th annual convention of Philippine lumbermen held at the VIP building convention hall on Roxas boulevard.

In his speech, the President underscores before the leaders of the lumber industry that his policies on the industry are dictated by “the imperatives of forest conservation.”

The President states that he recognizes the lumber industry as one of the country’s most important enterprises, but that his administration will support the industry only if it honors the law on forest conservation.

He explains that ‘it was in consideration of conservation that the government banned log dealers and required processing plants for wood products as a condition for the grant of forest concession licenses.

Source: **National Library**

President's Week in Review: June 4-10, 1967

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

June 4.—THE President spends most of his time going over state papers and studying various projects of government.

Among the projects considered at length by the President are the plans to develop the North and South harbors and the proposal to open the lands occupied by the penal colonies to agricultural development.

The President instructs Director Alejandro B. Deleña of the bureau of public works to submit immediately the plans on the development of north and south harbors.

He directs acting Director Catalino Macaraig, Jr. of the bureau of prisons to make a listing of areas in the penal colonies suitable for agriculture.

After lunch, the President studies the draft of the bill making the dissolution of the Namarco and creating an agency to take over the functions of the government corporation. He plans to certify the bill to the current special session of Congress.

Then, he goes over the report of Secretary of National Defense Ernesto Mata on the plan to transfer the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy to a new site. The President had reserved the present campus of the Academy for the Asian Development Bank.

Meantime, President Marcos asks the Auditor General to inquire into the operations of the Central Cooperative Exchange, which has a long overdue account of P17 million with the government.

He designates the Auditor General to exercise the visitorial powers of the government, with instructions to inspect the books of the firm to determine its financial condition. The government has not conducted any auditing of the accounts of the firm, which is supposed to buy the crops of farmers, since 1962.

He orders the inquiry into the operations of the CCE in the face of threat poised by the Agricultural Credit Administration to sue the firm for its unpaid debts amounting to P17 million.

June 5.—THE Chief Executive sets the pace for his activities this day with a breakfast conference with members of the editorial staff of the *Manila Chronicle* led by Matias Marbella, managing editor.

The breakfast meeting is followed by a series of conferences with provincial officials and other leaders, among whom were prominent leaders of Cebu, Capiz and Isabela.

In the afternoon, the President concentrates on studying official papers, in the course of which he issues various directives.

Among the many orders issued by him are:

1. A memorandum to the National Science Development Board, the Philippine Inventors Commission, the UP College of Agriculture and the Philippine Coconut Administration, to jointly make a study and submit recommendations to Malacañang Within one month, on the feasibility of utilizing copra-drying machinery in the country, and
2. An order to BIR Commissioner Misael Vera to immediately relieve the internal revenue officials in Ilocos Sur "who are always unavailable" or absent from their posts.

President Marcos also constitutes the Irrigation Council, as provided for by Republic Act No. 2152 so as to expedite decisions on long pending applications for water rights.

June 6.—ACCEPTING the proposal of the secretariat of the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) to make the Philippines the base of its information center, President Marcos immediately orders Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco to release P400.000 to underwrite part of the cost of the center.

The proposed information center will set up publications and media unit, an audio-visual production unit, and a translation unit which will be used to disseminate vital information designed to stimulate industrial and agricultural productivity, and manpower activities.

The Philippine contribution of P400.000 represents about one third of the total cost of the project, with the U.S. AID in Washington contributing \$290 000 for machinery and printing equipment for the center.

THE APO was established in 1961 with the view of giving adequate impetus to the productivity movement in Asia, and thereby accelerate the pace of economic development in the region.

In the morning, the President meets at breakfast with the editorial staff of the *Manila Daily Bulletin*, headed by Gen. Hans Menzi and editor Felix Gonzales.

Following the breakfast meeting with the *Bulletin*, the President receives Ambassador Olivier Lange of France who presented his letter of credence as the new French envoy to this country.

The President, in his remarks, expresses gratification over the increasing economic, commercial and cultural relations between the Philippines and France.

Responding to the remarks of Ambassador Lange, the President states he had dispatched an economic mission to Paris to continue the dialogue with the French economic mission which recently visited Manila.

This dialogue, he says, was “with a view of opening avenues already explored and laying the foundations of a mutually beneficial trade relations between France and the Philippines.”

He assures the President that “I shall completely devote myself to the promotion of that development in order to insure the success of the high mission kindly entrusted to me by General de Gaulle.”

Ambassador Lange succeeds Ambassadors Ghislain Clauzel as head of the French diplomatic mission to this country. Ambassador Clauzel had been called back to the home office for reassignment after completing his tour of duty here.

Right after the presentation rites, the President meets for a three-hour long conference the Foreign Policy Council to assess the shooting war in the Middle East.

During the conference, the President and the Council agrees to support all efforts of the United Nations and other nations concerned with peacekeeping to effect a ceasefire and bring the conflict to a peaceful settlement.

After the conference which started at 11 a.m. and ended at 2 p.m. the following statement is issued:

“The Philippines views with grave concern the outbreak of hostilities in the Middle East, and vigorously supports the United Nations, and other agencies concerned with the maintenance of international peace and security in working for a ceasefire.

“The Philippines likewise joins other nations in appealing for a cessation of hostilities and the settlement of the differences of the contending parties through peaceful means.

“The Philippines also endorses the proposal of Pope Paul VI to declare Jerusalem an open city in order to protect places in the Holy City sacred to all religions.

June 7.—PRESIDENT Marcos issues a memorandum further clarifying a point in the previous memorandum which required stricter implementation of the provision of law which bars persons of questionable character from holding passports.

The present memorandum specifies that only persons who have been convicted of crimes, or who have dubious reputations, or are facing criminal charges in court may be denied passports.

In this connection, he directs the National Bureau of Investigation, the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency and the foreign office to coordinate in pinning down such persons so that they will not be able to secure passports. At the same time, the President asks the foreign office to be more strict in issuing passports, by adhering closely to the rules.

Clarifying points in Paragraph 4 of the May 31 memorandum, is the portion of the present memorandum that follows:

“4. Effective immediately NBI clearance for passport applicants shall be required when, in the judgment and discretion of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, such clearance is necessary to prevent, or minimize the number of citizens with pending criminal cases, or who have been convicted by the courts, or those of questionable reputation, from being issued passports. For this purpose the NICA and the NBI are hereby directed to furnish immediately the Secretary of Foreign Affairs with the names and data of all such persons and to update such information periodically.”

The President cites this provision in the law which deny passports to persons with pending criminal cases, those who have been convicted by the courts, and those of questionable reputation.”

At the same time, the President orders the release of an additional P1 million for the improvement of the facilities and services of the Philippine General Hospital.

In complementary move to upgrade government health services, the President also directs Secretary of Health Paulino Garcia to look into means of improving the facilities of the North General Hospital and the National Mental Hospital. With respect to the latter, the President instructs Secretary Garcia to pursue plans to disperse the patients and provide them with better living conditions.

He specifies that the P1 million will be used for purchase of medicine, improvement of the food of the patients, and improvement of the building and other faculties of the hospital, especially those at the emergency wards.

The President likewise issues a memorandum order to Forestry Director Antonio Quejado to “enjoin all limber concessionaires to construct their logging roads in accordance with a master plan concerning all timber concessions with barrios and towns.”

Loggers who apply for lumber license are required to “donate to the government” whaler permanent improvements they make in the concession area, including roads.

It is to utilize the roads constructed by the logger that the President asks that planning of road built by the loggers on one hand and the bureaus of forestry and of public highways on the other should be coordinated.

President Marco this day meets the Cabinet after conferring with the publisher and editorial staff of the *Manila Times* and receiving several callers at his study.

He sits down promptly at 8 a.m. for breakfast with the *Times* staff, led by Joaquin P. Roces and Jose Luna Castro, publisher and editor, respectively.

The breakfast conference is one in a series of informal meetings with new papers. The President had similar conferences with the staffs of the *Manila Chronicle*, Monday, and the *Manila Daily Bulletin*, Tuesday.

At 9:20 a.m. the President receives Ambassador Takeshi Yasukawa of Japan and talk with the envoy for about ten minutes.

At 10:30 a.m., the President meets his Cabinet at the Council of State Room.

He meets the members of his cabinet to perfect preparations for meeting any sudden emergency, as well as the possible adverse effects of the Middle East hostilities on the prices of prime commodities and other essential supplies, including food imports, fuel and rice.

The President, however, stresses that there is no reason for alarm, particularly as it relates to the Middle East crisis.

All the same, he declares, it is timely to prepare for any emergency, including the updating and upgrading of the capabilities of the Civil Defense Administration.

From the two-hour cabinet meeting, these merges:

1. The creation of a special committee to take charge of the efficient implementation of any plans drawn up for coping with any emergency, and to assist the CDA in its function.
2. Secretary of Commerce Marcelo Balatbat was instructed to meet with private firms to take stock of the local supply of goods, especially imported prime commodities. He will also discuss guarantees with the measures to keep prices at normal levels.
3. The country has nothing to fear about an oil shortage because, according to Secretary of Finance Eduardo Romualdez, there are enough stocks available from sources other than the Middle East.
4. Rice stocks are adequate to meet immediate needs and that the rice supply from abroad is assured of reaching the country according to the contracts signed.

The committee formed by the President to assist the CDA will be composed of the secretaries of national defense, health, education, and labor, the social welfare administrator, and a representative of the Philippine National Red Cross.

The special committee created by the President is instructed to assure the efficient implementation of all plans made to meet every possible emergency, and to provide assistance to the Civil Defense Administration in carrying out its functions.

The President also asks every cabinet member to study the said plans and recommend any additional ideas for the improvement of the measures taken in connection with any emergency.

In the afternoon, the President works on state papers Among the decisions and order he issued are:

1. Identical orders to Commissioner Baltazar Aquino of Public Highways and Director Antonio Quejado of the bureau of Forestry to integrate the road-building being undertaken by logging concessionaires into the matter plan for the nation's road network.

2. An order to the Philippine National Railways to terminate all train trips to Bicol at the town of Camalig, Albay, until the improvement of dangerous portion of the railway near Daraga. where six persons died in a train accident recently, is completed.

June 8.—PRESIDENT Marcos spends the day following up reports on the flash floods which hit the Greater Manila area and other parts of Luzon and going over state papers.

He confers with Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas chairman of the Presidential Committee on Relief and Rehabilitation, on measures to extend prompt assistance to flood victims.

The President also follows up reports coming through the telephone and by telegram on the extent of the damage and of the progress of relief and rescue operations.

In the afternoon, the President confers with Acting Director Alejandro Deleña of Public Works on long and short range flood control programs for the Greater Manila area and Central Luzon. He orders that steps be taken to speed implementation of these projects.

In the evening, the President addresses the 14th National Convention of Manufacturers and Producers sponsored by the Philippine Chamber of Industries.

In his speech, the President allays fears of any shortage in rice and fuel as a result of the outbreak of hostilities in the Middle East.

He declares that the outbreak of hostilities in the Middle East would not affect the fuel supply of the country since the sources of the crude oil were far from the scene of battle.

“According to the reports submitted to me by the Secretary of Finance the sources of crude oil of our four refineries in the Philippines indicate that they are not going to be affected by the present crisis in the Middle East,” he states.

On the rice supply, the President points out that the Philippines had received assurances that the suppliers of rice would deliver the cereal committed by them.

He says some 70,000 tons of the rice to be imported was coming from Egypt and has been delivered.

“But there is an assurance from the Egyptian government of delivery,” he states.

“We have also entered into other contracts with other sources to cover this same amount, as a matter of precaution,” he bares.

In his address, the President also state:

- 1 That the immediate goal of the development program was to increase agricultural productivity and income, but the ultimate goal was a balanced agro-industrial economy.

2. That the emphasis on agricultural development at this stage was intended to rectify earlier neglect of food production and expanding exports.

3. That the administration has continued efforts to establish new markets for Philippine exports as it strived to broaden the domestic market for locally manufactured products.

4. That the disturbing problems of high prices will remain unsolved until the country can reach tolerable levels of food production.

5. That a successful program of agricultural productivity especially in food production will close the widening gap between rates of population growth and food production.

June 9.—THE President continues to assess the nation's capabilities for meeting national emergencies as he meet members of the military council, who briefed him on the plans of the Department of National Defense.

Before attending the military briefing, the President meet officials concerned with public works projects to discuss flood control and drainage matters, to assess immediate requirements.

The President, earlier in the morning, confer with officials of the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chamber of Commerce to discuss the need for keeping the prices of prime commodities stable.

The rest of his day is crammed with appointments, visitors, and the usual paper work.

The FFCCC officials led by Ralph Nubia, the federation president, during their call on the President, pledges full support to the government's efforts to keep Mindanao rice from flowing outside the country, and to help keep rice and other commodity prices down, as well as stabilize the supply of cereal.

At 10:30 a.m. in., the President motors to the infrastructure Operations Center at Camp Aguinaldo where he is briefed on the progress of public works constructions all over the country, jointly being undertaken by the Armed Forces and the Department of Public Works.

Later, still at Camp Aguinaldo, the President is again briefed, this time, on the nation's defense posture and other plans for coping with emergencies.

The new studies of present plans to cope with national emergencies are ordered by the President in the belief that the swift pace and sudden changes developments require the government to be prepared at all times.

The defense department has ready plans for all emergencies but the President asks that these be reassessed, and constantly adjusted to the exigencies of changing situations here and abroad.

Back at Malacañang, the President presides at ceremonies conferring the Order of Kalantiao, first class, on Justice Roberto Regala, who retired from the Supreme Court June 7.

In the evening, the President motors to the National Press Club building on Magallanes drive to participate at the NPC's "Meet the Press" television program as special guest.

June 10.—MOVING further to solve the problem of floods in Manila and environs, President Marcos orders the bureau of public works to focus on restoring the esteros as drainage outlets, including clearing them of squatters.

He instructs the public works bureau to survey immediately the esteros of Manila, determine their boundaries, clear their banks of squatters and set up a plan for dredging these waterways.

The President notes that Manila's esteros remain today as still the main outlets of floodwaters in the city, as well as other accumulations of water in. the city's streets and gutters.

In addition, the President brings to the public works official's notice the fact that portions of the Pasig river, including areas along the Escolta have been reclaimed for commercial or other uses. He orders that this should be stopped.

He points out that rather than construct the Pasig river, it should be cleared of debris and otherwise improved to permit the free flow of river water, particularly during the rainy season.

The dredging of Manila's esteros is considered of high priority by the President, for he has been informed by engineers that this dredging is necessary if flood control pumps, which, the city government has ordered through reparations, can be used effectively to relieve Manila of its Hash floods.

The President communicates this aspect of the problem to Mayor Antonio J. Villegas, who had applied for 28 flood control pumps through reparations.

He also informs Mayor Villegas that the city government's request for 100 garbage trucks to be procured through reparations has been favorably endorsed to the reparations commission.

In the morning, the President receives Don Huth, bureau manager of *Associated Press*, who is leaving for a three-month vacation in the U.S.

Following the call, the President motors to the Philippine National Bank social hall, to address the convention of the Federation International de Abogadas (FIDA), a locally based organization of women lawyers which count an international membership.

In his address, the President exhorts the members of the FIDA to take up the cause of justice at all times and to practice their profession with consistent competence and idealism.

He declares that while it is the women's duty to guide the spiritual development of the young, women who are also lawyers have other duties to do beyond the traditional women's role.

"The profession of law in our time has become disposable," he states. "The idealism of our profession has given way to opportunism."

He points to the cynical public view of lawyers to justify the observation.

Exhorting the women lawyers to reverse this view, he says that "it is justice that should interest you and not money; justice should rule your professional conduct and not factional interest or political alliances and it is justice that should guide you and not your personal ambition.

"It is time," he states, "that we recover for our profession the highest type of idealism. The most direct way is by making your services available at all times to everyone, without charge if necessary."

The President notes that the Filipino women of today are different from those of yesterday, which he interpreted as indicative of change toward progress. But he also asks Filipino women to remain true to accepted values which he said should be retained at all cost.

He concludes stressing that it is a women's duty to check the "violent impulses (if the young." She should serve as a restraining force, the President states, "in the prevailing climate of violence."

In the afternoon, the President motors to Camp Bonifacio where he addresses the graduates of the chief of police training course sponsored by the police commission.

In his address, the President states that the course is a modest beginning in the combined efforts of the PolCom, NBI, the PC and other agencies to upgrade the local police forces, to make them measure up to the task of improving police services throughout the country.

The beginning, he declares, will lead to greater achievements and eventually the restoration of public confidence in the law enforcement agencies of the country.

He points out that the public cynicism in this area maybe compared to the prevalent doubts about the ability of the government to successfully wage its drive against smuggling, graft and corruption in the government, particularly in the bureaus of internal revenue and customs. Results however in the past year have shown that the campaign had been substantially successful.

The President observes that the performance of chiefs of police are crucial to the peace and order campaign, for it is they who can provide substantial support to the PC, which, he says, cannot do all the work despite the fact that he had already boosted its strength from 17,000 to 20,000 in a year-and-a-half.

He appeals to the police chiefs to begin at once the work of improving the local police forces, by leading the way, and showing by performance that the police officers of the country can be led toward better efficiency, and infused with honesty a high sense of integrity.

Back at the Palace, the President receives some 50 Muslim leaders from Tawi-Tawi, who along with leaders of other cultural minority groups, have been invited to attend the main Independence Day celebration in Manila Monday.

He informs the Muslim leaders that he has invited them and the leaders or representatives of other cultural minorities in the islands, in recognition of the fact that Filipinos are one and the same despite different faiths, beliefs, and backgrounds.

He stresses that "your presence here will demonstrate to all the world that the Filipinos are indivisibly united."

The President intimates to the group that he hoped to invite more and more of Filipino cultural minorities to the Independence Day rites in Manila, "year after year."

He states that the visits here of members of the nations' cultural minorities are to be desired, for one, because these will enable other Filipinos to become familiar with them and to learn to understand them.

Source: **National Library**

President's Week in Review: June 11-17, 1967

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

June 11.—TO FORESTALL the reported resurgence of carnapping activities, President Marcos revives the special anti-carnapping teams under Col. Jose Lukban, commissioner of the Police Commission.

The special anti-carnapping team was disbanded by the President two months ago when it appeared then that carnapping was already under control.

Col. Lukban will coordinate all anti-carnapping activities, including those of local police agencies.

At the same time, the President authorizes the acceptance by Chairman Crispino de Castro of the Police Commission of a British Government study grant.

The British government has invited De Castro to visit the United Kingdom to study the British Police system. The grant covers studies and observations of the administration and operations of Scotland Yard, the Metropolitan police force of London, the police forces outside London and the training of police officers.

President Marcos spends most of his time closeted in the seclusion of his private study working on state papers and his speech at the 69th Independence Day anniversary rites at the Luneta the next day.

He leaves the Palace only late in the afternoon to address the 21st annual assembly of the Civic Assembly of Women of the Philippines at the Malacañang Park.

He is accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, who was special guest at the presentation of CAWP presidential merit medal awards.

During the affair, the CAWP also present awards to some leaders, who have distinguished themselves in their respective fields of endeavor.

Among those who received the presidential merit medals are Judge Amado del Rosario and Commissioner Nieves Baens del Rosario of the Workmen's Compensation Commission for public service; former Ambassador Trinidad F. Legarda for civic leadership, Dr. Jesus Perpiñan for education, Col. Laureano Cariño for cultural advancement, Felicísimo B. Serrano for science and research; the Rural Improvement Club for community development and the Cursillo Movement for moral and spiritual uplift.

In his speech, the President lauds Filipino women for their achievements in gaining recognition and equality, but counseled against their neglecting their primary duty as home-makers.

He declares: "While women assert their equality, if not supremacy, perhaps they should not forget their primary role as a home-makers."

"Of what use is our technological knowledge if, through the de-womanization of women, we begin to raise children impersonally to the extent that they grow up ignorant of the human and social values that make for progressive nation?" the President asks.

He observes that in some countries, children are manipulated to adulthood. Deprived of the affection of parents, he states, these children recognize only their duties to the state that, in turn, devours them.

"Indeed, the process of dehumanization begins when equal status of women turn them into some sort of weaker, second-class men," he adds.

He expresses gratification over resolutions passed by the assembly where they had decided to participate in the peace and order drive of the government, the rice propagation campaign and in community development.

He recalls he had appealed to all the churches and all the denominations to participate in these campaigns and noted favorable response to his appeal.

In the morning, the President goes over the list of prisoners recommended by the board of pardons and parole for executive clemency. In the process, he extends executive clemency to a total of 154 prisoners, of which four are granted special absolute pardon, 31 are granted absolute pardon, five are granted conditional pardons and 35 are granted conditional pardons with parole conditions. The 79 others are extended commutations of sentence.

Other problems that occupied the President's attention are:

1. The status of Filipino Muslim scholars in Cairo, Egypt.

The President instruct the Department of Foreign Affairs to take steps to ensure the safety of the students.

2. A request of Mayor Antonio J. Villegas of Manila for support to his proposition to give Manila residents free NAWASA water. He refers the matter to Antonio Menor, General Manager of the National Waterworks.

3. A proposal of Mr. Goethals and Verkor, S. A., to establish factories that would manufacture parcel boards out of wood and forestry wastes. He refers the matter to the Presidential Economic Staff for feasibility study.

Meanwhile, President Marcos in a message issued on the eve of the 69th anniversary of Philippine Independence, calls upon the Filipinos to renew their commitment to uphold and preserve their dignity and freedom.

The Chief Executive states that June 12 is commemorated as the first united action of the Filipino people to achieve "their common aspiration for dignity and freedom." But he adds the Filipinos must also renew their commitment to this achievement.

"For dignity and freedom entail the obligation to uphold and preserve them through the vicissitudes of history," he says.

June 12.—CONCERNED over the subhuman conditions obtaining at the national penitentiary. President Marcos directs the prison director to submit to him at least of all prisoners 65 years of old or over for possible parole or pardon to ease the congestion.

The Chief Executive, in another directive, instructs Catalino Macaraig, officer-in-charge of the bureau of prisons, to submit to him a plan on how the bureau can supply railroad ties to the Philippine National Railways.

One remedial measure being considered is the granting of parole or conditional pardons to deserving prisoners, for this reason, the President asks the bureau of prisons, and the board on pardons and parole to submit within two weeks names of all prisoners 65 years old or over who may qualify for conditional pardons.

In the second directive, the President instructs Macaraig to confer immediately with Chairman Salvador Villa and General Manager Nicanor Jimenez of the PNR on the matter, and to submit a plan for such a project in two weeks.

In the morning, the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, leads the nation this day in commemorating the 69th Independence Day anniversary.

The First Couple, accompanied by their children, motors for the Luneta at 6:45 a.m. for the flag-raising rites, which took place at seven a. m.

Receiving military honors, the President, assisted by armed forces cadet raises the national colors. At the same time, sirens wails from ships anchored at Manila Bay.

With the flag-raising rites over, the President moves on to the Rizal monument, where he laid a wreath of flowers. The marine guard sounds taps as the President, members of his family and other ranking officials stood in silent prayer.

Following the Luneta rites, the First Family views the improvements that are being made on the Luneta. They are accompanied by Teodoro F. Valencia.

The First Family visits the Chinese Garden, which has stirred up a pocket controversy.

Back at Malacañang at 9 a.m., the President and the First Lady briefly relaxes with their children, obviously buoyed by the holiday mood.

In the afternoon at 2:20, the First Family again headed for the Luneta where the President addresses the nation at the Quirino Grandstand.

On arrival, the President is accorded full military honors by a company of the Presidential Guard Battalion. He is soundly applauded as he marched briskly to troop the line.

After a two-hour long military and civic parade, the President addresses the crowd numbering some half-a-million who had converge at the Luneta as early as 12 o'clock noon.

The crowd surges forward close to the grandstand as the President started to speak, and sensing their eagerness to take a fuller view of the President and the other dignitaries and guests at the grandstand, he invites them to move closer.

In his address, the President sounds a call to the nation for rededication to the ideals which founded the First Republic of the Philippines, even as he stressed the realities of trial and challenge facing the nation today.

He also reaffirms the democratic way of life as the best way forward for the nation, not only from the historical choice long ago made, but from the strength of the commitment to freedom of the Filipinos of this generation.

The President takes cognizance of the fact that "in a time of trial and challenge," some segments of the nation have questioned the "effectiveness of these sentiments, ideals, and institutions" that have so long united the Filipinos.

He says that these advocates of reexamination may have been driven to this position by the ordeals of the past two decades of hardship and setbacks.

Conceding the difficulties of the democratic approach to national problems, the President states that he would still stand up for democratic means as against the alternative of a regimented society.

The totalitarian alternative, he declares, exacts a price in loss of human values for national development.

"Human beings are functionalize: there is no nation, as we know it— but a state extracting for its power and glory the servitude of men," he adds

Rejecting this alternative, he declares: "I am not willing to pay that price, even if by some quirk of fate, it should be your mandate."

Recalling the major aims of the movement toward an independent Filipino government, which culminated in the proclamation of the First Republic, the President restate these goals as:

1. To grant all Filipinos personal security and the greatest number of liberties:
2. To give Filipinos maximum satisfaction of economic wants; and
3. To grant them the best possible education.

These are still the goals to which later-day Filipino leaders respond, he said, but the commitment of the First Republic to the “pursuit of the democratic path” is now being questioned by certain elements in Philippine society.

The alternative, he says, advocated more or less by certain sectors, is to subscribe to the “mathematical terms” of totalitarian development, or to bow to regimentation under a “strong man.”

“Is this fit alternative for Filipinos?” he asks.

The historical choice, he points out, was made long ago, and to deny it is to “blind ourselves to history.”

The generation who fought in World War II, the President says, was not the first to choose freedom as a way of life. Generations of Filipinos in an earlier time also fought and died for freedom through three centuries of colonialism.

Stating that leadership for development is concerned mainly with the “rational allocation of scarce resources,” the President underscores the need to adopt a system of priorities.

Relating this policy to present efforts, the President cites as example the implementation of infrastructure projects.

Which area or province may first be served? he asks. Under a system of priority, the first recipients of such benefits are made clear, he states.

Despite these hard choices, he says, it would be “a fatal mistake” if all social conflicts are eliminated in a democracy. For then, he explains, democracy ceases to be dynamic, adding that the interplay of social forces leads to general progress when well managed.

What is unfortunate in this country, he states is the existence of “elitist groups,” which do not recognize the right of other factions to exist.

These groups, he says, do not seek to propose, but only to impose their will. They are active, he said, as opponents of land reform, as detractors of policy, as advocates of pompous formulas, and as monopolists of good, faith, seen this quality only in themselves and not in those they oppose.

The President underlines one other mark of elitist thinking, that which approaches all forms of social discontent with undue arm. This thinking, he says, presupposes that the aim of a modern society is not continuing progress by the “nirvana of contentment.”

He points out that “societies have become backward because they became contented.” The issue, he emphasizes, is not social unrest in itself but in how it is expressed.

In this connection, he explain that the social problem in Central Luzon is disturbing because it takes a subversive form, but it is irresponsible, he cautions, to view this as proof that Philippine society is not variable.

There is no developing society anywhere, he observes, does not have subversive elements. Human nature makes some men choose violence to express discontent, he added.

Filipino experience in freedom, the President notes, has given the nation important milestones in mobility. This passage forward had been marked by many monuments, from Mactan to Bataan and Corregidor.

In recent months, he declares, there have been important gains made against government bankruptcy, smuggling, low revenues, the stagnant state of public works effort, and lack of schools, all of which were deeply felt before and viewed with defeatism. Today, he says, the outlook has changed. The lesson of Philippine history, he stresses, is not that of "successive defeats and even death but of the resurrection of the dream and aspiration." He adds that freedom is not one man's creation but the "fruit of oneness and unity."

The people together, he says, must resolve and sustain the task of nation-building, with energy, courage and integrity. Thus, he continues, there must be an enlightened citizenry. Such a citizenry, and makes the work of development easier.

Paramount to the lessons of Filipino heritage, he declares, is the "lesson of unity." Some new democracies find it harder to survive, he says, because of divisive forces, or special interest, and the lack of the administrative requirements of a democratic society.

The Philippine offers contrast, by being a true government for, by and of the people, the President states. He stresses, "It would be a shame indeed, if, in spite of our advantages, we abandon our commitment to democracy in a time of trial and challenge."

The people must view this time of trial and challenge he declares as "the burden of national heritage." The continuing commitment to their heritage, he says, is "our bond with history," for it unites the present with the past, as it is the idea that will shape our future"

The President states that "our obligation is necessarily greater" but it had always been so before, and none had faltered.

"We are a privileged generation," he declares, "for we are being tried and challenged to make this nation better than how we found it."

He asks the people, finally, to be true to themselves by doing their duty.

In the evening, the President and the First Lady tenders a reception at Malacañang.

The First Couple had cancelled the traditional state dinner in deference to the suffering brought by the recent floods which hit Manila and environs to a large number of people.

June 13.—PRESIDENT Marcos orders a sweeping change in the utilization of personnel in the bureau of posts, after noting that many of the employees have been ineffectively or improperly utilized.

The President directs Postmaster General Enrico Palomar to reassign all casual employees now working outside of the bureau of posts, preferably in the postal section where service breakdown have resulted in recurrent mail jams.

He orders the changes after the Budget Commission submitted the report of its management survey team, which assessed the problems of the postal service.

The report specifically notes the misuse of casual personnel, many of whom were not employed in the postal service but assigned to other offices. The report further notes that whereas the essential tasks required manual work and

night duty, many of the casuals employed were women and that furthermore they were assigned to other offices not directly handling mail matters.

He orders that henceforth all appointments of employees in the posts bureau be made in accordance with civil service rules and regulations. This extends to casual employees which must meet I.Q. requirement and other qualifications adopted by the civil service commission.

He adds that that if necessary, the postmaster general should reorganize the entire sections dealing with postal matters, to effect maximum efficiency. He stresses, however, that this should be done according to existing laws and regulations.

In the morning, the President meet Nacionalista leaders in Congress to assess the progress of the special session in the consideration of the certified bills.

At the breakfast meeting, the President and Nacionalista leaders agrees on exerting every effort to push through vital bills to the special session of Congress.

Among the high priority measures are the appropriations bill, the decentralization bill, the bill setting the government policy on the use of voters registry for the next elections, the bill amending the customs and revenue code, the investment incentives bill and the reorganization, bill.

During the meeting, the President also certifies three additional bills, namely:

1. A bill setting aside P40 to pay for the death and disability benefits.
2. A bill creating the Price Stabilization Administration and dissolving the National Marketing Corporation; and
3. A bill requiring the payment of P500 by those travelling abroad, as well as the payment of the same amount in registering luxury motor cars.

This bill provides that the amount paid be refundable in the form of income tax.

The President and the NP senators also agrees to work for the passage of the P50 million outlay proposed for the implementation of the Wage and Position Classification Office (WAPCO) plan increasing salaries in the government service.

At the same time, the President asks Congress to include in the public work bill certified to the special session a P175 million outlay for flood control projects, which will be spent in improving drainage facilities in Manila.

Also added to the public works bill is an appropriation of P100 million for the construction of a new international airport to serve Manila.

The President seeks the inclusion of the appropriation for flood control projects in Manila in the wake of the costly floods that damaged property and caused the loss of lives in Manila and the Suburbs during the recent heavy rains.

The P175 million earmarked for flood control projects in Manila will be immediately used for such constructions as a river wall, bigger conduits, and for dredging Manila's esteros which remain today the primary outlet for floodwaters in the Greater Manila area. As proposed, the outlay may be raised through the flotation of long-term bonds.

Among the projects envisioned to control floods in the Manila area are:

1. The dredging and widening of the city's esteros.
2. The construction of about 46 kilometers of drainage mains, implementation of which has been delayed precisely because of lack of funds.
3. The erection of retaining walls along the Pasig river, some 14 Kilometers long, to shore up the swollen river during heavy rains.
4. The laying out of 35 units of 42-inch drainage pipes, capable of pumping water from low areas at the rate of 10 cubic meters per second.
5. Construction of water control gates at the mouth of esteros to prevent overflow from the Pasig River, which adds to the inundation of low areas in the city.

The Chief Executive also submits to the Commission on Appointments the nominations of 134 positions in the judiciary and to 57 positions in the diplomatic services.

After the conference, the President inducts into office the new officers of the Women Lawyers Association, led by Clarita Tankiang Sanchez.

June 14.—PRESIDENT Marcos meets his cabinet and in a two-hour long conference threshed out various urgent state matters. He likewise takes the opportunity to reiterate his policy restricting travel abroad of government officials, and asked strict compliance.

The ban on travel was first ordered by the President when he emphasized a fiscal policy of austerity, at the time when the government he took over was virtually bankrupt.

The President advise against travel abroad of officials when there were urgent national problems to cope with at home.

Exceptions to the rule, according to the President, are those trips required by international conferences, to which the Philippines is committed, and travel grants given by foreign nations for special studies in connections with government work.

During the meeting, the President also orders a management audit of all government corporations which have failed or deteriorated in term: of service, and therefore need to be revitalized.

The Budget Commission has been tapped by the President to carry out the task.

The audit is also part of the government program to upgrade services and improve the efficiency of government agencies and instrumentalities. The program is launched from the start of the present administration, in recognition of the longstanding complaints of the public against the deteriorating services of government agencies and firms.

In the morning, the President motors to Fort Bonifacio to pay homage to the fallen soldiers of the USAFIP-NL guerrilla unit, in connection with the commemoration of the battle of Bessang Pass 22 years ago today. The battle resulted in the decisive defeat of the enemy, and marked the liberation of Northern Luzon.

The President, who fought in the battle under the unit, is joined by many of his comrades at the *Libingan Ng Mga Bayani* at Fort Bonifacio, where he laid a wreath at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

In offering the wreath, the President states that it was offered not only to his fallen comrades, but also to "each and everyone of those who are here, along now, in the absence of husband, son, father or friend."

The President stays in the *Libingan* for about 15 minutes, then motors back to Malacañang.

Back in Malacañang, the President proceeds straight to the Communications Command Center, where he tested the facilities, by making calls to various parts of the country. The center is set up so that the President could make spot checks on the progress of various development and public works projects.

After the dry run, the President goes back to his study where he received a group of South Vietnamese officials led by Minister of Justice Tran Minh Tiet.

Following this meeting, the President buckles down to work on state matters. Among the matters he acted on are:

1. The creation of a committee to make formal proposals to possible sources of financing for the coconut research and development center, which will be set up here along the lines of the International Rice Research Institute.
2. The copra imports of Sweden, on which he orders the Presidential Economic Staff to immediately correct of the inequity in prices, with Swedish importers paying two dollars more per metric ton than other European importers.
3. The cementing of Taft Avenue, about which he orders Highways-Commissioner Baltazar Aquino to assist the Manila authorities in speeding up completion of the final portion of the avenue in Manila, preferably before the opening of schools next month.
4. On the drive against vice, he directs Col Tomas Karingal, chief of police of Quezon City, to immediately close all places of vice, including the bookie operations in the La Loma and Balintawak districts.

The President has received numerous complaints from residents in the area about these immoral establishments.

The President also orders Col. Mariano Tumaliuan, Pasay City police chief, to report on what has been done to prevent prison riots, such as the one which recently occurred at the city jail.

June 15.—DUE to mounting responsibility as a result of accelerated and enlarged government programs, President Marcos tells cabinet members to relinquish their posts as directors of board of government firms.

The President issues the directive to give cabinet officials opportunity to devote full time service to their more important functions.

In the case of cabinet members who hold directorship in government corporations by provision of law, the President advises them to begin delegating certain powers to their undersecretaries so that important official matters may be given prompt and full attention.

Among the department secretaries who hold ex officio positions by provision of the law are the Secretary of Education who is also chairman of the board of all government colleges and universities, among others; the Secretary of Commerce, who holds key positions in various government agencies closely allied to department functions; and a few other cabinet members.

At the same time, the President instructs the Department of Justice to make a further study of the plan to grant pardons to convicts in the national penitentiary who are 65 years old or older.

In his directive to Undersecretary Claudio Teehankee of justice, the President asks that the plan be studied for immediate implementation as government policy.

The plan is hatched in the face of the growing congestion at Muntinlupa Prison. Prisoners aging 65 and older compose one fourth of the prison population. It is maintained that if these oldsters are pardoned, the congestion will be substantially eased.

The study will decide whether paroles or conditional pardons will be granted to all prisoners 65 years of age or older, or only to those of this age group deemed deserving. One view is that convicts of this age group are old to be further considered as a police problem.

In a related move, the President instructs Acting Director of Prisons Catalino Macaraig, Jr. to effect at once the segregation of prisoners at Muntinlupa. The order specifies that hardened criminals be separated from inmates who are not considered professional criminals.

It is pointed out that convicts with no propensity for criminal careers are often corrupted by hardened inmates who initiate them into a life of crime.

The Chief Executive also directs Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco to release P10,000 as aid to the victims of the recent floods in Davao del Sur.

The President immediately orders the financial assistance in the wake of reports that some 40 persons were killed and many more still missing, after 16 barrios of Digos, the capital of Davao del Sur flooded last Tuesday, June 13.

Reports reaching the President state that the sitio Tumayan, among other communities at the foot of Mount Apo, suffered severe losses in life, property and work animals.

In the morning, the President starts his working day with a conference on the status of current investigations being undertaken by the presidential investigative committee led by Dr. Gaudencio Garcia, chairman of the group. He assesses with Dr. Garcia the progress of the investigations.

One of the first groups of callers to see the President is that from Negros Occidental headed by Rep. Armando Gustilo. The group is composed of local officials, who came for the signing of H.B. No. 460, by the President. The law converts the town of Cadiz into a city.

United States Ambassador William McCormick Blair, Jr. calls on the President, along with Major Theodore Adams of the Mobility Equipment Command of the U.S. Army, Pershing G. Rolfe and Major Salvatore Nunziata of JUSMAG (Joint United States Military Advisory Group). They brief the President on the recently arrived engineering equipment, which the U.S. had promised to deliver to the five AFP engineering battalions engaged in civic action work.

Next to see the President is Angel Sangalang, district land officer of Baguio City, who reported on the results of his investigation of the squatter problem in the Pines City.

Brig. Gen. Manuel Yan also reports on Central Luzon peace and order conditions, and on the reassignment of military units in the area.

June 16.—PRESIDENT Marcos instructs Commissioner Abelardo Subido of Civil Service to answer immediately the formal complaint lodged against him by one Faustino Tugade.

Subido is asked to submit with explanation “such written evidence as he may have in “support of your side of the case”

Commissioner Subido was charged on seven counts, the most serious of which are 1) illegal, unauthorized and involuntary exaction of money from subordinate officials and employees ostensibly to go into a so called “welfare”

fund; 2) violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act 3) anomalous irregular and illegal appointments; and 4) violation of the Civil Service Law, Rules and Regulations.

The complainant also charged Subido before the Rizal Court of First Instance for violation of the Anti-Graft Law.

In the morning, the President starts his working day with a breakfast conference with the editorial staff of the *Philippines Herald*, headed by publisher Sebastian Ugarte and editor Manuel Abad Gaerlan.

The meeting with the newsmen lasts from 8 to 10:20 a.m., during which the President exchanges views with them on current national, and international issues. The meeting is the latest in a series of informal conference with members of the press.

Immediately after the breakfast conference, the President begins working on official papers in his study. In the course of his work he:

1. Endorses the trade agreement between the Philippines and the Benelux countries to the Senate for ratification.

The Benelux countries, which has an economic union, are Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. They are also members of the European Economic Community.

Under the trade agreement, the Philippines and the Benelux Economic Union will accord "most-favored-nation" treatment to each other's products. This applies to customs duties, internal duties and other changes.

In his endorsement, the President points out that the agreement hews closely to the desire of the country "to promote and expand" the Philippines' foreign markets."

2. Proclaims the period of the anti-tuberculosis society fund drive; proclaims the same for the Boys Scouts of the Philippines, sets aside Saturday, June 17, as Blood Donor's Day, and authorizes June 15 to Dec. 31, as the fund campaign period for the Quezon Memorial Circle Development and Beautification Committee.

In proclaiming Blood Donor's Day, the President declares it was only proper to honor blood donors throughout the country who give of themselves "in order that others may live."

On the BSP (Boys Scouts of the Philippines) fund drive, the President stresses that the boy scout movement deserves the support of the public not only to carry out its operations effectively, but also to intensify its nationwide training and recruiting program, as well as to meet its obligations as a member of the Boy Scouts World Bureau.

In authorizing the fund drive for the Quezon Memorial Circle, the President points out that the project aims to perpetuate the memory of a great leader who devoted his life to the attainment of Philippine Independence and the welfare of his people. He calls on the public to assist in the drive by giving generously to the project fund.

3. Creates the Philippine panel to lay the basis for the renegotiation of the Laurel-Langley Agreement which will expire in 1974.

The panel will particularly focus on filling the vacuum when the preferential tariff rates on Philippine exports to the United States are voided with the Expiration of the Laurel-Langley agreement.

Named to the panel are: Undersecretary of Industry Cesar Virata, who will act as chairman; and the Tariff Commissioner Montano Tejam, Foreign Affairs Officer Wilfredo Vega, Antonio Ayala of the Central Bank, and Efren I. Plana of the Foreign Affairs Department.

June 17.—PRESIDENT Marcos confers the Presidential Merit Medal on two men for saving the lives of 39 men, women and children at the height of the flood on the night of June 8 in Roxas District, Quezon City.

Those awarded in ceremonies at the Palace ceremonial hall are Second Class Seaman Melecio Barnarte of the Philippine Navy and Dominador Bolima.

The two are credited with having saved 39 people from certain drowning in the floodwaters that engulfed a portion of Roxas District one of the hardest hit localities in the Greater Manila area. They are cited for their “fortitude, generosity of spirit and humility, which are the common virtues of heroes.”

In the morning, the President plays a round of golf with a group of officers of the USAFIP–NL, the guerilla unit which bore the brunt of the battle of Bessang Pass.

The President leaves the game at 9:30 a.m. to begin receiving filers at Malacañang. But he rejoins the group, and a large crowd of USAFIP–NL veterans at lunch, staying to watch a four-hour program that highlighted the reunion.

The reunion is held in commemoration of the decisive battle of Bessang Pass.

In the course of the day, the President as usual finds time to buckle down to his paperwork in his study. Among other matters acted upon, he:

1. Orders a legal Study of the validity of the Jai-Alai operations in Cebu City.
2. Directs the Philippine Navy to transport stranded Filipino workers in Tawau, Sabah. The workers, numbering 16, from Pangasinan, were recruited as laborers in Sabah, but were rejected on arrival at their destination.

He further directs the Department of Labor to inquire into the circumstances of the case.

3. Orders a study of the effects of installing an additional ice plant and cold storage facilities in Rajah Buayan City (Cotabato), in connection with House Bill 4472, which grants a franchise for these facilities to an operator there. He asks the Public Service Commission to ascertain whether this new plant will not offer ruinous competition, and the Bureau of Fisheries to report on whether the new plant is necessary.

4. Instructs the Presidential Economic Staff, the Legislative-Executive Tax Commission and the Secretary of Finance to comment and submit recommendations on the bill levying a special import tax and excise tax on the sale for foreign exchange.

5. Certifies the Police Retirement bill to the special session of Congress.

6. Orders the bureau of mines to submit a complete list, including necessary information, of mining concessions already granted throughout the country.

7. Directs the director of the bureau of forestry to submit a list of forest concessions granted, concessions cancelled, and applications for concessions pending.

8. Asks the executive secretary to apprise him of what other remedial measures the office of the President can provide for the damage caused to rice and corn crops by the recent floods.

In the afternoon, the President receives 200 American Peace Corps volunteers due to ship back to the United States after serving in the Philippines barrios for one to three years.

In brief remarks, the President states that understanding and cooperation among nations are imperative at this time because “unfortunately we live in a world where once again violence has become acceptable.”

The president declares that Asians realize that the responsibility of developing their respective countries and providing for their security primarily rests on them.

Humanity, the President notes, realizes now that war is something that is fought “not only in the battlefields but in the more humdrum struggles of men, especially Asia, Africa and Latin America, for the betterment of life.”

But then he says, “when we speak of security, we speak of balances of forces, and not economic development.”

In economic development, therefore as well as in security, nations must rely on friends and allies,” he states.

The Philippines, the President declares, must quicken its pace of development because of the new danger posed by Red China which, he says, proposes an ideology that attracts the discontented.

In hailing the American Peace Corp volunteers, the President states that in their stay in one or three years in the Philippines they had done what no diplomat could do in the Philippines or in Asia.

The volunteer workers are accompanied by Minister Richard Wilson and Peace Corps Director Dick Bolch to Malacañang.

Source: **National Library**

President's Week in Review: June 18-24, 1967

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

June 18.—THE President takes a much needed rest after a very busy week. President Marcos likewise stays up late last night to beat the Constitutional deadline for him to act on the 350 bills transmitted to him for signature or veto by Congress. The bills are passed during the last regular session of the Sixth Congress.

He comes out of his study only shortly before noon to go over pending state papers with his assistants, who are summoned to the Palace earlier.

At 11 a.m., the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, together with their children hears mass at the Palace chapel.

He takes lunch at 2 p.m. and shortly thereafter had a brief afternoon nap.

In the evening, the President returns to his private study and resumes work on state papers.

Meanwhile, President Marcos states he hoped the members of the United Nations would avail of the U.N. General Assembly, instead of another forum, for the resolution of the Israeli-Arab question.

In a press statement, Press Secretary Jose D. Aspiras states the President, in the face of a move to convene the Big Powers to a summit meeting on the Middle East issue, instruct Ambassador Salvador P. Lopez to make known his preference for consideration of the question first by the U.N.

The instructions are sent to Ambassador Lopez earlier today by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Narciso Ramos.

The President declares the Philippines "views a formal summit conference at this time to discuss the Israeli-Arab question would constitute a bypass of the United Nations."

Secretary Aspiras says the President considered the U.N. as the appropriate forum for consideration of disputes constituting threats to international peace, and this was clearly expressed by the U.N. members in the Charter.

In expressing preference for the consideration of the Israeli-Arab dispute first by the U.N. General Assembly, the President states it was in this assembly that small nations were represented, and therefore had a voice.

He explains that these small nations were as much interested in world peace and stability as the Big Powers, and therefore deserved to be heard on questions, that constitutes threats to peace.

"I hope, therefore, that the United States, the Soviet Union and the other Big Powers utilize the forums of the U.N. General Assembly, and not other forums, for the settlement of the Israeli-Arab dispute," he states.

The President at the same time expresses the hope that the U.N. could work out a permanent solution to the issues that had sparked the shooting war between Israel and the Arab nations.

June 19.—THE Chief Executive nominates as associate justices of the Supreme Court Presiding Justice Eugenio Angeles of the Court of Appeals and Enrique Fernando, known law practitioner and professor of law.

The President also names 16 nominees to fill the post of clerk of court in courts of first instance throughout the country.

The nominees to the Supreme Court will fill two of the three vacancies created by the retirements of Justice Felix Bautista Angelo, Justice Jesus Barrera and Justice Roberto Regala.

At the same time, President Marcos proclaims the period from June 18 of this year as National Integration Week.

He issues the proclamation in recognition of the necessity of effecting in a more rapid and complete manner the economic, social, moral, and political advancement of the cultural minorities and their integration into the body politics.”

He notes that the desire to integrate and assimilate the cultural minorities, who until lately were referred to as Non-Christian, into the national way of life, goes back to Spanish colonial times.

He observes that the Commission on National Integration, which was created in 1957 has made great strides towards the integration.

In the morning, the President meets members of the Rice and Corn Production Coordinating Council and various officials involved with the rice and corn production program.

During the two-and-a-half hour breakfast conference, the President approves for immediate implementation the new distribution system worked out by Rice and Corn Administration to insure that the cereals reach consumers, particularly in areas with deficient supply of the staple.

The President also takes up the urgent problem of warehousing, and orders the Philippine National Bank and the Development Bank of the Philippines to step up its efforts in providing storage on its own or through private initiative.

Important features of the new distribution system are the following:

1. Manila, Baguio and Cebu City as well as other metropolitan centers will have rice distributed through the GSIS for government employees and members of the system and the SSS for employees of private firms. In this connection, Meralco, first to apply under the system, has already started distributing rice to its employees.
2. Aside from the GSIS and SSS channels, rice will also be distributed through selected retailers in public markets. To prevent irregularities this distribution will be supervised by housewives through Federation of Women’s Clubs.
3. In the provinces, rice will be distributed through Rice and Corn Board retailers in public markets, and through school teachers in public schools.

The President limits the adoption of the system in metropolitan areas to cities deficient in rice, in order that government distribution will not compete with private rice traders in surplus areas.

Shortly after the meeting with RCPCC, the President works in his study. Among other things, the President:

1. Directs the Department of Foreign Affairs to request the United States government that the first meeting of the Laurel-Langley renegotiation panels be held in Manila.
2. Instructs Undersecretary of Public Works Marciano Bautista to immediately act on the bids for supplying the raw materials in the pre-fabricated school building program.
3. Orders the Director of Mines, Director of Forestry and the Commissioner of Public Highways to integrate all mining roads with the national network of roads and highways.

4. Asks the Police Commission to report on the raids conducted by police forces and other allied elements against suspected lairs of pirates in the Manila Bay area; as well as on the hideouts of other notorious criminals.

At 1:20 p.m., the President sits down to lunch with members of the *Evening News* staff led by Fred Elizalde.

June 20.—NOTING the need for surprising action on administration measures with the session due to close in one week, President Marcos confers with congressional leaders on the pending bills before the special session of Congress.

Closeted with the President in his study are Speaker Jose Laurel, Jr. and Speaker Protempore Jose Aldeguer, on whose shoulders rest the burden, of speeding up House action on the 31 certified bills, none of which to date had been acted upon by both Houses.

Apart from this conference, the only other extended meeting the President has with a group is the luncheon session with editorial staff members of the *Daily Mirror*, led by editor Emilio Aguilar Cruz.

Devoting most of his day to official matters and paperwork in his study, the President:

1. Nominates Fiscal Eulogio S. Serrano of Manila as member of the Court of Appeals.
2. Considers the proposal of the electronics firm, Marconi, to put up a computerized air traffic control system at the Manila International Airport He consequently refers it to the Presidential Economic Staff for further study.
3. Requires the PES to itemize, in accordance with priorities, the funds to be allocated as aid to the Manila flood control and drainage project. He asks that the amount needed and the order of priorities be specified.
4. Gives the go-signal for the NAWASA to procure the equipment for the pumping plants needed by the Manila and suburbs waterworks projects.
5. Refers to PES for comment and recommendations, the request of the Bataan provincial board for putting up a sugar central in that province.
6. Orders the release of P30,000 for the repair of the school buildings damaged by monsoon rains in Abra.
7. Directs the secretary of public works to repair immediately the airport in Pili, Camarines Sur.

June 21.—PRESIDENT Marcos takes up with his key financial advisers important policy matters, while finding time as well to attend to particular problems of various localities, whose officials came to consult him on pressing needs.

In the morning, the President starts his day with a breakfast meeting with the editorial staff of the *Daily Star* led by editor Juan Perez, Jr.

Following the breakfast meeting, the President retires to his study for the usual paper work, before receiving official callers, starting at 10:20 a.m.

Later, the President meet with Commissioner Misael Vera of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, and Quezon City regional BIR director, Leonardo Cabañero, to discuss problems regarding the bureau.

Resuming his desk work at about 11 a.m., the President certifies to Congress for immediate enactment two bills, namely, 1) H. No. 12108, which seeks to provide safeguards in the use of special police by the Manila Mayor; 2) S. No. 297, amending the Corporation Law (Act No. 1459) to encourage investment in the mining industry.

In a conference with Justice Undersecretary Claudio Teehankee, the President approves the nomination of 30 municipal judges and two auxiliary municipal judges.

In another meeting, the President is consulted by Presidential Assistant on Housing Esteban Bernido on the housing program and the People's Home-site and Housing Corporation operations.

Meantime, President Marcos signs a proclamation reserving for public fishpond purposes a parcel of the public domain in the barrio of Banculasi, Navotas, Rizal.

This proclamation withdraws from sale or settlement the area reserved. It includes fishpond construction demolished by a public works team under the direct supervision of Secretary Antonio Raquiza of Public Works, upon orders of the President.

The total area proclaimed as a government reserve covers 45,288 square meters.

The President also signs an administrative order amending Administrative Order No. 123 of May 6, 1965 which created the Committee on Regional Planning.

The President amends the original order to include a representative from the National Planning Commission. This is sought in order to effect a closer coordination between the national and regional planning bodies.

June 22.—TAKING steps to keep expenses of students at reasonable levels, President Marcos directs Secretary Carlos P. Romulo of Education to inquire into the reported increase in tuition fees and other school expenses.

He asks Secretary Romulo to confer with heads of private universities and colleges and ascertain the reasons for the reported increase in tuition fees, and charges for other services given by private schools.

The President tells Romulo to appeal to the heads of private universities and colleges, and request them to keep tuition fees within reasonable levels. He points out that the "primary aim of educational institutions was not to make profits but to educate the youth."

At the same time, the President refers to the Presidential Investigating Committee the charges filed against Commissioner of Civil Service Abelardo Subido for investigation.

The Chief Executive orders the probe immediately after receiving the reply of Commissioner Subido this day to the charges filed against him.

Subido answers all seven specifications in the administrative charges brought against him by a former employee of the Civil Service Commission, Faustino Tugade, in effect refuting all of them.

In his reply, the Commissioner also takes the occasion to explain the acute problems of space, morale, lack of personnel and funds of the CSC, the Solutions to which led such initiatives as the construction of the CSC Center, the employment of casuals, and the request for detail to his office of specialists in other offices. These actions are the basis of some of the charges filed by Tugade.

President Marcos likewise orders the investigation of reported leakages in the medical board examinations held last June 14 to 16.

He directs Enrique M. Fernando, whom he had recently nominated as associate justice of the Supreme Court, to conduct a thorough probe and to order the cancellation of the examination if his findings confirm the reported leakages.

The four-day examination was originally scheduled to start last June 8. The flash floods which inundated Manila and suburbs that day forced the postponement.

The President suspends classes in public and private schools on June 8, including the board examinations.

The board of medical examiners is composed of Dr. Jose Molano, chairman, and Drs. Godofredo Reyes, Osmundo Rama, Casiano Plaza, Alejandro Gaerlan and Arturo Tolentino, Jr. members.

In the morning, the President receives Deputy Speaker Itzhak Navon of the Israeli parliament, who formally requested Philippine support for Israel in the United Nations. He explains at length the Israeli position relative to the Middle East issue.

Accompanied by his country's envoy here Ambassador Abraham Kidron the Israeli official is closeted with the President briefly during which he speaks about the need of majority support for the Israeli cause aimed at establishing a permanent and just peace in the Middle East. He states such a peace will benefit all of the world.

While at work in his study, the President:

1. Signs a proclamation declaring Saturday, June 24, as a special public-holiday in Manila, it being the 396th anniversary of the city's founding.
2. Directs Defense Secretary Ernesto Mata to increase PC strength in the south, particularly coastal towns in the Visayas and northern Mindanao.
3. Approves the nomination of Vicente M. Veloso of member of the Board of Textbooks.
4. Appoints Fruto Olivera as member of the Quezon provincial board, to fill the place vacated by Remedies Aguila who resigned to join the foreign service.

During a lengthy meeting with Justice Undersecretary Claudio Teehankee, the President approves 32 nominations to the posts of provincial, city and assistant fiscals.

At a meeting with congressmen and local officials, the President discusses the integration of local public works programs with national projects.

June 23.—PRESIDENT Marcos calls a halt on all sales of and bids on surplus government busy heavy equipment, approved by the Board of Liquidators.

The President as well instructs Public Works Secretary Antonio Raquiza to immediately take possession of all this equipment.

The President take the measures, because he said that the bureau of public works badly needs every available equipment for the massive public works and infrastructure construction projects.

He declares that the Department of Public Works should gather every available equipment and make them operational, to boost further the number of heavy equipment now in use.

At the same time, the President dismisses two municipal judges for serious misconduct and inefficiency, after reviewing the finding of investigators and approving their recommendations to separate the two officials from the judiciary.

Dismissed are Judge Pascual Beltran of the Municipal court of Buena-vista, Iloilo, and Judge Pedro San Roque of the municipal court of Virac, Catanduanes.

In the morning, the President confers with acting Secretary of Agriculture Dioscoro Umali on plans to transfer the Iwahig Penal colony and to develop the area for agriculture.

In this connection, the President directs the Philippine Navy to render full assistance to the committee to facilitate its work.

He also directs the Philippine Constabulary to provide the necessary support for the enforcement of the President's proclamation which reserved the whole of Palawan and islands surrounding it, as a natural sanctuary of birds and other wildlife.

In the afternoon the President meet officials and employees of the Bureau of Forestry headed by Director Antonio Quejado, who called to hear the President's message on the occasion of their sixth annual conference which opened last Tuesday and ends tomorrow.

In his extemporaneous message, the President inquires about the needs of Forestry personnel. He then instructs Director Quejado to work out a scheme to raise salaries in the bureau, acquire permanent office buildings and necessary equipment, including vehicles.

After talking to the forestry men, the President, with Mrs. Marcos, witness demonstrations by the foresters of some of their activities, such as log scaling and forest surveying.

June 24.—SPENDING almost all of the morning at Camp Aguinaldo, President Marcos inspects the operations in connection with the fabrication of the Marcos-type school-buildings, the repair of armed forces vehicles, and to formally receive the engineering equipment for five construction battalion given by the United States government.

He also devotes a substantial part of his day to a conference with representative of private universities and colleges, including the heads of these institutions. The conference deals on the increase in tuition fees in private schools, and on how these fees might be standardized to benefit both the schools and the public.

In his brief remarks during the turnover rites of equipment from the United States, the President and Ambassador William McCormick Blair, Jr. reaffirm the Philippine-United States partnership in the pursuit of peace, and in deepening the understanding between the two countries.

The President later inspects the equipment which was displayed on the premises.

Afterwards, the President visits the nearby plant which manufacture components for the prefabricated Marcos-type school building.

He is briefed on the manufacturing process, as he viewed the operations. After this tour, the President motors back to Malacañang to receive scheduled callers.

In the afternoon, the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, motor to the Luneta for the ceremonies formally turning-over the Chinese Garden built by the Chinese community to the Philippine government.

The turn-over of the P850,00-Chinese garden was one of the highlights of the ceremonies ending the Philippine-China Friendship Year.

Chinese Ambassador Han Lih-Wu makes the formal presentation of the garden.

From the Luneta ceremonies, the First Couple goes to the Manila Hotel to attend the graduation exercises of Lozada's Swimming School. Their children—Imee, Irene and Bongbong—are among the graduates. The President's son is awarded a trophy for proficiency in swimming after only two months of lessons.

Shortly after returning to Malacañang, the President steps, cut again this time to address a gathering at the Philamlife building, capping the celebration of the Philippines-China Friendship Year.

Source: **National Library**

President's Week in Review: June 25-30, 1967

President's Week in Review: July 1-15, 1967

President's Week in Review: July 16-18, 1967

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

July 16—PRESIDENT Marcos makes a flying visit to South Vietnam to expressly spend the day with members of the Philippine Civic Action Group in Vietnam, in an effort to express the nation's admiration and support for their work in that embattled country.

He brings off successfully a long planned trip to Vietnam, expressly to visit with the PHILCAG troops there, and confer well deserved medals on certain officers and men for distinguished performance.

The President, accompanied by a small group of government officials, and newspaper publishers, spends practically the whole day in Vietnam. Except for an unexpected engine trouble shortly after takeoff from the Manila International Airport at 7:30 the whole trip is smooth and entirely successful. The President and his party is warmly received by the PHILCAG which has been doing civic action work in Vietnam since September last year.

Dressed in khaki, the President leaves Malacañang at 6:45 a.m., along with a group of Manila publishers, a handful of palace aides, and Secretary of Foreign Affairs Narciso Ramos, Defense Secretary Ernesto Mata, Press Secretary Jose D. Aspiras and Fr. Horacio de la Costa.

The flight to Saigon is delayed after the PAL YS-111 developed engine trouble about, half an hour after takeoff, necessitating a change of planes. This is done after the return to the MIA. The two-hour flight to Tan Son Nhut airport in Saigon was uneventful.

The President and party stays only briefly in Saigon, confined to the airport for the formalities of welcome, which was given by South Vietnamese officials, led by Chief of State Nguyen Van Thieu.

From the Saigon airport, the President and party flies direct to Tay Ninh.

The President arrives at the Tay Ninh West Airport at 12:40 p.m. proceeding straight to the PHILCAG Base Camp where he was rendered Military honors.

One of the first acts of the President upon arrival at the Philcag camp is to present decorations to Philcag officers and men for, among others, heroism and meritorious service.

After presenting the decorations to the Philcag men, the President addresses the entire personnel.

In his speech before the Philcag, the President once more reiterated the Philippine commitment to "the sacred ideals of peace, liberty, and prosperity as the grand pursuits of mankind."

He disputes the contention that the Philcag mission in Vietnam is a Philippine involvement in Vietnam war. He states that in more precise terms, the Filipino people, through the Philcag, are "involved in the agony of the human spirit in Vietnam."

The battle lines in Vietnam, he declares, "evoke the poignant question of our time, whether this world of ours can endure half-slave and half-free."

Pointing out that there is no middle ground in the violent issues "that rend Vietnam today," he states that although the Philippine Constitution rules out war as an instrument of national policy, it does not forbid the nation from extending "sympathy with those who are in the midst of this beleaguered area of freedom."

Saying that the decision to dispatch the PHILCAG was a lonely task that he had to make after everyone in the country had been heard on the question, he emphasizes that it was a decision made on a national consensus for liberty.

He tells the PHILCAG troopers that the nation took pride in their mission of peace, where “you sheath your sword in a spot where swords clash in mortal strife.” This, he states, makes the PHILCAG soldiers “martyrs for peace.”

He notes that there was no doubt the PHILCAG position in Vietnam is difficult, but he added that an understanding of the issues in Vietnam “can sustain and console you.”

The issues are clear, he says, although not simple. The Vietcong as a belligerent, he continues, betrays the true menace, which is the Marxist view of history, which is to crucify mankind “in the cross of the state.” The Philippine commitment in Vietnam, he declares, is a commitment in history, began with the revolution of 1898, which was “for all of Asia.” Aside from this, he observes, “our own national interest dictate our involvement as peacemakers.” He declares, “we cannot live as an island of freedom in a sea of tyranny.”

Next, the President visits the station hospital, to look in specially on the wounded soldiers there. Then he goes to the PHILCAG chapel to join in prayers led by Fr. de la Costa. After a briefing conducted by Brig. Gen. Gaudencio Tobias, Philcag Commander, at the sand-bagged headquarters command post, which centered on the pacification campaign, the President boards a helicopter to tour Philcag work sites and projects in Than Dien.

At 2 p.m., the President enplanes for the Tan Son Nhut Airport in Saigon, where he reboards the PAL jet for the return flight to Manila.

After the arrival rites and a brief press conference, the President returns to Malacañang, where he rest briefly. He then works on some papers later in the evening.

July 17.—MOVING further to enhance the anti-criminality drive, President Marcos tap former Defense Secretary Alejo Santos as presidential coordinator on peace and order and concurrently acting director of prisons.

He names Santos to improve conditions in the different penal institutions and colonies.

The President also signs another appointment, that of Leyte Gov. Norberto Romualdez, Jr., as member of the advisory council on community development and public works.

He decides to make these designations in the course of discussions with administrative leaders on the peace and order situation and the public works program for Leyte and Samar.

In a series of meetings with administrative officials, the President likewise:

1. Orders Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco to release P1 million for the dredging of the port of Cebu, at the same time asking Highways Commissioner Baltazar Aquino to start the project immediately.
2. Directs Defense Secretary Ernesto Mata to assign a battalion of AFP engineers to repair roads in Central Luzon and carry on flood control projects, in coordination with the department of public works.
3. Instructs Commissioner Sy-Changco to allocate P2 million for the immediate construction of badly needed roads in Leyte and Samar.

In a series of meetings with administrative officials, the President shooting team which leaves tonight for Tokyo, to participate in the first Asian shooting tournament, slated for July 21 to 23.

Following the call of the team, the President receives the special congressional committee which formally informed him that the special session of Congress has convened.

Receiving the legislators, the President states, "it is a grave responsibility to call another session, but it is extremely necessary." He appeals to them to "please act on the measures in record time."

In between callers, the President inducts David Lozada as register of deeds in Negros Occidental, vice retired Benjamin Ledesma.

In the afternoon, the President motors to the Quezon City residence of former Defense Secretary Santos, to felicitate him on his 56th birth anniversary.

Back in Malacañang at 2:30 p.m., the President rest briefly, after which he works steadily on state papers.

July 18.—TAKING new initiatives in the campaign against crime, President Marcos order the Police Commission to bring charges against policemen whose oil-duty activities might be illegal.

He instruct Solicitor General Antonio Barredo to clear the way for enforcing the ban on liquor sales in school and church vicinities, and Land Transportation Commissioner Romeo Edu to begin licensing bus conductors.

He indicates that crimes are often abetted or committed in these areas, and therefore there should be positive moves taken immediately to bring them into better control.

In the case of off-duty policemen, the President asks the Department of Justice to study the legality of private employment of policemen during off-duty hours. If these activities are ascertained to be illegal, the President states, the POLCOM should take steps to file up the proper charges against culpable policemen.

He points out that in such instances where policemen work as bouncers in nightclubs or bars, or act as bodyguards for private persons, there is always the possibility of abuses being committed by the policemen, which may result in violence or other criminal offenses.

Towards noon time, the President pauses from his desk work to induct several officials at the Palace reception hall. He administer the oath of office to Judge Jose Rodriguez of the Court of First Instance of Palawan; Judge Leonor Ines Luciano of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court of Quezon City; the officials of the Women's Lawyer's Circle of the University of the Philippines; and the officers of the Confederation of Government Employees Organizations.

Earlier in the morning, the President leaves Malacañang to inspect the Nagtahan bridge in Sampaloc. Manila, which is to be opened to the public on August 15.

He decides to assess the progress of the work on the bridge which has been under construction since the last administration, to see for himself if the deadline for completion will actually be met.

Considered one of the major bridges in Manila, since it links many main arteries in the city, particularly the heavily traversed Magsaysay boulevard, to the San Miguel district and the Pandacan and Paco districts, and the whole of South Manila, the President had earlier ordered the early completion of the bridge.

The Nagtahan bridge was first began as completely new span under the Macapagal administration by private contractors, but except for the approach foundation, the construction languished for lack of funds, until the present administration took over.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: July 19-29, 1967

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

July 19.—PRESIDENT Marcos goes on a flying inspection trip to Pampanga, to assess the progress of development projects in Central Luzon, including public works construction, flood control, irrigation, and civic action projects.

He returns to Malacañang at noon with these impressions:

1. The work on development projects is substantially advanced, as proved by the constructions already finished.
2. There is need to accelerate the tempo of the program, toward which he prodded the officials concerned to exert greater effort.

The President takes off at 7:30 a.m. in a helicopter, with a small group of officials. On the way to Pampanga he views the progress of work on the Manila North Diversion road, which army engineers are about to complete. Of the 28-kilometer stretch of concrete highway only a section of about 300 meters remains to be finished, Undersecretary of Defense Manuel Syquiao tells the President.

His first stop is Barrio Bahay Pare, in eastern Candaba, where he inaugurates the Lower Maasin River irrigation system. The system will service 4,000 to 5,000 hectares of farmlands in the towns of Candaba, San Simon and San Luis. The system is built at an estimated cost of P1.055 million.

In Barrio San Agustin, Magalang, the President's second stop, he inaugurates one of 16 multipurpose centers constructed by the Central Luzon Development Authority. He likewise visits the Pampanga Agricultural School there, before flying to Mawake, Mabalacat, where he looked over the communal irrigation project.

From there, the President flies to Sta. Barbara in the town of Bacolor to see the Pasig-Portrero flood control project, which is still under construction.

From the air, the President closely scrutinizes the San Isidro barrio road being built in the San Luis area, the Bahay Pare-Candaba road, the Arayat emergency hospital and the La Paz (Magalang) irrigation project.

Back in Malacañang at 12:30 p.m. following a brief rest after lunch, the President buckles down to work at his study, during which he:

1. Instructs Justice Undersecretary Claudio Teehankee to require the provincial fiscal of Capiz to explain in 72 hours why his office has delayed, the investigation of the kidnapping case against Mayor Ramon D. Benjamin of Dumarao.
2. Orders the Postmaster General to immediately suspend postal inspector Maximo Amil, assigned to Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte and Misamis Occidental, who has been accused of rape by a 16-year old student.
3. Asks the PC provincial commander and Gov. Rafael Palmares of Iloilo to inquire into reports that Vice Mayor Angel Selcedo of Sara, who has been charged with forcible abduction and rape, has freedom to go in and out of jail, although held without bail. The President asks the two officials to keep the accused in jail.
4. Tells the PC chief to assist Lorenzo Lazo of Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte, relative to the murder of Lazo's son, for which the town chief of police and 10 policemen had been charged.

At the same time, the President calls on the Auditor General to conduct an audit of the books of the Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation, to ascertain how well its funds are utilized for the promotion of sports.

The President also studies the report of Brig. Gen. Crispino do Castro, chairman of the Police Commission, the peace and order conditions in the towns of Leyte, Leyte and Kabankalan, Negros Occidental, both of which are under constabulary control.

July 20.—THE Chief Executive devotes most of his working hours to an appreciation of rural problems as brought to him by provincial delegations and to an assessment of the progress made so far in rice production.

The President formally opens a briefing for the press at the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources building in Quezon City, which was conducted by the Rice and Corn Production Coordinating Council, in cooperation with the National Press Club.

At this briefing, the President describes the “breakthrough” in the effort to increase production towards self-sufficiency in the nation’s staple.

Before motoring to Quezon City, where the initial briefing is held, the President sits down to a breakfast conference at Malacañang with close aides.

At the NPC-RCPCC briefing, the President emphasizes that a “breakthrough” has been made in our rice production. The factors, he states, which made it possible are:

1. Cooperation of the private sector with the government and
2. Close coordination among the various government agencies concerned with production.

“There had to be one leadership and one policy,” he says, in reference to the failure of previous administrations to make a breakthrough, because of dissipation of energy.

After opening the NPC-RCPCC briefing, the President returns to Malacañang where he works on state papers for a while. Then, he begins receiving visitors, including various delegations from the provinces who came to discuss their problems.

The President also inducts Hadji Bulog Mangutara as acting provincial assessor of Lanao del Sur and Casto P. Profugo as vice mayor of Lucena City. Rodolfo Rivilla is likewise inducted as acting member of the Board of Industries.

July 21.—PRESIDENT Marcos concentrates on two national concerns, one, the initiatives to be taken on the development of other food resources, notably meat and fish, and the other, the continuing concern over the state of peace and order.

But again, he takes time to attend to problems of local governments, as he devotes four hours receiving government, leaders from various regions of the country, who came to discuss the needs of their constituencies.

At 10 a.m., the President joins the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, who was at the time receiving the Harvard-Radeliffe glee club.

“What a happy interlude in a very busy morning,” he exclaims, after listening to the Filipino tune “Sampaguita,” rendered with precision by the 90-member chorus.

The conference on food production is held early in the morning with Development of Bank of the Philippines officials, and officials of various government agencies involved in food production.

Discussed are new initiatives for increasing meat, fish, poultry and dairy, products. Toward this end, the President asks the DBP to reduce its interest on loans to these food producers, in the same way that rice and corn producers have been encouraged by liberal terms; on loans by the DBP and the Philippine National Bank.

He focuses on other food products following the breakthrough in the intensified rice and corn production program. The new drive is designed to complement the supply of the staple cereals.

During his usual work session in his study, the President, among others:

1. Asks the Commission on Elections to keep open the registration of voters even on Saturdays and Sundays and holidays throughout the country.
2. Orders the placing of Pasay City under Philippine Constabulary control.
3. Appeals to all cities and towns to organize civic groups similar to the one in Pasay City, in the campaign against crime. He congratulates the civic-spirited citizens led by Jose Concepcion, Jr. of Pasay for their initiative.

Meanwhile, the President creates a national center to study and devise solutions to the problem of urban squatters.

To be named the Central Institute for the Training and Relocation of Urban Squatters (CITRUS) with offices in Sapang Palay, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, the center's functions will include:

1. Promotion of the economic sufficiency and social stability of former urban squatters and existing resident families in the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation property on a nationwide scale; and
2. Undertake organized research and training programs in coordination with other government or private agencies which are involved in improving patterns of human resettlement and planned social and economic adjustment.

July 22.—PRESIDENT Marcos attends to a well-round schedule of activities, highlighted by a meeting with Congress and Nacionalista Party leaders and his attendance at the opening rites of the First Asian Foreign Service Course at the Department of Foreign Affairs.

In the morning, the President motors to the Mabini Shrine in Nagtahan where he offered a wreath to commemorate the 103rd birth anniversary of Apolinario Mabini, the Sublime Paralytic.

To perpetuate further the memory of Mabini, the President renames the almost completed Nagtahan bridge, Mabini bridge. The President likewise proclaims the portion of the former bureau of animal industry compound where Mabini's old house was relocated as the site of the Mabini shrine.

Back in Malacañang an hour later, the President meets at breakfast with Senate President Gil J. Puyat and Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr. and Secretary Constancio E. Castañeda on NP plans for its national directorate meeting set for July 29.

After the meeting, the President leaves for the Department of Foreign Affairs to attend as guest speaker at the opening ceremonies of the First Asian Foreign Service Course.

In his speech, the President underscores the importance of regional order and the establishment and preservation of regional harmony in the management of world peace.

He slates the establishment and preservation of regional harmony as more urgent as the councils of the world face the prospect of a change from bi-polarity to multi-polarity as a result of the experience gained by nations in the creation and use of atomic power.

“Diverse as the cultural traditions are of the policy and experiences of our peoples in our part of the world, we nevertheless, share a common dream of harmony,” the President says.

“Better than leave the expression of this vision in the hands of policy makers per se, we have now come to a point where men, in the fullness of their own knowledge and experience, share in the responsibility of making and expressing national policy,” the President adds.

In the afternoon, the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, attend the formal launching of the Philippine Amateur Swimming Association Educational and Fund campaign at the Malacañang swimming pool across the Pasig.

Meanwhile, President Marcos gives added force to the peace and order drive by ordering the vigorous enforcement of motion pictures not approved by the Board of Censors for Motion Pictures.

In an executive order, the President calls on all officers and employees of the government concerned to exert all possible efforts to implement the law as contained in Republic Act No. 3060.

This law declares as unlawful for any person or entity to exhibit or cause to be exhibited by television any motion picture, including trailers, stills and other pictorial advertisements in connection with motion pictures, which have not been previously approved by the Board of Censors for Motion Pictures.

The President, in his directive, points out that in the face of the rising criminality and breakdown of morality, only motion pictures which are not offensive to morals and to the peace and order of society should be exhibited. He also appeals to the Huks “to return to the folds of the law” and assist in the implementation of the various programs of the government designed to improve social and economic conditions in Central Luzon.

He indicates he is creating a joint executive-legislative committee to further consider the matter of granting amnesty to the Huks. He discloses that he had been considering the advisability of granting amnesty to them. The Presidential statement is a reaction to a report in newspapers, saying that the Huks “are in complete accord with the land reform program and are fully behind President Marcos in his Central Luzon Development Program.”

The report quoted a letter reportedly written by Pedro Taruc, Huk supremo.

“I am convinced,” the President states, “that the principal weapon against the social unrest in Central Luzon is community development, civic action and a relentless drive against disease, ignorance, poverty and other economic and social ills.”

“Our programs are designed to remove all causes of unrest in the area, and in view of the support expressed for these programs by the Huk leaders I now appeal to them and their followers to return to the folds of the law and assist us in implementing these programs, instead of sabotaging them,” he says.

July 23.—PRESIDENT Marcos issues an appeal urging members of Congress who are planning to go on missions abroad to defer their travel plans until after the current special session.

He conveys the appeal through Secretary of Foreign Affairs Narciso Ramos, who consults the President on requests of certain members of Congress for passports, and other documents.

The President tells Secretary Ramos to plead with the members of Congress to defer their departure until after the current special session pointing out that the work of Congress has been hamstrung by the lack of quorum.

In his appeal, the President stresses the urgency of the passage of the bills intended to bolster the peace and order campaign and the economic-bills. He had also pointed out the need to pass the reorganization, decentralization, investments incentives and public works bills.

At the same time, the President admonishes a city judge and reprimands clerk of court as he presses the administration effort to improve the quality and efficiency of judicial officials.

The President admonishes Presiding Judge Mariano R. Virtucio of Quezon City advising him to be more conscientious in the performance of his duties, and reprimands Pedro Aldea, clerk of court of the Court of First Instance of Bataan.

The Chief Executive also releases P3 million as aid of the national government to the various public works projects of Manila in response to numerous petitions from citizen living in Manila and the suburbs.

He authorizes the release of the funds by Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco after a two-hour on-the-spot survey of public works projects in Manila and the suburbs. He visits the projects to determine the problems facing them, and consequently how the national government aid could be effectively used.

In the afternoon, the President spends most of his time in his private study working on state papers.

July 24.—PRESIDENT Marcos starts the week with a brisk schedule of activities, highlighted by a series of conference with leaders from various regions of the country.

In the morning, the President sits down with Nacionalista congressmen led by Speaker Jose Laurel, Jr., after which he met a group of barrio captains and councilors.

From this conference, he goes on to other meetings with varied groups, notably the officials of the Philippine Horse Breeders Association, the boy scout delegation to the 12th World Jamboree and 21st World Scout Conference in the United States, officers of the Confederation of Labor Unions in Government Corporations, and officials of the Philippine Junior Chamber of Commerce, who saw the President for the launching of their project, Search for the Ten Outstanding Policemen.

In his first conference of the day, the President takes up with the 44 NP congressmen present the need for completion before the November elections the new permanent voters registry, which the Commission on Elections is undertaking in a race against time.

The President calls on the congressional leaders to pursue every means within their constituencies to spur new voters to register, and 1965 voters to have their registration validated, which are the twin concern of the Comelec drive.

He next receives the group representing local horse breeders, led by Florencio Sagmit. The group brings up before the President the association's petition for government aid in bringing in foreign bred mares and stallions to improve local breeds.

Besides the P400,000 allocated by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office for the purpose, the President creates a committee to study any further assistance the government can give to the association, in line with the request.

Right after the call of the group, the President meets with some 60 barrio captains, later reenacting for their benefit his signing into law of Senate Bill No. 128, which gives insurance coverage to barrio captains and councilmen.

The Philippine Boy Scout delegation pays a farewell call on the President, as they prepared to leave for Farragut State Park in Idaho, where the Jamboree will be held from August 1 to 9.

In the meeting with the Jaycee officials the President pledges full government support to the project to choose 10 outstanding policemen of the Philippines. He says he welcomes the Jaycee initiative to provide much needed incentives for policemen to do better work, and to set the example for other civic groups to participate in the drive against criminality.

July 25—IN a long drawn meeting with his financial and economic advisers. President Marcos gives special attention to the administration's fiscal policies. The President also, in the course of the day, discusses legislative matters with Nacionalista party congressional leaders. Despite the demands of official business, the President finds time to commend Luis Reyes, officer-in-charge of the dredging and reclamation unit of the bureau of public works, for distinct accomplishments, in line with his policy to give due credit to public officials who perform with excellence.

In the meeting with his fiscal advisers, the President reassesses the administration's monetary policies against the background of current economic conditions and with an eye to future initiatives. During the meeting the President takes up agricultural requirements; which may be procured from the Japanese reparations payments.

After attending to callers, the President resumes studies on reports and other official papers in his desk.

July 26.—PRESIDENT Marcos clamps a lid on nightclubs for all Police Commission, Constabulary and Anti-Smuggling Action Center personnel, whether day or night clubs, anywhere in the country. Violation of the order will result in stern disciplinary action, the President warns.

He imposes the ban following reports that personnel of the said agencies have been observed as regularly patronizing these places.

Measures must be taken to see to it that the ban is enforced to the letter, according to the President's directive.

At the same time, the President directs Brig. Gen. Manuel Yan, Constabulary chief, to dismiss summarily from the service all Constabulary personnel, especially Metrocom officers and men, found guilty of venalities, in a move to enforce discipline among law enforcement officers.

The directive is issued after the President commended Gen. Yan for his prompt action in disciplining two Philippine Constabulary enlisted men earlier reported as Metrocom personnel, caught mulcting.

"The Metrocom should set the example in integrity and devotion to duty," the President stresses.

The Chief Executive attends to a full day of conferences with government leaders from various sectors, including the legislative, the judicial, and local governments.

In the afternoon, as usual, he receives only a few visitors, as he concentrates on state papers, with emphasis on economic matters.

In his meeting with a group of municipal judges, the President discusses the peace and order campaign. The judges informs the President that they had taken steps to remedy the delay in the trial of criminal cases.

Among his other important meetings this day are those with Social Security System Administrator Gilberto Teodoro and Chairman Ramon Gaviola of the SSS, on the problems and projects of the agency; and with Governor Gualberto Lumauig of Ifugao, on local problems.

Meantime, President Marcos indicates that he will increase the assistance given to rural banks under the Agricultural Guaranty and Loan Fund (AGLF) program, due to the encouraging results of the partnership between the banks and the government in augmenting rice production.

In a speech at the induction of the new officers of the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines at the Plaza, the President commends the performance of the bankers which has made it an impressive force, he states, in economic development, particularly of the rural areas.

Under the AGLF program, the rural banks have provided loans for rice production without collateral, but under close supervision.

“This program,” the President says, “is a partnership between the rural banks on one hand and the government on the other hand.”

The increased assistance proposed by the President will come through additional contribution of deposit from the GSIS, the SSS and the Philippine National Bank.

He declares that he is hopeful, therefore, that “the fruitful partnership between the government and the rural banking system will continue to flourish for the benefit not only of our small farmers but more so for our country and people.”

The President emphasizes the necessity for partnership between the government and the private sector, saying that it is “the true, and only, answer to the problem of poverty and ignorance that have long been a blight on Philippine society.”

Nation-building, he points out, is not the task of government alone, but also of the people themselves, who “as individuals and as a group must be involved.”

The government, he notes, has been constantly aware of its own contribution to this partnership. Thus, he had marked infrastructure development and rice sufficiency as the first priorities, “because no other accomplishment would be satisfactory without these.”

July 27.—THE Chief Executive orders the preventive suspension of three members of the board of examiners for marine engineers and marine officers, who were held responsible for the leakage of questions in the examinations in Cebu City early this week.

The President likewise orders the replacement of a fourth examiner, Boanerjes Duran, chairman of the Board of Examiners for Marine Engineers, whose term has terminated.

Ordered suspended on recommendation of Civil Service Commissioner Abelardo Subido are Captains Vicente M. Orlina and Arturo Ilagan, members of the Board of Examiners for Marine Officers and Crisanto G. Almoguera, member of the Board of Examiners for Marine Engineers.

All four, according to Subido, have been administratively charged, for bribery, on the basis of the findings of a Philippine Constabulary investigation team, which probed the case.

Subido reports, that the four examiners received cash from candidates in the engineer and marine officers examinations, given last July 24 in Cebu City, in exchange for copies of the test papers and the corresponding answers.

At the same time, the President expresses regret over the reported decision of Sen. Raul Manglapus to retire from the public service.

He states that the announced retirement of Sen. Manglapus will “deprive the government service of a man of great usefulness in view of high qualifications for any elective or executive position.”

He adds that he hoped that the senator “will not entirely close the door to possible service in the executive branch of the government,” particularly in the diplomatic service where he had performed with high distinction in the past.

The President, in a meeting with members of the Nacionalista Party directorate, gains fresh insight into the political situation all over the country and the implementation of the various government programs for the development of rural areas.

After the meeting with the NP directorate, the President returns to the Palace across the Pasig River and works on official papers after a brief rest.

July 28—PRESIDENT Marcos tops a busy schedule, consisting mostly of official business with a surprise visit to four government hospitals in Manila, to see for himself conditions in these institutions.

The President leaves for the tour of hospitals after receiving Vice President Fernando Lopez, who arrives late in the afternoon from a special mission abroad.

The hospitals visited are the Philippine General Hospital, the Reyes Memorial Hospital, the San Lazaro Hospital, and the Lacson Memorial Hospital. The President is accompanied by Health Secretary Paulino Garcia.

He welcomes Vice President Lopez, when he called early in the evening, shortly after arriving in Manila. The Vice President reports on his observations of modern agricultural methods and practices abroad.

During most of the morning, the President attends to the Nacionalista Party delegates from the provinces, who called on him at Malacañang. The delegates take the opportunity to report on the progress of administration program in their regions, as well as to bring before the President the salient problems in their localities

The President, in turn, inquires into the rural development projects, specifically any problems affecting these projects so that immediate solutions may be found and implemented.

In the evening, the President works on his report on the various government programs to the National directorate meet slated the next day.

July 29—THE President in up early to attend to urgent state matters which requires his attention, and then he motors to the Manila Hotel for the Nacionalista Party national directorate meeting.

He arrives at 10 a.m. and is immediately engulfed by NP delegates and other party members who had converged at the hotel.

He starts speaking at 11:15 a.m. and in the main, he reports on the accomplishments of the administration, as based on the party platform which in 1965 won the people's mandate for the Nacionalista to take over power.

The President points out that significant gains in economic development, including the rice and corn production program, the public works program to strengthen the nation's infrastructure, the land reform program, and the peace and order program which has arrested the freewheeling surge of smuggling and other crimes.

He also blisters the opposition for its obstructionism and lack of responsibility. He lays squarely at the door of the opposition the rise in crime, the stagnation in national development, and the disruption or slow down of government programs.

The President, who was accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, is received with a standing ovation on his arrival at the meeting hall, the Fiesta Pavillion.

After his well received speech, he stays on the meeting, where he had lunch, and continues to talk with various groups, and observers from time to time the progress of the balloting which started shortly after the nominations were closed, almost midafternoon.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: July 30 - August 5, 1967

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

July 30.—PRESIDENT Marcos orders the National Bureau of Investigation to inquire into the activities of an association which had been promising redemption of Japanese war notes for a fee.

He directs the NBI to launch the investigation at once and set the ground for immediate prosecution of parties found responsible.

The Japanese War Notes Association led by one Al Abcede had been reported promising its members that it would secure U.S. government redemption of war notes issued to them by the occupation forces in World War II.

In exchange for such "service," the association is said to have been: collecting fees from the members.

In another move, the President requests the Peace and Order Council to conduct a study of the fundamental causes of the present crime incidence.

The study, according to the President, will serve as a guide to the formulation of laws and other remedial measures. He issues the instructions as the President focused greater attention on a long-range peace and order program.

Taking advantage of the presence in Manila of local government heads who attend Saturday's Nacionalista Party Convention, the President meets these provincial and municipal leaders to hear their problems and devise with them procedures for rapid implementation of development projects pertaining to their localities.

He is assisted by a panel of cabinet members, who help him attend to inquiries and suggestions from the local leaders concerning community improvement in cooperation with the administration's national program.

Many of the leaders who are present at the Malacañang working session came from far-flung towns, where quick consultations with the national government have been difficult because of existing communication facilities.

The President asks them to submit before returning to the provinces a list of their projects and their suggestions for more effective implementation of the various national programs in their localities.

July 31.—PRESIDENT Marcos orders the dismantling of all billboards on government property along national highways which advertise alcoholic drinks.

In his directive, the President gives the owners of these billboards one month to remove them otherwise the Philippine Constabulary will tear them down.

The Chief Executive also prods the National Bureau of Investigation and the Anti-Smuggling Action Center to arrest government officials, especially fiscals, city and municipal judges of Manila and surrounding cities and towns, caught smoking blue-seal cigarettes.

He issues these directives in connection with the administration's anti-smuggling and peace and order drives following receipt of the monthly report of the Police Commission and ASAC, which recommended new measures in these two areas.

The NBI and ASAC are directed to form teams to curb the open sales of blue-seal cigarettes and to arrest smokers, particularly government officials and employees.

On the drive against drunkenness, the President also appeals to all media of communication—newspapers, magazines, TV, radio and others—to reject advertisements of alcoholic drinks, which tend to make liquor drinking a desirable habit.

According to a report from Police Commission Chairman Brig. Gen. Crispino de Castro (ret.), a growing percentage of the total number of crimes committed in the metropolitan area alone is traceable in origin to drunkenness.

The President continues exchanging views with provincial leaders on various focal problems. He receives the officials, mostly by delegations.

The delegations included those from Iloilo, Misamis Occidental, Cagayan, Leyte, Surigao del Norte, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Cebu, Davao and Lipa City.

After receiving the delegations from different provinces, the President devotes the rest of the afternoon up to the late hours in the evening working on state papers.

August 1—THE President authorizes Foreign Affairs Secretary Narciso Ramos to reopen negotiations for an air agreement with the United States.

Secretary Ramos is directed to coordinate with the Civil Aeronautics board led by Commerce Secretary Marcelo Balatbat in the conduct of the negotiations.

Talks between the Philippines and the United States to work out a new bilateral air agreement were suspended in August, 1965 over disagreement on the frequency of U.S. airline flights into the Philippines.

The old RP-US air agreement expired in 1965 and since then commercial air relations between the two countries have been based on authority granted by the Civil Aeronautics Board.

The impasse in the negotiations for a new air treaty resulted from differences between the Philippine and American positions on the issue of frequency flights.

The Philippines during the 1965 talks invoked the “five freedoms of the air” agreed upon in the 1944 International Conference on Civil Aviation in Chicago.

On the other hand, the US has been advocating unlimited frequency of flights, invoking the 1946 agreement between her and the United Kingdom in Bermuda. Accordingly, the US has been seeking agreements which place no restrictions on frequencies, capacities and fifth freedom traffic in most of the countries that its airlines serve.

In the morning, the President confers for four hours with groups of provincial NP leaders, on both government and party matters in their respective regions.

On government, the President considers the problems and requests for aid of the regional leaders, relative to national and local development programs.

Director-General Placido Mapa Jr. of the Presidential Economic Staff and members of his staff review with the President the studies made on major administration projects.

Among the PES recommendations approved by the President are:

1. The three-year development program of the Port of Manila, at an estimated cost of P41.2 million.

2. A funding scheme for irrigation projects aimed at irrigating an additional 143,500 hectares of farm lands by the 1968 planting season. The project will require P49.97 million this fiscal year.

The President also grounds the police chief of Baguio City and ordered the investigation of alleged police brutality committed against members of a union picketing a Baguio firm recently.

He directs Gen. Crispino de Castro, (ret.) Polcom chief, to ground the police chief, Maj. Mariano Aagsalud, in Manila pending the investigation of the charges, to prevent any possibility of coercion of witnesses against the police.

The President, at the same time, directs Maj. Gen. Manuel Yan, Chief of the Constabulary, to place the police force of Tagkawayan and Sampaloc in Quezon under PC control, because Sampaloc has no policemen, and peace and order condition in Tagkawayan has deteriorated considerably.

August 2.—IN consonance with his policy to appraise and approve foreign policy matters on a non-partisan basis, President Marcos confers with the Foreign Policy Council to discuss the proposal for enlarged economic and regional cooperation through a bigger organization, of South east Asian nations, preparatory to the departure of the Philippine delegation for Bangkok.

The Bangkok meeting which will be attended by SEA foreign ministers, will discuss the formation of a larger group of nations in the region. Among those participating are the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore. The conference is slated to open on August 5 to last until August 9.

Foreign Secretary Narciso Ramos will head the Philippine delegation. In naming Secretary Ramos as head of the delegation, the President states that the foreign secretary has his "special trust and confidence."

The nation's leaders who attend the council meeting are unanimous in endorsing the proposal, specially as it pertains to the strengthening of SEA regional cooperation along economic development lines, and in enlarging mutual technical assistance to countries in the region.

At the same time, the President further bolstered the drive against errant peace officers by ordering the organization of a combined POLCOM-PC-NBI team to go after police officers and men patronizing nightclubs and accepting private jobs.

He directs Brig. Gen. Manuel Yan, PC Chief, and Col. Jolly Bugarin, NBI chief, to have the composite team ready and operating within a week.

The President also instructs the drafting of a bill regulating the operation and maintenance of hotels, motels, boarding and lodging houses. He will certify the bill to the current special session of Congress.

The Supreme Court recently upheld the constitutionality of a Manila ordinance imposing rules and restrictions on hotels and motels so as to remove the elements of secrecy in the entry, presence and exit of guests in these establishments.

He asks all city and municipal councils of suburban areas to pass similar ordinances to augment the efforts of the national government to curb sex crimes.

In another meeting, the President discusses at length the government's public works program for this fiscal year.

In the afternoon, the President delivers a speech formally opening the Fourth Asian Regional Conference and Seminar of the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) held at the National Science Development Board pavilion.

In his speech, the President calls on the women of Asia to help bring about a change in the rural areas through development.

He states that “it is a task cut out for the women.” This task, he explained, involved not only physical but spiritual transformation as well.

The President emphasizes that rural development must necessarily involve the building of roads, artesian wells, irrigation systems, and others required for material advancement.

But, he says, “material progress is not possible unless strong enough will to progress is developed among the citizens.”

The women, the President declares, “can prepare the groundwork for development by helping in the education of our peasants and their children.”

He states that the women’s efforts need not be formal, but can be under taken as a supplement to the work of the professional teachers.

The women should concentrate on areas of practical application, such as sanitation, farm management, handicraft, child care, cooking, sewing and others in the same sphere.

By teaching farmers these skills, he says, the women will help farmers enlarge their economic options, and introduce them to “the world of science and technology.”

The President stresses that the change desired in the rural areas cannot be postponed any longer.

Ultimately, he says, “the task of ushering our rural folk into the age of science and technology is performed in the service of democracy and freedom.” In working toward this objective, he adds, the women can ask for “no nobler duty.”

Back at the Palace, the President rejoins the council meeting after receiving Lt. Gen. Benjamin Davis. The meeting ends with a unanimous endorsement of the plan for extended regional cooperation along economic development.

Gen. Davis, the new commanding officer of Clark Air Force Base was accompanied by Minister James Wilson of the U.S. Embassy and Maj. Gen. Michael J. Ingelido, CAFB Deputy Commander. The new CAFB commander came to pay a courtesy call on the President.

Pursuing his usual work schedule in his study, the President among others, issues the following instructions;

1. Directs the Police Commission, the PC and the NBI to organize, within one week, composite teams to implement the regulations prohibiting PC and police personnel from frequenting nightclubs and working in private capacities for pay.
2. Appeals to all city and municipal councils in the suburban areas to pass ordinances similar to that enacted by the city of Manila, which removes the elements of secrecy attending patronage of motels.

August 3.—THE welfare of prisoners, financing of the different government ” projects as housing, better roads and bridges, airports, irrigation and hospitals, are the main concerns which occupied President Marcos the whole day.

The first of a series of meetings the President attended is with the heads of government financing institutions, and his fiscal advisers.

He discusses with them the funding requirements of the high priority programs of the administration, notably roads and other public works projects, schools and housing and resettlement projects.

In a meeting with Acting Director of Prisons Alejo Santos, who is also presidential coordinator of the anti-crime drive, the President orders that new and young prisoners be segregated from old and habitual criminals.

The President authorizes the release of P200,000 for a separate housing for these prisoners. He also orders the release of P400, 000 for the construction of a hospital in Muntinlupa.

He instructs Santos to implement at once the transfer of the Iwahig penal colony from Puerto Princesa to the island of Culion, both in Palawan.

The prisons director is also asked to study the feasibility of transferring the penal colony at Sablayan. Mindoro Occidental to the island of Semirara, south of the Mindoro mainland. In this connection, the President orders Director Antonio Quejado of Forestry to ascertain whether the island is available for this purpose.

Following the conference, the President instructs Commissioner Baltazar Aquino of Public Highways to include provisions in the public works appropriations bill which would impose penalties for price-padding of purchases of equipment and spare parts by public highways officials. The President takes this step to stop once and for all the practice of overpricing purchases.

August 4.—PRESIDENT Marcos presides at two important meetings: one on the crime situation, and the other on gasoline prices, which filled most of his morning work hours. In-between, he receives several visitors.

“Keeping up the pace of the anti-crime campaign,” the President tells the officials involved in the drive, during the meeting.

He urges greater action against vandals, orders the arrest of any persons caught defacing walls. He also orders intensification of operations against pirates and cattle rustlers.

He instructs various police agencies to work closer together, and when necessary to combine forces in striking at criminal elements.

He, at the same time, orders the disarming of all security guards of the arrastre services in the South Harbor, following the slaying of two customs policemen in a gunfight with Guacods Terminals security guards.

To prevent recurrence of the slaying incident, the President bans the carrying of firearms in the customs zone, except as authorized by the customs commissioner.

In this connection, the President orders the assignment of Col. Tomas Karingal, Quezon City police chief, to the customs zone to temporarily take charge of security in the area till the situation returns to normal.

He also orders brig. Gen. Ricardo Papa (ret.), Manila Police Chief, Brig. Gen. Manuel Yan, PC chief, to investigate the shooting incident to the end that all guilty parties are punished.

At the conference with representatives of oil companies, the President appeals for the maintenance of existing gasoline prices and transportation rates, stating that the public interest demand that the status quo remain undisturbed.

In the afternoon, the President signs into law H. B. No. 15920 setting aside P2,272,210,527 for the operating expenditures of the government and its expenses for the different developmental projects for the current fiscal year.

The Chief Executive slashes P4,260,317 from the outlays approved by Congress. Congress has approved House Bill No. 15920 appropriating P2, 276,470,844.

Among the vetoed items are appropriations for the Senate, P152,160, House of Representatives, P135,279; Department of Justice, P3,254,918; Supreme Court, P265,220 and the Court of Appeals, P452,740. These out lays are mostly for new positions and salary increases.

The new budget is only P201,785,499 more than the budget for the last fiscal year, which was P2.97 billion. Most of the additional outlays will go to capital expenditures or the development programs of the administration, and P45 million set aside on request of the President for salary increases for government employees. The employees will receive a five per cent general increase.

The salary increases for the government employees takes effect, under the law, on July 1, 1967. All employees who are in the service as of June 30, 1967, will be entitled to the salary raise.

The P25 million set aside from Bond Fund will all go to the development projects such as roads, bridges, ports, airports and irrigation.

The three biggest outlays goes to the Department of Education, the Department of National Defense, and the Department of Public Works and Communications.

August 5.—PRESIDENT Marcos sets into motion a sweeping revamp of the Cabinet, with the acceptance of the resignation of Justice Secretary Jose Yulo and the appointment of Undersecretary Claudio Teehankee as acting Secretary of Justice.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: August 6-14, 1967

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

August 6.—THE President opens the 1967 National Collegiate Athletic Association basketball series, which rolled on to a furious and colorful start at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The President stays on after the opening rites in an effort to help revive national interest in the sport and to “sharpen public awareness of the benenccences and rewards arising from athletics.”

He is accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, and their three children.

In the morning, the President devotes most of his time going on state papers in his private study. He goes over the report of Secretary of Health Paulino Garcia who had investigated alleged irregularities in the last medical board examinations.

He cancels the examinations after confirming from the excerpts of the evidence gathered by Secretary Garcia which showed that there was “conclusive evidence of cheating, and persuasive” evidence of leakage of test questions.

At the same time, the President also orders the deportation of four aliens on the ground that their presence in the Philippines “is a menace to the peace and safety of the community.”

Ordered deported by the President are Alvin J. Smith, a third class US air force airman; Kee Lian Liok of Caloocan city; Ong Chu of Makati, Rizal; and Victor Co of Lucena City. The last three are all Chinese nationals.

In the case of Smith, the President directed his arrest, but orders deferment of his deportation until after he has served his sentence in a criminal case against him. He has been sentenced to serve one year in prison and to pay a fine of P500 with subsidiary imprisonment in case of insolvency for assaulting agents of a person in authority by the Court of first instance of Cavite. The decision is now on appeal with the Court of Appeals.

August 7.—TAKING steps to remedy the shortage of permanent buildings to house government offices, President Marcos instructs the Development Bank of the Philippines to grant loans for the construction of these buildings.

He has apprised all of the government agencies still without permanent offices of these loans and instructed them to avail of this monetary assistance immediately. The offices concerned can amortize the loans, the President states, from the fund appropriated for rentals.

He formalizes the plan for constructing these buildings, with a directive on the loans to the DBP, and a circular to the government offices concerned stating the plan.

At the same time, the President gives strict instructions to the same offices to restrain them from using any sum from the outlays in the general appropriations act for constructing buildings. He issues these orders to encourage the agencies concerned in availing of the loans.

He tells the heads of the offices to move quickly in getting the loans so that the buildings needed will earlier be completed. He adds that this is essential for the government itself, on its own funds, cannot in the near future afford to put up the buildings for its various agencies and instrumentalities.

Many government offices today are merely renting the buildings, or in most cases, the suite of offices, or floors they occupy, in order to have a place for working. Other offices are crowded into the few government buildings available. For lack of funds, the government has not been able to put up its own buildings.

The Chief Executive attends to several conferences on important national issues, some with private groups which call at Malacañang. The President takes advantage of these calls to discuss at length national problems and issues.

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The irregularities of which Carlos was found guilty were committed when he was Acting Secretary of Health from Sept. 5, 1963 to Sept. 18, 1964 and mostly involved emergency procurement of supplies and equipment for the National Orthopedic Hospital.

In the morning before receiving scheduled callers, the President works on state papers in his study.

Then, he holds a series of conferences with, notably, Sen. Arturo Tolentino, Rep. Leonardo Perez, former Rep. and Mrs. Ramon Bagatsing, PAAF president Antonio de las Alas and Dr. Amado Campos, president of the Central Mindanao University.

Dr. Campos tells the President that he is in Manila to follow up a DBP loan earmarked for major projects of the university, such as irrigation facilities and livestock raising, particularly cattle.

A welcome break from routine is the call of the members of the Philippine Shooting Association, led by Gen. Alfredo Santos (ret.), who paid their courtesies on the return of the Philippine shooting team from the first Asian Shooting tournament in Tokyo.

He is enthused about the report of Gen. Santos that the Philippine team finished third in the tournament in a field of ten teams. The team won five gold medals, 12 bronze medals, four master’s badge and three diplomas of merit, the PSA officials informed the President.

Meanwhile, President Marcos authorizes Friendship, Inc., an organization devoted to the moral, educational, social and economic rehabilitation of former prisoners, to conduct an educational, membership and fund campaign from Sept. 1 to Dec. 31, 1967.

The Chief Executive gives the organization the authority to conduct the drive, in line with the administration policy of extending the benefits of social justice to all citizens, including reformed prisoners.

He points out that former prisoners desiring to live an honest life need moral and material support from the more fortunate members of society.

August 11.—PRESIDENT Marcos orders the recall of Assistant Director Emilio M. Asistores of the Civil Aeronautics Administration from Tokyo and the investigation of his unauthorized trip to Japan.

He acts on the memorandum of Assistant Executive Secretary Jose Leido, which described the trip of Asistores as a violation of Section 7 (b) of R.A. No. 1789, or the Reparations Law.

This provision of the law prohibits any official or employee of the government from interceding in the procurement of reparations goods, and/ or services, or in negotiating or concluding reparations contracts with any Japanese nationality or entity.

Leido reports that Asistores left for Japan without authority from Malacañang to make the trip, nor the authority to accept CAA reparations

Asistores requested authorization to travel to Japan for the purpose of supervising the inspection, testing and processing of items covered under Reparations Bid No. 289, consisting of airport lighting facilities.

No authority was given him, but Asistores departed just the same for Tokyo, the Malacañang official reports.

In the morning, the President gives full attention to the unstable peace and order conditions in Pampanga, particularly Angeles City, following two recent killings in the province.

In a conference with Pampanga civilian authorities led by Gov. Francisco Nepomuceno and Philippine Constabulary officials headed by Brig. Gen. Manuel Yan, PC chief, the President discusses the intensification of the anti-crime drive in the region, through closer coordination of civil and military forces engaged in the campaign.

Besides this conference, the President receives several groups of officials, Manila Nacionalista Party loaders, and provincial delegations.

While in the course of work in his study, the President, among others:

1. Approves the National Historical Commissions recommendation to have all historical markers in Pilipino, including the new marker naming the former Nagtahan bridge after Apolinario Mabini.
2. Refers the recommendation of Manila Police Department Chief Ricardo Papa that stiffer penalties be given vandals to his legal advisers for further study.
3. Instructs the Home Financing Commission chief to explore the possibility of including an allocation for housing in the US-RP Investments Guarantee Agreement, by negotiating for the expansion of its scope.

The President, during the day, takes time out to witness with the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, the signing of the agreement with the United States government which channels \$3.5 million from the \$28 million educational fund under the war damage payments to the cultural development fund of the Philippine Cultural Center.

August 12.—PRESIDENT Marcos creates a committee to deal directly with cases of illegal entry of aliens and incursions of foreign vessels into Philippine territorial waters.

He constitutes the committee in order to provide a compact and coordinated body that could speedily dispose of these cases.

The committee will be composed of representatives of the department of foreign affairs, Philippine Constabulary, bureau of immigration, bureau of fisheries, Philippine Navy, Philippine Army and the anti-smuggling action committee, the body is empowered to investigate and dispose of all cases brought before it.

The decisions of the committee in every instance shall be final, unless otherwise directed by higher authority, or as provided by law.

In creating the committee, the President points out that the illegal entry of aliens and the incursions of foreign vessels constituted a threat to our national security.

“Hence, the need,” he states, “for a more sustained and vigorous effort to stop these illegal entry of aliens and incursions of vessels into Philippine territorial waters.”

At the same time, the President imposed rigid curbs on a number of drugs which he defined as habit-forming, by placing them under government control.

The President issues a proclamation to this effect, following a notification from the Secretary General of the United Nations on the decision of the World Health Organization that the drugs specified fall under the rules laid down in the 1931 Convention for drugs.

The strict control imposed by the President is in accordance with the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs Law. Its purpose is to prevent or minimize use of addiction-forming, or addiction-sustaining drugs, and then put more teeth in the drive against drug addiction.

In the afternoon, the President, accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, attends the inauguration of the Nacionalista Party headquarters on España boulevard and Galicia street.

In his brief remarks, the President elaborates on the need for close adherence to the election law, the subject that had occupied him earlier.

He warns against violations of poll laws and regulations, especially overspending by candidates, declaring that any violator would be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

In this connection, he directs Justice Secretary Claudio Teehankee to create a team of investigators and prosecutors to undertake the special task of investigating and prosecuting poll law violations.

August 13.—SPENDING most of his working hours in his study, President Marcos goes over administrative and other state matters needing his urgent attention.

He works from early morning up to late in the evening, with only a brief rest at noon, to clear his desk of state papers, which had piled up during a week. He had to devote most of the time during the last six days to attend to delegations of leaders from the provinces.

It is only towards noon that he came out of his private study to confer with Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, and a group of leaders from La Union.

In his meeting with Commissioner Sy-Changco, the President orders the immediate implementation of the plan to increase the salary of some 400,000 officials and employees of the national government.

Under the plan state employees will received a five percent pay increase in their salary effective July 1, this year.

A lump sum appropriation of ₱45 million has been provided for the salary increases in the budget signed by the President last August 4. The salary adjustments takes effect July 1, 1967.

To hasten implementation of the law, he also directs Commissioner Sy-Changco to waive the requirement that new appointments covering the salary adjustments be first issued before the employees are paid under the adjusted salary scales.

At the same time, the President imposes a fine corresponding to three months salary against the register of deeds of Lanao del Sur and ordered the provincial treasurer of the same province considered retired from the service effective August 4, 1967.

Hadji Urang Naga, the provincial treasurer, was found guilty of charges of gross negligence, incurring unauthorized overdrafts, and misuse of trust funds.

Domingo A. Carillo, the register of deeds, was found negligent in the performance of his duties for his failure to comply with regulations on the safe-keeping of government funds. Besides being fined, Carillo was also reprimanded by the President and warned that a repetition of the offense would be dealt with more severely.

The President also calls on the entire nation to join in the nationwide observance of National Language week.

By virtue of a continuing proclamation, National Language Week is observed from August 13 to 19 every year.

In his message, the President emphasizes that language is not only the soul of a race, but that it also serves as a unifying factor for national solidarity.

“No nation has become great without a language of its own,” the President stresses. “If the Philippines must be great again, we Filipinos should love, cultivate and use our own language.”

August 14.—PRESIDENT Marcos orders Health Secretary Paulino Garcia to immediately investigate the walk-out of interns at the Rizal Provincial Hospital the other day.

The walk-out is reportedly staged by some 55 medical students of the Far Eastern University who are serving their internship at the hospital because of the alleged assault of one of the female interns by a resident physician and the refusal of the hospital director to take action against him.

The female intern was reportedly criminally attacked two weeks ago by the resident physician. She brought the case to the attention of the hospital director, Dr. Glicerio Bustamante, but the latter allegedly refused to take any action against the physician.

At the same time, the President suspends from office First Assistant Provincial Fiscal Carlo Lozada of Surigao del Norte for improper conduct, arising from charges of oppression and harassment. He is suspended for a period of one year, and is sternly warned that repetition of the same offense will be dealt with more severely.

In the suspension order it was pointed out that Lozada filed with the municipal court of Mainit, Surigao del Norte charges against Mrs. Maria M. Sorongon for vote-buying in the 1965 elections.

However, the fiscal himself violated the Revised Election Code which specified that charges arising from election law violations should be filed with the court of first instance, which has exclusive jurisdiction over such cases.

The President also directs the Bureau of Immigration to deport a Chinese national, Chua King, as an undesirable alien, and to ship him out by the first available transportation to China or Formosa.

King violated a condition on which the deportation case filed against him on March 11, 1963 was held in abeyance, which was to report to the National Bureau of Investigation once a month for a period of five years.

He, however, reported to the NBI on April 17, 1963 and monthly thereafter up to Nov. 17, 1965 only. This was in gross violation of the said condition, thus warranting his outright deportation.

In the morning, the President confers with Gov. Feliciano Leviste of Batangas, with whom he discusses the decentralization bill now pending in Congress.

In the course of his work in his study on state papers, the President, among others, starts a major revamp of the Armed Forces of the Philippines high command by terminating the services of eight generals and one colonel, all holding key commands in the AFP.

He decides not to further extend the tours of duty of the nine ranking officers, all of whom are serving past the compulsory retirement period.

The officers to be retired, effective tomorrow, Aug. 15, are Gen. Victor Osias, AFP chief of staff; Commodore Heracleo Alano, flag officer in command of the Philippine Navy; Brig. Gen. Jose Ramos, PAF commanding general; Brig. Gen. Horacio Farolan, PAF vice commander; Brig. Gen. Isauro Sison, I MA commander; Brig. Gen. Reynaldo Mendoza, PMA superintendent; Brig. Gen. Protacio Sotto, surgeon general, V. Luna hospital; Brig. Gen. Salvador Piccio, deputy chief, PC; and Col. Jose N. Valdez, chaplain, Camp Aguinaldo.

The President is now screening a list of officers who are qualified to take over from the group of officers due to be retired tomorrow.

Generals Osias and Farolan were members of the PMA class of 1940, and were due to retire when their services were extended on Sept. 15, 1966; Commodore Alano and Generals Mendoza and Piccio, also belonged to PMA Class '40, and were retirable when their services were extended on June 15, 1966; Gen. Ramos was retirable when his tour of duty was extended on June 22, 1966; Gen. Sotto was also retirable when his service was extended on Aug. 29, 1966; Gen. Sison's service was extended on Sept. 30, 1966; and Col. Valdez, on Oct. 10, 1966.

In the group, only Generals Sison and Sotto are integrees, while Gen Ramos is a graduate of the PAF Flying School, class of 1940.

Source: **National Library of the Philipines**

Official Week in Review: August 6 – August 14, 1967

August 6.—THE President opens the 1967 National Collegiate Athletic Association basketball series, which rolled on to a furious and colorful start at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The President stays on after the opening rites in an effort to help revive national interest in the sport and to “sharpen public awareness of the benences and rewards arising from athletics.”

He is accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, and their three children.

In the morning, the President devotes most of his time going on state papers in his private study. He goes over the report of Secretary of Health Paulino Garcia who had investigated alleged irregularities in the last medical board examinations.

He cancels the examinations after confirming from the excerpts of the evidence gathered by Secretary Garcia which showed that there was “conclusive evidence of cheating, and persuasive” evidence of leakage of test questions.

At the same time, the President also orders the deportation of four aliens on the ground that their presence in the Philippines “is a menace to the peace and safety of the community.”

Ordered deported by the President are Alvin J. Smith, a third class US air force airman; Kee Lian Liok of Caloocan city; Ong Chu of Makati, Rizal; and Victor Co of Lucena City. The last three are all Chinese nationals.

In the case of Smith, the President directed his arrest, but orders deferment of his deportation until after he has served his sentence in a criminal case against him. He has been sentenced to serve one year in prison and to pay a fine of P500 with subsidiary imprisonment in case of insolvency for assaulting agents of a person in authority by the Court of first instance of Cavite. The decision is now on appeal with the Court of Appeals.

August 7.—TAKING steps to remedy the shortage of permanent buildings to house government offices, President Marcos instructs the Development Bank of the Philippines to grant loans for the construction of these buildings.

He has apprised all of the government agencies still without permanent offices of these loans and instructed them to avail of this monetary assistance immediately. The offices concerned can amortize the loans, the President states, from the fund appropriated for rentals.

He formalizes the plan for constructing these buildings, with a directive on the loans to the DBP, and a circular to the government offices concerned stating the plan.

At the same time, the President gives strict instructions to the same offices to restrain them from using any sum from the outlays in the general appropriations act for constructing buildings. He issues these orders to encourage the agencies concerned in availing of the loans.

He tells the heads of the offices to move quickly in getting the loans so that the buildings needed will earlier be completed. He adds that this is essential for the government itself, on its own funds, cannot in the near future afford to put up the buildings for its various agencies and instrumentalities.

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At same time, the President removes Undersecretary for Special Health Services Rodolfo Canos, after finding him guilty of charges of willful neglect of duty, with grave abuse of authority, dishonesty and conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the public services.

He unholds the findings of a presidential investigating committee, which had found the one-time acting secretary of health guilty of all three charges, and subsequently declares him “resigned from the service effective as of the date of his preventive suspension.” Dr. Canos was suspended Nov 29, 1966.

The findings of the probers establish that the former health secretary was culpable for the irregular purchase of non-emergency equipment, preferential treatment of certain dealers, over-pricing of the purchases made, and disregard of proper procedure, when he bypassed the processing units.

The irregularities of which Carlos was found guilty were committed when he was Acting Secretary of Health from Sept. 5, 1963 to Sept. 18, 1964 and mostly involved emergency procurement of supplies and equipment for the National Orthopedic Hospital.

In the morning before receiving scheduled callers, the President works on state papers in his study.

Then, he holds a series of conferences with, notably, Sen. Arturo Tolentino, Rep. Leonardo Perez, former Rep. and Mrs. Ramon Bagatsing, PAAF president Antonio de las Alas and Dr. Amado Campos, president of the Central Mindanao University.

Dr. Campos tells the President that he is in Manila to follow up a DBP loan earmarked for major projects of the university, such as irrigation facilities and livestock raising, particularly cattle.

A welcome break from routine is the call of the members of the Philippine Shooting Association, led by Gen. Alfredo Santos (ret.), who paid their courtesies on the return of the Philippine shooting team from the first Asian Shooting tournament in Tokyo.

He is enthused about the report of Gen. Santos that the Philippine team finished third in the tournament in a field of ten teams. The team won five gold medals, 12 bronze medals, four master’s badge and three diplomas of merit, the PSA officials informed the President.

Meanwhile, President Marcos authorizes Friendship, Inc., an organization devoted to the moral, educational, social and economic rehabilitation of former prisoners, to conduct an educational, membership and fund campaign from Sept. 1 to Dec. 31, 1967.

The Chief Executive gives the organization the authority to conduct the drive, in line with the administration policy of extending the benefits of social justice to all citizens, including reformed prisoners.

He points out that former prisoners desiring to live an honest life need moral and material support from the more fortunate members of society.

August 11.—PRESIDENT Marcos orders the recall of Assistant Director Emilio M. Asistores of the Civil Aeronautics Administration from Tokyo and the investigation of his unauthorized trip to Japan.

He acts on the memorandum of Assistant Executive Secretary Jose Leido, which described the trip of Asistores as a violation of Section 7 (b) of R.A. No. 1789, or the Reparations Law.

This provision of the law prohibits any official or employee of the government from interceding in the procurement of reparations goods, and/ or services, or in negotiating or concluding reparations contracts with any Japanese nationality or entity.

Leido reports that Asistores left for Japan without authority from Malacañang to make the trip, nor the authority to accept CAA reparations

Asistores requested authorization to travel to Japan for the purpose of supervising the inspection, testing and processing of items covered under Reparations Bid No. 289, consisting of airport lighting facilities.

No authority was given him, but Asistores departed just the same for Tokyo, the Malacañang official reports.

In the morning, the President gives full attention to the unstable peace and order conditions in Pampanga, particularly Angeles City, following two recent killings in the province.

In a conference with Pampanga civilian authorities led by Gov. Francisco Nepomuceno and Philippine Constabulary officials headed by Brig. Gen. Manuel Yan, PC chief, the President discusses the intensification of the anti-crime drive in the region, through closer coordination of civil and military forces engaged in the campaign.

Besides this conference, the President receives several groups of officials, Manila Nacionalista Party loaders, and provincial delegations.

While in the course of work in his study, the President, among others:

1. Approves the National Historical Commissions recommendation to have all historical markers in Pilipino, including the new marker naming the former Nagtahan bridge after Apolinario Mabini.
2. Refers the recommendation of Manila Police Department Chief Ricardo Papa that stiller penalties be given vandals to his legal advisers for further study.
3. Instructs the Home Financing Commission chief to explore the possibility of including an allocation for housing in the US-RP Investments Guarantee Agreement, by negotiating for the expansion of its scope.

The President, during the day, takes time out to witness with the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, the signing of the agreement with the United States government which channels \$3.5 million from the \$28 million educational fund under the war damage payments to the cultural development fund of the Philippine Cultural Center.

August 12.—PRESIDENT Marcos creates a committee to deal directly with cases of illegal entry of aliens and incursions of foreign vessels into Philippine territorial waters.

He constitutes the committee in order to provide a compact and coordinated body that could speedily dispose of these cases.

The committee will be composed of representatives of the department of foreign affairs, Philippine Constabulary, bureau of immigration, bureau of fisheries, Philippine Navy, Philippine Army and the anti-smuggling action committee, the body is empowered to investigate and dispose of all cases brought before it.

The decisions of the committee in every instance shall be final, unless otherwise directed by higher authority, or as provided by law.

In creating the committee, the President points out that the illegal entry of aliens and the incursions of foreign vessels constituted a threat to our national security.

“Hence, the need,” he states, “for a more sustained and vigorous effort to stop these illegal entry of aliens and incursions of vessels into Philippine territorial waters.”

At the same time, the President imposed rigid curbs on a number of drugs which he defined as habit-forming, by placing them under government control.

The President issues a proclamation to this effect, following a notification from the Secretary General of the United Nations on the decision of the World Health Organization that the drugs specified fall under the rules laid down in the 1931 Convention for drugs.

The strict control imposed by the President is in accordance with the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs Law. Its purpose is to prevent or minimize use of addiction-forming, or addiction-sustaining drugs, and then put more teeth in the drive against drug addiction.

In the afternoon, the President, accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, attends the inauguration of the Nacionalista Party headquarters on España boulevard and Galicia street.

In his brief remarks, the President elaborates on the need for close adherence to the election law, the subject that had occupied him earlier.

He warns against violations of poll laws and regulations, especially overspending by candidates, declaring that any violator would be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

In this connection, he directs Justice Secretary Claudio Teehankee to create a team of investigators and prosecutors to undertake the special task of investigating and prosecuting poll law violations.

August 13.—SPENDING most of his working hours in his study, President Marcos goes over administrative and other state matters needing his urgent attention.

He works from early morning up to late in the evening, with only a brief rest at noon, to clear his desk of state papers, which had piled up during a week. He had to devote most of the time during the last six days to attend to delegations of leaders from the provinces.

It is only towards noon that he came out of his private study to confer with Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, and a group of leaders from La Union.

In his meeting with Commissioner Sy-Changco, the President orders the immediate implementation of the plan to increase the salary of some 400,000 officials and employees of the national government.

Under the plan state employees will received a five percent pay increase in their salary effective July 1, this year.

A lump sum appropriation of ₱45 million has been provided for the salary increases in the budget signed by the President last August 4. The salary adjustments takes effect July 1, 1967.

To hasten implementation of the law, he also directs Commissioner Sy-Changco to waive the requirement that new appointments covering the salary adjustments be first issued before the employees are paid under the adjusted salary scales.

At the same time, the President imposes a fine corresponding to three months salary against the register of deeds of Lanao del Sur and ordered the provincial treasurer of the same province considered retired from the service effective August 4, 1967.

Hadji Urang Naga, the provincial treasurer, was found guilty of charges of gross negligence, incurring unauthorized overdrafts, and misuse of trust funds.

Domingo A. Carillo, the register of deeds, was found negligent in the performance of his duties for his failure to comply with regulations on the safe-keeping of government funds. Besides being fined, Carillo was also reprimanded by the President and warned that a repetition of the offense would be dealt with more severely.

The President also calls on the entire nation to join in the nationwide observance of National Language week.

By virtue of a continuing proclamation, National Language Week is observed from August 13 to 19 every year.

In his message, the President emphasizes that language is not only the soul of a race, but that it also serves as a unifying factor for national solidarity.

“No nation has become great without a language of its own,” the President stresses. “If the Philippines must be great again, we Filipinos should love, cultivate and use our own language.”

August 14.—PRESIDENT Marcos orders Health Secretary Paulino Garcia to immediately investigate the walk-out of interns at the Rizal Provincial Hospital the other day.

The walk-out is reportedly staged by some 55 medical students of the Far Eastern University who are serving their internship at the hospital because of the alleged assault of one of the female interns by a resident physician and the refusal of the hospital director to take action against him.

The female intern was reportedly criminally attacked two weeks ago by the resident physician. She brought the case to the attention of the hospital director, Dr. Glicerio Bustamante, but the latter allegedly refused to take any action against the physician.

At the same time, the President suspends from office First Assistant Provincial Fiscal Carlo Lozada of Surigao del Norte for improper conduct, arising from charges of oppression and harassment. He is suspended for a period of one year, and is sternly warned that repetition of the same offense will be dealt with more severely.

In the suspension order it was pointed out that Lozada filed with the municipal court of Mainit, Surigao del Norte charges against Mrs. Maria M. Sorongon for vote-buying in the 1965 elections.

However, the fiscal himself violated the Revised Election Code which specified that charges arising from election law violations should be filed with the court of first instance, which has exclusive jurisdiction over such cases.

The President also directs the Bureau of Immigration to deport a Chinese national, Chua King, as an undesirable alien, and to ship him out by the first available transportation to China or Formosa.

King violated a condition on which the deportation case filed against him on March 11, 1963 was held in abeyance, which was to report to the National Bureau of Investigation once a month for a period of five years.

He, however, reported to the NBI on April 17, 1963 and monthly thereafter up to Nov. 17, 1965 only. This was in gross violation of the said condition, thus warranting his outright deportation.

In the morning, the President confers with Gov. Feliciano Leviste of Batangas, with whom he discusses the decentralization bill now pending in Congress.

In the course of his work in his study on state papers, the President, among others, starts a major revamp of the Armed Forces of the Philippines high command by terminating the services of eight generals and one colonel, all holding key commands in the AFP.

He decides not to further extend the tours of duty of the nine ranking officers, all of whom are serving past the compulsory retirement period.

The officers to be retired, effective tomorrow, Aug. 15, are Gen. Victor Osias, AFP chief of staff; Commodore Heracleo Alano, flag officer in command of the Philippine Navy; Brig. Gen. Jose Ramos, PAF commanding

general; Brig. Gen. Horacio Farolan, PAF vice commander; Brig. Gen. Isauro Sison, I MA commander; Brig. Gen. Reynaldo Mendoza, PMA superintendent; Brig. Gen. Protacio Sotto, surgeon general, V. Luna hospital; Brig. Gen. Salvador Piccio, deputy chief, PC; and Col. Jose N. Valdez, chaplain, Camp Aguinaldo.

The President is now screening a list of officers who are qualified to take over from the group of officers due to be retired tomorrow.

Generals Osias and Farolan were members of the PMA class of 1940, and were due to retire when their services were extended on Sept. 15, 1966; Commodore Alano and Generals Mendoza and Piccio, also belonged to PMA Class '40, and were retirable when their services were extended on June 15, 1966; Gen. Ramos was retirable when his tour of duty was extended on June 22, 1966; Gen. Sotto was also retirable when his service was extended on Aug. 29, 1966; Gen. Sison's service was extended on Sept. 30, 1966; and Col. Valdez, on Oct. 10, 1966.

In the group, only Generals Sison and Sotto are integrees, while Gen Ramos is a graduate of the PAF Flying School, class of 1940.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1967). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 63(49), cccxcvii-cdiv.

President's Month in Review: September, 1967

President's Month in Review: October, 1967

President's Month in Review: November, 1967

President's Month in Review: December, 1967

President's Month in Review: January, 1968

President's Month in Review: February, 1968

President's Month in Review: March, 1968

President's Month in Review: April, 1968

President's Month in Review: May, 1968

President's Month in Review: June, 1968

President's Month in Review: July, 1968

President's Month in Review: August 1-29, 1968

President's Week in Review: August 30 - September 7, 1968

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

August 30

PRESIDENT Marcos managed his official time to accommodate conferences, callers, and necessary paper work, in the process dealing with anti-crime drive problems, a report by seismology experts on the recent earthquakes here, Philcomsat matters and economic concerns.

In a conference with seismology experts, the President took occasion to allay the fears of the public about an alleged impending major quake, which nine misguided seer had foisted on the people. He relayed the opinion of experts that no earthquake can be scientifically predicted.

Among the experts who saw him were Dr. S. Omote of the UNESCO and Director Roman Kintanar of the Weather Bureau.

Government officials who met with the President included Senator Leonardo Perez. Labor Secretary Blas F. Ople, Rep. Marcelino Veloso, House Majority Floor Leader; Acting Secretary of Education O. D. Corpuz, Undersecretary of Transportation and Communications Manuel B. Syquio and Undersecretary of Defense for Munitions Manuel Q. Salientes.

The President discussed with Secretary Corpuz the necessity of encouraging engineering schools in putting up courses on earthquake engineering.

Secretary Syquio consulted the President on the problems of the Philcomsat station, while Secretary Salientes accompanied William, Goldbach, William Pickering and E. Zehner, all officials of the Colt Industries Manufacturing, who paid a courtesy call on the Chief Executive.

Meanwhile, the President directed Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco to release P500,000 to the Weather Bureau to support its project designed to zone the country according to particular areas' sensitivity to earthquakes.

Among other actions, the President:

1. Enunciated a new government policy in the handling of Muslim pilgrimages to Mecca.

The new policy requires that only one ship and one aircraft be chartered, that the port of embarkation should be Manila, and that pilgrimage funds be properly audited prior to the pilgrim's departure,

2. Directed Brig. Gen. Vicente Raval, PC chief, to prosecute a group of PC men who were reported to have extorted money from Chinese businessmen while allegedly on a special mission in Nueva Ecija.

3. Directed Chairman Crispino de Castro of the Police Commission to take administrative and criminal action against policeman Moises Platon of Makati, Rizal for having shot and killed one Francisco Mateo; policeman Marcelino Santiago of Malolos, Bulacan for having shot a detainee, and a policeman of Navotas, Rizal for having shot Venancio Olanda.

In the evening, the President was guest speaker at the induction ceremonies of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce held at the Manila Hotel.

August 31

PRESIDENT Marcos kept pace with engagements that for a weekend was full, apart from his usual heavy paper work which he reserves for Saturday and Sunday.

He presided at the signing of the contracts for the establishment of rural electrification pilot projects at two points of the country, in Negros Occidental and Misamis Oriental, which non-profit and non-stock cooperatives will implement.

The pioneering projects, patterned after the non-profit power cooperative, which electrified 98 per cent of the rural United States, will be set up with the aid of the U. S. Agency for International Development. Then the Chief Executive officiated at the oath-taking of the officials of the newly chartered Bais City in Negros Oriental. Reenactment of the signing of the bill making Bais a city was witnessed by Sen. Lorenzo Teves, Gov. Mariano Perdices and officials of the new city headed by Mayor Genaro Goñi.

The President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, honored at luncheon at Malacañang Minister of Economic Affairs Li Kwoh-ling of the Republic of China, who had come to Manila to receive the 1968 Ramon Magsaysay Award for good government.

Present at the luncheon were Chinese Ambassador Han Lih-wu, members of the Cabinet headed by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Narciso Ramos, and prominent members of the Chinese community in Manila.

In the afternoon, the First couple motored to Makati, Rizal where they were guests at cocktails given by the *Philippines Free Press* in celebration of the magazine's 60th anniversary.

In the evening, the President was the special guest at the annual reunion of Pangasinenses, where he spoke of the administration's efforts to hasten social and economic change in order to broaden the base of Philippine democracy.

September 1

PRESIDENT Marcos declared that the additional taxes sought in the administration's tax program were the Nation's 'investment in progress.'

The Chief Executive made this point clear in discussing national issues at his weekly "Pakinggan ang Pangulo" radio-television chat.

Explaining the relationship of tax bills and prices, the President said: "Taxation is one of the ways of dampening inflationary pressures (for) when you tax, you remove from the hands of the demand sector, meaning the buying sector, the money that exerts pressure on the prices."

He conceded there might be an increase in prices as a result of the increase in cost at the outset, such as that expected of the increased taxes on petroleum products.

However, he said, prices will settle at reasonable levels after some time.

September 2

PRESIDENT Marcos made a quick trip by air through the flood-ravaged provinces of Central Luzon, to assess for himself the extent of damage and destruction from the recent typhoon. "

Earlier in the day, the President followed his usual schedule of conferences receiving visitors, and desk work, meeting among others Philippine Air Lines.

The Philippine Soft Ball delegation, headed by Alfredo Andal and Jose Valle, availed on the President to bid farewell prior to their departure for Mexico, where the team will compete in the World Olympics. They were accompanied by PAAF President Felipe Monserrat, Jr. who is also president of the Philippine Olympic Committee.

In the afternoon, the President inducted Gaudencio Santos as port manager of San Fernando, La Union. Santos was formerly assistant civil engineer, and has been in the public works bureau for the last 34 years. Among other actions, the Chief Executive:

1. Issued a proclamation extending the first educational and fund campaign of the Moral Re-Armament Foundation of the Philippines to November 30 this year.

2. Signed the designations of:

- (a) Undersecretary Petra de Joya as acting secretary of the department of Social Service, in the absence of Secretary Gregorio Feliciano who is on an official mission abroad.

- (b) DBP Chairman Gregorio Licaros as acting chairman of the National Economic Council, in the absence of Secretary of Finance Eduardo Romualdez, acting NEC chairman.

- (c) Luis Tirso Revilla and Jose Moras as members of the board of director of the Philippine Sugar Institute.

- (d) Rodrigo Amistoso as acting provincial treasurer of Iloilo.

Meanwhile, the President also extended *ad interim* appointments to Manuel Agudo as chairman of the Civil Service Board of Appeals, and to Josias Guinto as member of the same board.

Agudo's elevation to chairman is a promotion. He was a member of the same board, a post which Guinto will fill.

Earlier today the President proclaimed two special holidays: September 5, in General Santos City; and September 9, in Cebu province and the cities of Cebu, Danao, Lapu-Lapu and Toledo.

September 5 marks the inauguration of the new City, while September 9 was the birthday of the late President Sergio Osmeña.

September 4

PRESIDENT Marcos concentrated on desk work, pausing only to induct live district judges confirmed by the Commission on Appointments.

Among others, the Chief Executive:

1. Ordered the immediate implementation of the program of seminars for local government officials, to acquaint them better with the dynamics development programs.

2. Directed that illegal dikes and fishponds in the communal fishing grounds of Bulacan be demolished, except those covered by injunctions.

3. Instructed the bureau of telecommunications to set up an effective teletype network for the Metrocom, which will link its headquarters with all local police stations and key national government agencies concerned with the anti-crime drive.

4. Asked the Philippine Committee on Space Research to direct and coordinate all space programs and activities.

5. Directed the defense department to declassify photogrammetric materials for the use of provincial and other local governments in tax mapping and land reassessment.

6. Proclaimed Sept. 15-21 as Savings and Home Loan Week; Oct. 17 as Credit Union Day; and Sept. 16 as Law Day.

At about noon, the President inducted five more district judges at a ceremony in his study room attended by the now judges' kin and close friends, as well as a group of government, officials.

Those inducted were Judges Elviro Peralta, Victorino Savellano, Jose Ratnolete, Alfredo Laya and Otilio Abaya.

In the afternoon, the President wired Secretary of Social Welfare Gregorio Feliciano to congratulate him for his unanimous election as president of the 90-Nation U. N. International Conference of Ministers responsible for social welfare.

Later in the evening, the President closeted himself and work on state papers.

September 5

PRESIDENT Marcos and a small party which accompanied him from Manila touched down at General Santos City's airfield at about 10 a.m. this morning. A large crowd gave him a warm welcome, and followed the presidential party into the city proper, where the President's first stop was at the city church where *Te Deum* was said in his behalf.

He then attended a public rally in connection with the inaugural rites, where he was the guest of honor and principal speaker. In his speech he underscored the spirit of integration which, he said, would bring the cultural minorities into the national mainstream and make for a unified Filipino people, so necessary to rapid development of the country.

He also announced during the speech several measures taken to bring Muslims closer to the government, and the release of outlays for important infrastructure and other public works projects.

Later, the Chief Executive conferred with army area commanders and PC zone and provincial commanders on the peace and order situation. Apart from a survey of development projects and attending the inauguration, the President also surveyed the peace and order situation in Cotabato province and other areas.

The President made a sidetrip to the Dole Philippines plantation to take a look at its facilities.

September 6

ARRIVING in Surigao del Norte from South Cotabato where he inaugurated the new City of General Santos, the President announced the availability to the masses of medicines worth P15 million to meet the flu epidemic and other common diseases.

The medicines will be distributed to the various health centers and rural health units throughout the country for free distribution.

The President has been giving emphasis to the rural health aspect of the medical program to cut down on deaths due to lack of medical assistance in the rural areas.

Earlier in the morning, before he left Cotabato, he visited the Bilaan tribe on Mount Matutum.

The Chief Executive arrived in Surigao del Norte at noon after hearing *Te Deum* at the local parish church, he inaugurated the new science building of the Saint Nicholas College which is operated by Dutch missionaries.

At 3 p.m., the President opened the athletic competition, and later inaugurated the Pacific Cement company, Inc.

Meanwhile, the President ordered the suspension of the eviction of squatters at the Buhangin area, a portion of the Yutivo property in Davao as he requested Sen. Alejandro Almendras and Brig. Gen. Vicente Raval, PC chief, to proceed to the locality and look into their problems.

In the evening, the Chief Executive met aboard the Philippine Navy ship. EPS 777 PC provincial commanders and chiefs of police of Mindanao as he directed Col. Paulino Sanchez, IV PC zone commander, to submit plans of action for a concerted peace and order drive in the region. The President asked the provincial commanders, after a two-hour conference, to return to their respective posts and to meet: with and ask political, civic and religious leaders to cooperate, especially in the campaign against loose firearms.

Among those who conferred with the President aboard RPS 777, aside from Mindanao PC provincial commanders, were Chiefs of Police Lamatao Sali of Marawi City, Cesar Neri of Cagayan de Oro City, and Angel Mallorga, Jr, of Butuan City.

Also in attendance were Gov. Jose Sering of Surigao del Norte. Rep. Constantino Navarro, chairman of the House committee on national defense: and Rep. Gregorio Murillo of Surigao del Sur.

September 7

PRESIDENT Marcos departed by plane from Surigao at about 9 a.m., flying straight to Dumaguete City where he inaugurated the new provincial airport and the new City of Bais.

He arrived at the new airport where a big crowd headed by Gov. Mariano Perdices and Sen. Lorenzo Teves await him.

After the inaugural rites, the President motored to Bais City, 44 kilometers away, for the inauguration and induction of the new officials of Bais.

In his speech, the Chief Executive called for national unity in the pursuit of national development tasks, emphasizing that divisive politics or any other acts which will destroy national harmony and unity are inimical to the nation's interest.

Afterwards, the President visited the Bais Sugar Central where he had lunch. Hosts were officials of the Central, with Col. Salvador Villa chairman of the Philippine National Railways, acting as principal host.

Shortly after lunch and a bit of rest, the President enplaned for Manila arriving at Malacañang about half past 5 o'clock in the afternoon. Early in the evening, the President directed Justice Secretary Claudio Teehankee to suspend the sheriff of South Cotabato and file administrative charges against him for abuse of authority and oppression.

In addition, the Chief Executive ordered Undersecretary of Agriculture Isosceles Pascual to suspend the issuance of any titles to the lands now occupied by the original settlers in Maitum, South Cotabato, even if said titles have already been signed.

In a third order, the President instructed the PC provincial commander in that province to eject any representative of Fleischer and Company now occupying the disputed lands, and investigate the killing of the head of the firm

Tin; President's order were issued upon representation of the settlers of Maitum who allowed that they have been oppressed and evicted outright from their lands by Fleischer and Co. with the help of the sheriff and certain other entities.

In another move for the increase and promotion of the country's export trade, the President in an executive order promulgated now and simplified export procedures of government commodity agencies, with the elimination of much paper work.

Source: **National Library**

President's Week in Review: September 8-14, 1968

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

September 8

PRESIDENT Marcos focused his attention on labor problems, holding a series of meetings with Department of Labor officials, leaders of the Social Security System labor union, and the management of the National Power Corporation.

The Chief Executive conferred shortly before noon with Acting Secretary of Labor S. Tomas dela Cruz, who briefed him on developments in the labor front.

Early in the evening, the President met the leaders of the striking labor union of the SSS, and later with the officials of the National Power Corporation, headed by Chairman Canuto Enerio and General Manager Ramon Ravanzo.

The President advised the SSS employees association leaders to further consider compliance with the return-to-work order of the Court of Industrial Relations.

Before meeting the SSS labor union leaders, the President met Director Reginaldo Pascual and a delegation of doctors and nurses from the Philippine General Hospital, with whom he discussed the problem of the government hospital.

The Chief Executive ordered the immediate release of P3 million to the PGH to meet its most urgent problems. He also directed a management audit of the administrative, medical and nursing staffs of the hospital with the view to improving efficiency.

In the evening, the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, and their children—Imee, Bongbong and Irene—heard Mass at the Malacañang chapel.

September 9

PRESIDENT Marcos had a full schedule of visitors, including diplomats, businessmen, and officials while attending in-between to state papers and other urgent official business.

Topping his schedule of activities was the presentation of credentials by Federico Barrera as new Mexican ambassador to the Philippines.

Earlier in the morning the President directed the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources to reconsider the case involving a land dispute between settlers in M'lang, Cotabato and a plantation firm there.

In instructions to Undersecretaries Dioscoro Umali and Isosceles Pascual, the President asked that a decision on the case be held in abeyance and that if any titles on the disputed lands had been issued, to recall the titles immediately.

In another directive the President ordered Brig. Gen. Vicente Raval, PC chief- and Forestry Director Teofilo Santos to suspend and investigate all the officers and men under them identified as having demolished the houses and destroyed the fields of small settlers in a timber concession in Davao del Norte.

He asked both Gen. Raval and Director Santos to implement the order immediately and to report on the action taken within 15 days.

Other presidential directives on agriculture included:

1. Instructions to the Development Bank of the Philippines to continue to extend loans to small farmers for the purchase of needed agricultural equipment, such as small tractors and hand tillers.

The DBP had earlier suspended all loans to farmers, including small farmers. The President specified that the loans for small machinery are to be exceptions.

2. Instructions to the Presidential Economic Staff to call a public bidding for supplying 10,000 head of cattle to Operations Cattle Dispersal.

Later the President approved the trip to Soviet Russia of two officials awarded a fellowship by the Food and Agriculture Organization to make a study of livestock industries and livestock products statistics in that country.

Cleared for travel to the USSR are Dr. Severino Recto of the Bureau of Animal Industry and Dr. Mamerto Mamasco of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Their trip was approved upon the recommendation of Secretary of Foreign Affairs Narciso Ramos who underscored the “intrinsic merits” of the two cases.

The Chief Executive also approved the composition of the Philippine delegation to the ASEAN conference set for September 23-28 in Manila. The delegation will be headed by Secretary of Commerce and Industry Marcelo Balatbat, with the following as members: Juan Araneta of the National Export Coordinating Center, vice-chairman; Wilfredo Vega of the Department of Foreign Affairs; Mrs. Rosario Malao of the ASEAN secretariat in the Philippines; Dr. Urbano Zafra, executive director of the DCI technical staff; Razon Haresco, Tariff Commission member; Guillermo Soliven of the Central Bank; Constancio Ancheta of the NEC; Rafael Zulueta of the Presidential Economic Staff; Teofisto Guingona, Jr., president of the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines; Federico Borromeo, president of the Philippine Chamber of Industries; Gaudencio Mahalac of the Philippine Chamber of Wood Industries; and Francisco Ortigas.

Forming an advisory group to the delegation are Voltaire Andres, Jose Zarate, Edsel Custodio and Tahir Amilhamja, all foreign trade promotion attaches in the Philippine embassies in Djakarta, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, respectively.

In the evening the President approved the promotional appointments to colonel and navy captain of 73 officers in the various branches of the Armed Forces, as well as the promotion of 79 company-grade officers of the Philippine Air Force, five officers in the Bureau of Coast and Geodetic Survey.

The President then received the Far East participants in the 63rd Trade Mission of the International House, who paid their respects, and Secretary of Foreign Affairs Narciso Ramos, who came with Japanese Ambassador Takeshi Yasukawa and Gregorio Abad, chairman of the Reparations Commission.

Earlier on the day the President met with Governor Isidro Rodriguez and some municipal mayors of Rizal on problems of their constituencies.

September 10

ON THE EVE of his birthday, President Marcos carried on official business as usual, broken only by special engagements, including the loyalty pledge rites by the Armed Forces, the inauguration of the Rural Development and Research Center at Camp Aguinaldo, and the turnover of a village for orphans to the government.

While at work in his study room, the President ordered an inquiry into a third land dispute in Mindanao, involving 150 settler families evicted from their lands; directed that a 200-hectare reservation be given to Manobos in Agusan, and extended clemency to more than 160 prisoners, among them Rafael Lacson, former governor of Negros Occidental; and Hadji Kamlon, Luis Taruc, former Huk supremo, was granted conditional pardon.

The President, accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, was honored at a loyalty parade and review by the Armed Forces of the Philippines at Camp Aguinaldo in the morning.

The traditional pledge of loyalty by the AFP was interpreted by the Chief Executive as symbolic of the AFP's involvement in national development and progress.

Following the loyalty parade, the President inducted into office 73 new army colonels, whom he had extended ad interim promotions.

President and Mrs. Marcos then officiated at the formal inauguration of the Rural Development and Research Center at the Infrastructure Operations Center in Camp Aguinaldo. The Center will open its facilities to local government executives in coordinating their economic development programs with national government plans, by gleaming from the Center all the economic facts and data they need.

Former Leyte Gov. Norberto Romualdez, Jr., coordinator and action officer of the Presidential Advisory Council for Public Works and Community Development, turned over the research center to the President.

From Camp Aguinaldo, the President and the First Lady motored to the Civil Aeronautics Administration compound where the First Lady turned over to the government the newly completed "Nayon ng Kabataan", a 14-cottage orphanage built by the Volunteer Ladies Committee under Mrs. Marcos' integrated social welfare program.

Among those present at the ceremonies were former President and Mrs. Carlos P. Garcia, Mayors Jovito Claudio of Pasay City and Florencio Bernabe of Parañaque, Rizal, Gov. Isidro Rodriguez and members of the Volunteer Ladies Committee and their wards.

Back at Malacañang at well past noon, the President received Eugene Black, president of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, who paid him a courtesy call. Black was accompanied by U.S. Ambassador G. Mennen Williams.

In the afternoon, the President worked on state papers.

September 11

PRESIDENT Marcos observed his birthday simply, highlighted only by the "open house" at Malacañang which saw an estimated throng of 50,000 people, coming from all walks of life, converging at the Palace to greet the Number One Citizen of the Republic.

With the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, beside him, and their three children—Imee, Ferdinand Jr., and Irene—assisting, the President stood for three hours at the Malacañang south hall shaking hands with well-wishers, ranging from laborers to ranking government officials. It was past 11 a.m. when the President ended the "open house" to meet other well-wishers, notably the members of the diplomatic corps. The foreign ambassadors offered a toast to the President, which prayed for his continued good health and success.

Leading the President's well-wishers were Senate President and Mrs. Gil J Puyat, former President and Mrs. Carlos P. Garcia, Chief Justice Roberto Concepcion of the Supreme Court, and Mrs. Josefa Edralin-Marcos, mother of the President.

At about 11:30 a.m., the President and his family heard Mass, celebrated by Fr. Horacio de la Costa, at the Malacañang ceremonial hall. Guests, including diplomats, high government officials, close kin and friends of the First Family attended the Mass.

After the Mass, the First Family joined guests at luncheon hold at the Heroes' Hall. The luncheon was followed by a program in which members of the Cabinet, Congress and Armed Forces generals participated.

Imee and Bongbong acted as masters of ceremonies.

Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas closed the program by gathering the Cabinet secretaries and singing "Happy Birthday" Justice Secretary Claudio Teehankee led the chorus.

The Chief Executive at 1:30 p.m. met with representatives of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office management and employees union, in an effort to settle the strike at the PCSO. Immediately after, the striking employees returned to work.

Those who conferred with the President were Chairman Manuel Barrel to. Jr., General Manager Nereo Andolong, and Manuel L. Venus, president of the PCSO employees union.

The leaders of the striking employees were accompanied to Malacañang by Acting Secretary of Labor S. Tomas de la Cruz and Director of Labor Relations Amado Inciong.

Early in the evening the Chief Executive directed PARGO Secretary Ramon D. Bagatsing to initiate immediately administrative action against those apprehended misusing government vehicles.

The Campaign against misuse of government vehicles is being pursued vigorously by the PARGO in compliance with the President's directive issued last year.

September 12

PRESIDENT Marcos had small and big conferences on a variety of subjects, including labor problems, agriculture, legislation, land reform, and urgent state matters.

Among other reports he received and studied was that of Undersecretary of Justice Felix Makasiar, who submitted his findings on the case of prisoner Cesar Guy, whose trip to Palawan on special assignment turned out to be full of violations of prison rules.

The President also received a report on the completion of the two vessels converted from LCMs to floating clinics, to serve communities in remote areas, especially those of Mindanao and Sulu.

Among his visitors were Dean Jeremias Montemayor, president of the Federation of Free Farmers of the Philippines, who discussed problems affecting farmers and the administration's land reform program and delegation from Laguna headed by Mayor Rufo Borja of Sta. Cruz, and including Sen. Wenceslao R. Lagumbay and Jose Yulo. Jr

Another group of officials who called was composed of Northern Luzon leaders led by Gov. Jovenal Guerrero of La Union, Ben Palispis of Benguet and Chairman. Joaquin Ortega of the San Fernando Port Authority

Other callers included Reps. Aguedo Agbayani of Pangasinan, Jose Aquino of Agusan, William Chiongbian of Misamis Occidental and Andres Cosalan of Mt. Province.

In another meeting, the Chief Executive discussed with Chairman Ramon Encarnacion and acting Manager Federico Moreno of the Philippine Virginia Tobacco Administration some problems affecting the tobacco agency. In the afternoon, the President met with top Department of Labor officials headed by Secretary Blas F. Ople, who reported on the status of labor disputes in government corporations.

The labor officials reported that thus far three labor disputes have been settled and three are under negotiations with bright prospect of early settlement.

Only the strike at the SSS remained unsettled. The President asked Secretary Ople and other labor officials to undertake new efforts to resolve the dispute.

Later, while at work on state papers, the President designated David Eusebio as acting assistant director of the Bureau of Lands.

The Chief Executive also received a delegation from Laguna. The group was accompanied by Sen. Wenceslao R. Lagumbay, Gov. Felicisimo San Luis, Mayor Vicente Pahotan of Victoria and former Rep. Jacobo Gonzales, and including some 50 landowners in that province's first congressional district.

The landowners sought postponement of the projected proclamation of the first district as a land reform area, to afford them, more time to get together with their tenants and explore the ways of avoiding unnecessary friction in the implementation of the land reform program. Some 12,000 hectares will be affected.

Among others in the group were Mayors Mauro Alimagno of Cabuyao, Benjamin Real of Sta. Maria, Jeremias Elocro of Pila, Lorenzo Meneses, Jr. of Los Baños, Jose Amante of San Pedro and Angel Tiongco of Sta. Rosa.

September 13

PRESIDENT Marcos concentrated on paper work at his private study, receiving only a few callers, mostly government officials.

Among others, he continued to issue directives on necessary steps to break up land-grabbing and other abuses in Mindanao and other areas by timber firms, or other parties, with minority groups and settlers usually the victims. The Chief Executive, in a series of directives to National Integration Commissioner Mamintal Tamaho, Forestry Director Teofilo Santos and the PC provincial commanders of Agusan, Misamis Oriental and Bukidnon, ordered that stern steps be taken against lumber concessionaires who have usurped the lands of cultural minority groups, and if necessary to cancel the timber licenses of erring concessionaires.

The President also went over reports from various officials, including that of Dr. Juan Salcedo, chairman of the National Science Development Board, on the results of the UNESCO conference on the application of science and technology to developing countries in Asia.

The report cited the fact that the Philippines won a special distinction by having two of the members of its delegation chosen as members of two of three commissions created by the convention. Dr. Salcedo was elected chairman of the commission on national science policy and Dr. Alejandro R. Roces as vice chairman of the commission on science education.

Another report detailed the break-up of a racket in La Union whereby FACOMA tobacco or tobacco belonging to certain entities are re-baled and shipped out by a Chinese operator, to be resold to other redrying firms. The brains behind the operation, identified as Chan Tiam, was ordered deported by the President. He likewise directed the filing of criminal charges against others involved, and the elevation in rank by one grade of members of the PC team responsible for breaking up the racket.

In the afternoon, the President directed Secretary of Finance Eduarda Z. Romualdez to release P1.5 million to the Manila city government to bail it out of its present financial difficulties and ensure payment of salaries of some 24,000 city hall employees.

The President instructed Secretary Romualdez to release the funds immediately, notwithstanding the pendency of the ascertainment of the amount due the city government from the national government.

Early in the evening, the Chief Executive commended Col. Roy Bass of the JUSMAG for his special efforts in the development of the Armed Forces, especially the Philippine Constabulary command.

September 14

PRESIDENT Marcos motored to Laguna at mid-morning to proclaim the first district of that province, consisting of 12 towns, a land reform area. The ceremonies took place at the Los Baños college campus of the U. P. College of agriculture.

The Chief Executive stressed that the proclamation did not close the door on any arrangements between landowners and tenants for a better relationship; and that it was taken at this time in order to give the Land Authority the opportunity to publicize the proclamation in accordance with law.

From Los Baños, the President visited the resettlement areas for urban squatter families at San Pedro Tunasan, where he surveyed the facilities so far built or provided. He assured the people in the settlement that in time the place will have all the conveniences of a regular community.

Back in Malacañang at about 4:00 p.m., the President joined a group of young boys and girls, who had come to Malacañang for the birthday party of Bongbong (Ferdinand Jr), who turned 11.

Later, he conferred with Governor Alfonso Calalang and Deputy Governor Amado Briñas of the Central Bank, who reported on steps that have taken to help private commercial banks in the face of mass withdrawals by depositors.

He was assured by the two officials that the Central Bank is ready to back up these banks. He then issued an appeal counseling depositors in private commercial banks against rush withdrawals of their deposits.

At 6 p.m. the President motored to the Rizal Memorial Stadium where he was guest of honor at the opening of the Cycling benefit finals.

In the evening, the Chief Executive received a cablegram from Ambassador Salvador P. Lopez, permanent Philippine representative to the United Nations, who reported on the recommendations adopted by the international conference of ministers responsible for social welfare, and presided by Social Welfare Secretary Gregorio Feliciano of the Philippines. The recommendations will be presented to the forthcoming resumed session of the ECOSOC and the General Assembly sessions, as well as to the Commission for Social Development.

Source: **National Library**

President's Week in Review: September 15-19, 1968

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

September 15

PRESIDENT Marcos called on the reserve officers of the AFP to take active part in the prosecution of government campaigns, such as the drive against criminality, by serving as effective liaison groups between the civilian and military forces.

The Chief Executive was guest speaker at the 30th anniversary and 29th annual convention of the Reserve Officers Legion of the Philippines at Camp Aguinaldo. He said the on-going government efforts to control criminality and to hasten the developments of the country needed the total involvement of all sectors of the community.

In one of the directives issued in the morning, the President instructed Acting Secretary of Finance Juan Ponce Enrile to ascertain, and settle as soon as possible, claims of the City of Manila against the national government.

At the same time, the Chief Executive required Hermogenes Diego, city treasurer of Manila, to inform him if the funds earlier released to the city government would be enough for the salaries of Manila employees for the week ending September 15. The President ordered the release of P1.5 million upon learning that employees of the city government did not receive their salaries last Friday.

Earlier in the day, the President ordered the Monetary Board to extend all possible assistance to the banks hit by the rash of withdrawals.

"It is my hope that we will not panic on this matter," the Chief Executive said, pursuing his appeal for sobriety, "There is no need to worry or to fear that you will lose your funds. The Central Bank has stated that it will back to the limits of the law the operations of these banks, which are now adequately supported, and are operating within the rules and regulations," he added.

In the evening, the President called on the private sector of the local industry to join the government in its effort to implement a positive and vigorous science program designed to provide intensive training for scientists and technologists and to awaken greater science-consciousness among Filipinos.

Discussing the administration's science program in his weekly *Pakinggan ang Pangulo* program, the Chief Executive said that science and technology constituted an "indispensable ingredient" of the country's development program.

The President said that the historic breakthrough achieved by the Philippines in its rice production program, demonstrated the importance of science to the nation's development effort.

September 16

PRESIDENT Marcos inducted three ranking justices, conferred on urgent national problems with the officials concerned, and adhered to a close schedule of desk work and visitors.

In the afternoon, he had a pleasant visit with young volunteers in development work, who came to convey their belated birthday greetings.

The volunteers, members of the Civic Action Corps of the Philippines, pledged support for the President's development efforts to ensure economic security for the country.

Among other official actions, the Chief Executive issued a new M-I of policies to correct certain deficiencies in the handling of army reservists and in the assignment, retirement and separation of officers.

Early callers included Luis Taruc, one time Huk supremo, who came with his mother, Mrs. Roberto M. Taruc, to thank the President for the pardon given the celebrated socialist. Taruc pledged to dedicate the rest of his life to helping rural folk improve the quality of their lives.

Also received by the President was Manuel Elizalde, Jr., presidential assistant on national minorities, and Mamintal Tamano, commissioner on national integration, both of whom conferred with the President on measures to broaden and accelerate the improvement of the lot of the nation's cultural minorities.

Between callers, the President found time to induct at sperate rites, three new justices, namely:

1. Presiding Justice Francisco Capistrano of the Court of Appeals as associate justice of the Supreme Court;
2. Associate Justice Julio Villamor as presiding justice of the Court of Appeals, vice Capistrano; and,
3. Judge Cecilia Muñoz Palma as associate justice of the Court of Appeals, vice Villamor.

Among other callers were Rep. Nicanor Yñiguez of Southern Leyte, Minister Jose de Venecia, and Governor Alfonso Calalang of the Central Bank.

Early in the evening, the President approved the establishment of a Philippine diplomatic mission in Colombia upon the recommendation of Secretary of Foreign Affairs Narciso Ramos.

The Philippine ambassador to Mexico will head the mission as a nonresident envoy.

The Chief Executive, upon the request of Tarlac Governor Eduardo Cojuangco and Mayor Venustiano Martinez of La Paz, proclaimed Tuesday, September 17, a special public holiday in Tarlac in commemoration of the birth anniversary of General Francisco Macabulos.

General Macabulos was one of the outstanding Filipino generals in the revolutionary wars against Spain and the United States.

The President also asked Civil Service Commissioner Abelardo Subido to approve as soon as possible" the appointment of State Prosecutor Francisco A. Villa as chief of police of Pasay City to enable the city government to start its long-delayed revamp of the city's police department and thus mate it a more effective force in the administration's anti-crime drive.

Villa has been strongly recommended by the Pasig Citizens League for Good Government, the Pasay City Council and City Mayor Jovito Claudio.

September 17

PRESIDENT Marcos received the credentials of a new ambassador, conferred a medal on the most outstanding rural physician, received an international labor executive, and as usual did his paper work and received a variety of callers.

In a ceremony this morning, the Chief Executive received the credentials of Ambassador Patrick Pichi Sun, the new Chinese envoy to the Philippines. Present at the ceremonies were members of the Cabinet.

Later, the President, assisted by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, conferred the Presidential Merit Medal on Dr. Altagracia Villaflor, municipal health officer of Matalom, Leyte, as the Most Outstanding Rural Health Physician of 1967. She is the first awardee in this field.

A group of police chiefs, all members of METROPOL, called on the President to hand in a resolution asking for immediate implementation of an agreement with METROCOM on the augmentation of police manpower, communications and transportation facilities. During the call, the Chief Executive scheduled a meeting with the police chiefs, the Polcom, Department of National Defense officials, METROCOM officers and suburban mayors for September 20.

Notable among other visitors was David Morse, director general of the International Labor Organization, who is here to help in the establishment of an Asian Labor Center in Manila. He was accompanied by Secretary of Labor Blas F. Ople.

Two groups also called, one from the Bicol region led by Sen. Dominador Aytona; and the other composed of settlers in Davao City whose lands have been usurped by a corporation. The latter was accompanied by Sen. Alejandro Almendras.

The Chief Executive ordered a probe of the case, with an eye to nullifying the title acquired by the corporation, if as alleged it was obtained through fraudulent means.

Among other actions, the President ordered the close adherence of the Armed Forces to Republic Act No. 2334 which provides for the rotation of reserve officers in the active service.

Meanwhile, the President commended the Bureau of Customs which reported that in the first dozen days of September, the customs service collected a record P31,904,835.01, which is P9,336,747.13 over the collection for the same period last year.

He also received pledges of support for his stand on the SSS labor dispute from various national labor unions in the country. The President has followed a strictly "hands off" policy in the dispute, saying that the Court of Industrial Relations has already acted on the dispute and that at this stage it is now a matter for the courts.

September 18

THE PRESIDENT discussed with the Foreign Policy Council at a conference held at the state dining hall of Malacañang from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Senate Bill No. 954, amending Section 1 of Republic Act No. 346, entitled "An Act to define the baselines of the territorial sea of the Philippines." (*See* page 10291, October 7, 1968 issue, for the text of the President's letter of instruction to Sec. Ramos.

This conference culminated with the President's signing of the bill later in the afternoon, during which he emphasized there is no implication in the new law of a Philippine annexation of Sabah, nor of any over threat of force in the settlement of the claim on that piece of land.

The conference and signing of the bill highlighted a day which ran smoothly according to the regular presidential schedule of visitors, conference and desk work.

Among those present at the conference were Secretary of Foreign Affairs Narciso Ramos and Undersecretaries Jose D. Ingles and Manuel Collantes;

Justice Secretary Claudio Teehankee, Senate President Protempore Jose Roy, Also present were Press Secretary Jose D. Aspiras, Presidential Exe-Senate Majority Floor Leader Arturo M Tolentino, Speaker Protempore Jose Aldeguer, Rep. Ramon Mitra, Jr., Rep. Carmelo Barbero, Secretary Cesar Virata, and Ambassador Romeo Busuego.

Also present were Press Secretary Jose D. Aspiras, Presidential Executive Assistant Jaime N. Ferrer, Undersecretary of Defense Alejandro Melchor, Jr., who represented Secretary Ernesto Mata, Assistant Press Secretary Jacobo C. Clave and Commodore Ismael Lomibao, flag officer in command of the Philippine Navy.

Just before meeting the Foreign Policy Council, the President received Ambassador John Mansfield Addis of the United Kingdom, Secretary Ramos and Secretary Teehankee.

Other callers included Central Bank Governor Calalang, Reps. Fernando Veloso of Samar and James Chiongbian of South Cotabato.

Governor Calalang received final instructions prior to his departure for the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The President worked on state papers early in the morning, and again in the afternoon.

Among other actions, the Chief Executive:

1. Issued a proclamation authorizing the Philippine Normal College Development Foundation to conduct a national membership and fund campaign from September 7, this year to March 31, 1969.

In connection with the campaign, the President noted that unlike the University of the Philippines and other government educational institutions, which have land grants, the PNC has no other source of income except the annual government allocation and fees paid by the students. He urged total public support to the campaign to generate the means financing the full development of the PNC.

2. Granted full powers to the Philippine delegations to two conferences namely (a) the IMF and the IBRD; and (b) the 15th session of the General Conference of UNESCO.

Headed by former Secretary of Education Alejandro Roces, the delegation to the UNESCO conference, slated in Paris, France from October 15 to November 20 this year, includes Ambassador Jose Alejandrino, Sen. Eva Estrada Kalaw, and Reps. Aguedo Agbayani and Salipada K. Pendatun with Dr. Estefania Aldaba-Lim and Pedro F. Abella as alternate delegates.

3. Ordered the inquiry into the bureau of public highways overpricing case by the presidential probe committee expedited with an eye to early prosecution of those culpable.

In the evening, the President honored David Morse, ILO director-general, with a formal dinner at Malacañang.

September 19

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE ordered a management audit of six state hospitals, even as national attention was focused on conditions in many public hospitals.

He had a heavy schedule of visitors in the morning, and again in the afternoon, some of them officials who came to discuss various problems

Surprise visitor was a wartime comrade, Filomeno Gulayan, skipper of the sailboat which the President used on several missions to the Visayas. The veteran sailor was a member of a delegation from Surigao del Sur.

The President also received the main group of the Philippine delegation to the World Olympics in Mexico, composed of athletes and officials. The group called to say farewell prior to their departure for the Olympic games.

Other callers were:

1. Gabriel Velisano, Jr. and Marion Antonini, who submitted a proposal for the printing plant project of the National Cultural Center.
2. Roberto Villanueva of the Bancom Development Corporation.
3. Gov. Rene Espina of Cebu, Mayor Beatriz Durano of Danao City, Mayors Beatriz Calderon of Samboan and Demetrio Cortez of Mandaue, both in Cebu; and S. C. Shangkuan, contractor of the Mandaue-Opon bridge.

The group discussed with the President the construction of the bridge linking Mandaue to Opon, and also the proposed reclamation of 218-hectare area, a joint project of the Cebu provincial and Mandaue municipal governments.

4. Acting Secretary of Agriculture Isosceles Pascual, who discussed matters affecting the DANR department.
5. Former Ambassador Jose Fuentebella, who was inducted as presidential adviser on foreign affairs.
6. Reps. Gregorio Murillo, Epifanio Castillejos, Tereso Dumon and Constantino Navarro; and Gov. Jose Sering of Surigao del Norte.

Among others, the President reconstituted the Presidential Committee on Sports, created by virtue of his memorandum of March 13, 1967.

As reconstituted, the committee will be composed of the secretary of education as chairman; the secretary of defense or his designate; Jesus Perpiñan; the president of the PAAF; Manuel Elizalde, Sr., and Col. Jose Syjuco, as members.

The President also issued a proclamation authorizing an extension for the fund campaign period of the Philippine Cheshire Home, Inc. (Sinag-Tala) to December 31, this year.

He also approved the composition of the Philippine delegation to the special meeting of the General Assembly on December 10, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. General Carlos P. Romulo will head the delegation.

The preparation of a presidential award for MISERIOR, a German program of assistance that has undertaken various health and agricultural projects worth millions of pesos in the Philippines, was directed by the President. The award will be presented to Msgr. Gotterfried Dossing, director general of the program, who is scheduled to arrive in late October.

In the evening, the President was guest of honor at the Civil Service Awards night, held at the Manila Hotel.

Source: **National Library**

President's Week in Review: September 20-26, 1968

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

September 20.

PRESIDENT Marcos had a long session with the mayors and chiefs of police of the Greater Manila area, Metrocom officers and heads of other police agencies at Fort Bonifacio, to discuss the full implementation of the Metrocom-Police coordinated plan of action in the anti-crime drive.

The Chief Executive's first important conference was held about mid-morning with the officials concerned with the reexamination of the Laurel-Langley Agreement. The reexamination was launched sometime ago with an eye to finding alternatives to the vacuum expected with the expiration of the Agreement in 1974.

Those present were Senate President Gil J. Puyat, Senators Gerardo M. Roxas and Jose W. Diokno; Secretaries Claudio Teehankee of Justice and Ernesto Mata of Defense; Undersecretaries Jose D. Ingles of Foreign Affairs, Dioscoro Umali of Agriculture, Juan Ponce Enrile of Finance, and Raoul Inocentes of Labor; CB Governor Alfonso Calalang, DBP Chairman Gregorio Licaros, Solicitor General Antonio Barredo and Secretary Cesar Virata of the Board of Investments.

Aside from this conference, the President also met about 100 Mindanao logging operators. In that meeting, the President revealed the impending reassessment of government policy pertaining to logging, forestry, and agriculture. He also warned loggers against the use of unlicensed firearms and against harboring criminal elements.

Those who attended the meeting aside from the loggers, were Commissioner Mamintal Tamano of National Integration, and Manuel Elizalde, Jr., presidential assistant on national minorities.

Notable among the callers of the President were Henry Luce III, editor and publisher of *Time-Lifemagazines*; his wife and his daughter. The Luces were lunch guests of the First Family.

September 21

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE had a lengthy conference with members of the Foreign Policy Council to assess developments related to the Sabah issue. The meeting lasted for three hours, with the leaders receiving reports and briefings from the Department of Foreign Affairs and other sources on the developments, and exchanging views on them.

During the three-hour meeting the President told the Council that the General Military Council had taken steps to ensure the defense of the territory against any attacks from foreign forces.

Present at the Foreign Policy Council meetings were Secretary of Justice Claudio Teehankee, Undersecretary of Defense Alejandro Melchor, Undersecretaries of Foreign Affairs Jose D. Ingles and Manuel Collantes.

Senate President Gil J. Puyat, Senate Majority Floor Leader Arturo M. Tolentino, Senator Gerardo M. Roxas, Speaker Protempore Jose Aldeguer, Rep. Ramon Mitra, Jr.; former Secretaries of Foreign Affairs Felmo Neri and Felixberto Serrano.

Also present were Press Secretary Jose D. Aspiras and Assistant Press Secretary Jacobo C. Clave; Presidential Executive Assistant Jaime N. Ferrer, Rep. Carmelo Barbero, Ambassador Tomas Benitez and Minister Pacifico Castro of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Earlier, he met behind closed doors U.S. Ambassador G. Mennen Williams, whom he summoned in connection with the RP-Malaysia crisis. The President handed the American envoy an Aide Memoire on the Sabah issue, and

discussed the U. S. stand in the dispute between the two countries. The President worked on state papers, including going over reports from key offices on the progress of their operations.

Among these reports were:

1. The initiatives taken to fill the balance of the 1968 Philippines sugar quota allotted by the United States, and to control the domestic prices of sugar.

Sugar Quota Administrator Ramon Nolan assured the President that the SQA has programmed shipments of sugar to the United States to fill the balance this year, totalling 178,588.72 long tons. He also reported that the local price of sugar has stabilized at P.60, P.70 and P.80 per kilo, of the brown, washed and refined sugar, respectively.

2. The utilization of the 953 scalers trained last year, with 730 emergency scalers already employed by the Bureau of Forestry, according to Director Teofilo Santos.

3. The disappearance of a vital witness, Melchor Ramos, in the murder of movie actor Alberto Alonzo last year. The victim's kin reported that the case against the suspected gunman, Armando Trinidad, Jr., could not be prosecuted because of the missing witness.

The President directed in this connection the NBI to locate Ramos "by all means."

September 22.

PRESIDENT Marcos designated Assistant Executive Secretary Jose J. Leido, Jr. as acting executive secretary, during the absence of Secretary Rafael M. Salas.

Secretary Salas left for New York, where he will attend the regular annual general assembly session of the United Nations organization, as a member of the Philippine delegation.

In the evening, the Chief Executive declared that the Philippines will pursue its claim to Sabah through peaceful means, and counselled against any precipitate action.

Addressing the nation during his *Pakinggan ang Pangulo* program, the President said: "There is no reason for precipitate action. Sobriety should inform our conduct. I want to assure you once again that the situation is fully under control." (See p. 10025—J for full text of Radio-TV Chat.

September 23.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE met with members of the Foreign Policy Council which assessed anew the developments over the Sabah issue and approved the move he announced earlier for a possible summit conference with Malaysia's Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman on Sabah.

The President also received earlier U. S. Ambassador G. Mennen Williams who submitted an *AideMemoire* declaring that the U. S. Government is "totally impartial" with respect to the territorial dispute involving Sabah.

At 10:30 a.m., the President formally launched the implementation of the law Republic Act No. 4898, providing insurance coverage for barrio officials insurance, during a program in Malacañang attended by more than a hundred representatives of provincial leagues of barrio councils from all over the country.

The President turned over to GSIS General Manager Benjamin del Rosario a check for P500,000 to cover the initial payment of premiums for the insurance coverage of barrio officials.

In his extemporaneous speech before the barrio officials gathered at Malacañang, the President said that the barrio people constitute the base of the country's social pyramid, and this base of Philippine society "must be built firm and strong, no matter what ideology, what political party inclinations the people have."

After the ceremony, the Chief Executive received Gen. Jesus Vargas, secretary general of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization, who paid a farewell call prior to his departure for his Bangkok post.

He also received William Stine, vice president and director of CALTEX Petroleum (New York), who paid his respects in the course of a few days visit here. Stine was accompanied by J.J. Wolahan and F. Alegre, president and managing director, and assistant PRO, respectively, of CALTEX Philippines.

At noon, the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, officiated at the formal inauguration of the floating clinic of PANAMIN (Presidential Assistant on National Minorities), berthed at the Pasig River beside the Malacañang Heroes Hall.

The PANAMIN clinic was formally turned over to the government by Manuel Elizalde, Jr., presidential assistant on national minorities, for use in the Mindanao area to help in the health needs of rural people.

At 3 p.m., the President presided over a meeting of the Foreign Policy Council, held at the state dining hall of Malacañang.

In the evening, the Chief Executive continued to receive a stream of wired messages from all sectors of the population, all of them giving full encouragement and support to the government's stand on its claim on Sabah.

September 24.

PRESIDENT Marcos conferred with Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs Jose D. Ingles who transmitted the reply of Malaysian Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman to the proposal calling for a summit meeting between the Malaysian Premier and himself.

The Chief Executive instructed Secretary Ingles, who was accompanied by Ambassador Romeo Busuego, to consider with the Malaysian ambassador here the holding of ministerial talks as soon as possible. The President issued the instructions in response to the suggestion of the Tunku that preparatory talks be first held before a summit meeting can be set.

A delegation from the three new Davao provinces headed by Governors Verulo C. Boiser of Davao del Norte, Leopoldo Lopez of Davao Oriental and Ramon de los Cientos of Davao del Sur presented the President with resolutions renewing their pledge of loyalty to his administration.

Accompanied by Sen. Alejandro Almendras, the delegation thanked the President for having made their infant provinces direct beneficiaries of his infrastructure program, in terms of concrete highways, bridges and school-buildings, which have been set for building in their localities, or are now being constructed.

During the call, the Chief Executive signed the appointment of three municipal judges, namely, Jose Suelto of New Corella, Davao del Norte; Eliseo Lopez and Santiago Inutan of Magsaysay and Sta. Maria, respectively, of Davao del Sur.

A delegation from Olongapo City headed by Mayor Amelia Gordon and Vice Mayor Alfredo de Perio, Jr. called to consult with the President on some of their most pressing problems. They also informed the President that peace and order in their city has considerably improved. Other callers included OEC Administrator Constancio Castaneda, GSTS General Manager Benjamin del Rosario, Acting DBP Chairman Julio V. Macuja, Rep. Ernesto Bascon of Cebu, Vice Gov. Carolina Bayot of Capiz and Mayor Arturo Pascual of San Jose, Nueva Ecija. In the afternoon, the President received Vice President Fernando Lopez who reported on his trip abroad.

Early in the evening, the President directed Secretary of Commerce and Industry Marcelo Balatbat to conduct a deeper inquiry into irregularities in the purchase of conveyor belts by the Civil Aeronautics Administration.

Dr. Gaudencio Garcia, chairman of the Presidential Investigating Committee, after completing a preliminary investigation of the case, recommended to the President a formal inquiry into the CAA purchases.

The President also promoted five colonels to the grade of brigadier general and a navy captain to the rank of commodore.

Promoted were Colonels Rizalino Garcia, PC deputy Chief; Carlos A. Oanes, chief of the PC traffic control group; Wilfredo Estrada, III PC zone commander; Paulino Sanchez, IV PC zone commander; and Pedro Ramos, Military Area commander; and Navy Captain Geronimo M. Cabal, commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard.

September 25.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE signed into law three tax measures passed during the last special session of Congress, all designed to generate funds for such critical fields as science, education, and peace and order.

Signed by the President in the presence of Senate and House leaders were:

1. House Bill No. 17485, which provides for the creation of a special science fund for scientific and technological research and development;
2. House Bill No. 17066 creating a special education fund to finance the opening of more extension classes to accommodate all children of school age and the improvement of the standard of instruction in the public schools;
3. House Bill No. 14544 increasing the specific taxes on certain distilled spirits as a means of arresting the rising tide of criminality, in the face of findings that Widespread consumption of intoxicating liquors has contributed to serious crimes.

The signing highlighted a day full of activities, including a press conference on the administration's 1000 days in office, where he stated anew the Philippine stand on the Sabah claim, emphasizing that the nation's leaders are facing the situation with a full comprehension of the realities of world politics.

In the morning the President received the officials of the President Osmeña Memorial Foundation, who presented him with a plaque of appreciation for the reconstruction of historic Ayuntamiento as a memorial to the late President. The group included former Senator Jose Locsin, foundation chairman; former Secretary of Health Elpidio Valencia, J. Antonio Araneta and Sebastian Ugarte.

Another group headed by Secretary of Labor Blas F. Ople and Mons Mariano Gaviola, chairman and co-chairman, respectively, of the executive committee of the Social Action Year, called on the President to discuss the harnessing of all sectors of society, into the administration's program of social and economic development.

The period from May 1, 1968 to April 30, 1969 was declared National Social Action and Economic Development Year by the President.

The President also received other callers, including Acting Secretary of Finance Juan Ponce Enrile, Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, Undersecretary of Defense Alejandro Melchor, Director-General Placido Mapa, Jr. of the PES, and Governors Vicente Magsaysay of Zambales and Rafael Palmares of Iloilo.

In the course of his desk work, the President approved the promotions of two AFP colonels to the next higher rank, namely, Leonardo Sangalang and Felix Pestaña, now both brigadier generals.

September 26.

ARRIVING in Dagupan City where he addressed the Lions Club convention, President Marcos again reiterated the Philippine determination to press the Sabah claim, based on "right, not might."

After the Lions Club speech, the President addressed a spontaneous rally staged by some 10,000 placard-bearing Pangasinan students. Again the subject of Sabah, and the President's stand brought roaring approval and support from the youths.

Earlier at the Lingayen airport, a huge crowd, including Pangasinan officials led by Gov. Tito Primicias, pledged support to the President's policy on Sabah. Many of the pledges were embodied in resolutions handed to him by barrio and municipal councils and the provincial board.

From there he proceeded to the provincial capitol where he talked with local officials, and disclosed the release to Pangasinan towns of funds for development, and the distribution of breeding cattle to localities in that province in connection with the cattle dispersal program of the administration.

It was late in the afternoon when the President and his party started the trip by car to Baguio City. Along the way, the President inspected public works projects, inquiring into problems and requirements.

In Baguio, the Chief Executive conferred with Mountain Province and Northern Luzon officials on problems affecting their respective provinces.

Source: **National Library**

President's Month in Review: September 27 - October 3, 1968

President's Week in Review: October 4-10, 1968

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

October 4.

PRESIDENT Marcos returned from a two-day trip to Cebu where he fulfilled engagements, including the launching of a floating clinic and the inauguration of several government projects.

He arrived in Manila on time to receive the delegates to the ASEAN conference, who called to pay their respects. He conveyed through the chief delegates of Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Indonesia a message of goodwill to their respective heads of state. The group, which ended its conference yesterday, was accompanied by Secretary of Commerce and Industry Marcelo Balatbat.

The ASEAN delegates were Victor de Bruyne of the Malaysian ministry of commerce and industry; Mohammad Sismal, secretary general of Indonesia's department of commerce, Taw Soo Chye, director of Singapore's trade and finance division; and Charnchai Leethavorn of the Thai Embassy. The call of the ASEAN delegates was only the first of many other calls, notably those of Gov. Cornelio Balmaceda of the Asian Development Bank, who discussed with the President the construction of the ADB building; Ambassador Pham Dang Lam of South Vietnam; and the delegates to the 19th session of the Western Pacific Regional Committee (WPRC), an agency of the World Health Organization.

The delegates to the WPRC conference who called were headed by Dr. K. C. Chang, regional chairman; and Dr. Francisco Dy, WHO regional director. They were accompanied by Acting Secretary of Health Amadeo Cruz and Undersecretary Clemente Gatmaitan.

Between calls, the President worked on state papers, and among others:

1. Directed Commissioner on National Integration Mamintal Tamano to implement the recommendations of a special study group of the Presidential Economic Staff, which proposed the revision of the scholarship program of the CNI to make it more useful and effective.
2. Designated Undersecretary of Labor S. Tomas de la Cruz as Philippine representative to the Asian Regional Experts Meeting on Vocational Training Planning, to be conducted by the International Labor Organization at Sydney from December 2 to 20, this year.
3. Directed the Department of Foreign Affairs to circularize all Philippine missions abroad regarding unauthorized activities of a group with forged Malacañang credentials, representing itself as a special government mission.

The President was informed by Abdulhamid Lukman and Asali Isnani, presidents of the Sulu Municipal League and the Sulu Lawyers League, respectively, that the two organizations will hold a joint rally with all colleges and civic organizations in support of the government stand on the Sabah issue.

In a wire received by the President, Nemesio E. Prudente, president of the Philippine College of Commerce, expressed "sincere and heartfelt gratitude" for the 10-hectare area at Fort Bonifacio reserved for the permanent site of the PCC building and campus.

Among other actions, the Chief Executive authorized an 18-man trade mission of the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines to travel to Soviet Russia and certain Eastern European countries for the purpose of exploring business possibilities.

October 5.

PRESIDENT MARCOS instructed Secretary of Foreign Affairs Narciso Ramos to effect a meeting as soon as possible with the Malaysian foreign minister to determine how the President and Prime Tunku Abdul Rahman may ease tensions in the Southeast Asia area through a top-level meeting.

Early in the morning, the President received Secretary of Justice Claudio Teehankee, who called on him, to explain his controversy with Public Service Commissioner Enrique Medina, and in the process submitted a list of charges he has brought against the PSC chief. Also present was Undersecretary Felix Makasiar.

Spanish Ambassador Jose Perez del Arco also called to invite the President and the First Lady, to be the guests of honor at the Spanish Festival, scheduled at the Manila Hilton on October 12 to November 9, 1968. The Spanish envoy informed the President that the festival will feature an exposition depicting different aspects of Spanish life and culture.

In the afternoon, Commissioner Medina also called, and was asked by the President to explain his side of the controversy, and to answer within a week the charges of the secretary of justice. The President gave him a copy of the charges.

The President received no other visitors the whole day, preferring to work on state papers.

October 6.

PRESIDENT MARCOS inaugurated the new City of Iriga (in Camarines Sur), seeded with *bangus* fry Lake Bato in that province and met with local and national officials from the Bicol region.

The President left Manila 7:45 a.m., flying to Legazpi City where he arrived at 9:05 a.m. He was met at the airport by leaders of the Bicol region, including provincial, municipal and national officials.

From Legazpi City, the President motored to Iriga, stopping at every town along the way. In the town of Bato, the Chief Executive released 160,000 *bangus* fingerlings at Lake Bato to increase its fishing potential.

Arriving in Iriga City, the President went to the San Antonio ne Padua church, where he heard a *TeDeum* Mass.

Later, the President formally inaugurated the new city and installed city officials headed by Mayor Jose Villanueva.

In his speech, the Chief Executive paid tribute to the leaders of the Bicol region, particularly the people of the new city, "on their successful bid to exercise greater participation in their government."

The President had lunch at the Iriga city hall where he also conferred with local officials.

While there, he released P200,000 as initial aid to the new city, but emphasized, however, that the fund will be utilized for the city's most important projects, and not for any ordinary expenses like payment of salaries of employees.

From Iriga, the President proceeded to Naga City, where he met with the leaders from the Bicol region.

In the evening, the President addressed the nation in his weekly radio-television program, *Pakinggan ang Pangulo*.

October 7.

PRESIDENT MARCOS returned from his inspection trip to Camarines Sur, during which he visited a number of places, among them Iriga City, Naga City, Pili, and Legazpi City in Albay.

Upon arrival in Maiacañang, the Chief Executive conferred with Secretary of National Defense Ernesto Mata, Gen. Manuel Yan, AFP chief of staff; Brig. Gen. Rafael Ilete, deputy chief of staff and chief of AFP intelligence; and Brig. Gen. Vicente Raval, PC chief.

Among other actions, the President:

1. Ordered the Department of Foreign Affairs to present the Philippines' opposition to the installation by the U. S. government of a new communications cable aimed at linking this country, Taiwan, Japan, Thailand, and the Southeast Asian mainland for defense purposes.

The opposition was based on the fact that the proposed cable would prejudice the operations of major RP communications projects.

2. Directed Brig. Gen. Vicente Raval, PC chief, to disarm the security guards of the National Mental Hospital, and take over security control of the institution, following findings that the hospital guards were in cahoots with underworld characters who have used guardhouse as an operating center for criminal activities.
3. Issued an executive order extending to the Grains Marketing Cooperatives of the Philippines, Inc. (GRAMACOP) the privileges of agencies. Only the RCA and the CCE were previously authorized receiving requisitions for rice from the government institutions and to fill such orders.
4. Signed an administrative order creating a committee to be headed by a governor of the Board of Investments, which will gather, collate and evaluate statistical data and information for the use of the Board of Industries in the preparation of the annual investment priorities plan.
5. Approved the remittance of a contribution by the Philippine government of 32,000 to the United Nations capital development fund.
6. Authorized the Philippine official participation in two international conferences, namely:

a) The Colombo Plan Consultative Committee Meeting to be held in Seoul. Korea from October 8 to 25: with Director-General Placido Mapa, Jr. of the Presidential Economic Staff, Ambassador Benjamin Tirona to Korea. Ambassador Pura Castrence, Minister Julia Palarca and Sebastian Nuguid as members.

b) The meeting on the conventions for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion, with the governments of Spain and West Germany, and other countries; with Undersecretary of Finance Juan Ponce Enrile as chairman; and BIR Deputy Commissioner Ambrosio Lina, Jose Plana, Tomas C. Toledo, Efren I. Plana and Juan F. Rivera as members.

7. Approved the visit here of Sergei Svirin, regional manager of the Soviet news agency, Tass, who is based in Singapore.

Enroute to Manila, the President worked also on state papers brought along by Presidential Assistant Jaime N. Ferrer.

In the evening, the Chief Executive signed the *ad interim* appointments of two district judges, three municipal judges, one auxiliary city judge and one city fiscal.

Appointed were:

1. Emilio Salas as district judge, 7th judicial district, Court of First Instance of Rizal and the Cities of Quezon, Pasay and Caloocan;
2. Manuel Serapio as regional district judge, Court of Agrarian Relations, 5th regional district, with station at Balanga, Bataan;
3. Artemio A. Rillo as auxiliary city judge of the City of Iriga;
4. Emilio T. Reyes and Manuel Trinidad, Jr. as municipal judges of Sibonga and Argao, Cebu, respectively;
5. Silvestre S. Felix as municipal judge of Bato, Camarines Sur; and

6. Angel S. Malaya as city fiscal of Iriga City.

The President also signed the designation of Melencio A. Cortero as first assistant city fiscal of the newly created City of Iriga.

October 8.

PRESIDENT MARCOS issued several directives extending additional assistance to the Bicol region, including a survey of the abaca industry, and release of funds for priority projects.

He also sought further facilitation of disaster relief services by directive Acting Executive Secretary Jose J. Leido, Jr. to coordinate with the Department of National Defense and the Armed Forces in instituting a more efficient system of operations.

Early this morning the President met with his financial advisers led by Acting Secretary of Finance Juan Ponce Enrile. The talks centered on priority economic affairs.

Present at the conference, aside from Secretary Enrile, were Deputy Governor Amado Briñas of the Central Bank, Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, PNB Executive Vice President Eusebio Villatuya, GSIS General Manager Benjamin del Rosario, SSS Chairman Ramon Gaviola, Acting DBP Chairman Julio Macuja, Acting Executive Secretary Jose J. Leido, Jr., and Director General Placido Mapa, Jr., of the Presidential Economic Staff.

Following the conferences, the President received National Integration Commissioner Mamintal Tamano who briefed him on the proposed establishment of pilot integration centers in Mindanao and other places where cultural minorities live. The proposed centers are aimed at accelerating the integration of minorities into the national mainstream.

Then he had a session with Undersecretary of Agriculture Dioscoro Umali and Rice and Corn Administration Chairman Osmundo Mondoñedo on the current rice situation, particularly the need for better warehousing and drying facilities.

Undersecretary Umali and Col. Osmundo Mondoñedo reported that the exportation of 25,000 metric tons of rice to India will generate P15 million to finance the rice buying program of the RCA. Sugar Quota Administrator Ramon Nolan, also called on the President to receive final instructions before departing for Washington, D.C. to take up with U. S. officials the country's basic sugar export quota.

The President then received Director Anacleto Coronel who reported on the progress of the administration's cattle dispersal program.

In between conferences, the Chief Executive administered the oaths of office to:

1. Capt. Oscar Tempongko, dental surgeon of the Philippine Navy;
2. Col. Mariano Cardenas, medical officer of the 1st PC zone; and
3. Leon Rojas, Jr. as judge of the Criminal Circuit Court of the 11th judicial district with station in Roxas City.

The President received callers at his study until 2:30 p.m.

Gov. Gualberto Lumauig of Ifugao and Mayor Elias Lopez of Davao City submitted formal reports on their recent trip to Russia and other communist countries.

Other callers included delegations headed by Rep. Floro Crisologo and Gov-Carmeling Crisologo of Uocos Sur; Gov. Vicente Ceriles of Zamboanga del Sur, Gov. Murphy Sangkula of Sulu, Gov. Ignacio Santiago of Bulacan,

Gov. Jose Legaspi of Aklan, Mayor Juan Lomibao of San Carlos City and Mayor Cipriano Manaois of Dagupan City.

October 9.

PRESIDENT MARCOS directed Undersecretary of National Defense Alejandro Melchor to establish a way of augmenting the number of police trainees a year in order to step up the improvement of police capabilities. One of the most serious flaws in law enforcement is the lack of trained and qualified policemen.

Early in the morning the President went over reports submitted to him on the progress of on-going government projects and other matters. Among these reports were:

1. The case of some 380 Manobo and Ata tribesmen who were reported as having been driven out of their traditional settlements by logging concessionaires.

Commissioner on National Integration Mamintal Tamano informed the President that the Kalinan Timber Industries authorities agreed to recompense the tribesmen in the amount of P1,000 for destroyed property, and to assist in resettling the tribes on their ancestral lands and (o provide a school site for their children.

2. The collated accomplishment report of 16 out of 26 participating agencies in the Central Luzon Development, submitted by PACD Secretary Ernesto Maceda, for the month of July, 1968.
3. The progress of squatter relocation and clearing of the Quezon City National Park. Presidential Assistant Esteban Bernido said a total of 1,905 family heads with 9,823 dependents have been resettled, while about 600 houses still remain to be demolished.
4. The September report on the operations of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, submitted by Commissioner Misael Vera, in which he stated among others, that the campaign against altered or fake official receipts has increased BIR collections by P2,037,492.52.

Among his callers were:

1. Indian Ambassador A. S. Dhawan who paid a courtesy call, during which he presented the President with several volumes on the life and teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, the great spiritual leader of India.
2. Andrew Joseph, new United Nations Development Program representative in the Philippines. Joseph succeeded Warren Cornwell who returned to the UNDP headquarters in Rome for reassignment after completing this tour of duty here.
3. The World Bank appraisal team which conducted on-the-spot surveys of the upper Pampanga River multi-purpose project, which the international financing institution might assist.

Headed by Amnon Golan, economist, the other members of the team are Jacques Marinnet, agronomist; Carl Hoffman and William Douglas, civil engineers. They were accompanied to the President by Undersecretary of National Defense Alejandro Melchor, National Irrigation Administrator Alfredo Juinio, National Power Corporation General Ramon Ravanzo, NAWASA General Manager Antonio Menor, and Leopoldo Kagahistian, who represented Director Aleandro Deleña of the Bureau of Public Works.

Other callers included Speaker Protempore Jose Aldeguer, Reps. Jose Moreno of Romblon, Tereso Dumon of Cebu, Benjamin Ligot of Cagayan and William Chiongbian of Misamis Occidental; Gov. Jose Evangelista of Ilocos Norte, and Mayor Jovito Claudio of Pasay City, who took up with the President matters concerning their constituencies.

While attending to his callers, the President received a wire from Gov. Alfonso Calalang of the Central Bank informing him that he had signed a loan agreement with U. S. commercial banks. Under the agreement, \$81.5 million of Central Bank short-term obligations were converted into 4-year credits and that \$28.1 million of time deposits, which were pledged against the short-term loans, were released by the U. S. banks.

In the afternoon, the President appointed Ambassador Gauttier F. Bisnar, assistant secretary for legal affairs in the Department of Foreign Affairs. as *ad interim* consul general of the Philippines.

He also signed the appointments of:

1. Jose M. Manglicmot as regent of the Central Luzon State University;
2. Mamerto S. Asuncion as register of deeds of Boac, Marinduque;
3. Florencio Baltazar as member of the board of directors of the Philippine Tobacco Administration;
4. Manuel C. Ozaraga as municipal judge in Baliañgao, Misamis Occidental; and
5. Zosimo P. Bajamonde as special attorney in the Office of the Agrarian Counsel, Ozamis City branch.

Late in the afternoon the President received a delegation of labor leaders who presented him with a resolution from organized labor urging more drastic action against the Malaysian and British governments for the “haughty, unjustified and hostile activities” in connection with the Philippine claim to Sabah.

In the evening, the President cleared his desk of urgent state papers preparatory to leaving for the South in pursuance of his inspection visits to various areas of the country to assess the progress of on-going government projects.

October 10.

IN A SPEECH at a morning rally on his arrival at Zamboanga City’s airport, President Marcos said that the Filipino people are determined to pursue the Sabah claim along the lines spelled out in the Manila Accord of 1963. He said that the Philippines and Malaysia bound themselves in the Manila Accord to “exert their best endeavors to bring the claim to a just and expeditious solution by peaceful means.”

The Chief Executive, accompanied by Secretary of Justice Claudio Teehankee, PACD Secretary Ernesto Maceda, Presidential Executive Assistant Jaime Ferrer, Assistant Press Secretary Jacobo C. Clave and Dr. Pacifico Marcos left Manila on board the presidential Fokker plane at 6:40 a.m., for Zamboanga City via Cotabato City where his plane touched down at 9 a.m.

From Cotabato, the party took off in a PAL jet at 9:30 a.m., arriving in Zamboanga City 45 minutes later. With him in the plane was Rep. Salipada Pendatun.

At the airport to meet him was a huge welcoming crowd led by mayors and governors and other officials of the Mindanao, Sulu, and Palawan area. Many of the welcomers carried placards endorsing the President’s stand on Sabah.

Some of the placards read: “Down with British gunboat diplomacy,” “Pursue Sabah claim by peaceful means,” “President Marcos, we are behind you.” and “On to Sabah.” The last one was carried by the Sulu delegation.

The welcome turned into a rally at which Reps. Pendatun and Ali Dimaporo also spoke. In his speech, the President reiterated the Philippine stand, saying he will insist on elevating the issue to the World Court.

After the rally the President headed for the headquarters of the AFP Southwest Command where he was briefed on the military situation in the area. Afterward, he had lunch with governors, mayors and other officials of the Mindanao, Sulu, and Palawan area.

After lunch, the President met separately with various delegations to audit their problems and requirements. Many of the officials requested aid from the national government for their projects.

Later, the Chief Executive took the opportunity to pay his last respects to former Governor Leon Fernandez of Sulu, the remains of whom lay in state at a local funeral home.

In the evening, the President conferred with local officials on their problems and priority projects.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Month in Review: October 11-31, 1968

President's Month in Review: November, 1968

President's Month in Review: December, 1968

Official Week in Review: January 3 – January 9, 1969

January 3—

PRESIDENT Marcos continued to induct into office newly appointed officials following the government revamp he started early last month.

The President administered the oath to journalist and international beauty Gemma Cruz Araneta as director of the National Museum, vice Galo Ocampo who was named presidential assistant on heraldry matters.

He also inducted Andres Cristobal Cruz, also a well-known writer and journalist, as assistant director of the National Libraries. Both ceremonies were held in Malacañang this noon.

At the same time, the President named former Secretary of Foreign Affairs Narciso Ramos as presidential adviser on foreign affairs.

The President felt that Secretary Ramos could continue to serve the nation as presidential adviser, although the former Cabinet official has expressed a desire to lead a more tranquil life.

Earlier, the President received Rep. Constantino Navarro of Surigao del Norte and former Rep. Reynaldo Honrado of Surigao del Sur now CFI judge of Tandag, same province. He discussed local problems with the officials.

Meantime, the President ordered the Department of Justice to dismiss the charges against a Bulacan farmer, Benito Fidel, who had slain in self-defense four cattle rustlers.

Impressed by the farmer's courage, he also ordered that a presidential award be conferred on the farmer, who has been jailed in Marilao, Bulacan.

The President also ordered an investigation to verify the charges of former Speaker Cornelio Villareal that his telegrams calling opposition leaders to a conference in Baguio City were not delivered.

He directed Director Antonio Gamboa of the Bureau of Telecommunications to take drastic action against bureau personnel found responsible for the alleged non-delivery of the telegrams, and to report within 72 hours on the action he had taken.

Early in the evening the President issued a proclamation declaring Monday, January 6, this year, a special public holiday in Quezon City in commemoration of the birth anniversary of Melchora Aquino, known as "Tandang Sora", famous heroine of the Revolution.

The President also issued another proclamation declaring January 18 to 25, this year, as Small Scale Industries Week.

Later in the evening, the President attended a dinner commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Central Bank, held at Malacañang Park.

In brief remarks, the President praised the Central Bank for adhering closely to an informed and liberal policy geared to national development.

January 4—

CHANGING PACE for the new year, President Marcos worked just as though it was not the weekend, which he usually devoted in the past to intensive desk work; rather he received officials and focused on the anti-graft drive and the means to improve the administration of justice.

Early in the day, he conferred with Secretary of Justice Juan Ponce Enrile on the needs of the anti-crime drive and on new initiatives for upgrading the administration of justice.

The President asked that the courts be made more accessible to the people, notably those in the rural areas.

He also directed that prosecution of anti-graft cases be speeded up now, after being informed that special teams for this purpose had already been organized by the Department of Justice.

The President later received Ambassador Jose S. Laurel III, Philippine envoy to Japan, who reported on the progress of the negotiations for loans from the Export and Import Bank of Tokyo. The loans are earmarked for the construction of the Friendship Highway which will stretch from Luzon to Mindanao.

The Friendship Highway is one of the more than 5,000 on-going infrastructure projects of the President slated for completion this year.

The President also received Secretary Gregorio Feliciano of the Department of Social Welfare who reported on the recently concluded U.N. conference on social welfare and on his study trips to Europe and the United States.

Others who called on the President were Reps. Floro Crisologo of Ilocos Sur and Pablo Roman of Bataan, and Gen. Eulogio Balao of the Philippine Reparations Mission in Tokyo and Gregorio Abad, chairman of the Reparations Commission.

Meanwhile the President lifted PC control over the police forces of five towns in Northern Luzon and the Visayas upon receiving reports that the peace and order conditions in these localities have return to normal.

The police forces affected were those of Agoo, Balaoan, and San Juan, all in La Union; Escalante, Negros Occidental; and Sta. Catalina, Negros Oriental.

The President also approved the commissioning in the reserve force of the Armed Forces of the Philippines of 97 reservists, in line with the program to buildup the country's citizen army.

All the newly commissioned officers passed the rigid AFP physical and medical examinations.

The President spent the rest of the afternoon and evening working on urgent state papers and going over year-end reports from the different government agencies.

January 5—

PRESIDENT Marcos set aside the cares of state for a well deserved relaxation with his family on a cruise aboard the RPS *The President*.

He left Malacañang last night with the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, and their children Imee, Ferdinand (Bongbong), Jr. and Irene, and was off at Manila Bay about 3 a.m.

The First Family heard Mass in the morning celebrated on board the presidential ship.

The ship cruised on Manila Bay and along the Cavite west coast.

The First Family returned to Manila about 4 p.m.

Back at Malacañang, the President however kept himself busy as usual by going over urgent state papers until late in the evening.

He issued fresh instructions to Secretary of Justice Juan Ponce Enrile to press on further the campaign against criminality, and graft and corruption in the government service.

He directed Enrile to give top priority to the prosecution of major unsolved murder cases still pending in the courts.

January 6—

PRESIDENT Marcos celebrated the new spirit among the Filipinos which has moved forward national progress, and is best symbolized in the distinguished contributions of activities in community development in the public and private sectors.

Paying tribute to the individuals who have contributed significantly to the programs, and to the new leadership at local levels of government, the President revealed, at the Malacañang ceremonies awarding plaques and citations to these outstanding men and women, a continuing concern for the rural areas and the goals of the government aimed at a better life for the poor and the dispossessed (See pp. 262–266 for full text of the President's speech.)

Among the awardees were 14 provincial governors, eight town mayors, seven city mayors, seven barrio captains, outstanding PACD workers, private volunteers and members of the press and civic organizations.

The award ceremonies, which were held at the social hall of the Executive Office building and later moved on to the Heroes Hall of Malacañang, were in connection with the celebration of the Community Development Week which ended today, and the 13th anniversary of the Presidential Arm on Community Development (PACD).

Earlier, the President received the credentials of Ambassador Jose Villanueva Carmendia, who is first envoy of the Dominican Republic to the Philippines.

The ceremony was attended by members of the Cabinet, led by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, who was present at the rites for the first time as foreign secretary.

Other callers during the day were Mrs. Nambi, who discussed proposals for ferrying Muslim pilgrims to Mecca; Gov. Consuelo Calo of Agusan, who discussed problems affecting her province; and Chairman Faustino Tobia of the Cebu Portland Cement Company.

In order to carry on the vital work of the CAA, the President designated Capt. Federico Ablan, Jr. as acting director of the Aeronautics Administration. The appointment insures continuity of the important CAA projects designed to improve domestic aviation facilities and cope with upcoming requirements of super-jet travel.

The President spent the rest of the day working on state papers, including working further on the needs of the current drive against graft and corruption among officialdom.

He also continued studying year-end reports from the different government agencies.

January 7—

PRESIDENT Marcos spent the whole morning greeting well-wishers, including plain citizens from all walks of life, sharing the traditional "Open House" hospitality of Malacañang with the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, who gamely shook hands with over 30,000 people.

In the afternoon, the President was guest of honor at the opening exercises of the first basic training course given by the Police Commission for police personnel, as well as for new recruits who were qualified by means of a higher standard of requirements.

In-between these two main chores of the day, the President inducted Capt. Federico Ablan as director of the Civil Aeronautics Administration.

As early as 7 a.m., the crowd of well-wishers began gathering at the gates of Malacañang, where they were soon formed into a well-ordered queue, which snaked out of the palace grounds, up the main stairway, to the reception hall.

The President and the First Lady were out at the reception hall according to schedule, and began first to receive high government officials led by Vice President Fernando Lopez, who came with Mrs. Lopez and some of his grandchildren. The President promptly had an impromptu conference with the Vice President on urgent state matters, which he repeated with various other officials who come up to greet him, including Speaker Jose Laurel Jr., other members of Congress and members of the Cabinet.

Shortly after he had met all top officials and the diplomatic corps, the President took a breather at the state dining room, where he observed the traditional exchange of new year toasts with members of the diplomatic corps. He then returned to the reception hall to continue greeting all comers.

Many of the citizens who came brought along their children, and besides greetings, they also boldly pleaded for aid or favors. Those that the First Couple could promptly accommodate were freely given, including autographs.

The Open House officially closed at 1:30 p.m., ending a hectic schedule which however did not ruffle the First Couple, who were genuinely glad to meet the people.

An interesting sidelight to the Open House was the call of a group of some 10,000 students, led by campus leaders, who exchanged views with the President on educational needs. They also sought additional appropriations for state institutions.

The President directed Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas to confer with Secretary of Education Onofre D. Corpuz and Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco on the petition of the student.

In the afternoon, about 4 p.m., the President motored to Fort Bonifacio where he addressed the first group of 100 police recruits which will undergo training under the supervision of the Police Commission.

The President emphasized that the trainees starting the course will be the first police personnel to embody a professionalized police force. He told them that it is up to them to set the example for police efficiency and integrity.

Later the President resumed his desk work at the palace, where among other things he ordered Secretary of Justice Juan Ponce Enrile to study the legality of the stock swap planned by the Benguet Consolidated Mining Corporation and the Grand Bahamas Port Authority; and Commissioner Raoul Beloso of the Small Farmers Commission to settle the dispute over land boundaries in Panamao, Sulu.

January 8—

President Marcos worked on state papers and studied reports from the different government agencies aboard the presidential yacht, the *RPS The President*, while en route to the Visayas to check, among other things, on the progress of administration development projects and confer with local officials on urgent problems.

The President, accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, left Manila very early in the morning for Cebu City, his first stop, where he will meet with rural bankers and then inaugurate the Mandawe Diversion Road.

Before leaving Manila, the President turned over to Vice President Fernando Lopez the presidential administrative duties, asking the latter to hold office at the presidential study for the purpose.

January 9—

PRESIDENT Marcos spent most of the day checking on administration development projects and inaugurating completed ones, even as he assessed the performance of government workers in Cebu, and conferred with local officials on urgent problems.

He arrived at Pier 1 in Cebu City aboard the RPS *The President* at 9:30 a.m., accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, and close presidential advisers.

He proceeded to the Visayas-Mindanao Confederation of Trade Unions building where he was accorded military honors. At the VIMCONTU, the President swore in Democrito Mendoza as SSS Commissioner to represent labor, vice Roy Padilla whose resignation was accepted by the President when he began the government revamp early last month.

After this ceremony, the President went on to the Cebu City country club for the conference with rural bankers, where he was guest of honor. Following this engagement, he left for Mandawe to inaugurate a network of concrete roads in that town.

The President then moved on to barrio Basak where he again inaugurated several PACD multi-purpose centers.

He then made a quick trip to Jubay in Liloan where he once more inaugurated more PACD multi-purpose centers and distributed PACD certificates affirming the turn-over to barrios of the finished projects.

From Liloan, the President returned to the presidential ship, where he conferred lengthily with provincial, city and municipal officials on projects and other urgent local problems.

At 5 p.m., the President opened the Police Commission regional academy in Cebu. Accompanying him was Polcom Commissioner Crispino de Castro, who fetched the President from the ship.

Upon returning to the ship in the evening, for his next stop in Iloilo City, the President ordered the spot promotion to the next higher rank of all the officers and enlisted men engaged in the gunbattle which resulted in the killing of 12 huks in Orani, Bataan earlier in the day.

He told Brig. Gen. Vicente Raval, PC chief, who reported the encounter, to convey to the troops involved his personal commendation for a work well done.

The President likewise ordered:

(1) An investigation to establish the identity of Reparations Commission officials who reportedly interceded for certain parties arranging the entry into the country of more than P7 million worth of highly dutiable goods.

The Reparations officials allegedly told agents of the Anti-Smuggling Action Center (ASAC), who intercepted 10 vehicles carrying the goods last Tuesday, to release the trucks because their cargoes were only reparations goods.

(2) The arrest of Tanauan Mayor Jaime “Banjo” Laurel and his companions if the investigation establishes a *prima facie* case against him and others involved in the shooting incident at the Bayside nightclub.

The President instructed Secretary of Justice Juan Ponce Enrile and the Philippine Constabulary to arrest Mayor Laurel and his companions and to prosecute them if the evidence showed them responsible for the gunfray.

(3) The National Bureau of Investigation and the Criminal Investigation Service to help in rounding up and protecting witnesses who were reportedly not available because of fear from reprisals.

Source: **Supreme Court Library**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1969). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 65(2), cclxi-cclxvi.

Official Week in Review: January 24 – January 30, 1969

January 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS was up very early to go over the draft of his state-of-the-nation message, which he will deliver Monday, January 27, when Congress opens its regular session.

He took the opportunity to comb further the speech for any further need of revision, while Malacañang visitors have not begun to arrive and other state business have not started flowing to his desk.

At 12:30, he left for Malabon, Rizal where he was speaker at the first national convention of the Federation of Barrio High Schools.

In a brief speech, the President posed a challenge to barrio leaders and particularly barrio high schools to get more deeply involved in the renewal of the rural areas and in the meaningful community action.

He stressed that in the barrios, education can become “a real touchstone to community action and renewal.” (See Jan. 27 issue of the Official Gazette for full text of the President’s speech.)

On returning to Malacañang, the President received a few officials who called to take up urgent matters. Then, he settled down to some desk work.

Among other actions, he instructed Secretary of Finance Eduardo Romualdez to submit within the week his draft of the bill giving the responsibility for paying the salary differentials of Manila public school teachers to the city government. The President followed up on the proposed bill in order to get this serious problem out of the way as soon as possible.

He also studied reports which came to his desk, including the plan submitted by the Department of Education on its goals for the next couple of years, which embodied most of the current concerns in education, such as the need for increasing classes in view of the wising school population; the need for school involvement in the socio-economic development efforts; the need for upgrading teachers’ welfare and morale; the need for better planning.

He also received a report from the Metrocom on the break-up of two notorious Manila Bay pirate gangs, identified as the *Ranger* and the *Dagang Dingding*.

The President spent the rest of the afternoon going over the draft of his state-of-the-nation message once again.

January 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS interspersed work on his state-of-the-nation address with other important matters, such as a meeting this morning with the country’s leading labor leaders, and brief conferences with top aides and officials, notably Secretary of Defense Ernesto Mata.

During his breakfast conference with representatives of the country’s labor movements, the President threshed out with the labor leaders the problems facing the common workers as well as the projects designed to improve their welfare.

Notable among the proposals from the labor leaders was that of a Workers Bank, which they said would exclusively cater to the country’s working masses. The President showed interest in the proposal and asked the labor leaders to get together with fiscal and banking experts, particularly with officials of the Central Bank. He said that such an undertaking should be studied thoroughly, particularly on the technical aspects.

After this meeting, the President met other aides on the day's urgent problems. He also received a number of officials who came to consult him on various state matters.

In-between these conferences, the President worked on state papers, and whenever possible, on his speech which will be delivered Monday, on the opening of the regular session of Congress.

One of the primary concerns of the President was the long dry spell in certain parts of the country, which in the face of the coming summer months might prove to be more formidable. He therefore set a meeting with the RCPCC to discuss contingency plans, especially in safeguarding rice production.

Among other actions, the President:

1. Enjoined the National Housing Corporation from implementing any contract it may have concluded with the Hildebrand Maschinenanhandle G.M.B.H., a German firm, pending the approval of the said contract by the Cabinet bidding committee. Under existing rules, government contracts involving amounts exceeding P100,000 must be passed upon by the Cabinet bidding committee.
2. Ordered public hearings conducted immediately by the National Water and Air Pollution Control Commission on the cases of 12 factories facing closure for failure to set up treatment plants for the purification of industrial wastes. The directive was issued to NSDB Chairman Juan Salcedo, Jr., concurrently chairman of the NWAPCC, who had recommended the closure of the factories.

In the afternoon, the President was guest speaker at the inter-church unity rally, held at the Rizal Park. In his speech, he urged the people to support the church-state partnership on behalf of rural improvement and the overall development of the nation.

In the evening, he returned to his paperwork and to further polishing of his state-of-the-nation message.

January 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS worked overtime putting the finishing touches on his message to the joint assembly of Congress tomorrow signalling the opening of this year's regular session.

He found time, however, to discuss with key Cabinet officials the problems raised by student groups who walked out of their classrooms to join demonstrations against certain policies of their schools.

The President earlier received a report from Secretary of Education Onofre D. Corpuz on developments at the Far Eastern University where the students' protest has been marked with violence.

The President also discussed the problem with Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas, Secretary Corpuz, Secretary of Labor Blas F. Ople and Undersecretary of Finance Roman Cruz, Jr.

Among the gripes if the students were high increases in tuition fees, issuance of new identification cards for students every semester, and the incursions of school administration on the students' press freedom in connection with the publication of campus newspapers and other periodicals.

In this connection, the President has directed Secretary of Finance Eduardo Romualdez to examine the books of accounts of universities and colleges in the country to determine if it is true that these educational institutions have become profit-making establishments.

The President also approved the promotion of 139 AFP officers to the rank of full colonel (captain, in the case of the navy) on recommendation of defense and armed forces authorities.

Meanwhile, the President declared that his administration has committed the government to the promotion and expansion of scientific and technological activities, in appreciation of research as an indispensable component of development.

He underscored the valuable role science will play in national development saying that it is science and technology, together with skilled manpower, that will build the future of the country.

The President made these observations in a speech read for him by Dean Cesar Virata, chairman of the Board of Investments, before the Industrial Research Workshop which opened under the joint sponsorship of the NSDB Council for Economic Development and the Economic Development Foundation in Baguio City.

The President had a photo session in the afternoon with Rodolfo G. Tupas and Evaristo F. Nievera of the *Sunday Times* Magazine.

After this, the President returned to his study to work further on his State-of-the-Nation message.

He heard Mass in the evening at the Malacañang chapel, together with the members of his family.

January 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS proposed the organization of a presidential commission to study the possibility of major changes in the governmental system even as he told the Sixth Congress on the opening of its last regular session that the administration has “set the nation on a firm and unchangeable course towards progress and independence.”

The President said the “existing political system has been incapable of producing satisfactory conditions of living” and the “inefficiency and immorality in government were partly due to the defective political system.”

He reported on the state of the nation and offered concrete solutions to many of the grave problems confronting the country, some of which require legislative authority for implementation.

In his message, the President affirmed the transformation of the country even as he pointed to the unmistakable advance in every field, as generated by the administration’s program of government.

The President, together with the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, arrived in Congress shortly after 5 p.m. The First Couple was accorded a standing ovation as they entered the session hall.

The President then proceeded to the rostrum while the First Lady took her seat with Congress ladies. Along the way he exchanged greetings and shook hands with members of Congress sitting along the aisle.

The proceedings started with Senate President Gil J. Puyat and Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr. calling to order the joint session of the two chambers.

Col. Nicolas Ortega, chief of the Chaplain Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, then said the invocation.

The President started delivering his message at 5:15 p.m. Although he skipped portions dealing with detailed data, it took him about one hour and 15 minutes, anyway, to deliver the whole message. (See February 3 issue of the Official Gazette for full text of the State-of-the-Nation address.)

The President spent most of the day before delivering the State-of-the-Nation address on the final polishing of the speech. Since early morning, he was already involved with last minute changes, taking time off only at 10:35 a.m. to receive the members of the special committee of Congress who came to formally inform him that the legislature has been convened and was ready to receive his message.

The joint committee was composed of Senators Lorenzo M. Tañada (NCP), Helena Benitez (N), Dominador Aytona (N), Leonardo Perez (N), and Benigno S. Aquino, Jr. (L); and Reps. Jose Alberto (N), Manuel Concordia (L), Alberto Unay (N), Melanio Singson (L), and Nicanor Yñiguez (N).

The President attended to urgent official paper in his study in the evening.

January 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS focused on the groundwork needed to propel forward the program for 1969, resulting in almost uninterrupted desk work in his Study.

However, he broke away several times to receive visitors, notably Brig. Gen. Charles A. Lindbergh (USAF ret.), who became a world hero after flying solo for the first time across the Atlantic. He also received other officials, mostly close advisers, and at least three provincial delegations.

In addition, he inducted into office the officers of the Federation of Public Barrio High Schools and the Bicol Association.

In connection with Gen. Lindbergh's call, the President sounded an appeal for closer cooperation between the public and the government in the conservation of the increasingly rare tamaraw.

Gen. Lindbergh, who is now vice-president of Pan American World Airways, has come to Manila to make representations for various nature and wildlife conservation groups for the preservation of the famed Tamaraw.

Gen. Lindbergh was accompanied to Malacañang by Prof. Tom Harrison of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, and Secretary Manuel Elizalde, Jr., presidential assistant on national minorities.

Shortly before noon, the President inducted several officials, notably those of the Bicol Association, Inc. and the Federation of Public Barrio High Schools.

Officers of the Bicol Association were headed by Domingo M. Guevarra, president and board chairman; while those of the Federation of Public Barrio High Schools were led by Mayor Lucio G. Gutierrez of Malabon, Rizal, federation chairman.

The President also administered the oath to Eladio Malugan as board director of the Mountain Province Development Authority. The other day, the President inducted Pio Felwa as director of the MPDA. President at this noon's induction were delegations from Ifugao headed by Gov. Gualberto Lumawig and Mountain Province led by Rep. Andres Cosalan.

The President received visitors until 2 p.m. Other callers included delegations from Masbate headed by Rep. Andres Clemente; Camarines Norte led by Rep. Fernando Pajarillo; Cebu headed by Rep. Ramon Durano; and from Ozamiz City headed by Mayor Hilarion A. Ramiro.

In the afternoon, the President went to the Malacañang Heroes Hall where the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, was presiding at ceremonies commemorating the first anniversary of the approval by the U.N. General Assembly of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.

The ceremonies, which were attended by some 800 women leaders, was sponsored by the Civic Assembly of Women of the Philippines.

January 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS threshed out in 3-hour meeting with his financial advisers the funding of urgent government projects in 1969, in a vigorous follow-up of the various development legislative proposals he enunciated in his State-of-the-Nation address last Monday.

In the conference at Malacañang, the President pressed for the implementation of the measures to eliminate delays in the payment of teacher's salaries, including the speed-up of the processing of the appointment papers of teachers.

Shortly before 12 noon, the President temporarily left the conference to give final instructions to Ambassador Luis Moreno Salcedo prior to the latter's departure for his new post as Philippine envoy to Paris. Ambassador Salcedo succeeds as envoy to France Ambassador Jose M. Alejandrino, who has been reassigned to Rome.

After his conference with financial advisers, which lasted from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, played host to Brig. Gen. Charles A. Lindbergh (USAF, ret.), who was acclaimed by the world as the "Lone Eagle," when he crossed the Atlantic alone in a single-engine plane in May 1927. It was the first time anyone flew non-stop solo across the Atlantic.

Now vice-president of Pan American Airways, Gen. Lindbergh is on a visit here on behalf of several world organizations concerned with the preservation of wildlife.

In the course of the day, the President also:

1. Conferred with Commissioner on National Integration Mamintal Tamano on this year's Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca.
2. Directed Secretary of Finance Eduardo Romualdez to start immediately the proposed inquiry into the books of private colleges and universities, in the wake of student demonstrations against the alleged high fees charged by these institutions.

During the conference this morning with his fiscal advisers, the President took note of the unrest in private universities and colleges, partly stemming from the fees charged by these institutions, which students described as excessive.

3. Received an expression of gratitude from the Student Movement for Reforms, a group within the Far Eastern University, for his interest in educational reforms.

At the same time, the student leaders, numbering 23 in all, also assured the President that they will henceforth conduct any demonstration in a "peaceful and orderly manner."

4. Demanded an explanation from the Civil Service Commission of the alleged unnecessary delay in the processing of appointments of teachers and other government employees by that office.

This delay in the processing of appointments was pinpointed as one of the principal reasons for the delay in the payment of salaries of public school teachers. The President had been receiving complaints from teachers from many parts of the country about the non-payment of their salaries.

5. Ordered Commissioner Sy-Changco and Secretary Corpuz to establish a more effective liaison between their offices and the Civil Service Commission in order to cut the delay in the processing of teachers' appointments.

In the evening, the President motored to the Manila Hotel where he was guest of honor at the dinner commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Rotary Club of Manila.

In his speech, he assured the business community that there will be no further restrictions on credit, no exchange controls, and no devaluation. (See Feb. 10 issue of the Official Gazette for full text of President's speech.)

January 30—

PRESIDENT MARCOS devoted his time conferring with various officials, working on important state papers, inducting officers, and receiving visitors.

Among others, he moved to relieve the abaca industry of the pressures burdening it arising from the toll of typhoons, and to receive the visiting Foreign Vice-Minister of Peru, Dr. Javier Perez de Cuellar.

De Cuellar was here as official guest of the Department of Foreign Affairs. He called at Malacañang to pay his courtesies to the President. He was accompanied by Dr. Gutierrez Varagas, charge d'affaires of the Peruvian embassy in Taipei.

After meeting the Peruvian official, the President sat down with leaders of the abaca industry to consider their problems.

Former Ambassador Jose Fuentebella, Sr., president of the Bicol Federation of Abaca Producers, requested a year's respite before settling the industry's accounts with the Development Bank of the Philippines, which has moved to foreclose federation properties in view of the abaca producers' failure to pay their debts to the DBP.

Senator Dominador Aytona recommended a one-year moratorium by the DBP on the collection of debts. The President acceded, directing chairman Gregorio Licaros of the DBP to grant the moratorium.

Ambassador Fuentebella and Bernardo Silverio, another official of the federation, also discussed with the President an industry project toward the processing of abaca for pulp, the raw material in paper manufacturing.

In-between callers, the President inducted into office:

1. Former Mayor Anastacio Bernal of Lubao Pampanga as member of the National Planning Commission; and
2. Eusebio Botengan, Jr. as member of the Mountain Province Development Authority.

The Chief Executive also:

1. Directed the Presidential School Building Committee to study immediately the possibility of constructing two-story pre-fabricated schoolhouses for the barrio high schools movement.

The President specified that the pre-fab unit should be patterned after the Marcos-type pre-fab schoolhouses, which is the more durable of the two types of pre-fabs now available in the country.

He ordered the study in the hope of augmenting the number of barrio high schools now existing, which is viewed as not enough to meet the needs of young people eager to get a secondary education.

2. Directed Secretary Ramon Bagatsing, PARGO chairman, to recall or remove the so-called "eyes and ears" of PARGO from government offices, if indeed there are such "agents."

The President observed that there is no necessity for such agents, adding that there are enough civic-spirited government employees and plain citizens who in discovering irregularities in public offices are compelled to call the attention of the authorities to these cases.

Among other callers were Senators Leonardo Perez, Emmanuel Pelaez and Lorenzo Teves; Reps. Constancio Maglana, Lorenzo Sarmiento, Gregorio Murillo, Andres Cosalan, Rafael Legaspi, Lambero Macias and William Chiongbian.

A big delegation of local officials from Lanao del Sur headed by Rep. Ali Dimaporo, Gov. Linang Mandangan and Marawi City Mayor Omar Dianalan, also called to consult the President on local problems.

Rep. Sarmiento accompanied several mayors from Davao Del Norte, who brought up their respective requirements; while Rep. Maglana and Gov. Leopoldo Lopez of Davao Oriental took up the road project connecting all the towns in their province.

Mayor Titina Anni of Siasi, Jolo, accompanied by her husband, Indanan Anni, also discussed local problems.

Among the President's last callers was Gaudencio Mañalac who invited the President to induct the officers of the Philippine Chamber of Wood Industries.

In the evening the President motored to D'Plaza in Makati, Rizal to address the Philippine institute of Certified Public Accountants. (See Feb. 10 issue of the official Gazette for full text of the President's speech.)

Source: **Supreme Court Library**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1969). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 65(5), ccxciii-ccc.

Official Week in Review: February 7 – February 13, 1969

February 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had the opportunity to discuss directly certain rural development projects brought up to him by delegations of barrio officials from Batangas and Cavite, who called in separate groups in the morning at Malacañang.

The President also considered other problems with various officials whom he received, including members of Congress.

Otherwise, the President's day was concentrated on desk work, as he studied official papers and reports from various offices of the government.

Among his callers was Manuel Cudiamat, supervisor of the IBM division of the Budget Commission, who brought to the President some 4,000 treasury warrants covering the salaries of Manila public school teachers. The warrants compare the first batch of national government paychecks to be delivered direct to school teachers, in accordance with presidential instructions. This means was taken to prevent delay in the payment of salaries, which was the case when payment was made through the Manila city treasurer's office.

Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco accompanied Cudiamat, and later took up briefly with the President other fiscal matters.

The Batangas group was accompanied by Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., Governor Feliciano Leviste, and Mayors Amado E. Laurel of Talisay, Tirso P. Ramos of Lobo, and Soriano L. Lubis of Mataas na Kahoy; while the Cavite barrio leaders were accompanied by Undersecretary of Commerce Fernando Campos, former Governor Dominador Camerino and Mayor Eusebio Leachon of Amadeo and former Vice-Governor Benigno Guinto.

The Batangas and Cavite barrio officials called to inform the President of the priority projects they have chosen for their respective localities. They requested the aid of the national government, in line with the administration's intensified program for rural development, in implementing the projects.

Others who called on the President included Senators Dominador Aytona and Leonardo Perez and Rep. Floro Crisologo of Ilocos Sur; Governors Vicente Magsaysay of Zambales and Isidro Rodriguez of Rizal.

In the course of the day, the Chief Executive also:

1. Certified to Congress the bills pending in the Senate and the House proposing a Magna Carta for students, thus rounding out the measures taken to respond to the problems and grievances of the student community.

The President's certification of the Magna Carta for students was in accordance with a pledge earlier in conference with student leaders, following the demonstrations in several Manila colleges and universities where students presented grievances and asked for guarantees in their rights and privileges.

2. Received Paul Hoffman, administrator of the United Nations Development Program who is here on a four-day official visit to see UNDP-assisted projects in the country. He is a house guest at Malacañang.

In his after-dinner remarks, the President emphasized that many countries owe to the competence and dedicated leadership of the UNDP official in international assistance programs much of their present security and abundance.

3. Received the support of, and vote of confidence in Secretary of Education Onofre D. Corpuz of the Philippine Public School Teachers Association headed by Santos Pascual, PPSTA president.

4. Received assurance from former Governor Norberto Romualdez, Jr., coordinator and action officer of the Presidential Advisory Council on Public Works and Community Development (PACPWCD), that the production of maps for use by the Commission on Elections in the coming poll will be ready on March 31, 1969, the deadline for completion.

The assurance was given on the inquiry of the President as to the progress of the work, in appreciation of the importance of the maps in the facilitation of the Comelec's work in the coming elections.

February 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS urged the start of "an earnest and responsible" dialogue on the changes in the Constitution which a constitutional convention will consider in 1971.

In brief remarks at cocktails honoring surviving delegates to the Constitutional Convention and members of the Philippine Constitution Association given at Malacañang, in connection with the nation's observance of Constitution Day, the President affirmed the "sanctity" with which the Filipinos regard the nation's charter.

At the same time, he said, the Constitution is "the will of the people, and the people, through their representatives, have the sovereign right, when they so prefer, to remold the Constitution and make it more responsive to the needs of the national community."

In the morning, the President, together with the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, attended the inauguration of the new IBM building on Ayala Avenue in Makati, Rizal where the President was guest of honor and speaker.

Otherwise, the President confined himself to the study of official papers, setting up in the process two commissions relative to the proposed reorganization of the government machinery and decentralization of the government.

A third body was also set up by the President to oversee the production of food, in the country's thrust toward food self-sufficiency. The central body is patterned after the Rice and Corn Production Coordinating Council except that it has broader scope to include all food production programs.

It was, for the President, also a day of award ceremonies, notably the presentation of presidential plaques to the 18 outstanding farmers of the country, for having coaxed quantum yields per hectare from their rice crops, using modern methods.

The farmers were Vicente Bacani of Bagabag, Nueva Vizcaya; Artemio Alivia of Ilagan, Isabela; Paolo Carag of Solana, Cagayan; Pedro Dizon of Mexico Pampanga; Abraham Dycoco of Libon, Albay; Placido Hernandez of Naujan, Oriental Mindoro; Tirso Jamandre of La Paz, Iloilo City; Concepcion Z. Ledesma of Calumangan, Bago City; Zoilo Perlas of Plaridel, Bulacan; Jacinto Mita of Alangalang, Leyte; Perfecto Obias, Jr. of San Jose, Camarines Sur; Feliciano Olaya of Abucay, Bataan; Bautista Rosal of Isulan, Cotabato; Marcelino Rosete of San Felipe, Zambales; Porfirio Ruoda of San Jose, Nueva Ecija; Rosendo M. Tomas of Mayantoc, Tarlac; Miguel Villapaña of Urdaneta, Pangasinan; and Gregorio Zarraga of Biñan, Laguna.

The President also conferred an award on Arthur K. Watson, IBM Worldwide chairman, who received the Order of the Golden Heart for "service to humanity and the 20th century" by virtue of IBM contributions to science and technology.

Earlier, the President had Watson as breakfast guest, along with some members of the Cabinet and other government officials.

In his speech at the IBM building inauguration, the President projected the essentiality of a social conscience in big business, which will enable business entities to render services to the nation in which they actuate toward improving public welfare and helping in social uplift.

At the affair honoring the Constitutional Convention delegates, the President delivered brief remarks which delineated the sturdy values of the Constitution, but also supported the proposed changes in the basic Charter, saying that the nation's experience since the Charter was drafted has indicated that amendments are needed to update the document in response to present and future needs.

Among those at the affair were members of the Philippine Constitution Association led by Justice Jose Ma. Paredes, president; members of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals, the Cabinet, other ranking officials, and the surviving delegates led by Don Vicente Francisco.

February 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS was guest of honor at the 30th anniversary rites of the Philippine Navy, where in his speech he outlined the challenges facing the naval arm and what the Navy can do in contribution to national development and security.

The President also received visitors and conferred with officials, although Sunday is usually a day he reserves for concentrated desk work.

Notable among his callers today was Sir Stanley Tomlins, deputy undersecretary of state for Asian affairs of the British foreign ministry. The British official called in the evening at Malacañang, accompanied by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo and British Ambassador John Mansfield Addis.

Among the reports studied by the President was that of Secretary of Finance Eduardo Romualdez on the scrutiny of the books of big universities and colleges in Manila. In sum, the report said that these institutions realize sizable profits from their operations.

In other actions, the Chief Executive:

1. Dispatched Felicisimo Ocampo, associate reparations commissioner to Tokyo where he will supervise the public bidding on certain reparations items.

He indicated that Ocampo was picked to oversee the bidding because he represented the opposition party. Ocampo's specific mission is to keep the bidding aboveboard.

2. Established by executive order a national food and agriculture council to coordinate the activities of various government agencies involved in the administration's program aimed at attaining self-sufficiency in food.

The new body is an expanded version of the Rice and Corn Production Coordinating Council which had succeeded in increasing production of the nation's two staple food.

3. Created a Youth and Student Affairs Board composed solely of representatives of student and youth organizations to serve as an agency to formulate policies and programs for the youth and students and as the channel for a continuing dialogue between them and the government.
4. Published his income tax payments during the last three years, with a statement that any increase or decrease in the amount of taxes paid by him was due to the uncertainties that attend the practice of law.

According to the statement the President paid P89,937.00 in income tax in 1966 for income in 1965; P84,106.30 in 1967 for income in 1966, and P188,208.00 in 1968 for income in 1967.

"The increase in my income in 1967 was due to an increase in payments of attorney's fees for cases which I had handled even before I became a Senator, but which were finally adjudicated by the trial or appellate courts only in 1967 and for which I was paid my corresponding fees that year," he said.

Leaving Malacañang in the company of Secretary of Defense Ernesto Mata and General Manuel Yan, AFP chief of staff, the President motored to Pier 15 where he boarded RPS 777, a Navy hydrofoil used in the anti-smuggling drive.

Aboard the hydrofoil, the President received the Navy salute, rendered by a naval formation. Commodore Ismael Lomibao, flag-officer-in-command of the Navy, joined the President after the salute.

The President then went on to the Navy headquarters where the main Navy Day rites were held.

Highlighting the program was the conferment of awards to 12 military personnel and 11 civilians and entities who have contributed to the Navy's welfare. The President gave the awards.

The awardees were: Seaman 1st Class Melecio Bernate who received a battle commendation medal; LCdr. Rosita Macaling of the Nurse Corps, LCdr. Leonardo Nuval, Capt. Conrado Chuidian and LDdr. Brillante Ochoco, who each received a military merit medal; Cdr. Gonzalo Santos who was given a military merit medal and a military commendation ribbon; Capt. Hilario Ruiz, military commendation medal; LCdr. Redmedios Aquino, Cpl. Leonardo Orate, Pfc. Edgardo Flores and Pfc. Roberto Mendoza, who all received the military commendation ribbon; and Major Thomas Ahern, Jr. of JUSMAG, who was given the Flag-Officer-In-Command Plaque.

Other recipients of the FOIC plaque were Fiscal Narciso Diokno Salcedo, Rodolfo G. Tupas, Pedro Lopez, Jr., Ramon Flores, Jr., Johnny de Leon, the DND Press Corps, the Press Photographers of the Philippines, the Society of Philippine Illustrators and Cartoonists, Laja Hamaluddin, Juanito de los Santos and Benigno Manabat.

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The overall budget of P3.197 billion is P131 million less than the current budget of 3.328 billion.

The proposed expenditures under the General Fund is P200 million less than the expenditures under the General Fund last year.

The President signed the budget message at Malacañang this morning and was immediately submitted to Congress by Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco.

At 8:00 a.m., the President motored to the WHO building at UN Avenue where he addressed the UNDP regional meeting wherein he projected the profound changes taking place in the world and the need for all people to respond to it with action for the larger welfare of mankind.

In this connection, the President underlined the endeavors of the United Nations Development Program, under the various projects of which part of the answer to the challenge of change has been provided.

He said that beyond what the UN has done to meet this challenge, the various countries of the world must meet the challenge through better laws, greater assistance to have-nots, through cooperation, and efforts in behalf of peace, justice and world order.

"It is a task not alone for you," he said, "nor for one nation, but for all leaders of free men in Asia and Africa, in the Americas, and in Europe." (See pp. 1545-1549 for full text of the President's speech).

Immediately after his address, the President, together with the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, proceeded to the airport and boarded the Presidential Fokker plane for Davao City. They arrived there at about 11:30 a.m.

At the Davao airport, the First Couple was met by a rousing welcome from a crowd that virtually swarmed all over the city airport.

Leading the welcomers were provincial, municipal and barrio officials, as well as national officials from Mindanao.

After the military honors rendered the President, the First Couple headed motorcade that first stopped at the city cathedral for a *Te Deum* sung in the couple's honor.

After the *Te Deum*, the President and the First Lady officiated at the inauguration of the Davao-Calinan asphalt road. On the way to Calinan, the Presidential party made unscheduled stops at barrios to return the people's greetings. The President spoke briefly at each stop to the barrio people.

Along the way, the President inaugurated Marcos-type schoolhouses. The unscheduled stops disrupted his schedule, so that he had to forego lunch at Calinan. Instead he turned right around to attend the opening of the Mindanao Athletic Association Meet in Davao City.

The ceremonies started not at 3:00 p.m. as scheduled but at 5:00 p.m. After the rites, during which the President spoke, he again inaugurated a new edifice, the Division of City Schools administration building.

During the day he had conferences with various officials and distributed development funds allocated to barrios.

In the evening, the President had a conference with local and Mindanao leaders at the Insular Hotel. He inducted two groups of officials, one of the city barrio councils federation, the other of the local PTA.

The President also called on candidates for public office and officials holding high public office to disclose their income tax payments since 1965.

The President said he had divulged his own income tax payments in order to set an example for all who are aspiring to public office in the coming elections.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS tirelessly moved through two Davao provinces, as he pressed for the second day his inspection of rural improvement projects and inaugurated completed ones.

The President said that an equally important objective of his current trip is the inquiry into the further needs of the people in the area, particularly rural folks, so that proper action may be taken.

At the residence of Senator Alejandro Almendras, where the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, had lunch, the President conferred with provincial governors and city and municipal mayors of Mindanao provinces participating in the week-long Mindanao Athletic Association meet, now being held in Davao City.

Accompanied by First Lady, the President visited the new provinces of Davao Oriental and Davao del Norte.

Last night, after officiating at the opening of the athletic meet the President and the First Lady motored to Digos, capital of Davao del Sur, some 60 kilometers from Davao City, where the President conferred with barrio captains of the province.

At this conference, the President received a scroll of gratitude jointly passed by all the 267 barrio councils of Davao del Sur. The scroll thanked the President for rural improvement projects launched by the administration in their respective communities.

Returning to the city about 11:00 p.m., the President again conferred with councilmen of the 117 barrios of the city, at the Insular Hotel. Mayor Elias Lopez accompanied the group.

Earlier in the morning, Brig. Gen. Hans Menzi piloted the President in a light plane across the Davao gulf to Mati, capital of Davao Oriental, where the President had another conference with councilmen of the 149 barrios of the province. He also inspected the progress of the work on the extension of the local pier. The improved pier will be able to handle the increasing traffic in that inter-island shipping center of Mindanao.

The President gave the provincial engineer and the AFP engineering battalion assigned in Davao Oriental five months to finish a 70-kilometer road connecting four coastal towns of the province.

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On the way to the capital town, the First Couple stopped briefly at Carmen where they inaugurated a multi-purpose center.

The President and First Lady were back in Davao City early in the evening.

The President met at dinner at the Insular Hotel representatives of the local mass media.

Meanwhile, the President promulgated by executive order the manual of student rights and responsibilities, which the Department of Education will implement.

The manual was instituted in the “interest of the state and society,” the presidential order said, with both public and private educational institutions required to “provide facilities for academic development as well as conditions for intelligent social participation.”

The manual seeks to attain this objective by establishing rapport between school and students through guarantee of student rights, while defining student responsibilities.

February 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS returned to Manila from a two-day inspection trip to the Davao region, arriving around 1:30 p.m. at Nichols Air Base. He was accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, who made the trip with him.

On arrival at Malacañang, the President immediately scanned official papers on his desk and acted on a number of urgent state business.

He issued an administrative order creating a special committee for student affairs, which will deal with the problems of U.P. students.

Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas will head the group, which will be composed of three others representing the government and the U.P. administration; and three students to be picked by the U.P. student council, as well as the president of the council himself.

The President also accepted upon receipt the resignation of Senator Benigno Aquino, Jr. as member of the Presidential Study Commission on Central Luzon.

Aquino was appointed member of the Commission by the President simultaneous with its creation. The Commission was created to study in depth the problems of the region. Former Senator Manuel Manahan is the chairman of the group.

Besides doing his paperwork, the President also consulted with close aides on current concerns and conferred with various officials who called at Malacañang.

Among those who saw the President were Secretary of Justice Juan Ponce Enrile and Governor Eduardo Cojuangco, Jr. of Tarlac.

In the evening, the President continued to work at his desk in the presidential Study.

February 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS interceded for government employees deserving of promotion by asking the Civil Service Commission to act on their papers; ordered a probe of the incident in Pangasinan involving the Angeles City mayor and certain PC personnel; and took steps to have a study commission consider necessary amendments to the Constitution.

These were some of the actions taken by the President as he concentrated on paper work at his desk. He received almost no outside visitors, except for government officials and close aides.

He also asked his staff to announce the termination of services of 15 ranking officers, including eight generals and seven colonels, all of whom were due for retirement but served extended tours of duty. The officers were variously retired within the current fiscal year, some in the first half of the year, others this month and the next.

The President is now studying the termination of the services of 15 other officers, due for retirement soon.

Working in his Study, the President pored over reports and problems elevated to him. He received only officials with urgent matters to take up, concentrating most of his time on the work at hand. For this purpose, he called in occasionally his aides.

He instructed Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas to set up a presidential study commission which will recommend amendments to the nations Charter. The group will be headed by a retired Supreme Court justice, and will have as members representatives from among national lawyers groups and members of the PHILCONSA as well as of the academic community.

The President also ordered a probe by a composite team from the justice department, the NBI and the PC of the incident in Carmen, Pangasinan, where Mayor Eugenio Suarez was reportedly stopped at gunpoint by a group of PC men.

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The President kept close to his Study through the evening, to catch up with paper work which piled up during his recent survey trip to the Davao provinces.

Source: **Supreme Court Library**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1969). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 65(7), cccxvii-cccxxiv.

Official Week in Review: February 7 – February 13, 1969

February 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had the opportunity to discuss directly certain rural development projects brought up to him by delegations of barrio officials from Batangas and Cavite, who called in separate groups in the morning at Malacañang.

The President also considered other problems with various officials whom he received, including members of Congress.

Otherwise, the President's day was concentrated on desk work, as he studied official papers and reports from various offices of the government.

Among his callers was Manuel Cudiamat, supervisor of the IBM division of the Budget Commission, who brought to the President some 4,000 treasury warrants covering the salaries of Manila public school teachers. The warrants comprise the first batch of national government paychecks to be delivered direct to school teachers, in accordance with presidential instructions. This means was taken to prevent delay in the payment of salaries, which was the case when payment was made through the Manila city treasurer's office.

Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco accompanied Cudiamat, and later took up briefly with the President other fiscal matters.

The Batangas group was accompanied by Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., Governor Feliciano Leviste, and Mayors Amado E. Laurel of Talisay, Tirso P. Ramos of Lobo, and Soriano L. Lubis of Mataas na Kahoy; while the Cavite barrio leaders were accompanied by Undersecretary of Commerce Fernando Campos, former Governor Dominador Camerino and Mayor Eusebio Leachon of Amadeo and former Vice-Governor Benigno Guinto.

The Batangas and Cavite barrio officials called to inform the President of the priority projects they have chosen for their respective localities. They requested the aid of the national government, in line with the administration's intensified program for rural development, in implementing the projects.

Others who called on the President included Senators Dominador Aytona and Leonardo Perez and Rep. Floro Crisologo of Ilocos Sur; Governors Vicente Magsaysay of Zambales and Isidro Rodriguez of Rizal.

In the course of the day, the Chief Executive also:

1. Certified to Congress the bills pending in the Senate and the House proposing a Magna Carta for students, thus rounding out the measures taken to respond to the problems and grievances of the student community.

The President's certification of the Magna Carta for students was in accordance with a pledge earlier in conference with student leaders, following the demonstrations in several Manila colleges and universities where students presented grievances and asked for guarantees in their rights and privileges.

2. Received Paul Hoffman, administrator of the United Nations Development Program who is here on a four-day official visit to see UNDP-assisted projects in the country. He is a house guest at Malacañang.

In his after-dinner remarks, the President emphasized that many countries owe to the competence and dedicated leadership of the UNDP official in international assistance programs much of their present security and abundance.

3. Received the support of, and vote of confidence in Secretary of Education Onofre D. Corpuz of the Philippine Public School Teachers Association headed by Santos Pascual, PPSTA president.

4. Received assurance from former Governor Norberto Romualdez, Jr., coordinator and action officer of the Presidential Advisory Council on Public Works and Community Development (PAC-PWCD), that the production of maps for use by the Commission on Elections in the coming poll will be ready on March 31, 1969, the deadline for completion.

The assurance was given on the inquiry of the President as to the progress of the work, in appreciation of the importance of the maps in the facilitation of the Comelec's work in the coming elections.

February 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS urged the start of "an earnest and responsible" dialogue on the changes in the Constitution which a constitutional convention will consider in 1971.

In brief remarks at cocktails honoring surviving delegates to the Constitutional Convention and members of the Philippine Constitution Association given at Malacañang, in connection with the nation's observance of Constitution Day, the President affirmed the "sanctity" with which the Filipinos regard the nation's charter.

At the same time, he said, the Constitution is "the will of the people, and the people, through their representatives, have the sovereign right, when they so prefer, to remold the Constitution and make it more responsive to the needs of the national community."

In the morning, the President, together with the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda E. Marcos, attended the inauguration of the new IBM building on Ayala Avenue in Makati, Rizal where the President was guest of honor and speaker.

Otherwise, the President confined himself to the study of official papers, setting up in the process two commissions relative to the proposed reorganization of the government machinery and decentralization of the government.

A third body was also set up by the President to oversee the production of food, in the country's thrust toward food self-sufficiency. The central body is patterned after the Rice and Corn Production Coordinating Council, except that it has broader scope to include all food production programs.

It was, for the President, also a day of award ceremonies, notably the presentation of presidential plaques to the 18 outstanding farmers of the country, for having coaxed quantum yields per hectare from their rice crops, using modern methods.

The farmers awarded were Vicente Bacani of Bagabag, Nueva Vizcaya; Artemio Alivia of Ilagan, Isabela; Pablo Carag of Solana, Cagayan; Pedro Dizon of Mexico, Pampanga; Abraham Dycoco of Libon, Albay; Placido Hernandez of Naujan, Oriental Mindoro; Tirso Jamandre of La Paz, Iloilo City; Concepcion Z. Ledesma of Calumangan, Bago City; Zoilo Perlas of Plaridel, Bulacan; Jacinto Mita of Alangalang, Leyte; Perfecto Obias, Jr. of San Jose, Camarines Sur; Feliciano Olaya of Abucay, Bataan; Bautista Rosal of Isulan, Cotabato; Marcelino Rosete of San Felipe, Zambales; Porfirio Ruoda of San Jose, Nueva Ecija; Rosendo M. Tomas of Mayantoc, Tarlac; Miguel Villapaña of Urdaneta, Pangasinan; and Gregorio Zarraga of Biñan, Laguna.

The President also conferred an award on Arthur K. Watson, IBM Worldwide chairman, who received the Order of the Golden Heart for "service to humanity and the 20th century" by virtue of IBM contributions to science and technology.

Earlier, the President had Watson as breakfast guest, along with some members of the Cabinet and other government officials.

In his speech at the IBM building inauguration, the President projected the essentiality of a social conscience in big business, which will enable business entities to render services to the nation in which they actuate toward improving public welfare and helping in social uplift.

At the affair honoring the Constitutional Convention delegates, the President delivered brief remarks which delineated the sturdy values of the Constitution, but also supported the proposed changes in the basic Charter, saying that the nation's experience since the Charter was drafted has indicated that amendments are needed to update the document in response to present and future needs.

Among those at the affair were members of the Philippine Constitution Association led by Justice Jose Ma. Paredes, president; members of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals, the Cabinet, other ranking officials, and the surviving delegates led by Don Vicente Francisco.

February 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS was guest of honor at the 30th anniversary rites of the Philippine Navy, where in his speech he outlined the challenges facing the naval arm and what the Navy can do in contribution to national development and security.

The President also received visitors and conferred with officials, although Sunday is usually a day he reserves for concentrated desk work.

Notable among his callers today was Sir Stanley Tomlins, deputy undersecretary of state for Asian affairs of the British foreign ministry. The British official called in the evening at Malacañang, accompanied by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo and British Ambassador John Mansfield Addis.

Among the reports studied by the President was that of Secretary of Finance Eduardo Romualdez on the scrutiny of the books of big universities and colleges in Manila. In sum, the report said that these institutions realize sizable profits from their operations.

In other actions, the Chief Executive:

1. Dispatched Felicisimo Ocampo, associate reparations commissioner to Tokyo where he will supervise the public bidding on certain reparations items.

He indicated that Ocampo was picked to oversee the bidding because he represented the opposition party. Ocampo's specific mission is to keep the bidding aboveboard.

2. Established by executive order a national food and agriculture council to coordinate the activities of various government agencies involved in the administration's program aimed at attaining self-sufficiency in food.

The new body is an expanded version of the Rice and Corn Production Coordinating Council which had succeeded in increasing production of the nation's two staple food.

3. Created a Youth and Student Affairs Board composed solely of representatives of student and youth organizations to serve as an agency to formulate policies and programs for the youth and students and as the channel for a continuing dialogue between them and the government.

Published his income tax payments during the last three years, with a statement that any increase or decrease in the amount of taxes paid by him was due to the uncertainties that attend the practice of law.

According to the statement the President paid P89,937.00 in income tax in 1966 for income in 1965; P84,106.30 in 1967 for income in 1966, and P188,208.00 in 1968 for income in 1967.

"The increase in my income in 1967 was due to an increase in payments of attorney's fees for cases which I had handled even before I became a Senator, but which were finally adjudicated by the trial or appellate courts only in 1967 and for which I was paid my corresponding fees that year," he said.

Leaving Malacañang in the company of Secretary of Defense Ernesto Mata and General Manuel Yan, AFP chief of staff, the President motored to Pier 15 where he boarded RPS 777, a Navy hydrofoil used in the anti-smuggling drive.

Aboard the hydrofoil, the President received the Navy salute, rendered by a naval formation. Commodore Ismael Lomibao, flag-officer-in-command of the Navy, joined the President after the salute.

The President then went on to the Navy headquarters where the main Navy Day rites were held.

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The awardees were: Seaman 1st Class Melecio Bernate who received a battle commendation medal; LCdr. Rosita Macaling of the Nurse Corps, LGdr. Leonardo Nuval, Capt. Conrado Chuidian and LCdr. Brillante Ochoco, who each received a military merit medal; Cdr. Gonzalo Santos who was given a military merit medal and a military commendation ribbon; Capt. Hilario Ruiz, military commendation medal; LCdr Remedios Aquino, Cpl. Leonardo Orate, Pfc. Edgardo Flores and Pfc. Roberto Mendoza, who all received the military commendation ribbon; and Major Thomas Ahern, Jr. of JUSMAG, who was given the Flag-Officer-In-Command Plaque.

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President's Month in Review: March 1-20, 1969

President's Month in Review: March 21-27, 1969

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

March 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS continued his personal survey of government projects and his program of conferences with local officials with a flying visit to Dumaguete City where he met local and provincial officials of Negros Oriental.

Leaving Manila at about 6:30 a.m., the President and his party flew straight to Dumaguete City where a big crowd awaited him at the airport, led by Mayor Jose Pro. Teves, to give him proper welcome. After the usual ceremonies, the President went to the city church where a *Te Deum* was sung in his honor.

Emerging from the church, the President was besieged by admirers who vied for the opportunity to shake his hand. The President enthusiastically responded, reaching out to shake hands with as many citizens as possible.

Then he whisked off to the city auditorium where he conferred with an impressive gathering of delegations from all the municipalities and barrios of the province.

In a conference later with local officials, which was attended by Senator Lorenzo Teves, Rep. Lamberto Macias, Secretary of General Services Salih Ututalum, Gov. Rene Espina of Cebu, PACT) Secretary Ernesto Maceda, and district engineers, the President listened to the problems of local officials, including that of lack of heavy equipment for speed-ding up the construction of barrio and feeder roads.

As a result of this complaint, the President directed the Department of Public Works and Communications to form construction teams in each engineering district throughout the country, whose special mission will be to expedite road construction and to maintain existing ones.

The President and his party returned to Manila about 3 p.m. Enroute both ways the President worked on state papers, in the course of which he:

1. Asked for a study of the feasibility of suspending the effectivity of the law authorizing an additional one per cent on realty taxes, which will go into the special education fund.
2. Approved the immediate construction of the Dumaguete City pier.
3. Asked the committee headed by Secretary of Finance Eduardo Romualdez to report within 24 hours on the purported hike in bus and jeepney fares.
4. Approved air service agreements between this country and Lebanon, France, the Netherlands, and Italy.
5. Authorized the Department of Social Welfare to administer the P100 million World Food Program in this country.
6. Declared the period from March 17 to 23 this year as "National Museum Week," as a means of promoting cultural consciousness among the Filipinos.
7. Signed House Bill No. 17837 declaring the period from March 22, 1969 to March 22, 1970 as the General Emilio Aguinaldo Centennial Year.

The bill appropriated P500,000 to carry out the purposes of the law.

Introduced by Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr. it was certified earlier and passed by both chambers of Congress, in honor of General Aguinaldo, the first and only President of the First Republic of the Philippines, which was the first democratic Republic in Asia.

In the evening, the President was guest of honor at the AFP celebration of Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo's 100th birthday.

March 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS asked the nation to “give new meaning” to Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo’s vision of a free and viable Republic in the “context of our time.”

The President stressed that the “shape and nature of the nation proclaimed by Aguinaldo is still the image of the Future” which Filipinos today perceive.

In a speech delivered for him by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, at the commemoration of the 100th birthday of Gen. Aguinaldo, at Kawit, Cavite, the President asserted that the Second Republic was launched with the same vision which imbued the men of the Revolution.

“It is now ours to fulfill that vision,” he stated. “We must make the choices, reach the decisions, do the work, fight the battles, and our people, God willing, win our place in history.” (See pp. 3112-3115 for full text of the President’s speech.)

The President devoted much of his working day to the study of state papers, reports, and other official matters,

He left Malacañang for a quick trip to the Veterans Memorial Hospital in Quezon City early in the morning to consult doctors on a stomach upset.

A complete check-up, however, revealed nothing particularly wrong. The VMH doctors gave him a clean bill of health.

In the afternoon, the President went to Fort Bonifacio to speak at the ceremonies commemorating the 72nd anniversary of the Philippine Army.

In his speech, the President emphasized his determination to implement the fundamental policy prohibiting any member of the armed forces from engaging in any activity that might be interpreted as partisan political action.

On his return to Malacañang, he once again concentrated on his paper work.

The Chief Executive, among others:

1. Authorized Immigration Commissioner Edmundo Reyes to conduct hearings on the case of Chinese businessman Ernesto Ting, with the view of resolving the case immediately and recommending the proper action for Malacañang to take.
2. Set the summer session of government offices, from April 1 to June 15, with government employees allowed to work only from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with provisions for a skeleton force in the afternoon to take care of urgent official business.

Excepted from the half-session are officials and personnel performing special or urgent duties.

3. Approved the promotion of over 438 reserve officers, ranging from first lieutenant to major.
4. Communicated anew with the LP leaders on the need for an LP representative in the supervisory board of the Friendship Highway project, the invitation to which was sent to Senator Gerardo Roxas earlier by the President, but did not receive any response.

March 23—

USUALLY A COMPARATIVELY quiet day devoted to uninterrupted work on state papers, this day was uncommon for President Marcos because he spent a good part of his time outside Malacañang, in the morning with Filipino veterans and in the afternoon with students and school officials.

At 9:45 a.m., the President, accompanied by Maj. Gen. Dionisio Ojeda (ret.) motored to the Veterans Center at Fort Bonifacio, Rizal where he inaugurated the Veterans Building which houses the offices of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines, the Board of Trustees of Veterans of World War II; Veterans and Military Museum, Rehabilitation and medicare centers, and other veterans offices.

Upon arrival, the President was met by veterans and military officials led by Undersecretary of Defense Manuel Salientes, Gen. Manuel Yan, AFP chief of staff, and Simeon Medalla, president of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines.

After receiving full military honors, the President unveiled the marker for the General Aguinaldo Home for the Aged and Infirm, one of the facilities in the veterans center.

Then the President formally inaugurated the P300,000 Veterans Building. He also viewed the galleries and museum on the ground floor of the building, where various relics of the Filipino soldiery, including guerillas, which evoke the Filipino struggle for liberty and independence, were exhibited.

In his address before the big gathering of veterans and guests, the President renewed his pledge, made to dying comrades during the war, to “try and build a nation” worthy of their sacrifices.

During the affair, the President, asserting that the veterans deserve more aid, named Col. Medalla (ret.), to head the office of the Presidential Assistance for Veterans Affairs. The unanimous approval of this move impelled the President to induct Col. Medalla forthwith.

The President returned to Malacañang about noontime.

After a brief rest, the President again emerged from Malacañang, at about 1:40 p.m., this time to formally open the PRISAA Meet in Marikina, Rizal.

Mayor Osmundo de Guzman of Marikina welcomed the athletes and guests from all over the country, while Gov. Isidro Rodriguez of Rizal introduced the President.

In his remarks at the ceremonies, the President paid tribute to the provincial government of Rizal for building the modern Rodriguez Sports Center, which boasts of a “tartan” surfaced playground; it is a rubberized material.

After addressing the meet, the President lingered to witness the colorful playground demonstrations performed by students from Rizal and Manila Schools.

The President left the sports center at about 5:30 p.m.

The President suspended from office Desiderio Custodio, municipal judge of Mainit, Surigao del Norte, for a period of one month without pay for ignorance of the law and oppression.

The judge was also sternly warned that a repetition of the same offense will be dealt with more severely.

For the rest of the day, the President worked on state papers.

March 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent the whole day in Zambales, where he turned over to local officials more than 150 government projects, including schoolhouses, and broke ground for the P78 million sugar central which will go ivy in one of the barrios.

The President left Malacañang early in the morning with a handful of officials and flew in a private plane piloted by Brig. Gen. Hans Menzi, the senior presidential military aide, landing a little over one hour later on an airstrip of the PC camp in the province.

After receiving the usual military honors, and stopping at a barrio, the President motored the short distance to Iba, the capital town.

Among his welcomers were Rep. Ramon Magsaysay, Jr., Zambales provincial officials led by Gov. Vicente Magsaysay, Vice Gov. Antonio Diaz, Olongapo City Mayor Amelia Gordon, and former Gov. Manuel Barretto.

Accompanying the President were PACD Secretary Ernesto Maceda and Presidential Executive Assistant Jaime Ferrer.

From the airfield, the President first stopped at Barrio Amungan, largest in the province, where he inaugurated the Marcos-type schoolbuilding set up there. The ceremonies symbolized the establishment of over 100 other prefab schoolhouses allocated to the province.

In Iba, the President was enthusiastically received by a huge turnout of people which included residents of towns and barrios nearby. At a popular rally in the town plaza, to which he walked directly from the church after the *Te Deum* in his honor, the President told the people that his program of development is by way of continuing the policy of the late President Magsaysay, who laid emphasis on development projects which would improve the life of the people.

The President then turned over to local officials in a formal ceremony about 50 PACD projects, consisting of multi-purpose pavements, health centers, artesian wells and natural springs developed into a safe and permanent water supply for rural communities.

About noontime, the President went to Barrio Pagudpud, in the town of Botolan, to lay the cornerstone and break ground for the sugar central of the Central Azucarera-Refineria de Bataan.

After lunch, the President surveyed the on-going projects in nearby places and conferred with provincial, municipal and barrio officials, on the various problems of the region and on their priority requirements for development.

The President and his party flew back early in the afternoon to Manila, arriving about 3 p.m.

Back at Malacañang, the President received at about 6 p.m. the prime minister of the German federal state of Northrhine Westphalia, Minister President Heinz Kuehn, who paid his respects. The German dignitary arrived in Manila on a five-day visit.

Minister Kuehn, who is a member of the board of trustees of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, a private German foundation, planed in March 22 to confer with local Stiftung members and observe their activities here.

March 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS called on the military to enhance the “total commitment” to the state it serves, and the society in which it functions as an integral part, so that it can better serve the people.

In a speech at the graduation exercises of the Philippine Military Academy at Fort Del Pilar, the President said that “as a developing nation, we need the services of manpower trained not only in science and technology but also in administration so as to improve efficiency and reduce waste.”

The President left Malacañang about 9 o'clock in the morning for the flight to Baguio City. He arrived in the summer capital at 10:80 a.m.

City Mayor Luis Lardizabal and other local officials, including those from the province of Ifugao, Benguet, the Mt. Province, Kalinga-Apayao, and La Union, led the large crowd which welcomed the President at the airport.

From the airport, the President proceeded to the city plaza where he addressed a public rally. He discussed the various programs of the national government to improve the rural areas, and explained the P100 million barrio development fund which is pacing rural improvement.

The President had a luncheon conference at the Mansion House with local officials and leaders from La Union, including Press Secretary Jose D. Aspiras, Gov. Juvenal Guerrero, Chairman Joaquin Ortega of the San Fernando Port Authority and Assistant Press Secretary Jacobo C. Clave.

Early in the afternoon, the President received student leaders of the city, who staged a demonstration seeking the ouster of the city chief of police.

According to the students, the peace and order situation in the summer capital has deteriorated because of the incapacities of the incumbent police chief.

Later in the afternoon, the President motored to the Philippine Military Academy and addressed the year's corp of graduating cadets.

The President was fetched from the Mansion House at 3:45 p.m. by General Manuel Yan, AFP chief of staff; and Brig. Gen. Cesar M. Garcia, PMA superintendent. Upon arrival at Fort Del Pilar, site of the academy, the President was given full military honors, including a 21-gun salute, and a parade in review.

Leading the cadet corps that welcomed the President were Cadet Capt. Eduardo Jonson, and cadet officers Felipe Gaerlan, Erwin Ver, Guillermo Parayno, and Edgardo Perez.

From the PMA, the President went direct to the retreat house on Mirador Hill for his annual spiritual meditation

But just before entering the retreat house, the President signed the deportation order directing Immigration Commissioner Edmundo Reyes to "deport Chinese businessman Ernesto Ting by the first available transportation to China or Formosa, and, thereafter, to exclude him from the Philippines."

Ting's ouster from the country was precipitated by the President's receipt of several signed complaints from private parties, which denounced the Chinese national's illegal activities, including smuggling, traffic in drugs, white slavery, gambling, and abetting or facilitating the illegal entry here of aliens.

The President's decision to deport Ting was further compelled by the action of the Supreme Court, on August 10, 1966, divesting Ting of his status as a naturalized Filipino, which the court said he acquired fraudulently.

March 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS remained cloistered all day at the Mirador Hill retreat house.

With a handfull of other faithful, he spent the day in spiritual meditation and in his private room devoted his reading to religious books. The spiritual meditation is an annual practice of the President, in preparation for the observance of the Holy Week.

March 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ended his 3-day spiritual retreat in Baguio City at 5 p.m., when he emerged from Mirador Hill sanctuary.

The First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, was on hand to greet the President as he stepped out into the cool afternoon looking rested, hale, and hearty. The couple motored together to the Mansion House.

At his desk at the Mansion House, the President found a pile of state papers brought by Presidential Assistant Jaime N. Ferrer from Malacañang in the morning. The President briskly waded in the papers. He later received several officials, including Rep. Fernando Pajarillo of Camarines Norte and Gov. Alfredo Lamen of Mt. Province. The officials took up with the President various local problems.

In resuming work on matters of state, the President:

1. Ordered Immigration Commissioner Edmundo Reyes to deport Chinese businessman Ernesto Ting immediately if possible.

The President also instructed Commissioner Reyes to inquire into the so-called Red Book, which press reports described as a record kept by Ting on officials he had dealt with in connection with business activities, so that appropriate action may be taken against guilty parties.

2. Created a national committee to take charge of the celebration of Independence Day on June 12, with Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo and Secretary of Labor Blas F. Ople as chairman and vice chairman, respectively.

Named as members of the committee are Press Secretary Jose D. Aspiras, Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, National Integration Commissioner Mamintal Tamano, Public Works Undersecretary Baltazar Aquino, Education Undersecretary Juan L. Manuel, Defense Undersecretary Alejandro Melchor, Commerce Undersecretary Fernando Campos, Deputy Administrator Severino Salang of the Office of Economic Coordination.

Mayor Antonio J. Villegas of Manila, Carmen Guerrero Nakpil, Virgilio de los Santos, president of the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities, (PACU); Col. Simeon Medalla, president of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines; Josefina Phodaca-Ambrosio, president of the Civic Assembly of Women of the Philippines; Teofisto Guingona Jr. president of the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines; and Teodoro F. Valencia, vice-chairman of the National Parks Development Committee.

Jose A. Balquiedra, Presidential protocol officer, was designated secretary of the committee.

Source: **Supreme Court Library**

President's Month in Review: March 28-31, 1969

President's Month in Review: April 1-10, 1969

President's Month in Review: April 11-17, 1969

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

April 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had the unusual experience of being guest of honor at three inaugurals, one a hotel, another a radio station, and the third the first fund campaign of the PANAMIN.

In-between, the President worked on state papers and problems, and received callers, mostly officials on state business.

The President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, formally launched in the morning the national educational and fund drive of the PANAMIN Foundation, Inc., a private organization geared to the amelioration of cultural minorities all over the country.

The First Lady, who is honorary campaign chairman of the PANAMIN, received donations during the ceremony.

At about noontime, the President and the First Lady motored to the imposing Inter-Continental Hotel Manila, at Makati, Rizal, where they officiated at ceremonies inaugurating the hotel.

The First Couple, Vice President and Mrs. Fernando Lopez, other high government officials, leaders of industry and of tourism, as well as diplomatic representatives also attended the inaugural. The guests were served lunch at the spacious ballroom of the luxurious and modern hotel.

At 4 p. m., the First Couple were again guests of honor, this time at the inauguration of the Veritas radio station in Quezon City.

Earlier in the evening, the President ordered Brig. Gen. Jonas Victoria (ret.), acting administrator of the National Civil Defense Administration (NCDA), to look into alleged irregularities in that agency.

The President asked for the inquiry after receiving reports that money deposited by five municipalities with the NCDA had been unaccounted for. The deposits would have been used to cover insurance and freight fees for reparations jeeps and trucks by the said municipalities, which were procured for their fire departments.

In the evening, the President and the First Lady were hosts at a party honoring Cardinal-designate Julio Rosales, held at Malacañang.

April 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent most of the day in the field, with official visits to Balayan and Batangas, Batangas.

The President, accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, lifted off at Malacañang Park early this morning for Balayan, in PAF helicopters.

Others in the party included Roberto Benedicto, president of the Philippine National Bank, PACD Secretary Ernesto Maceda, and Executive Assistant Jaime N. Ferrer.

Landing at the Balayan airstrip about 9:30 a.m., the President and the First Lady were greeted by a sizable crowd of townspeople, and by Batangas officials led by Speaker Jose Laurel, Jr. and Rep. Federico Serrano. Governor Feliciano Leviste did not make it to the airstrip because he was not feeling well.

After the welcome rites, the President and party proceeded directly to the new sugar central, operated by the Batangas Sugar Central, Inc. He and the First Lady officiated at the inauguration of the modern plant.

In his speech during the rites, the President stressed the importance of the sugar industry to the nation's economy, and the benefits deriving from the operation of the central.

The First Couple had lunch at the central, with the establishment's officers and local officials as hosts.

Shortly afterward, the presidential party boarded the two helicopters for the short flight to Batangas town. There, Gov. Leviste headed a large crowd who accorded the visitors' an enthusiastic welcome.

The President conferred with local officials, specially municipal and barrio leaders, at the governor's mansion. They discussed the current and proposed development projects in the region, as well as examined problems and solutions.

Afterward, the President turned over to local officials over 100 PACD projects in the towns and barrios, including pre-fab schoolhouses and multi-purpose centers.

Later, the President and the First Lady laid the cornerstone of the Mabini Memorial Hall of Justice, named after the "Sublime Paralytic," one of the nation's cherished patriots.

The memorial is the project of the Batangas Lawyers Association, headed by Mayor Pedro Tolentino of Batangas town.

The President and the First Lady arrived back in Malacañang about 6:15 p.m., also by helicopter.

In the evening, as he did earlier in the morning, the President returned to his unceasing paper work.

Earlier, the President ordered deported by the first available transportation to mainland China or Formosa Ching Tian of Park Avenue, Pasay City, a Chinese national, convicted twice by the Court of First Instance of Pasay City for illegal possession of morphine.

April 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS found himself still very busy today, although it was Sunday, as he spent his time attending to official callers in his study, as well as working on state papers the whole day.

Earlier, the President, together with the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, honored at breakfast in Malacañang Dr. Lucien Gregg, resident representative here of Rockefeller Foundation.

At a ceremony preceding the breakfast, the President conferred on Dr. Gregg a Presidential Merit Award in appreciation of his effort in "bringing to our rural folk the benefits of expert medical care."

Dr. Gregg was responsible for the establishment of the Community Comprehensive Rural Health Program at Bay, Laguna.

While working on state papers, the President:

1. Authorized the Philippine Committee on ECAFE matters to offer the Philippines as the site for the second session of the ECAFE Typhoon Committee, slated to be held next December.
2. Forwarded to the Commission on Appointments the nomination of Alfredo L. Endaya as district state prosecutor of the Department of Justice, for the eight judicial district.

3. Designated Esteban Atienza, the provincial auditor; and Alfredo Torres, highways district engineer; as chairman and member, respectively, of the Board of Assessment Appeals of Batangas.

4. Approved the promotions of 40 reserve officers in the inactive status of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to ranks ranging from first lieutenant to lieutenant colonel.

The President also submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation the nominations of three reserve officers in the inactive status of the armed forces to the rank of full colonel. Nominated were Lieutenant Colonels Esteban O. Peña, Yuguis W. Mohammad and Simeon C. Medalla.

In the course of his work, the President also received some callers, among whom were:

1. Ambassador Vicente Arenas, Philippine envoy to the Vatican;

2. General Jesus Vargas, secretary-general of the SEATO, accompanied by William Copeland and Col. Jose Reyn;

3. Rep. Donald E. Luckens of the United States Congress now here to meet with Philippine officials concerning US military and economic assistance to the Philippines, who paid a call.

4. John Maclain of *Fortune* Magazine, and Guillermo Santos of *Time-Life* who interviewed the President.

April 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS arrived in Iloilo City about 5 p.m., with enthusiastic crowd led by Vice President Fernando Lopez and the local officials giving him a tumultuous welcome.

Upon arrival, the President, accompanied by Vice President Lopez, proceeded to the Ledesma Hotel where he addressed the third biennial convention of the National Congress of Unions in the Sugar Industry of the Philippines (NACUSIP).

The President was introduced to the convention by former Rep. Pascual Espinosa, a Liberal, and a prominent labor leader. Espinosa praised the President's labor record, from the time he was a representative, through his terms as a senator, and now as President.

As a member of Congress, the President, according to Espinosa, sponsored the Magna Carta of Labor, the Land Reform Act and the Women and Child labor laws, among others.

Among those present at the convention ceremonies were Vice President Lopez, Secretary of Labor Bias F. Ople, Undersecretary Raoul Inocentes, and Zoilo de la Cruz, Jr., president of the NACUSIP.

After addressing the NACUSIP convention, the President proceeded to the University of Iloilo, where he was conferred the degree of doctor of laws, *honoris causa*. It was the first doctorate degree to be conferred by that university.

At the University of Iloilo commencement exercises, the President was joined by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, who had followed from Manila.

The investiture was held at the university quadrangle. The ceremonies were witnessed by a big crowd, and by ranking officials, including Gov. Rafael Palmares, Iloilo City Mayor Reinerio Ticao, Reps. Fermin Caram, Ricardo Ladrido, Pedro Trono, and Gloria Tabiana; and Mrs. Ester Aldeguer, wife of Speaker Protempore Jose Aldeguer.

The President landed in Iloilo from Masbate, where he also met in the morning with the local officials and checked on the progress of development projects in that province.

A big crowd headed by Gov. Moises Espinosa and Rep. Andres Clemente met the First Couple on their arrival at the Masbate airport.

Also on hand to welcome them were Sen. Dominador Aytona, former Secretary of Labor Emilio Espinosa; and Reps. Fernando Pajarillo of Camarines Norte, Carlos Imperial of Albay, and Felix Fuentebella of Camarines Sur.

The President and the First Lady heard *Te Deum* at the St. Anthony's church, after which Mrs. Marcos, accompanied by ladies of local officials, visited a puericulture center and laid the cornerstone for a local home for the aged.

Before leaving for Masbate in the morning, the President worked on urgent state matters in his study.

Among other actions, the Chief Executive:

1. Certified to Congress a bill which would amend Republic Act No. 4665, the law providing for the printing and sale of 70-centavo airmail postage stamps to raise funds for the Taal Volcano eruption victims.

The amendatory bill would reduce from five hectares to three the lot to be allotted to each family-evacuee at the resettlement site.

2. Authorized Secretary Cesar Virata, chairman of the Board of Investments, to head the Philippine delegation to the Third Session of the Industrial Development Board, which will convene in Vienna on April 24, and deliberate up to May 15 this year.

Ambassador to Geneva Hortencio Brillantes was designated vice chairman of the delegation, while Minister Wilfredo V. Vega of the Philippine embassy in Geneva and Domingo Siazon of the Philippine embassy in Berne were named members.

April 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, arrived in Cagayan de Oro City to a rousing welcome from an impressive crowd at mid-afternoon.

Earlier in the day, the President and the First Lady flew in a private plane from Iloilo City direct to Camiguin Island. The plane touched down at the Mambajo airport about 11:30 a.m.

A big crowd which had gathered at the airport had to wait for sometime, because the First Couple was delayed by last minute conferences that the President had with Iloilo officials.

Despite the delay, the crowd gave the President and the First Lady an enthusiastic welcome led by Senator Emmanuel Palaez and Gov. Jose P. Neri of Camiguin.

Following a *Te Deum* in the First Couple's honor at the local church, the President conferred with provincial, municipal and barrio officials at the Mambajao town plaza. Discussed were local projects and urgent problems relative to development.

It was already past high noon when the President and the First Lady were able to have lunch at the residence of Gov. Neri.

Afterward, the First Couple took off for Cagayan de Oro City, arriving sometime after 3 p.m. First stop was this city's St. Augustine's church, where a *Te Deum* was said for them.

Then they hied off to the new public market, which the First Lady inaugurated at ribbon-cutting ceremonies. It was at the same site that the President met local officials.

While enroute to Camiguin earlier in the day, the President signed the certifications to Congress of three bills providing for: 1) a school tax in place of the residence tax, which is to be abolished; 2) creation of more extension classes; and 3) special retirement system for policemen.

The President also:

1. Issued an executive order creating the Panay Development Planning Board, an agency needed to accelerate the economic progress of the Panay province. The members of the board who witnessed the signing of the executive order were Governors Rafael Palmares of Iloilo; Cornelio Villareal, Jr. of Capiz; Jose B. Legaspi of Aklan; and Julian Pacificador of Antique; Iloilo City Mayor Reinerio Ticao and acting Mayor Teodor'o Arcenas of Roxas City.

Also present at the signing of the order were Vice President Fernando Lopez, congressmen, municipal and other local leaders of the four provinces.

2. Submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation his nominations of a fiscal and 11 assistant fiscals for Iloilo City.

3. Ordered the deportation of Chua Tong Po and Sy Cho, two Chinese nationals, both ex-convicts, the first for adultery and the second for vagrancy and violation of opium law.

April 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS made flying visits to the provinces of Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte, Marawi City, and Iligan City.

During these visits, he discussed matters relating to local economic development with local officials at all levels, and inquired into their needs and problems.

After passing the night aboard the *RPS 777*, the President boarded a helicopter which lifted off the ship's pad for the visit to Marawi City and Lanao del Sur.

The President was accompanied by Sen. Alejandro Almendras and Rep. Ali Dimaporo of Lanao del Norte. Waiting to welcome him and his party were National Integration Commissioner Mamintal Tamano, Gov. Linang Mandangan of Lanao del Sur and Marawi City Mayor Omar Dianalan.

The First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, flying in another helicopter, joined the President at Marawi City a little later.

The President's party stayed in Marawi City until after lunch time, during which he met with Lanao del Sur officials, including barrio captains.

The President's party left Marawi City at 3 p.m. for Iligan City. After a brief flight, he landed at the compound of the Iligan Integrated Steel Mills (IISMI). Upon arrival, the President first inspected the IISMI plant, eyeing closely the new facilities.

Col. Cipriano de Leon, senior vice-president of IISMI, briefed him during the tour on the plant's installations.

From the IISMI, the President proceeded to the Iligan Institute of Technology, a branch of the Mindanao State University. The President officiated at the inauguration of the modern Institute.

In his speech, the President described the Institute as his administration's answer to the needs of the youth and manpower development program in the Mindanao region.

Towards evening, the President met at the residence of Gov. Arsenio Quibranza with provincial, municipal and barrio officials of Lanao del Norte and Iligan City. He discussed with them further development needs of their respective localities, and other urgent matters.

April 17—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, arrived in Ozamis City at 7 a.m. after an overnight cruise from Iligan City, with large delegations from the two cities and all the municipalities of Misamis Occidental giving them a rousing welcome.

Leading the welcomers were Gov. Henry Regalado, Rep. William Chiong-bian, Mayor Hilarion Ramiro of Ozamis City and Mayor Alfonso Tan of Tangub City.

Among others who accompanied the President were Senator Alejandro Almendras, PACD Secretary Ernesto Maceda, Rep. Ali Dimaporo of Lanao del Norte and Gov. Rene Espina of Cebu.

The President, along with Mrs. Marcos, heard a Te Deum in their honor at the city cathedral. Then, they proceeded to the local Tomb of the Unknown Soldier where the President laid a wreath.

From the tomb, the President went on to the city stadium where the official delegations from the cities and municipalities of Misamis Occidental had already assembled.

At 1:30 p.m., following luncheon, the President and the First Lady, Senator Almendras and Rep. Dimaporo flew in a helicopter to Pagadian, capital of Zamboanga del Sur.

Earlier, the First Couple sent a wire from Ozamiz City to their son, Bongbong, congratulating him for a medal he won in elocution. The medal was to be awarded to Bongbong in a ceremony in the afternoon at the La Salle Green Hills campus. "Keep it up," Bongbong's parents told him.

Aside from tackling urgent problems presented by local officials, the President also announced that he had ordered the formulation of a five-year plan to upgrade the salaries of all public school teachers, based on the idea of gearing their salaries to their responsibilities.

He pointed out that measured against the grave responsibilities of public school teachers, their salaries are inequitable.

The President said the plan is being worked out within the framework of gradual upgrading of teachers' salaries in the next five years. The Department of Education and the Budget Commission are Working on the plan, he added.

He said the salary plan is in accordance with the overall administration program to upgrade education in the country. This program, he emphasized, has been given top priority.

Before debarking in Ozamiz City, the President:

1. Ordered Secretary of Health Amadeo H. Cruz to organize special teams to audit the distribution of free medicines in the barrios and rural communities.

He issued the order in the face of unabated complaints that the free medicines distributed by the government are not reaching beneficiaries, namely the poor of the rural areas.

2. Ordered the deportation of three ex-convicts of foreign nationality, whose continued presence here is considered a menace to the peace and safety of the community.

Ordered deported were Co Lin, of 1223 C. M. Recto Avenue; Vicente Kong, of Paco, Kidapawan, Cotabato; and Tim Ma Kem of San Pablo City.

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

President's Week in Review: April 18-24, 1969

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

April 18—

AN IMPRESSIVE gathering of Mindanao leaders joined a turnout of citizens to welcome President Marcos and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, in Cotabato City, in one of the most rousing demonstrations of support for the President and his program of government.

The President and the First Lady arrived in the city about ten minutes of each other, with the President aboard the Presidential plane, and Mrs. Marcos in a private plane. The couple came about 3 p.m., flying from Dipolog, Zamboanga del Norte.

The President's party received a very warm welcome at the city's airport which, as will be recalled, was completed and inaugurated by the President himself only last year.

After the airport welcome ceremonies, the President and the First Lady led a motorcade to the city plaza where a rally awaited them,

Among the Mindanao leaders accompanying the President were Sen. Alejandro Almendras, Rep. Ali Dimaporo of Lanao del Norte, the president of the Mindanao-Sulu-Palawan Association (MINSUPALA); Reps. William Chiongbian of Misamis Occidental and James Chiongbian of South Cotabato; Governors Rene Espina of Cebu, Vicente Cerilles of Zamboanga del Sur, Virgilio Lacaya of Zamboanga del Norte, Henry Regalado of Misamis Occidental and Ramon de los Cientos of Davao del Sur.

The President's party was welcomed formally by acting Gov- Simeon A. Datumanong and Cotabato City Mayor Teodoro Juliano, both Liberals. The President was also greeted by Nacionalista Party leaders of the province, among whom were Dr. Gil Gadi, Blah Sinsuat, Odin Sinsuat and Mama Sinsuat.

Earlier, the President visited the province of Zamboanga del Norte. Sailing overnight aboard the *RPS 777*, the President and his party landed at the Pulawan port, Dipolog, about 8 a.m.

At Dipolog, the President inaugurated the newly completed Mibutak bridge, one of the many government projects in that province. Later, the President addressed a public rally at the town plaza.

The President met with the local officials of Zamboanga del Norte after the rally, and following lunch, enplaned for Cotabato City. Also with the President's party were Presidential Executive Assistant Jaime N. Ferrer and Assistant Press Secretary Jacobo C. Clave.

While working on state papers aboard the *RPS 777*, the President:

1- Certified to Congress the bill appropriating ₱10 million for equipping police forces all over the country with modern facilities, in order to upgrade the capabilities of local forces, who cannot cope adequately with their duties for lack of proper equipment, including standard weapons and modern communications systems.

2. Approved the air services agreement between the Philippines and the Republic of South Korea, in line with the "open skies" policy of the administration. The policy is based on reciprocity, which calls for equal privileges to Philippine flag carriers as are given by the Philippines to foreign airlines.

April 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS was given the warmest welcome ever accorded a visiting official in General Santos City, as he and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, arrived there from Koronadal from an encouraging session of direct dialogue with the people and their officials on matters of common concern.

Accompanied by prominent leaders of the region, many of whom have been with him since his arrival in Mindanao on an assessment survey of government projects, the President once again met barrio captains and councilmen.

One of the highlights of the President's visit in General Santos was the surrender to him of Joloano outlaw Jamiri Musa and some 30 of his followers on board a Philippine Navy vessel anchored at Dole Makar wharf in the city.

Present at the surrender rites were Secretary of Defense Ernesto Mata, General Manuel Yan, AFP chief of Staff; and Brig. Gen. Carlos Oanes, fourth military area commander.

In his talks with local officials, the President, as he has done earlier in other localities, inquired into the progress of rural health services, telling the barrio officials that they will now take charge of distributing medical kits, including the free medicines that the government is making available to barrio folks.

He explained that he has transferred the responsibility of distributing these supplies to the people because of the sad experience in other regions, where the free medicines were diverted to other recipients by still unspecified parties.

An investigation into this irregularity is now being conducted, he added.

Before disembarking, the President constituted the Philippine delegation which will participate in the election of five judges of the International Court of Justice.

Named by the President were Supreme Court Chief Justice Roberto Concepcion, chairman; and Associate Justices J. B. L. Reyes, Arsenio P. Dizon and Querube Makalintal, members.

The group will represent the Philippines in the deliberations to nominate candidates to judgments in the ICJ or the World Court.

April 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS returned from a weeklong trip to the Visayas and Mindanao where he met local leaders and assessed the progress of on-going government projects.

The President arrived at 12:10 p.m. aboard the Presidential plane. He left General Santos City at 9:30 a.m., accompanied by Sen. Alejandro Almendras, Gov. Vicente M. Cerilles, Secretary of Justice Juan Ponce Enrile, Secretary Jaime Ferrer and Assistant Press Secretary Jacobo C. Clave.

From the airport he motored directly to the Social Security Commission in Quezon City where he addressed the convention of district judges.

The President enjoined the judges to find new means of clearing their dockets of pending cases even as he ordered an overhaul of the Court of Industrial Relations and the Court of Agrarian Relations to meet the outcry for improved administration of justice from the workers and tenant farmers.

He stressed the necessity of clearing the dockets of courts, especially the criminal courts of pending cases, declaring that retributive justice can only be an effective deterrent to criminality if cases were disposed of with dispatch.

On board the plane en route to Manila, the President worked on state papers and discussed means of further improving the administration of justice with Secretary Enrile.

He certified the following bills for immediate consideration by Congress:

1. House Bill No. 14563 (S.B. 212), entitled: An act establishing and maintaining career internal revenue and customs services.
2. Senate Bill No. 913, entitled: An act to amend Section 1 of Republic Act No. -2361, entitled: "An act reverting to the general funds of the national government the cash balances of certain special or revolving funds under certain conditions."
3. A bill entitled: An act to amend the National Internal Revenue Code, as amended, by inserting a new section providing for penalties for unlawful cutting or gathering of forest products in any public forest or forest reserves without payment of prescribed charges.

He also acted on some papers, which needed his attention and brought along by Secretary Ferrer.

The President also went through the names of armed forces officers recommended by Secretary of Defense Ernesto Mata for promotion.

April 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS followed a stiff regimen of office work, as he concentrated on papers that bided his return from an inspection trip to the South. At the same time, he met his usual crowded schedule of callers, all in all adding up to quite a busy day.

Priority attention was given by the President to the follow-up of decisions made during his assessment tour of Mindanao provinces, resulting in a series of directives to meet problems and needs of localities, which he personally discussed with local officials during the trip.

Among other actions, the President:

1. Submitted to the Senate for ratification the treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, together with the draft resolution concurring with the said treaty.

The Philippines is a signatory to the nuclear ban treaty, which was signed for the government by former Ambassador Salvador P. Lopez on July 1, 1968 in Washington, D. C. and on July 18, 1968 in Moscow.

The Philippines signed the treaty convinced that it will lead to further meaningful developments toward solidifying the peace, such as a comprehensive ban, a verified halt in the production of destructive fissionable materials, a reduction of offensive and defensive nuclear-delivery vehicles, and/or an increased reduction and possibly the eventual elimination of all nuclear weapons.

2. Forwarded to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation the nominations of 31 officials to fill up vacancies existing in national offices in several provinces he visited last week.
3. Issued directives for the release of funds needed by various urgent projects in Mindanao.
4. Signed the promotion of 90 reserve officers in the inactive roster of the armed forces, and of 12 regular officers in the technical services, to fill up existing vacancies.

In-between paper work in his study, the President received several groups and individuals, among whom were:

1. Darian Nelson, president of the Standard Oil of California (Chevron Overseas) Exploration Producing Company, and J. J. Wolahan, president and managing director of Caltex (Phil.) Inc., who apprised the President of their firm's plan to intensify oil exploration activities in the Philippines.

Also with the group were John O'Connor, M. Porzio, Herminio Banico and F. Alegre, Jr., all officials of Caltex.

In connection with the meeting with the Caltex officials, the President also conferred briefly with Francisco Comsti, chief of the geology division of the Bureau of Mines; Vice Chairman Edgardo Tordesillas of the Board of Investments, and Froilan Gervasio, also of the BOI.

2. Reps. Tito Dupaya, Jose Fornier, Lamberto Macias, Felipe Abrigo, Pablo Roman and Gregorio Murillo; and House Majority Floorleader Marcelino Veloso.

3. Gov. Tito Primicias of Pangasinan and Mayor Ramon J. Guico of Binalonan, of the same province.

4. Mayor Manuel Era of Kabugao, Kalinga-Apayao.

5. Mayor Guillermo Sanchez of Butuan City, Board Member Vicente C. Rosales of Agusan, and Dr. Casiano Plaza, also of Butuan.

At 5 p.m., the President attended the reunion of class 1939 of the College of Law, University of the Philippines, held at the Heroes Hall of Malacañang. The President played host to fellow alumni at *amerienda-cena*.

April 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS devoted a large part of his time to conferences with various officials, concentrating in-between on important state papers.

Two welcome breaks from a rigid schedule of work on official matters were the ceremonies conferring awards on a Thai general and on a religious activist. The rest of his day was filled out by the usual callers.

The President conferred on Lieutenant General Chalard Hirunsiri, commander of the Royal Thai Forces in Vietnam, the Philippine Legion of Honor for "distinguished and valuable services" to the PHILCAG in Vietnam. The other awardee was Rev. James F. Donelan, for being a "dedicated servant, inspiring leader and unforgettable friend" of the Filipino people.

In his main conference, the President met with members of the House of Representatives, led by Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr. and House Majority Floorleader Marcelino Veloso. Discussed was the legislative program, with emphasis on bills pending action in Congress.

The President received a number of individual callers as well as delegations from the provinces. Primary object of the calls was consultation on local problems.

Those who called were:

1. Rep. Gregorio Murillo of Surigao del Sur, who accompanied municipal mayors from his province. The group informed the President that road construction projects in the province are being carried out according to schedule. The mayors also stated the further needs of their localities in behalf of development.

2. Deputy Governor Anacleto Vaklez of South Cotabato.

3. Governors Jose Sering of Surigao del Norte and Francisco Nepomuce of Pampanga.

4. Dr. Gil Gadi and his wife, Mayor Emma Gadi of Kidapawan, Cotabato.
5. Mayor Osmundo de Guzman and members of the municipal council of Marikina, Rizal.
6. Reps. Andres Clemente, Ramon Durano, Ali Dimaporo, Constantino Navarro, Pablo Ocampo, Lorenzo Sarmiento and Carlos Imperial.

In other actions, the President:

1. Formally endorsed to the Senate for ratification the agreement establishing the Asian Coconut Community, which includes Ceylon, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines.
2. Issued a proclamation declaring April 27 (Sunday) Lapu-Lapu Day, in commemoration of the 448th anniversary of Lapu-lapu's victory over Magellan on Mactan Island, Cebu, marking the first successful Filipino armed resistance to external invasion. The President said that the battle of Mactan should be remembered as the first blow struck by Filipinos for self-determination and as a symbol of the Filipino love of freedom.
8. Spelled out the guidelines in the allocation of prefab school-houses to ensure the speedy erection and utilization of the buildings.

April 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent the whole morning and part of the afternoon in Pasig, Rizal, where he conferred with local officials, but primarily with the barrio leaders of the province.

On his return to Malacañang early in the afternoon, the President witnessed the hand-over of a diplomatic note from the US embassy agreeing to the Marcos Dollar Plan, as proposed to the US government, which will channel all US government dollar expenditures in the Philippines to this country's foreign exchange reserves.

Present at the delivery of the US note were Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, Secretary of Finance Eduardo Romualdez, CB Deputy Gov. Amado Briñas, PNB President Roberto Benedicto, and Minister Jose de Venecia.

In-between these two main activities, the President worked on state papers, including follow-up action on the measures agreed upon during his talks with Rizal barrio leaders and other local officials.

In the evening, the President helped the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos and daughters Imee and Irene prepare for their departure for Rome tomorrow morning, where Mrs. Marcos will attend the investiture of Julio Cardinal Rosales.

The President, who was accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, left Malacañang about 9 a.m. for Pasig.

The barrio captains of Rizal present at the conference numbered 316, excluding barrio leaders from Caloocan and Quezon cities.

With the President in Pasig were Senator Alejandro Almendras, Presidential Executive Assistant Jaime Ferrer, Gov. Rene Espina of Cebu, Mayor Macario Asistio of Caloocan and Rep. Frisco San Juan.

Nemesio Yabut, president of the Rizal Federation of Barrio Councils, gave the opening remarks.

After meeting with barrio officials, the President and the First Lady had a late lunch at the office of Gov. Isidro Rodriguez, where the President later conferred with Rizal mayors.

The President and his party left Pasig about 3:20 p.m.

Back in Malacañang, the President while working on state papers, reconstituted the Philippine technical panel which participated in the preliminary talks in Washington last year on the re-negotiation of the Laurel-Langley Agreement.

As reconstituted the RP panel will be composed of Central Bank Deputy Gov. Amado Briñas, chairman, with the following as members: Undersecretary for Industry Juan A. Araneta, Customs Commissioner Rolando Geotina, Dr. Antonio Ayala of the Board of Investments, Ramon Katigbak of the Presidential Economic Staff, Emilio Martinez and Pacifico Garcia of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Roberto Garcia of the Central Bank, Dr. Bernardino Bantegui of the National Economic Council, and Tomas Toledo of the Department of Finance.

The President also issued a proclamation reserving a portion of the public domain in Esperanza, Agusan as the site for settling non-Christian tribes.

The settlement will be under the administration and control of the Commission on National Integration.

In another proclamation, the President reserved as a watershed and also as the site for hydroelectric power facilities a parcel of public land situated in the provinces of Benguet, Ifugao, and Nueva Vizcaya. The site is therefore withdrawn from sale or settlement.

The watershed and hydroelectric reservation is within the Mt. Data National Park and the Central Cordillera forest, both of which are national preserves.

The area proclaimed as reserved will be under the supervision and control of the general manager of the National Power Corporation.

April 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS focused on the drive against graft and corruption in the public service, as he went over reports on the status of the campaign, and ordered a stepped-up pace in investigation and prosecution of cases.

Earlier, the President saw the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, and two of their children, off at the Manila International Airport. The First Lady flew off to Rome where she will attend the investiture of Julio Cardinal Rosales as “ninang.”

From the airport, at about 10 a.m., the President motored to Fort Bonifacio where he visited briefly, enroute to the Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City where he was commencement speaker at the graduation of some 4000 students from 14 city high schools.

The President was greeted by Quezon City officials led by Mayor Norberto Amoranto, and was met by a rousing ovation as he entered the coliseum. In his speech, he reiterated support for the youth movement toward greater participation in national affairs and in behalf of reforms in national life. He called upon the young to enter into this participation wholeheartedly and to prepare themselves well for leadership.

On leaving the coliseum, he was given a standing ovation by the estimated 20,000 who attended the commencement exercises. The President congratulated their parents. He was himself given a plaque of appreciation by the parent-teachers associations of the 14 city high schools.

Back in Malacañang, the President concentrated on state papers working alone in his study. He was particularly interested in the status of administrative and criminal cases against erring government personnel, notably those in the foreign office, the justice department and the bureau of posts.

Among the reports he scanned, apart from the graft and corruption cases, were:

1. The final report of Ambassador Salvador P. Lopez on the activities and achievements of the Philippine Mission to the United Nations, from the time the former ambassador assumed the post on September 25, 1964 to March 10, 1969, when he relinquished it to serve as president of the University of the Philippines.
2. The report of President Roberto Benedicto of the Philippine National Bank on the dissolution of the National Cottage Industries Bank (NICB), which the PNB had serviced as official NICE agent.

The President also:

1. Ordered Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo to file both administrative and criminal charges against Virginia Boncan, former finance and property officer of the Philippine embassy in Madrid for malversation.
2. Directed Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas, who is the action officer of the Rice and Corn Production Coordinating Council (RCPCC), to take appropriate action on the request of Lanao del Sur and Marawi City farmers for direct loans and the release of funds for an irrigation system.
3. Submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation the nomination of 28 solicitors. The nominations were promotional and will also serve to fill up existing vacancies in the Department of Justice.

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

President's Month in Review: April 25-30, 1969

President's Month in Review: May 1-8, 1969

President's Week in Review: May 9-15, 1969

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

May 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS chalked up another day full of activities, which started with paperwork in the morning, in the course of which he signed the nominations of 94 new appointees in the government for submission to the Commission on Appointments.

Leading today's nominees was Serafin D. Quiazon, as director of the National Library.

At 11 a.m., the President went to his study where he received Ambassador Olivier Lange of France, who paid him a farewell call.

Another courtesy caller was Malaysian boy scout hero Maud Taib Salamon, who is here to attend the fourth national jamboree of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines being held at Palayan City.

While in Malacañang, the President's son Bongbong played host to the Malaysian boy scout, whom he showed around the palace.

The President then received the officers of the ABACORP Supervisors Union led by Engracio Pesebre, who made representations for the re lease of funds needed in the operation of the abaca corporation.

Following this, the President repaired to the Malacañang reception room where he met with the Postal Inspectors and Legal Officers League, led by its president, Servillano Abad. The group petitioned for the certification of postal reform bills as well as for the release of funds to finance the decentralization of the Bureau of Posts.

Back at his study, the President received a delegation from the Textile Association of the' Philippines, led by Jesus Yujuico, which presented to him the problems of the industry.

Then the President conferred with provincial delegations accompanied by their respective congressmen and governors on problems in their localities. The series of conferences lasted until 2 p.m.

In the afternoon, the President motored to the Manila International Air port, where he led the reception for the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, and two of her children, Imee and Irene. They returned from Rome where the First Lady stood sponsor at the investiture of the second Filipino Cardinal, Julio Cardinal Rosales.

They were welcomed by members of the Cabinet, the diplomatic corps, and* Congress and their ladies.

From the airport, the President and the First Lady went directly to the Manila Hotel where the President addressed the 56th anniversary and biennial convention of the National League of Puericulture Centers of the Philippines.

Arriving at Malacañang about 7 p.m., the President and the First Lady played hosts at cocktails in honor of the delegates to the recently concluded convention of the District and City Engineers League and mayors of nearby provinces who led their respective delegations which met the First Lady at the Manila International Airport.

May 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, accompanied by his son, Ferdinand, Jr. (Bong-bong), formally opened the 4th national jamboree of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines in Palayan City (Nueva Ecija).

Addressing the 8,000 boy scouts, the President stressed the need for developing discipline and responsibility in the citizenry, while lauding the Boy Scouts movement as a “valuable ally” in the moulding of the youth.

He said the movement “complement the classroom in bringing to full development the potential of every boy for the strengthening of character and the duties of citizenship.”

The President flew to Palayan City from Clark Air Force Base where he addressed the 49th national convention of the American Legion (Philippine Department).

In his speech before the American Legion, the President asked the veterans to give substance to their “commitment to freedom” demonstrated in war by helping preserve freedom during this time of peace.

The President was introduced by Col. Simeon Medalla, president of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines.

Present at the affair were Lt. Gen. Francis C. Gideon and Maj. Gen. Kenneth Dempster, commander and deputy commander, respectively, of the U.S. 13th Air Force, Minister James Wilson, charge d’affaires of the U.S. embassy in Manila, Pampanga Gov. Francisco Nepomuceno and other prominent Filipino veterans.

The President landed at Clark Air Base about 7:30 a.m., aboard the Presidential plane. He played a nine-hole golf with Gen. Gideon, Assistant Executive Secretary Gilberto Duavit and Manuel Nieto, Jr.

After addressing the American Legion convention, the President toured the base. He visited the Pacific Air Command Jungle Survival School where American soldiers, particularly those assigned for combat duty in Vietnam, are familiarized with the different kinds of mantraps devised by the Vietcongs.

Maj. Fred B. Ewing, commander of the school, briefed the President.

After lunch at the quarters of Gen. Gideon, the President enplaned to Fort Magsaysay in Laur, Nueva Ecija. He had a brief rest in the camp before proceeding by helicopter to Palayan City.

The President was back at Malacañang about 5:30 p.m.

May 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had an unusually busy weekened topped by his conference with foreign affairs and defense officials on the agenda of the forthcoming SEATO conference and the corresponding positions that would be taken by the Philippines.

Those who met with the President were Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, Secretary of Defense Ernesto Mata, and Gen Manuel Yan, AFP chief of staff.

Colonel Fidel Ramos, presidential assistant on military affairs was also present.

At 11 a.m., the President went out to the Malacañang reception room where he inducted the newly elected officers of the CFI-National Association of Clerks of Court, Inc.

They were Vicente S. Paulido, president; Lorenzo Sta. Ana, executive vice president; Manuel Magistrado, vice president for Luzon; Salvador S. Solis, vice president for Visayas; Eriberto A. Unson, vice president for Mindanao; Pablo P. Dipangco, executive secretary; Aurelio Rivera, assistant secretary; Maria A. del Valle, treasurer; Emma C. Ona, assist ant treasurer; Herminigildo Jimenez, auditor; Francisco Dacanay, Jr., assistant auditor; Jose Hernandez, business manager; Josefina Cruz, PRO; Enrique Casino, sergeant-at-arms; and Aurora Navarette-Recina, Manuela Florendo, Valeriano Concha, Eulalio B. Valencia and Amparo Gomes, directors.

Back in his study after the induction rites, the President received some government and local officials, among whom were Public Works Director Alejandro Deleña and Mayors Isauro Catabay of Anda, Efren Peralta of Bolinao and Josue F. Oreas of Bani, all of Pangasinan.

The Pangasinan mayors apprised the President of their most urgent needs, particularly on rural improvement and community development in their respective municipalities.

The President was closeted in his private study most of the afternoon working on state papers and going over government reports.

Among the other actions taken by the President was his certification of House Bill No. 7324, entitled "An Act to Provide for the Retirement and Separation of Armed Forces Personnel, to Establish an Armed Forces Retirement and Separation Benefits Fund, and for Other Purposes," which seeks to amend Republic Act No. 340 for the purpose of improving and updating the present armed forces retirement law.

Meanwhile, the President sent the following cable to Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman on the victory achieved by the latter's party in the recently concluded general elections.

"HIS EXCELLENCY

PRIME MINISTER TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN

KUALA LUMPUR

MALAYSIA

MY CORDIAL FELICITATIONS ON THE VICTORY ACHIEVED BY PARTY UNDER YOUR LEADERSHIP
AND WISH YOU CONTINUED SUCCESS IN THE YEARS AHEAD STOP

PRESIDENT MARCOS"

May 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS inaugurated today two major projects in Negros Occidental, one, the Bago Irrigation System and, two, the Sagay Sugar Central. In addition, he also inaugurated a number of other public works projects, which if lacking in magnitude were high on practical benefits to the people.

The President landed at the Bacolod airport at 8:45 a.m., along with Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas, Sugar Quota Administrator Ramon Nolan, PNB President Roberto Benedicto, PACD Secretary Ernesto Maceda, and Manuel Barretto of the National Power Corporation.

He was followed an hour later by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, who flew in a separate plane.

A huge and happy crowd gave the President a rousing welcome at the airport. Leading the welcomers were Vice President Fernando Lopez, Gov. Alfredo Montelibano, Jr., Rep. Armando Gustillo, and other provincial and local officials.

From the airport, the President helicoptered to the Bago irrigation project for the inaugural rites. Constructed at the cost of about P17 million, it is the largest current project of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) outside of Luzon. It will irrigate 18,000 hectares of land.

The system will enable farmers to plant twice a year and, coupled with scientific farming methods, result in the increase in annual yield of 300,000 piculs of sugar and 500,000 cavans of palay valued at P19 million.

In his speech, the President said that he shared the pride of the people there in the irrigation project, adding that after prolonged waiting for the completion of the project, which was promised by other administrations but never pursued, it is now a reality, after a crash construction program which was finished ahead of schedule.

The President also inaugurated other infrastructure projects, including the Talisay-Matabang bridge, completed in less than a month, thus adding to the record of efficiency of the administration.

It was nearly high noon when the President re-boarded the PAF heli copter for Sagay; the short flight deposited him at the sugar central exactly at 12:15 a.m.

It is the 28th central in the country and the third established in line with the crash sugar production program.

The Sagay central can crush 3, 000 tons of sugarcane daily, and will turn out 600,000 piculs of sugar in its initial year of operation.

The President and First Lady had lunch at the central, after which the President conferred with some 440 barrio captains of the province. In Bacolod City, later in the evening, the President inaugurated the first completely integrated provincial communications system, a joint project of the Police Commission and the US-AID, in cooperation with the provincial and local governments of Negros Occidental.

The President expressed the hope that the installation of the communications system will result in more effective coordination not only among law enforcement agencies in Negros Occidental, like the NBI, PC and local police forces, but also among other government offices in the province.

May 13—

ARRIVING in Cebu City aboard the *RPS The President* at 9:30 in the morning, President Marcos received a tumultuous welcome from enthusiastic Cebuanos and a solid phalanx of labor elements of the province who staged an impromptu rally in support of administration policies.

Upon debarking, the President was escorted to the stage erected at the waterfront, where he delivered brief remarks thanking the people of Cebu for the warm welcome accorded him and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos.

Immediately after the welcome ceremonies at the Cebu waterfront, the Presidential party motored to nearby San Carlos University where the President addressed the Philippine Dental Association, which opened its 61st annual meeting hosted by Cebu Dental Society.

In his address, the President lauded the association for its efforts in widening the perimeters of dental services throughout the country.

Money and manpower, he said, remain the main problems of the dental services of the government, but he looked forward to increasing the number of dental units in every district of the country, which at present is limited to one for each district.

“To meet these problems,” the President told the dentists, “we must sustain the partnership that has worked so well for both the government and the private sector.”

He stressed, “in short, we must work closer together to meet these problems.”

The President was introduced by Director Emilio Sison, the PDA president-elect and general chairman of the convention.

After his speech, the President was presented with a plaque commemorating his honorary membership in the Philippine Dental Association. Dr. Salvador Escarte made the presentation.

After leaving the PDA meeting, shortly after high noon, the Presidential party reboarded the navy vessel for Danao City where he conferred with provincial and barrio officials.

The President afterward flew back to Manila, arriving early in the evening.

May 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent most of the day closeted in his study working on state papers which pended action during his trip early this week to Cebu and Negros Occidental, notably the clearance of nominees for posts in the judiciary.

Among others, the President studied reports, discussed projects with aides and a number of officials, and sent to the Commission on Appointments more nominations to public posts, notably that of Manuel A. Arranz, as chairman of the Commission on Elections, and about a score of nominations in the judiciary.

The President received no visitors except some officials, including several whom he summoned for consultations. He also forwarded to the Senate the International Sugar Agreement of 1968, for ratification. The Philippines has not yet signed the agreement but is a provisional member, and through the Instrument of Accession will be a party to the agreement.

Except for brief breaks, the President continued to work at his desk through early evening.

May 15—

A FULL DAY of paper work and conferences kept President Marcos close to his desk, which began with a meeting with Senator Dominador Aytona and Rep. Jose M. Alberto, chairmen of the Senate finance committee and of the House appropriations committee, respectively.

After the meeting, which focused on the need to pass the budget within the span of the regular session, the President next received three provincial delegations in succession from Bulacan, Cavite and Sulu, all of whom consulted him on local problems, particularly on urgent development projects.

The Bulacan group was led by Rep. Teodulo Natividad and Gov. Ignacio Santiago, while the Cavite delegation was headed by Undersecretary of Commerce Fernando Campos, and former Governors Dominador Camerino and Leon Guinto. Gov. Murphy Sangkula and Rep. Indanan Anni headed the Sulu delegation.

Following these meetings, the President received members of Congress and local executives, including Reps. Natalio Castillo of Bohol, Carlos Imperial of Albay, Fernando Pajarillo of Camarines Norte, Andres Cosalan and Luis Hora of Mt. Province.

Reps. Pedro C. Medulla of Mindoro Occidental, Salvador Encinas of Sorsogon, Jose Moreno of Romblon, Ricardo Ladrado of Iloilo, Artemio Mate of Leyte, Fernando Veloso of Western Samar.

Governors Vicente Magsaysay of Zambales, Irene Balite of Northern Samar, Samuel F. Reyes of Isabela, Murphy Sangkula of Sulu, and Mayor Omar G. Dianalan of Marawi City.

Other delegations who saw the President were those of the Philippine Public Schools Teachers Association (PPSTA), the Philippine Airconditioning and Refrigeration Society (PARES), and the central council of the Bicutan Settlers Association of Taguig, Rizal.

The PPSTA group, composed of its officials headed by Pascual Santos, invited the President to be their guest speaker at the forthcoming annual meeting of the organization in Calamba, Laguna.

Led by Taguig Mayor Monico Tanyag and Pedro del Rosario, president of the Bicutan Settlers Association, the delegation requested the President to set aside portions of the Fort Bonifacio military reservation as a housing area for civilians, with the present occupants to enjoy priority.

The PARES delegation saw the President to request implementation of the law creating a board of examiners for airconditioning and refrigeration engineers. The law was passed in 1964 but an association of mechanical and electrical engineers filed a suit in court questioning the legality of certain provisions of the law.

The case is now on appeal with the Court of Appeals.

The PARES group requested that the law be implemented since the case was already resolved by the Court of First Instance in favor of the measure.

In the evening, the President was guest of honor and speaker at the Recognition and Awards Dinner of the National 4-H Clubs of the Philip pines and the Agricultural Productivity Commission, held at the Manila Hotel.

While working on state papers and going over reports earlier in the day, the President exonerated Chief of Police Jose Orbe of Iligan City from the charges filed against him alleging maltreatment, conduct unbecoming of a chief of police, grave abuse of authority and drunkenness.

In exonerating the Iligan chief of police, the President noted that none of the alleged victims of abuse or maltreatment mentioned in the charges was a signatory to the complaint, nor were any of them presented as supporting witnesses at the investigation of the case.

The President also submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation his nominations to 55 more positions in the government.

Leading the number of nominees were those for special attorneys in tin-Office of the Agrarian Counsel, assistant city fiscals and municipal judges.

The other nominations were for provincial fiscal, city fiscal, district judge, members of boards of examiners, city and provincial treasurers, register of deeds, membership in the CEPOC board, membership in the board of censors for motion pictures, and state prosecutor.

In a statement issued following President Nixon's address proposing a phased 12-month withdrawal of foreign troops in Vietnam, the President said:

"With his proposal for troop withdrawals from Vietnam, President Nixon has not only articulated a universal desire but also fulfilled an important responsibility to mankind. It is my fervent hope that the communist adversary in Vietnam will respond promptly and sincerely to this historic initiative to end this long and terrible war.

"The American President has offered a peace plan that is constructive, workable and honorable. To the Filipino people, it is especially welcome, because it will make our own present efforts in Vietnam even more meaningful.

"I sincerely wish that when peace in Vietnam comes we shall be able, as the next constructive step, this time towards regional prosperity, to establish a consortium of Western and Asian nations. Such an international alliance

should undertake rehabilitation and reconstruction work for both North and South Vietnam and all other countries affected by the war, ensuring lasting peace through shared prosperity.”

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: May 16-22, 1969

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

May 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS followed closely a stiff schedule which included a meeting with leaders of a citizen movement which staged a rally in behalf of certain amendments to the bill calling for a constitutional Convention, and addressed the entire group which gathered at the Malacañang grounds.

The President told the group that they were a bit late in making the request to certify the Pelaez bill which introduces amendments making the coming charter meet more responsive to the popular idea of a nonpartisan convention. He had already certified the bill to Congress.

Other highlights of the President's day were:

1. A farewell meeting with Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo before the latter left for the SEATO ministerial conference in Bangkok during which the President issued final instructions on the Philippine stand on various matters on the agenda.

2. A meeting with leaders of local veterans organizations, who saw the President to follow-up moves to increase benefits to veterans, during which the President detailed the various steps taken by the government in the veterans' behalf, including certification of bills for that purpose.

Among the veterans leaders with the group were Col. Francisco Offemaria of the Freedom Fighters for Democracy; Col. Simeon Medalla of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines; and Col. Marcos San Agustin (Marking). Also present was Rep. Simeon Valdez, chairman of the House committee on war veterans.

3. A brief visit with Vice Admiral William F. Bringle, US 7th Fleet commander, who paid a courtesy call shortly after making port in Manila.

In-between callers, the President worked on state papers, and issued directives, on various official matters. Among others, he asked for reports from the officials concerned on alleged irregularities in the issuance of titles to certain real estate properties in Baguio City and Bataan.

Other visitors included a delegation from Davao del Sur and Davao del Norte, composed of mayors, and accompanied by Senator Alejandro Almendras; a delegation from Kalinga-Apayao, accompanied by Senator Leonardo Perez; and a delegation of Muslim leaders.

In the evening, the President was guest speaker at the closing ceremonies of the 16th national convention of manufacturers and producers of the Philippines, at the Manila Hotel.

In his speech, the President proposed that local industry turn its sights on competition in world markets.

"We must respond to the challenges of external change," the President emphasized "capitalize on the opportunities presented by the outside world, and develop the strength and the capabilities for doing so."

To do this, he said, local industries must be restructured, adding that the private sector should take the initiative, with the government providing full assistance. (*See pp. 5271-5271 for full text of the President's speech*)

May 17—

PRESIDENT MARCOS conferred in the morning with Vice President Fernando Lopez on current problems in the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources and on other urgent matters affecting the country as a whole.

On a day which normally leaves the President's schedule free of callers in order that he could concentrate on state papers, the only other caller he received was Senator Helena Benitez, with whom he took up legislative matters including a bill banning certain textile imports, which he certified to Congress.

The President also certified the bill proposing added financing resources for the city of Manila, so that it could meet a number of new responsibilities, including the payment of salaries of city schoolteachers which have been standardized at ₱350 a month.

Leaving his desk work twice briefly during the day, the President also spoke at two outside affairs, first, around lunchtime, at the opening of the convention of the Confederation of Filipino Rice and Corn Associations held at the Manila Hotel, where he pledged continued government support for rice and corn production; and second, at the dinner of the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, which formally closed its annual convention today held at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club.

In his speech before the PMAAA, the President said that until the nations under SEATO "can get together and organize a machinery for their own defense, it is necessary to maintain the existing alliances that have so far prevented the loss of an inch of soil to those who seek to subvert their respective governments and societies."

The President stated that the Philippine representatives will support steps that will enhance the effectiveness of SEATO as a shield in this area under which economic and social development can be carried out unhindered by threats of armed aggression." (See pp. 5277-5281 for full text of the President's speech.)

Earlier, the President ordered the immediate relief of Director Teofilo Santos of the Bureau of Forestry upon recommendation of Vice President Fernando Lopez, concurrently secretary of agriculture and natural resources. To take over the office, the President designated Director Jose Viado of the Reforestation Administration who will serve in a concurrent capacity.

The President also directed Secretary of Justice Juan Ponce Enrile to study the provisions of the law pertaining to the registration of land registration cases, such as those reported recently in Bataan and Baguio City, to reopen these and other similar cases in other places.

Other actions taken by the President in the afternoon, included submission to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation of his nominations to 22 more positions in the judiciary and government boards.

The nominations were for state prosecutor, special attorneys, solicitor, assistant provincial fiscal, municipal judges, register of deeds, and membership in the UNESCO national committee, the board of directors of the Mountain Province Development Authority, the Board of Censors for Motion Pictures, the Board of Medical Examiners, and the Board of Examiners for Civil Engineers.

May 18—

PRESIDENT MAECOS proclaimed a state of emergency in Catbalogan, Western Samar, as reports reached him of the devastation wrought by a runaway fire in that capital town last night.

Apart from this, -the President quietly worked on state, business, although suffering from a high temperature occasioned by laryngitis and flu. He is set, however, to help expedite congressional action on administration bill's now pending before both houses of Congress.

For this purpose, he has ordered his regular schedule of engagements in the next few days, and until Congress adjourns, cancelled. He will devote most of his time to planning with Congress leaders how these pending bills can clear Congress during the current regular session, the adjournment of which is not far off.

In other actions, the President ordered the deportation of Co Chan alias Sonia, a Chinese national convicted of homicide, and confined at the correctional institution for women..

May 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS remained in bed on doctors' orders.

He came down yesterday with laryngitis and influenza, and has since run a high temperature.

Aside from the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, no one has been allowed to see him by his physicians.

As a result of his illness, his plan to survey the fire-ravaged town of Catbalogan, Western Samar, fell through. Instead, Mrs. Marcos, accompanied by Vice President Fernando Lopez, visited the fire area and distributed relief goods and turned over ₱500,000 in checks to support the relief operations.

All of the President's engagements this day and for the next few days have been, cancelled.

May 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS continued to follow his doctors' advice to rest although he was allowed to work sparingly, on urgent state matters

Among other actions, the President:

1. Signed a proclamation declaring the period April 15, 1969 to February 28, 1970 as the term of the local fund drive to generate financial support for the Philippine participation in the World's Fair (Expo '70) in Osaka, Japan.
2. Directed the detail of former acting Forstry Director Teofilo Santos to the office of the secretary of agriculture and natural resources, to work directly under Vice President Fernando Lopez, who is concurrently DANR secretary.
3. Ordered the reassignment of Jesus A. Matic, relieved district land officer of Bataan, to the central office of the Bureau, of Lands.

The President also scanned reports from a number of offices, on various matters, including:

1. Customs Commissioner Rolando Geotina's report on customs collections from May 1 to 18, which registered a margin of ₱3,783,799.09 over collections within the same period last year.
2. General Manager Ramon Ravanzo's report on the operations of the National Power Corporation, which stated that, conditions are back to normal with the improved water delivery to its hydro plants, particularly to installations of the Maria, Cristina complex in Mindanao.

May 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS continued to rest in accordance with his doctors' advice, confining his activities merely to light office work.

He received no visitors, and talked only with aides and officials on urgent state business.

In the course of the day, the President, among others:

1. Ordered Acting Forestry Director Jose Viado to submit to him a list of timber concessionaires who have not complied with forestry regulations on reforestation, in order that proper action may be taken against them.
2. Studied the repeat of Land Authority Governor Conrado Estrella on the 64 towns in Central Luzon which are now land reform areas as proclaimed, and on the first publication of the proclamation set for May 24.

Apart from these measured activities, the President took it easy the rest of the day, showing in the process much progress.

May 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS continued to rest on doctors' orders, attending only to urgent state matters.

He was cheered by a report from Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo on the SEATO council's recognition of the achievements of the administration in land' reform, civic action, rural development, infrastructure, and of Philippine proposals for other initiative to help developing nations attain full stature as viable and stable countries.

In other actions, the President:

1. Set a meeting with Gov. Francisco Nepomuceno of Pampanga and with members of the Angeles City council on the recent flare-up of new violence in the vicinity of the latter community.
2. Called a special session of Congress, certifying the budget measure, and eight other vital administration bills.

For the rest of the day, the President took it easy as he continued to improve from a bout with influenza and laryngitis.

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

President's Week in Review: May 23-29, 1969

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

May 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS was well enough to do some light work, but his doctors still advised him to continue resting and refrain from receiving callers.

He therefore asked Vice President Fernando Lopez to work at the presidential study in Malacañang and receive callers on his behalf.

Working in his private study, the President studied a number of urgent reports and took action on other state matters which required his attention.

He swiftly reappointed officials whose nominations were bypassed by the Commission on Appointments, notably the *ad interim* appointments of Supreme Court Associate Justice-designates Claudio Teehankee and Antonio Barredo; Manuel Arranz and Jaime N. Ferrer as chairman and member, respectively, of the Commission on Elections; and Juan Ponce Enrile as secretary of justice.

Meanwhile, Vice President Lopez received palace visitors, among them a delegation, from Camarines Sur, accompanied by Rep. Felix Fuentebella. The group included Mayor Candido E. Montenegro and Councilor Gloria M. Toralde of Balatan town, and Ricardo Hovellanos, district engineer of the province.

The President, in the course of the day, issued various directives, including orders to the PC to stop highway hijacking of cargo trucks; and the stoppage of all logging activities in watershed areas in Negros Occidental.

In a special message to Congress, the President certified to the urgency of the enactment of two proposed bills on the program for total electrification of the country.

The two measures are Senate Bill No. 1136 authored by Senator Emmanuel Pelaez and House Bill No. 17025 authored by Rep. Frisco San Juan (N-Rizal).

The two measures were included in the presidential proclamation for a special session issued yesterday but due to the rush in preparing the proclamation they were inadvertently left out.

May 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS showed steady progress as he recuperated from the flu, but his doctors, playing it safe, still limited his activity to light office work.

Thus, the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, pinch-hit for the President, by representing him at the opening of the Ilagan (Isabela) Cultural, Industrial and Agricultural Fair.

In his private study, however, the President attended to urgent state business, in the process issuing several directives, among them:

1. Full assistance for 250 Badjao families pending their resettlement in a proper area, in the face of the inability of the two Surigao provinces to accommodate them.

2. The participation of the Philippines in the food consumption and general household survey seminar in Moscow in July, which is sponsored by the FAO; and the in-plant training for production engineers in metalwork, also in Moscow, beginning Oct. 6, under the sponsorship of UNIDO.

3. Permission for Isidro T. Lopez and Sisenando Calauag, both of the Central Cooperative Educational Board, to travel to Prague, Czechoslovakia.

4. A study of the NSDB's capability for undertaking the abaca cottonization project.

5. Inclusion of Commissioner Gregorio Bilog, Jr. of the Land Registration Commission in the committee investigating irregularities in land registration cases in Bataan and Baguio City,

6. Consultations with the Bicol Association on any group interested in buying PNR assets, so that initial negotiations may be started.

The President also instructed Secretary of Justice Juan Ponce Enrile to study the proposals from various quarters, including Congress, for the extension of executive clemency to 10 politburo members of the Hukbalahap movement, in view of their 18-year imprisonment, including the time they were held pending court decisions on their cases, despite the 10-year sentences handed out to each of them.

In a television interview in the evening, the President speaking on the proposed amendment of the Constitution, said that he favored an amendment allowing automatic reappropriation of the existing budget if at the end of the fiscal year, no current budget or appropriation act is approved by Congress.

The President pointed out that this amendment is essential because as past experience has shown the absence of a budget forces the President to appropriate funds without congressional authority.

Other amendments proposed by the Chief Executive were:

1. A six-year presidential term without reelection,

2. Removal of certain presidential powers, such as the power to call a special session of Congress and to certify bills saying that legislation should be the sole responsibility of Congress, and therefore it is up to them to determine the length or period of session, and to choose priorities for bills.

3. The removal of the power of the President to suspend the writ of *habeas corpus*, saying that it is a most "unusual power."

May 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS limited his activities to taking action on important state papers and a couple of urgent state business.

He was represented by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, at the inauguration of the Chinese General Hospital where he was to be the guest of honor and speaker.

While working on official papers in his private study, the President:

1) Approved the Philippine participation in the post-graduate training course on biology offered in Czechoslovakia, sponsored by the UNESCO and WHO, provided WHO appropriates travel funds for the Philippine trainees.

2) Authorized the participation of Edilberto Cabalfin of the Philippine Atomic Energy Commission in the study-tour on Waste Management Techniques and Programs in, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and the U.S.S.R. The tour is scheduled from July 8, to August 20, 1969.

3) Granted authority for Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Jose D. Ingles and Mrs. Rosalinda V. Tirona to participate in the meeting of the heads of national secretariats of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), now being held in Indonesia.

On complaints reaching him that certain municipalities of Zamboanga del Sur and Cotabato are imposing toll fees on shipments of rice and corn transported on public roads, the President directed Brig. Gen. Vicente Raval, PC chief, to conduct a probe and to stop the practice if found true.

The President likewise ordered General Raval to immediately take measures to prevent further hijacking of cargo trucks, notably on, the highways between Pampanga and Pangasinan.

In other actions, the President directed:

1). Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo to make representations with the U.S. government for the transfer to the Philippine government of proceeds from the sale of a piece of land in Davao by the U.S. government to the Mindanao Colleges. The property involved an area of about 11,190 square meters located in Davao City, which used to be owned by Haurachi Oya, a Japanese national.

2). The secretary of agriculture and natural resources and the director of forestry to stop all logging operations in the watershed areas of the Bago irrigation system in Negros Occidental, and to cancel all logging permits given earlier covering the area.

3). PARGO to conduct a formal investigation of the administrative complaint filed, against Lt. Gov. Luis, S. Estabañez of Aurora sub-province by Cesar M. Querijeo, a resident of the province. Preliminary findings showed that there is a prima facie case against the official.

4). PACD Secretary Ernesto Maceda to inform all barrio captains that program of work shall no longer be required prior to the release of the ₱2000 from the Rural Development Fund for every barrio.

5) Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas to circularize all provinces, cities and municipalities informing them of the new financing available for the procurement of irrigation pumps. Loans for the purpose may be secured from the Development Bank of the Philippines.

May 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS continued to progress satisfactorily, after coming down with flu last week, so much so that he had earlier tentatively accepted an appearance as guest speaker at the launching of the SEATO Exercise “Sea Spirit,” in the morning, but to be sure about his complete , recovery, his doctors advised against his participation.

Vice President Fernando Lopez, therefore, proxied for the President, at the ceremonies held at Pier 15, where he delivered the President’s speech calling for the presentation of SEATO as a protective shield against aggression, a principle also held by Mr. Lopez.

While the President was confined to acting on urgent matters only, which he alone could cope with, the Vice President continued to pinch-hit for the President in other essential matters.

On behalf of the President, Mr. Lopez received the following Malacañang callers:

1. The Philippine Association of Public Secondary School Administrators, composed of public high school principals, who called to submit a resolution to the President.

The resolution, unanimously approved at the executive meeting of the delegates and observers of the association during its 14th annual work conference held in Baguio City, sought the inclusion of a fully programmed ₱10 million outlay in the national budget as aid to public high schools all over the country.

The Vice President forthwith endorsed the request to Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco for appropriate action.

2. A group of teachers who sought Malacañang assistance in clearing the way-for teachers to take the forthcoming civil service examinations. The group deplored the sudden closing of applications for the civil service examinations for teachers, as ordered by the Civil Service Commission. The teachers said it was premature.

Mr. Lopez asked Civil Service Commissioner Abelardo Subido to take the necessary action on the request, and to inform the Office of the President on the action taken.

Upon representations made by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, the President directed the different relief agencies of the government to continue extending assistance to Siargao, Surigao del Norte, to hasten the rehabilitation of the island which had been almost completely devastated by a recent typhoon.

Mrs. Marcos made a trip to Siargao today on behalf of the President, to assess the damage to the island located some 30 nautical miles off the northeastern coast of Mindanao.

The President also declared May 28 a special public holiday in the Muslim areas in observation of the Muslim feast, "Maulidan-Nabi."

The proclamation of the Muslim holiday was requested by the National Coordinating Council for Islamic Affairs, Inc. who said that to Muslims the day is "the most awaited moment of the year," since it marks the birth of the Prophet Mohammad.

May 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS joined world leaders in congratulating the United States for its most recent space feat, with the successful completion of the dress rehearsal for a moon landing.

In a cable to US President Richard Nixon, the President said that Apollo 10's spectacular voyage "distinctly brings the dream of a moon landing closer to realization, an achievement which will open limitless horizons for mankind."

The message was sent even as the President continued to convalesce from the flu and, with the permission of his doctors, attended to a limited number of state business.

Vice President Fernando Lopez, at the behest of the President, remained at Malacañang to receive presidential callers and confer with 'government officials.

Among those the Vice President received were:

1. Salvador Cardenas, an engineer serving as technician on rice culture with the Mexican ministry of agriculture, who was commissioned by his government to study the techniques of growing the high-yield rice in the Philippines, as well as bring home seedlings of the "miracle rice" variety.

Cardenas was accompanied to Malacañang by" Mexican Ambassador Federico Barrera Fuentes.

Vice President Lopez informed the Mexican officials that in line with President Marcos' policy of sharing with other countries the benefits deriving from the high-yield Philippine rice, this country will gladly help Mexico propagate the high-yield rice varieties.

2. Officials of the Alscope Consolidated, Inc., who offered to conduct feasibility studies on the processing of pulp from Philippine abaca and sugar bagasse.

Accompanied by Ignacio Amador, Philippine foreign trade representative for abaca, the Alscope officials were Herman Walter, Everett Mills, Mayer Buckman and Victor Prescott.

Vice President Lopez advised them to submit an official offer to, the Abaca Development Corporation and to the Philippine Sugar Institute.

Among others who saw the Vice President were RCA Administrator Alfredo Montelibano, Sr., SQA Administrator Ramon Nolan, Chairman Luis Lopez of the Mindanao Development Authority; Rep. William Chiongbian of Misamis Occidental, Govs. Amado Almazan of Kalinga-Apayao, and Alfredo Montelibano, Jr. of Negros Occidental, and Mayor Jose Sison of Surallah, South Cotabato.

May 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS emerged from over a week's confinement to his quarters following a bout with the flu, to work for exactly two hours, during which he reviewed with various officials the status and progress of vital administration projects.

He also signed into law Senate Bill No. 895 (H. No. 17517) which exempts the Press Foundation of Asia from the payment of duties and taxes. He signed the bill in the presence of Senate Majority Floor-leader Arturo M. Tolentino, principal sponsor of the measure.

The President also met with Vice President Fernando Lopez, whom he visited while at work in Malacañang.

Other officials he conferred with included Auditor General Ismael Mathay, Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, PACD Secretary Ernesto Maceda, Land Authority Governor Conrado Estrella, and Secretary of Public Works and Communications Antonio Raquiza, High-ways Commissioner, Baltazar Aquino and Assistant Press Secretary Jacobo C. Clave.

Before conferring with these officials, the President ventured into the presidential study where he consulted with Vice President Lopez, who was then quite busy attending to Palace callers and other state matters.

The Vice President has been asked by President Marcos to hold office at Malacañang in the meanwhile that the latter was still restricted by his doctors to light activities.

Pinch-hitting for the President, Mr. Lopez:

1. Received the report of Pampanga Governor Francisco Nepomuceno on the peace and order, situation in his province, which the governor said is generally peaceful except for Angeles City where gunplay proved fatal to five persons.

The Vice President then ordered NBI Director Jolly Bugarin to have the NBI pinpoint the guilty parties, in the process arranging a meeting between Gov. Nepomuceno and the NBI chief.

2. Summoned Director Anacleto Coronel of Bureau of Animal

Industry to Malacañang to formally assign him as officer-in-charge of the agriculture undersecretary's office, which is without a helmsman with the bypassing by the Commission on Appointments of the nomination of Eligio Tavanlar, who was not reappointed to the post.

Among others who saw the President were:

1. Filemon V. Tutay, a staffer of the *Philippines Free Press* who called for an interview.
2. Rep. Teodulo Natividad of Bulacan, and Rep. Jose Former of Antique.
3. Secretary of Justice Juan Ponce Enrile.
4. Gov. Conrado Estrella of Land Authority.
5. Gov. Vicente Cerilles who came with Mayor and Mrs. Francisco L. Peña of Kabasalan, and Mayor German S. Santiago of Margosatubig, all of Zamboanga del Sur; Mayor Ricardo Chua of Cauayan, Negros Occidental; and Mayor and Mrs. Teodorico Esclamado of Padre Burgos, Southern Leyte.

In a speech read for him by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, at afternoon ceremonies commemorating the 31st anniversary of the founding of the PGB, the President stressed the responsibilities of leadership, saying that he was bringing these to the fore because he regards members of the PGB as "potential leaders."

May 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS constituted the Philippine team, headed by undersecretary of Finance Roman Cruz, Jr., which will negotiate with its Indonesian counterpart under the RP-RI Joint Commission, an updated version of all bilateral pacts between the two countries.

The joint commission, which was agreed upon by President Marcos and President Suharto of Indonesia last year, would review, update or modify all existing bilateral agreements on economic matters.

The President signed the papers forming the Philippine group, in the process investing it with full powers.

The Philippine panel with Undersecretary for Natural Resources Isosceles Pascual as vice-chairman, has the following as members:

Defense Undersecretary Alejandro Melchor, Philippine Navy Commander, Commodore Ismael Lomibao; Immigration Commissioner Edmundo Reyes, Dr. Urbano Zafra, Francisco Ortigas, Jr., Consul General Cristeta A. Feria, Consul General Emilio Martinez, Roberto Garcia, Col. Rizal L. Umaly, Cayetano Llamado and Vice Consul Samuel Ramel.

The President also named a panel of advisers to the team, headed by Consul General Jose Ira Plana.

Meanwhile, Vice President Fernando Lopez continued to receive callers on behalf of the President. In the afternoon the Vice President flew to Baguio City, again to represent the President, at the Rural Bankers Convention, as guest speaker.

In his speech read by the Vice President, the President said that his administration is trying "to correct the economic and social disparities through credit programs, food production campaigns, and self-help projects."

"Through land reform, we also hope to develop a class of independent farmers who have more incentives to produce because they own the "and they till."

Extolling the role that they have been playing in national development, the President said “rural banks are the vanguards of progress in our countryside and provide the lifeblood of the rural areas.”

In the course of the day, the President:

1. Proclaimed May, 30 a special public holiday in Bohol and Tagbilaran City in honor of Bohol patriot Francisco Dagohoy, who led a stirring revolt against the Spanish colonial government.

The Dagohoy revolt is also remembered in Philippine history as the longest resistance against the colonial regime starting in January, 1744 and ended in August, 1829, or a period of 85 years.

2. Received the report of Commissioner of Public Highways Baltazar Aquino that his technical staff is now engaged in project studies of the proposed highway linking Manila and Cavite City.

The highway, as planned, will be an extension of Roxas boulevard, passing through reclaimed areas along the shore of Manila Bay.

The report was submitted by Aquino in follow-up of instructions given yesterday by the President during a meeting with key officials to review and spark vital government projects.

3. Received the official report of Brig. Gen. Emilio Zerrudo, first PC zone commander, on the recent killings in Angeles City, which squarely placed on Huk elements the responsibility for the new violence in that area.

In his report, Gen. Zerrudo recommended an increase in PC troops in the area, and the establishment of checkpoints at the northern and southern approaches of the city.

Zerrudo also informed the President that he would make representations with Angeles City officials for closer coordination in patrolling the area, possibly through joint PC-police teams.

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

President's Week in Review: May 30 - June 5, 1969

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

May 30—

PRESIDENT MARCOS resumed normal activity indicating his full recovery from flu. Among other activities, he inaugurated the Manila-Cebu Tropo-Scatter Link in the morning, addressed the gathering which observed Memorial Day at the U. S. Cemetery, and presided at Conferences assessing the Central Luzon situation.

The President also worked on state papers, in the process signing into law Senate Bill No. 1014 (H. B. No. 18098), which amended RA 5448, thus extending to July 15 the period of car registration. The amended bill provides for a 10 per cent reduction in the additional car tax for the science fund, and allows a yearly depreciation of vehicles registered, according to a fixed rate of fees.

All other state and ceremonial matters which the President could not yet tackle were assigned to Vice President Fernando Lopez who maintained a full schedule of visitors with various matters to take up with Malacañang.

Meanwhile, the President, in a speech read by Secretary of Justice Juan Ponce Enrile, at the annual convention of the Government Prosecutors League, urged government prosecutors to “make your own breakthroughs” in the common effort to enhance the administration of justice and to bring to a successful conclusion the anti-crime drive.

“The President said that “it is time to look forward,” after the gains -made under his administration to instill a new spirit of performance and integrity in the judiciary and in the prosecuting arm of the government.

The present drive for total peace and order, he said, “must succeed in the name of our people.” He added that there “is no other way” to preserve the confidence of the people in the majesty of the law and the processes of democracy.

Earlier, the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, on behalf of the President, formally launched the 21st Educational and Fund Campaign of the Community Chest of Greater Manila at Malacañang.

Thanking all those involved in the fund drive, Mrs. Marcos said that “campaign drives of this kind can only be successful when people of ‘ your position and influence in our society will join hands to fill the community chest.”

May 31—

PRESIDENT MARCOS limited his schedule of callers to a few individuals, as his doctors continued to advise him to used his energies cautiously.

Among others, the President received Jack Valenti, president of the Motion Pictures Association of America, who paid his respects to him and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos. Accompanying Valenti was Gov. Benjamin Romualdez of Leyte.

Also in to see the President were the officers of the Government Prosecutors League of the Philippines, who paid a courtesy call in connection with the League convention, held at Palace Balcony.

During the day, the President inducted new officials whose appointments were recently confirmed by the Commission on Appointment-Inducted were:

1. Buenaventura Guerrero, as city judge of Quezon City; Ramon Purugganan, as assistant commissioner of land registration Lope P. Lopez, as provincial fiscal of the sub-province of Quirino; and

2. The Nueva Vizcaya officials: Arsenio Gonong and Justino Vigilia, first and fourth assistant fiscals, respectively; Jose N. Guirnela, Antonio Balut, Pedro Mabunga, Isabelo Ordoñez, Mariano D. Gonzales, and Gaspar C. Camello, municipal judges of Diffun, Kayapa, Santa Fe, Solano, Bagabag, and Cabarroguis, respectively.

Following the inductions, the President sat down with local officials of the provinces to discuss problems of the region. Accompanying them was Sen. Leonardo Perez.

Working only on urgent matters, the President put in a brief stint at his desk. Among other actions, he ordered Secretary of Justice; Juan Ponce Enrile to investigate the delay in the prosecution of a murder case in Las Piñas, involving three local policemen. The victim was a Malacañang security officer.

June 1—

ASIDE FROM SOME snatches of light paper work, President Marcos practically rested the whole day in preparation for resuming full activity tomorrow after completely recovering from a bout with the flu.

The President spent some time in his private study where he pored over some state documents which had piled up on his desk during his illness.

He also went over the copies of nine vital administration bills which he had certified for consideration of Congress during the special session which starts tomorrow.

Among the measures submitted for consideration were the general appropriations bill and the public works bill.

June 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS put in a crowded day's work, following closely his usual heavy schedule of visitors and conferences, as well as working full time at his desk.

He was earlier pronounced completely recovered from the flu by his doctors.

Among other conferences today, the President met with Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo on the forthcoming meeting of ASPAC nations in Canberra, Australia; received the report of Gov. Tito Primicias and other Pangasinan officials on the case of the provincial treasurer and auditor; and considered the problems and progress of the anti-smuggling campaign with Lt. Gen. Pelagio Cruz (ret.), chairman of the ASAC.

The President first received a 19-man trade mission from New Zealand, which proposed a joint venture with Philippine business, in big-scale pulp manufacturing in his country.

The group, led by T. E. Clark, and accompanied by Mrs. Rosita S. Peñera, protocol officer of the Department of Commerce and Industry, paid a courtesy call on the President, following their arrival here for a business survey. The New Zealand businessmen were particularly interested in putting up a joint venture on pulp-making.

In his meeting with Secretary Romulo, who also briefed him on the recently concluded ministerial conference of the SEATO in Bangkok, Thailand, the President also approved the Philippine panel which will attend the ASPAC meeting.

On the anti-smuggling meeting, the President and Gen. Cruz, as well as Bartolome Mapuad, regional director of the ASAC for Eastern Visayas, focused on the problems and accomplishments of the drive in the Eastern Visayas.

A later meeting was with representatives of the local movie industry, during which the President proposed an exploration of joint film-making ventures between local and foreign movie producers, as a way of projecting the Philippines abroad and earning dollars.

With Gov. Primicias, and members of the Pangasinan provincial board, the President examined the background of the charges filed against the provincial treasurer and the provincial auditor of that province, allegedly for malversation.

Other callers at Malacañang were:

1. Rep. Natalio Castillo of Bohol and Rep. James Chiongbian of South Cotabato.
2. Mayors Leticia B. Berces of Tabaco and Marciano Bitara of Malilipot, both municipalities in Albay.
3. Govs. Gualberto Lumaug of Ifugao and Amado B. Almazan of Kalinga-Apayao.
4. Gov. Feliciano Leviste and Mayor Pedro Tolentino of Batangas, Batangas.

To focus attention on the need for the development of sports, the President proclaimed the period from July 1, 1969 to June 30, 1970 as Philippine National Sports Year.

The President underscored the fact that sports development in the country “has been hampered because of lack of public involvement and support”, thus a sports, year may project the need for greater involvement in the effort.

He stressed that sports fosters pride in country, human fellowship and international understanding. It is also vital to youth development health promotion and citizenship training, he added.

By focusing attention on sports, the President pointed out, “public enthusiasm, involvement and support, will be awakened.

The observance of sports year will be under the auspices of the Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation.

June 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS sounded an optimistic note for fruitful legislative work when a special committee of Congress called at Malacañang in the morning to officially inform him that the special session of Congress he had called was convened.

The special congressional group was among several delegations which crowded the Malacañang schedule of visitors, the second day of full work for the President since weathering a viral infection.

He received visitors straight through the morning, and until 2 p.m. In-between he worked on state matters, among them the designation of the acting police chief for Baguio City; the nomination of a group of provincial fiscals; issuing an order suspending the provincial treasurer of Pangasinan.

The President also received a report from Secretary of Justice Juan Ponce Enrile on the release of four prisoners who belonged to the Huk politburo, after the quartet had served ten years, the term set by the Supreme Court for all politburo members accused of rebellion.

Members of the joint congressional committee who called on the President were Senators Helena Benitez, Magnolia Antonino and Tecla San Andres Ziga; and Reps. Ali Dimaporo, Andres Clemente and Amado Arrieta.

The President asked the committee members to “convey to both houses of Congress my, best wishes for a very productive session.”

Among the provincial visitors the President received were:

1. Macario Tiu, barrio captain of Kanitoan, Initao, Misamis Oriental and president of the Federation of Barrio Captains of the province, who apprised the President of rural development problems in the said localities. Tiu also sought the early payment of the ₱3,000 deriving from the insurance policy of Tirso Galarpe, barrio captain of Oguis, Initao, who died recently.
2. A delegation of provincial board members from Cebu headed by Gov. Rene Espina, who called to report on the progress of public works projects in the province.
3. Mayors from Camiguin province accompanied by Gov. Jose P. Neri, who sought the relief of the district engineer in that province for various irregularities.

Other delegations who saw the President included one from Misamis Occidental headed by Rep. William Chiongbian; and one from Bataan led by Rep. Pablo Roman.

Earlier, the President signed into law House Bill No. 17837 declaring 1969 as General Emilio Aguinaldo Centennial Year and appropriating ₱500,000 for underwriting all activities authorized for the purpose.

The President previously issued a proclamation declaring the centennial year for General Aguinaldo. General Aguinaldo was born on March 22, 1869.

In his proclamation, the President stressed the debt of the country to General Aguinaldo, who was the President of the First Republic, and for the patriotic band of revolutionaries who set up the first democratic government in Asia.

This year marks the 71st anniversary of the establishment of the short-lived Philippine Republic, which history recognizes as the first representative and democratic government in Asia.

The First Republic was inaugurated in Malolos, Bulacan on January 23, 1899.

The President also underscored the need to “perpetuate, the heroic deeds, the sacrifices, the unquestioned patriotism and the sublime idealism” of Aguinaldo and the heroes of the revolution.

In his proclamation, the President constituted the Centennial Commission composed of Secretary of National Defense Ernesto Mata as Chairman; with Senator Genaro F. Magsaysay, chairman of the Senate committee on national defense; Rep. Constantino Navarro of Surigao del Norte, chairman of the House committee on national defense; and Rep. Justiniano Montano of Cavite, as vice chairmen.

June 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS capped his activities with a working dinner, held at Malacañang, to discuss how the legislative work may be speeded up with Senate President Gil J. Puyat and Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr.

During the day, the President also discussed other areas of concern, such as the proposed rice experiment farms which Vice President Fernando Lopez will take up with Japanese officials; and sports for the barrios, with Felipe Monserrat, president of the PAAF.

Other activities included the awarding of citations to five private companies in Mindanao and the induction of two new officials.

The President in the morning signed the instrumentalities giving full powers and the authority to Vice President Lopez to act for the Philippine government in any agreement reached with Japan on the setting up here of two pilot projects in rice culture, under the economic assistance proposal endorsed by President Marcos and Prime Minister Sato in 1966.

While working on state papers, the President also:

1. Approved the grant of visas to Evgeny Ivanov, Malov Alexander Philippovich and Levtonova Yulia Olegovna, all Russian nationals, who wish to spend two weeks on a study-visit in the Philippines.
2. Signed the consular commissions of Rafael Gonzales as Consul to Hongkong; Bonifacio Arribas as Vice Consul to Djakarta; Tom Fitzgerald as honorary Consul to Hobart, Tasmania; and affirmed the credentials of George Proctor as Consul General of Panama in Manila.

The President's other activities included:

1. Award of plaques of appreciation to five private firms in Surigao del Sur for assisting in the implementation Of the infrastructure program. Commended for contributing materials, the use of equipment and labor were the Yusynco Logging, Paper Industries of the Philippines, Lianga Bay Logging Co., Arasasan Tiber Co. and Bislig Bay Logging Corporation.
2. In his meeting, with the PAAF president, the proposed barrio Olympics as part of the observance of Philippine National Sports Year, was discussed.
3. The induction of Zosimo Angeles and Antonio Buban, district prosecutor for the Bicol region and 5th assistant provincial fiscal of Albay, respectively, which was witnessed by Rep. Fernando Pajarillo, relatives and friends of the new officials.

The President received callers until 2:30 pm., among whom were:

1. Mayor Luis Lardizabal of Baguio who sought a site for a proposed community center and social welfare center in his city;
2. Delegations from Zamboanga del Sur headed by Gov. Vicente Cerilles and Vice Governor Bienvenido Ebarle; from Ifugao led by Gov. Gualberto Lumauig and Rep. Luis Hora, from Zambales led by Vice Gov. Antonio Diaz; from Agusan led by Gov. Consuelo V. Calo and Rep. Jose Aquino; from Northern Samar led by Gov. Irene Balite; and a group led by Chairman Joaquin Ortega of the San Fernando (La Union) Port Authority.

June 5—

PRESIDENT MARCOS again had a varied schedule, which included a speech at the 18th anniversary program of the Bureau of Soils, and a courtesy call from Australia's Foreign Minister Gordon Freeth.

Gov. Alfonso Calalang also called, along with other officials, to show the President samples of the checks with "lipstick" markings, which will be exclusively used to cover U.S. government expenditures in the Philippines, as means of preventing the black-marketing of dollars.

The President, and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, received Foreign Minister Freeth and Mrs. Freeth, who came to pay their respects.

Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo accompanied the visitors, including Lance Joseph, charge d'affaires of the Australian embassy here; Malcolm Booker and Andrew Farran, officials of the external affairs department and Gordon Bilney, also of the local Australian embassy.

Gov. Calalang, Secretary of Finance Eduardo Romualdez, Secretary Romulo and Minister James Wilson of the U. S. Embassy come together to show the President two sample checks with the “lipstick” markings. The checks are cashable only in agent “banks of the Central Bank, thus preventing their going into the black-market.

At about noon, the President motored to the Alta Vista, on Roxas boulevard, where he was the guest of honor and principal speaker at the anniversary celebration of the Bureau of Soils.

The President was fetched from Malacañang by Director of Soils Atanacio Simon and Animal Industry Director Anacleto Coronel, who is also the officer-in-charge of the office of undersecretary of agriculture.

The President extolled the Bureau of Soils for its extraordinary efforts to enhance soil conservation and its contributions to agriculture and the rice production breakthrough.

The President worked on state papers and conferred with various officials the rest of the day.

Earlier, the President submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation his nominations for four chiefs of mission, a city treasurer, and an assistant provincial fiscal.

The President also designated Teodoro K. Beltran as acting prosecutor under the Department of Justice.

Nominated as chiefs of mission, class III, were Carmen A. Buyson, Anastacio Bartolome, Carlos Faustino and Rodolfo Severino, Sr.

The other nominees were Arturo S. Pamintuan, for city treasurer of Angeles City, and Jose P. Bondoc, for assistant provincial fiscal of Pampanga.

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

President's Week in Review: June 6-12, 1969

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

June 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, honored at breakfast in Malacañang Australia's Minister of External Affairs Gordon Freeth and Mrs. Freeth, who are here on a brief stopover enroute to Tokyo for the meeting of the Asian Pacific Council.

Other guests, at the breakfast were Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, Undersecretary and Mrs. Jose D. Ingles, Undersecretary Manuel Collantes, Lance Joseph, charge d'affaires of the local Australian embassy; Mrs. Lance Joseph, Mrs. Mariles C. Romulo, Jr., daughter-in-law of Secretary Romulo; Malcolm Booker and Andrew Farran, members of Minister Freeth's official party; and Gordon Bilney of the Australian embassy here.

The President worked on state papers most of the day, acting among others on nominations of existing vacancies in the judiciary, which he promptly submitted to the Commission on Appointments.

As usual, he had a full schedule of callers, among whom were:

1. A delegation from-Nueva Vizcaya, accompanied by Senator Leonardo Perez, which included Mayors Nolasco Mandac of Aglipay, Dionisio Sarandi of Maddela, Leandro Ardenas of Saguday and Antonio Aquino of Villa Verde.
2. Governors Isidro Rodriguez of Rizal, Jose Esteves of Albay, Eduardo Cojuangco of Tarlac, Carlos Fortich of Bukidnon, Tito Primicias of Pangasinan and Gualberto Lumaig of Ifugao, who consulted him on problems in their constituencies.
3. Senators Alejandro Almendras and Dominador Aytona; Reps. Simeon Valdez, Eusebio Moore and James Chiongbian; Mayor Elias Lopez of Davao City, and Mayor and Mrs. Salvador B. Dimson of Lubao, Pampanga.

The President, in the course of his workday, held consultations with key officials, notably Secretary of Justice Juan Ponce Enrile, PARGO Chairman Ramon Bagatsing, Undersecretary of Justice Ramon Fernandez and Undersecretary of Defense Alejandro Melchor.

In a speech, the President urged the government's bureau directors to boldly make decisions in dealing with official matters, saying that he considered decision-making the key to leadership.

Speaking through Asst. Executive Secretary Flores Bayot, who read his message at the dinner closing the 7th annual convention of the Bureau Directors Association (BUDIRAS), held at the Sheraton Hotel in the evening, the President said that "the importance of any decision lies in its timeliness" and bureau directors who lead government workers should not hesitate to make decisions.

He stressed, "I would prefer that you make the wrong decision at the right time than not make any decision at all."

"Now, I am sure," he declared, "you can understand the tone of urgency in my message to you during your last convention," adding that he sought to spur the directors towards "greater efficiency, towards higher performance, and towards the rapid achievement of the goals of our administration."

June 7—

EXCEPT for a delegation from Zambales and Olongapo City, led by Vice Gov. Antonio M. Diaz and Mayor Amelia Gordon, President Marcos today received no callers, choosing to devote much of his workday to state papers.

Among other actions, he submitted to the Commission on Appointments more nominees to government positions mostly to posts in the judiciary.

The Zambales delegation, which included seven municipal mayors, apprised the President of the progress of on-going infrastructure projects in the region, including bridges, roads and irrigation systems. The Zambales officials also requested funding assistance to new development and community projects, and additional prefabricated Marcos-type school buildings.

With the Zambales delegation were Mayors Rodrigo Trimor of Castillejos, Augusto Dantes of Cabangan, Oscar Gonzales of Iba, Silverio Edquid of Candelaria, Melanio Ledina of Palauig, Francisco Galvez, Jr. of San Narciso, and Zosimo Pascacio of San Antonio.

(Mayor Gordon and three Olongapo City councilors, namely, Edgardo Padiernos, Eduardo Guanga and Leopoldo Federico, took up with the, President. urgent development projects in the city.

They emphasized the need for more prefabricated school buildings, in view of the expected increase in enrollment this coming school year.

In a speech read for him by Secretary of Justice Juan Ponce Enrile at Batangas, Batangas, which highlighted the inauguration of the pipeline system for oil products, the President said that “our days of small thinking are over” and that the Filipinos today can equal or exceed the achievements of other people “in terms of development and the uplift of human life.”

Recounting how the Meralco, under the leadership of Don Eugenio Lopez; generated the funds to build the pipeline, through its own resources and loans from financing institutions abroad, the President said that the investments of foreign financiers in the project “reflect the heightened confidence and faith” in Filipino business and in the “stability of the government economy and society.”

June 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS worked on state papers, conferred with government officials, and towards noon he was guest speaker at the national convention of the League of Women Voters at the Manila Hotel.

At mid-morning, he met with Chairman Manuel Arranz of the Commission on Elections who tendered his resignation because of the insinuations that he (Arranz) intended to subvert the popular will in November.

The President accepted Arranz’s resignation but appointed him immediately associate justice of the Court of Appeals.

To replace Arranz as chairman of the Comelec, the President appointed Commissioner Jaime Ferrer who was named to the commission recently.

After meeting with Arranz, the President also conferred with Northern Samar Gov. Irene Balite, House Majority Floorleader Marcelino Veloso and Rep. Artemio Mate of Leyte on various matters.

At the League convention, the President placed all the facilities of the government behind the efforts to get every citizen to participate in the coming elections.

He deplored the present system of political campaigns, branding it as “too rough, too dirty corrupted and already the activity of the irresponsible, the almost insane.”

He also went after administration critics, and recalled that in contrast, some chiefs of state whom he met during the funeral of the late President Eisenhower, congratulated him for starting the rice revolution ” thus giving hope to the millions who usually go hungry in Asia, Africa, and many other places.

The President also indicated that he intends to appoint more women to government positions, saying a “woman’s touch” is needed especially during these times.

The President spent the rest of the day poring over papers on state affairs, retiring early for a full schedule tomorrow.

He approved the commission of 151 officers in the armed forces and the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy (PMMA) and the promotion of 273 others in the reserve and regular rosters of the armed forces.

The President also submitted to the Commission on Appointments the nominations of Rogelio Morales and Roberto Moreno III, the incumbent superintendent and executive officer, respectively, of the PMMA to the Navy rank of captain.

He approved the commission of 70 faculty members of the PMMA on recommendation of Secretary of Commerce and industry Leonides S. Virata, ex-officio chairman of the PMMA Board.

The PMMA was formerly the Philippine Nautical School until it was elevated to a merchant marine college pursuant to RA No. 3680.

June 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS focused on the Central Luzon situation in the latest of a continuing series of assessments of the status of the programs aimed at stabilizing conditions in that region, particularly the peace and order drive now being carried on with local officials at the helm.

Apart from his regular consultations with the officials and aides on various state matters, the President received several provincial delegations. He, however, conferred with congressional officials on the budget bill, and met other members of Congress.

He had no private callers. The rest of his working day was devoted to desk work, with various reports and official matters getting his attention.

At the meeting with AFP and PC brass, it was decided that the constraint laid on military operations in Central Luzon is for the moment to be followed. Meanwhile, the periodic assessment of the situation in the region will continue.

Among those present at the conference were Gen. Manuel Yan, AFP chief of staff; Brig. Gen. Vicente Raval, PC chief; Brig. Gen. Emilio Zerrudo, first PC zone commander; Brig. Gen. Rizalino Garcia, deputy PC chief; Brig. Gen. Rafael Ilete, AFP deputy chief of staff; Col. Wilfredo Encarnacion, PC intelligence chief; and Col. Zosimo Paredes, PC personnel chief.

One of the provincial groups first to see him was that of Mt. Province and Benguet, which took up with the President current local problems. Among those at the meeting were Reps. Luis Hora and Andres Cosalan, Gov. Ben Palispis of Benguet, Mayor Luis Lardizabal of Baguio City, Vice Gov. Timothy Choakas of Mt. Province, former Gov. Bado Dangwa, former Sep. Juan Bondad and former Board Member Teofilo Pilando.

Late in the afternoon, Senator Dominador Aytona and Rep. Jose Alberto, co-chairmen of the joint congressional conference committee working on the budget bill, reported that the work of ironing out the provisions of the measure is going apace. They said that the committee will finish the work in 24 hours.

Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, who was present at the talks, briefed the President on the present form of the measure, which both Houses had passed virtually intact.

The President also found time to make a public statement on the troop withdrawal ordered by US President Richard Nixon in Vietnam. He said the order will serve to accelerate the peace talks in Paris, and should properly get an equally substantive response from North Vietnam. Among those who saw the President today were:

1. Gov. Anacleto Alcala of Quezon, who led a delegation from his province to consult on local problems with the President.
2. Rep. Constantino Navarro, who also accompanied a delegation from Surigao del Norte.
3. Rep. Jose Moreno and Dr. Florencio Tamesis, who made representations in behalf of the Medicare bill.
4. Rep. Nicanor Yniguez and his wife, Gov. Salvacion Yñiguez, leaders of Southern Leyte.
5. Reps. James Ghiongbian and Ramon Durano; Gov. Vicente Cerilles of Zamboanga del Sur and Vice-Gov. Guardson Lood of Misamis Occidental.

Meanwhile, Vice President Fernando Lopez and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, in representation of President Marcos, inaugurated the ₱8.9-million Buntun bridge in the Cagayan Valley, and visited the Kalinga-Apayao area where they talked with the people and local officials on current problems.

The completion of the Buntun bridge, longest in the Philippines at 1.1 kms., links for the first time through the easy access it provides the western and eastern parts of Cagayan province.

The First Lady, assisted by Vice President Lopez and other officials, formally cut the ribbon to open the Buntun bridge to the public.

Among those who participated in the inaugural rites were PACD Secretary and Mrs. Ernesto Maceda, Mayor and Mrs. Apolonio Reyes of Tuguegarao, Vice-Gov. David Puzon of Cagayan and Highways Commissioner and Mrs. Baltazar Aquino.

June 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a long list of visitors, a special ceremony to attend, and four bills to sign, which he did at separate rites, with those interested in the measure present to witness the signing.

Among other visitors, he received Dr. Fanny Aldaba Lim and Jose Soriano, president of the San Miguel Corporation, who presented him with a book on juvenile delinquency authored by Dr. Lim.

He also received Rep. Constancio Maglana of Davao Oriental who presented him with a slim volume on Sabah and the Philippines.

Late in the afternoon, he was guest speaker at the Civic Assembly of Women's award rites. He presented the awards to: Juan D. Nepomuceno & Family (Family Solidarity), Dr. Paz P. Mendez (Education), Dr. Juan Salcedo, Jr. (Science), Mrs. Paz Reyes (Community Service), Iñigo Ed. Regalado (Literature), Sec. Ernesto Maceda (Rural Development), Eugenio Lopez, Sr. (Economic Leadership) and Gil Lopez Kabayao (Music).

The four bills he signed were:

1. H. B. No. 18919 which converts the capital town of Batangas province into Batangas City. Among those who witnessed the ceremony were Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., Gov. Feliciano Leviste, Mayor Pedro Tolentino of Batangas, former Executive Secretary Fortunato de Leon, and Reps. Indanan Anni and Ernesto Bascon.

2. H. B. No. 16516 which makes the town of Mariveles, in Bataan, a free port of entry and creates a foreign trade zone authority. Among those who witnessed the ceremony were Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., Rep. Pablo Roman, Auditor General Ismael Mathay and local officials of Bataan province, including Mariveles Mayor Carlos L. Sarreal and Gov. Guillermo Arcenas.

3. S. B. No. 271 which amended Act No. 3815, the arson law, to give teeth to the law. Among the principal authors of the bill who witnessed the ceremony were Reps. Melanio Singson and Carlos Imperial.

4 S. B. No. 813 (HB 16772) which amended the Home Financing Act to increase the chances of low income group to build homes on their own lots. Among those who witnessed the ceremony were HFC Chairman-General Manager Otilio Gorospe, Senator Helena Benitez, and Reps. Ernesto Bascon and Pablo Roman.

June 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS again stole a march on the celebrators of Independence Day with his participation in the Republic Cultural Heritage Awards, as guest speaker, when the awards were given in the morning at Malacañang. Yesterday, he was also the main speaker at the CAWP awards, which was also related, to the Independence Day rites.

In the afternoon, he was the central figure once more at the ceremonies turning over the Rizal Park and the Japanese Garden to the government. Officially handing the Garden over to the Philippines was former Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi of Japan.

In-between, the President coped with his usual callers, a long line which kept him busy till 2:30 p.m., and with his unabated desk work.

In his speech at the Republic Cultural Heritage Awards, the President called on Filipino artists and scientists to identify with the masses and with the national experience in development.

He conferred the awards on:

1. Dionisio M. Birosel—in technology and research—who was cited for his pioneering work in plant oils, and for perfecting a method now adopted in research on such oils, especially coconut oil, as well as in research into other by-products of the coconut;

2. Magdalena G. Jalandoni—in literature—for her writings in the *Hiligaynon* magazine, mainly on challenging themes.

Miss Jalandoni, living in Iloilo, could not come for the ceremony due to old age; she was represented by her niece, Mrs. Ofelia L. Jalandoni Jardenil.

8. Dr. Nicolas Zafra—in history—for his contributions to the enrichment of the nation's cultural heritage in the field of Philippine history and culture.

4. Samahan sa Sining ng Pilipinas (Association of Filipino Artists) —in the arts—represented by the association president, Leonides Benesa, for its singular efforts in propagating Philippine contemporary arts in the last 20 years, and for helping in the development and promotion of creative arts through the aid of modern media.

The President likewise asked Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco to set aside ₱500,000 to finance historical research, the collection and collation of documents bearing on the country's history, as well as on the writing of history.

He directed Commissioner Sy-Changco to release the amount immediately, specifying that the outlay is subject to augmentation whenever necessary.

Late in the afternoon, the President was guest of honor at the formal turnover of the Rizal Park to the government, at ceremonies held in the open air auditorium of the park.

Before the park turnover, the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, in her capacity as chairman of the National Parks Development Committee, received from the Philippine Society of Japan the newly completed Japanese Garden, which she formally opened to the public.

After inaugurating the Japanese Garden, Mrs. Marcos handed over the Rizal Park to the national government, represented by the President.

During the day, the President, received, among others:

1. Former Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi of Japan who paid his respects at Malacañang shortly after arriving here to attend the formal inauguration, and turnover of the Japanese Garden.

Mr. Kishi was accompanied by Japanese Ambassador Takeshi Yasukawa and Tamotsu Shiohara, managing director of the Philippine Society of Japan.

2. PANAMIN Secretary Manuel Elizalde, Jr., Commissioner Mamintal Tamano of National Integration and Hadji Kamlon. The group brought before the President the problems of Muslim pilgrims stranded at Mecca, after having run out of funds.

Kanilon, who was paroled by the President last year after 17 years in prison for rebellion, also came to thank the President for the successful eye operation he underwent and for the treatment of his other ailments, with the assistance of PANAMIN.

Also with Secretary Elizalde were Mayor Titina Anni of Siasi, Sulu and some relatives of Kamlon.

Other visitors the President received were Governors Teresa Dupaya of Cagayan and Vicente Cerilles of Zamboanga del Sur; Gov. and Mrs. Isidro Rodriguez of Rizal, who accompanied a select team of women Softball players, dubbed the Philippine Blue Girls, who will represent the Philippines in a series of Softball games in the United States; and former Gov. Dominador Camerino of Cavite and Mayor Macario B. Peña of Naic, Cavite.

The President worked on state papers the rest of the day.

Among other actions, the President—

1. Signed into law House Bill No. 18345, which authorized the appropriation of ₱28 million to defray the expenses of the national elections in November;
2. Forwarded to the Commission on Appointments his 39 nominees to vacancies in the judiciary and other offices of the government for confirmation.

On the eve of Independence Day, the President issued the following-message in Pilipino.

“Sa pagkakapili sa lahod ng mga kabataan na maging tampok sa pagdiriwang ng ika-71 anibersaryo ng Araw ng Kasarinlan, ang tagumpay ng kabataan ay pinatunayan nating lakas na makapag-babago, at bilang tagapagmana ng ating bansa.

“Kailangang maging mapayapa ang pagbabagong hinahangad natin, ngunit ito’y darating ngayon sa oras na ito sa buhay ng ating bansa, sapagkat ang labi ng kahapon ay hindi na natin mababata.

“Ang kabataan ay lakas na nakapagbabago, kung ito lamang ay may kakayahang. mamamalas ang bagong daigdig ang mga unang salinlahi marahil ay maghahanda sa kabutihan ng ating mga ninuno na may matatag, at subok nang kaugalian.

Ngayo’y nadarama hatin iang pagbabago ng bansa, kahit naisin pa nating baguhin ang anyo nito, upang mapawi ang dating pangamba, upang itanim sa isipan ng ating mamamayan ang bagong diwa ng pagsasagawa, at ang bagong paninindigang mahango tayo sa matandang pamahiin at masidhing paniniwala na walang kaugnayan sa kasalukuyan.

“Ang kailangan natin sa hinaharap na pakikipagtulungan sa kabataan ay puspusang paglilingkod sa kapakanan ng ating bayan na nakahihigit sa mga nagawa nang ating kapanahunan, mula sa kasarinlang ipinagdiriwang natin ngayon, ang mithiin, ang katangian ang kabayanihang ipinamalas nang araw na yaon 71 taon na ang lumipas, nang ang Unang Republika ay ipahayag sa Kawit. Nang araw na yaon nagkaroon tayo ng sariling paninindigan at layunin bilang malayang mamamayan. Ito’y kinakailangan lamang nating maisakatuparan.”

Meanwhile, the Office of the President held an early morning special flag raising ceremony in connection with the Independence Day celebration, featuring the recitation by Malacañang employees of the Oath of Allegiance to the Flag.

The ceremony marked the beginning of a yearly recitation of the Oath of Allegiance to the Flag on the eve of Independence Day.

The Oath of Allegiance to the Flag follows:

“Ako’y							nanunumpa
Na			mananatiling				matapat
Sa		Republika		ng			Pilipinas
At	sa	Watawat	ng	Araw	at	Tatlong	Bituin
Na		sagisag		ng			Kadakilaan,
Kaisahan		at		Kabansaang			Pilipino
Na		binubuklod		ng			Katarungan,
Kalayaan	at		Demokrasya	ukol	sa		lahat
Sa biyaya ng Dios.”							

June 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ushered in today’s nationwide observance of the 71st anniversary of the First Philippine Republic by taking the lead in the solemn flag-raising ceremony held at the Rizal Park at 7 a.m.

He later laid a wreath at the foot of the Rizal monument. The First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, and children Imee, Bongbong and Irene joined in the Rizal Park rites.

Vice President Fernando Lopez, meanwhile, officiated at the Independence Day rites at Kawit, Cavite, where the First-Republic was proclaimed by General Emilio Aguinaldo 71 years ago.

The Rizal Park (formerly Luneta) ceremonies were attended by Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., members of the Cabinet and military top brass. Representatives from the Muslim community were conspicuous in their colorful costumes.

Press Secretary Jose D. Aspiras, acting for Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo who is abroad on an official mission, performed the duties of the national committee chairman, which included escorting the President throughout the Rizal Park ceremonies.

The President and his family arrived at the park just before 7 a.m. He was given military honors by a company of Philippine Military Academy cadets on arrival. Then he hoisted the national colors on the giant flagpole fronting the Rizal monument, as the National Anthem was played.

Assisting him in raising the flag were Mrs. Marcos and their children, and several PMA cadets.

After the flag-raising rite, the President and his family were escorted by Secretary Aspiras to the Rizal monument.

There, the President laid a wreath in honor of the national hero.

As taps was sounded, the President, his family, high officials and the crowd that had gathered around the monument stood hushed in solemn prayer. Only the mournful notes of the bugle and the subdued ruffle of drums were heard in the park.

Shortly afterwards, the President and his family returned to Malacañang.

At 2:15 p.m., the First Family left Malacañang again, this time for the Independence Memorial Grandstand at Rizal Park, where a civic-military parade highlighted the Independence Day festivities. It was capped by the President's address to the nation. (See pp. 6121-6126 for full text of the President's Independence Day address)

In the evening, the President and the First Lady were hosts at the traditional reception in Malacañang, where members of the diplomatic corps personally conveyed the greetings of their governments to the President.

Earlier, the President forwarded to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation the nominations of Colonels Gonzalo L. Batac and Restituto B. Sarcos, for promotion to the rank of brigadier general in the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Batac and Sarcos belong to Class '41 of the Philippine Military Academy. Batac is the commanding officer of the first military area, an assignment he has held since November 18, 1968; while Sarcos has been commander of the fourth military area since January 31, 1969.

The President also granted executive clemency to 556 prisoners in accordance with the practice on Independence Day.

Of the prisoners extended executive clemency, four were granted special absolute pardon, 52 absolute pardons, six conditional pardon, 371 conditional pardon with parole conditions, and 123 commutation of sentences.

The grant of executive clemency to these prisoners was made by the President upon the recommendation of the Board of Pardons and Parole.

Meanwhile, messages of felicitations from heads of state and foreign dignitaries flowed steadily into Malacañang.

Among the first messages received by President Marcos were those of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, prime minister of Cambodia; President Richard Nixon of the United States, President Juan Carlos Onganía of Argentina, President Cevdet Sunay of Turkey, and King Baudouin of Belgium.

King Baudouin's greetings were conveyed by R. Van de Velde, charge d'affaires of the local Belgian embassy.

President Nixon's wire to the President follows:

"On the occasion of your Independence Day, I take great pleasure in conveying to you my personal greetings and the best wishes of the people of the United States of America for the increasing prosperity of your country and the continuance of friendly relations between our two nations. We are confident that our two governments will continue their efforts for the cause of peace and freedom throughout the World."

More messages arrived at Malacañang later in the day, including those from:

- 1) Queen Elizabeth of the United Kingdom saying, "I have much pleasure in sending to Your Excellency my warm congratulations and best wishes for the prosperity of the Philippine people."
- 2) President Mahendra of Nepal, who wired: "On the happy occasion of the Independence Day of the Philippines we have great pleasure in expressing to. Your Excellency and to the people of the Philippines our cordial felicitations and best wishes for your personal happiness and for the continuous progress and prosperity of your people."
- 3) King Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, Shah of Iran, who recently played host to the First Lady, who said: "My sincere congratulations together with my best wishes for your personal good health and happiness as well as for the increasing prosperity of the Filipino people."
- 4) King Olav of Norway, with the message: "On the occasion of the National Day I extend to Your Excellency and to the people of the Philippines my sincere congratulations."
- 5) Chairman Ne Win of the Revolutionary Council of the Union of Burma, expressed "great pleasure in extending to Your Excellency warm congratulations and sincere good wishes of the people of the Union of Burma and of myself for your health and happiness and for the progress and prosperity of the people of the Philippines."
- 6) Senate President Alain Poher of France, interim caretaker of the government, who expressed best wishes.
- 7) Queen Juliana of the Netherlands who wired. "Your Excellency, my very best Wishes for the happiness and prosperity of the people of the Philippines."
- 8) Generalissimo Francisco Franco of Spain, who expressed his "sincere felicitations."
- 9) Lt. Gen. Francis C. Gideon, commander of the U.S. 13th Air Force, who wired from Clark Air Base, saying the officers and airmen of his command "join me in extending best wishes on the anniversary of this historic occasion."

Among other well-wishers were Philippine honorary Consul General Alfred Roch D. Hotelans and honorary Consul Francois Terret of the Philippine consulate in Monaco.

President Gamal Abdel Nasser of the United Arab Republic wired President Marcos "our most heartfelt felicitations wishing you an abundance of health and happiness and the people of the Philippines all progress and. prosperity."

Others who wired their greetings included Emperor Hirohito of Japan, President Gustavo Diaz Ordaz of Mexico, King Bhumibol of Thailand, Governor Manuel F. L. Guerrero of Guam, President Ludwig Von Moos of Switzerland, and Ambassador Moltke Hansen of Norway.

President Charles Helou of Lebanon, President Joaquin Balaguer of the Dominican Republic, President Sabah Alsalem Alsabah Amir of Kuwait, President Mohammad Zaher of Afghanistan, President J. M. Velasco Ibarra of

Ecuador, President Qahtan Mohamed Alshaabi of the People's Republic of Southern Yemen, Prime Minister Gustaf Adolf of Sweden, and President Urho Kekkonen of the Republic of Finland.

President Arthur da Costa E. Silva of Brazil also sent his best wishes for the President's "personal well-being and the happiness of your country"

President Rafael Caldera of Venezuela sent in similar greetings (in Spanish).

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

President's Week in Review: June 13-19, 1969

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

June 13.—

PRESIDENT MARCOS devoted most of his time to desk work, following a hectic day yesterday when he had to leave his desk several times to attend to his duties in connection with the Independence Day rites.

One of the highlights of his day was his signing of the private security agency bill at a formal ceremony held at the Executive Hall. The ceremony was witnessed by representatives of private security and detective agencies.

Also present were Sen. Alejandro Almendras and Brig. Gen. Vicente Raval, PC chief.

At mid-morning the President received Minister of State Paul Henry Spaak of Belgium, who paid a courtesy call following his arrival on a private visit to the country.

The Belgian dignitary, who was formerly Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of his country, was accompanied to Malacañang by Consul Mariano Ruiz of the foreign office.

Also with Minister Spaak were Robert van Ole Velde, charge d'affaires of the Belgian embassy here; Eugene, van Dyke, deputy managing director of the Bell Telephone Manufacturing Company of Antwerp; Roberto Piccus, president of ITT, Far East; and Duncan Hallock, executive vice-president of ITT (Phil.).

During the day, the President also:

1. Submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation the nomination of Manila CFI Judge Arsenio Solidum, as associate justice of the Court of Appeals.
2. Nominated CFI Judge Amuerfina Herrera of Lucena City as CFI judge of Manila.
3. Signed the promotion of 38 reserve officers on active duty with the Armed Forces of the Philippines, all of whom are in the technical services.
4. Authorized Professor Napoleon T. Vergara, consultant on forestry of the Presidential Economic Staff, to go on a study tour of Russia, for two-weeks starting June 19.

Among the President's callers today were Senator Wenceslao R. Lagumbay, who accompanied a delegation of mayors from Laguna; Mayors Luis de Castro of Bulan and Melchor H. Aquino of Donsol, both from Sorsogon; Commerce Undersecretary Fernando Campos with Mayor Nieves Alvarez of Noveleta, Cavite and Myrna Santiago, also of Cavite; and another delegation of local officials from Eastern Samar headed by Gov. Victor A. Amasa.

June 14.—

PRESIDENT MARCOS was up early for the rites commemorating the Fall of Bessang Pass, which started at about 7 a.m. with honors paid to the fallen soldiers of World War II at the *Libingan Ng Mga Bayani* at Fort Bonifacio.

The President was accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, to the military cemetery site and participated in the ceremonies.

From the Libingan, the President and the First Lady went on to Camp Aguinaldo where the main program celebrating the decisive battle of Bessang Pass was held.

The program was highlighted by the President's speech which called for intensified efforts to record the military history of the country, and by the awards to outstanding guerrilla leaders, guerrilla units, and wartime military governors and mayors. (See pp. 6390-A to 6390-H for full text of the President's speech.)

After the program, the President proceeded to Makati, where he joined the NP Junta meeting, held at the Manila Banking Corporation building on Ayala Avenue.

Plans were finalized by the Junta for the June 21 NP national convention at the Manila Hotel. The Junta, however, will meet again on Tuesday, June 17, with NP provincial delegates attending.

In the afternoon, the President concentrated on state papers.

He found time as well to write to the barrio council of Tamak, municipality of Padre Garcia, Batangas, acknowledging the council's resolution of gratitude for the ₱2,000 given to the barrio from the rural development fund, which the barrio folks used to build a footbridge which leads to the highway.

In his letter, the President said that the project justified his faith in the capacity of barrio folk to choose what is best for their welfare and to pursue it successfully.

June 15.—

PRESIDENT MARCOS officiated in a series of oath taking ceremonies held at the Malacañang reception hall about noon and worked on pending state papers the rest of the day, after conferring with officials called to the Palace.

The President was up very early, and engrossed himself reading weekend magazines and the daily newspapers. At about 10 a.m., he met Vice President Fernando Lopez.

Later, he inducted:

1. Secretary of Public Works and Communications Antonio Raquiza as chairman of the Infrastructure Operations Center and Presidential adviser on public works, with Cabinet rank;
2. Governor Rene Espina of Cebu as Secretary of Public Works and Communications, to take over from Secretary Raquiza;
3. Jaime N. Ferrer and Lino Patajo as chairman and member, respectively, of the Commission on Elections.
4. Guillermo C. Nakar, Jr. as solicitor in the prosecution staff of the Department of Justice.

After the ceremonies, the President met with several groups of officials.

He met with Secretaries Raquiza and Espina, Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco and Commissioner Baltazar Aquino of Public Highways on public works matters.

Among others who saw the President were Gov. Teresa Dupaya and Vice Gov. David Puzon of Cagayan; Gov. Juvenal Guerrero of La Union together with Chairman Joaquin Ortega of the San Fernando Port Authority; Gov. Murphy Sangkula of Sulu, Rep. Alberto Q. Ubay, Vice Gov. Guardson Lood and former Gov. Felipe Ascuña of Zamboanga del Norte.

The President and his family heard Mass at the Malacañang chapel late in the afternoon.

June 16.—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had conferences with varied groups, conferred; a prestigious award on a ranking US military official, inducted a judge, and generally adhered to a crowded schedule of desk work and visitors.

Among other actions, the President forwarded to the Commission on Appointments the nomination of Judge Andres Reyes, CFI judge of Rizal, as associate justice of the Court of Appeals.

At the same time, the President nominated Vice Gov. Guardson Lood of Zamboanga del Norte to the post Judge Reyes will, vacate.

Later in the morning, the President conferred the Philippine Legion of Honor, degree of commander, to Admiral John S. McCain, Jr., commander-in-chief of the US Pacific forces, at a simple ceremony in Malacañang.

Witnessing the rites, among others, were the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, Mrs. McCain, and Philippine and US officials, led by Defense Undersecretary Alejandro Melchor, Gen. Manuel Yan, AFP chief of staff; and Minister James Wilson, charge d'affaires of the US embassy here.

In another ceremony, held at his study, the President inducted Judge Venicio Escolin, as judge of the court of first instance covering Leyte and the cities of Tacloban and Ormoc.

Among the President's conferences was that with Sulu officials led by Rep. Indanan Anni, Gov. Murphy Sangkula, and including the deputy governor and municipal mayors of the province.

Notable among other callers at Malacañang today were Mayor Macario Peña of Naic, Cavite; and Mayor Tirso Ramos of Lobo, Batangas, who came with Ceferino Hernandez, municipal treasurer of the same town; Misses Margaret Rose Montinola and Gloria Diaz, newly proclaimed "Miss Philippines" and "Binibining Pilipinas," respectively.

Miss Montinola, who will represent the Philippines in the Miss International pageant; and Miss Diaz, who will compete as Philippine representative in the Miss Universe contest called on the President to pay their respects before leaving for the international beauty tilts.

Meanwhile, the President advocated substantial change in the country's schools to undertake the task of "not only advancing knowledge but of changing the old patterns and old values that have kept our people in bondage and poverty, and our country from moving forward."

In a speech delivered for him by Secretary of Education Onofre D. Corpuz at the opening of the third annual session of the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges, at Zamboanga City, the President said that it is toward such change that he endorsed the idea of youth sharing in the decisions in schools and in the nation's councils. (See pp. 6390-1 to 63'90-L for full text of the President's speech.)

June 17.—

PRESIDENT MARCOS held a conference with provincial governors, congressmen and city mayors who called at Malacañang to apprise him of the latest political developments in their respective localities.

The President was also guest speaker at the 15th national convention of the Association of Filipino Retailers during which he reaffirmed his faith in the ability of the Filipinos to chart the economic course of the nation.

Held at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel, the convention was delighted to hear the President congratulate the members of the association for their successful efforts to attain the objectives of the retail trade nationalization law.

In his conference with local officials who will be chairmen of their respective delegations to the Nacionalista Party convention scheduled for June 21, the President gave a briefing on the plans agreed upon by party leaders for the conduct of an orderly convention at the Manila Hotel.

The President left the Palace for the retailers' convention at 12:30 p.m. He was fetched by Mrs. Polly Cayetano, association president.

Back at Malacañang about 2 p.m., the President resumed his conference with local officials.

Meanwhile, an agreement between the Philippines and Japan to set up two pilot rice farms in the Philippines[^] as show windows of modern rice culture, was signed in Malacañang.

Vice President Fernando Lopez, concurrently Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources, signed for the Philippine government, while Japanese Ambassador Takeshi Yasukawa signed for his government.

Under the agreement, two pilot farms of 100 hectares each will be set up, one in Naujan, Oriental Mindoro, the other in the San Miguel-Alangalang area in Leyte.

The Philippines and Japan Will jointly set up the pilot projects, specifically in the:

- 1) Construction of roads, irrigation and drainage facilities within the project, to serve directly the farms;
- 2) Improvement of techniques of rice cultivation, storage and processing through research and extensive field work; and
- 3). Technical training for Filipinos in Japan and on the pilot f arms;

June 18.—

PRESIDENT MARCOS took in stride another heavy schedule with numerous, callers and a sheaf of bills passed during the last regular session of Congress to study and act on, as well as conferences and ceremonials requiring his attention.

The President started the day with a conference with Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo who called to say good-bye before departing for Quebec, Canada to attend the annual meeting of former presidents of the United Nations General Assembly, scheduled for June 20 to June 24.

Following the conference, the President received the credentials of two new ambassadors to the Philippines, namely, Ambassador Ly Chinly of Cambodia and Ambassador Nicolas de Berri Flecha Torres of Paraguay, at formal ceremonies in Malacañang.

Delegates from 10 countries participating in the 15th Asian Film Festival, composed of movie producers, directors, actors and actresses, later called to pay their respects to the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos.

Receiving them at the state dining hall, the President told the industry leaders and movie queens that they are just about the best ambassadors one country can send to another. He expressed confidence that their visit here will result in even closer ties among Asian nations.

The President received callers up to 2 p.m. The Palace visitors consisted mostly of senators, representatives, and provincial, city and-municipal officials.

In-between callers, the President concentrated on his desk work, notably the bills passed during the last regular session of Congress.

Among the measures he “signed into law were House Bill No. 18774” appropriating ₱5 million for the implementation of the educational benefits program for veterans and their dependents, and for the payment of veterans’ pensions and death gratuities.

The President also approved House Bill No. 18977 providing for the construction of the ₱400-million multi-purpose hydro-electric project in the upper Pampanga river in Nueva Ecija.

Earlier, the President declared June 19, Thursday, a special public holiday in Calamba, Laguna, the birthplace of the national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal.

In issuing the proclamation, the President said it is fitting and proper that the residents of Calamba be given full opportunity to make the 108th birthday of Rizal with ceremonies in keeping with the hero’s ideals and teachings.

Meanwhile, Vice President Fernando Lopez formally informed the President of the tremendous strides made by the administration, under the impetus and guidance exerted by Rice and Corn Production Coordinating Council (RCPCC), towards making the country self-sufficient in food products.

The Vice President, concurrent Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources and RCPCC chairman, specified an 82 per cent increase in areas planted to high yielding rice over the 1967 hectareage.

June 19.—

PRESIDENT MARCOS motored to Calamba, Laguna, birthplace of Dr. Jose Rizal, where he joined the townspeople in commemorating the 108th birth anniversary of the national hero.

The President had proclaimed a special public holiday in Calamba to give the townsfolk ample opportunity to observe the hero’s birthday with fitting ceremony.

Earlier in Malacañang, the President met with provincial, city and municipal officials, the second day he has sat down with local leaders who are in Manila as heads of their respective delegations to the Nacionalista Party convention, which is scheduled at the Manila Hotel on Saturday, June 21.

The delegations, which started arriving in the city two days ago from all over the country, invariably called on the President to pay their respects and consult him on local problems.

Shortly before noon, the President emerged from his office to address a group of tenants, numbering some 500, who came to request government aid in the purchase of the Tambunting Estate in Manila, where they had set up their homes.

Accompanied by Reps. Joaquin Roces and Pablo Ocampo of Manila, the delegation petitioned the President to initiate the acquisition of the estate by the government, so that the 6,000 or so families occupying the property may be able to buy their homesites.

The President directed the People’s Homesite and Housing Corporation to survey the estate and take immediate steps toward the purchase of the property.

At 3 p.m., the President left by car for Calamba, to participate in the rites honoring Dr. Rizal. He was accompanied by Senator Helena Benitez and his immediate aides.

In remarks before thousands of pilgrims who came from various parts of the country to honor the hero, the President said he came as well to submit a “spiritual report” to Rizal.

The gist of his report, the President said, is that most of the hero’s dreams for his country and people have now been fulfilled.

His report emphasized the following:

1. Birth of the “New Filipino,” with the remolding of his character to adhere closer to /the measure of the Filipinos of the Philippine Revolution.
2. The constant threat of hunger over the people has been dissipated, with the people now better assured of sustenance, both physically and spiritually.
3. Rizal’s visions in his tract on the “Philippines, A Century Hence,” where he foresaw the sprouting of factories and dispersal of the engines of progress, has come true.
4. The new breed of Filipinos which Rizal had conjured is now emerging, despite the fact that some people have sought to deride this idea.

Today’s observance, the President said, should also underscore the fact that Rizal laid the moral basis for the revolution which resulted in the founding of the first republic in Asia, and in a way presaged the emergence of free nations, in this region of the world.

He added that Rizal’s birth made possible the flowering of the Filipino intelligentsia, who called themselves “Indios Bravos” and brought about the uprooting of the tyrannical colonial regime.

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

President's Week in Review: June 20-26, 1969

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

June 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS followed a schedule rather more hectic than usual, as he met with separate delegations to the NP convention from all parts of the country, beginning early in the morning and lasting up to 5:30 p.m. In addition, he was guest of honor at two occasions in the evening.

The President, along with Vice President Fernando Lopez, received not only NPs, but also LPs who formally affiliated with the administration party. At 4:30 p.m., he swore them in as Nacionalistas, including governors, mayors, councilors and provincial board members at a mass oath taking ceremony held at the Malacañang reception hall.

At 5:30 p.m., the President left Malacañang to be guest speaker at the 24th annual national convention of the Philippine Veterans Legion, held at the GSIS social hall.

The President again stepped out at about 8 p.m., to speak as guest of honor at the awards ceremony of the 15th Film Festival in Asia, held at the Philamlife auditorium.

He pledged the support of the Philippine government to the objectives of the federation of Asian filmmakers, particularly in the enhancement of Asian culture and the expansion of the export potential of Asian films.

Emphasizing the impact of movies as an art form and as a social force, he asked Asian moviemakers to make films “a window on Asia” for the rest of the world, and to use this medium such that more Asians will become “aware of what they are, and of what they must seek” in life.”

The new NP converts included independent NP members aside from out-and-out LPs; among the prominent names were Governors Petronilo Seares of Abra, Francisco Nepomuceno of Pampanga and Consuelo Calo of Agusan; Mayor Eugenio Suarez of Angeles City; former Labor Undersecretary Apolonio Rivera; and incumbent officials and former officials from the provinces of Abra, Pangasinan, Zambales, Pampanga, Aklan, Kalinga-Apayao, Misamis Occidental, Camiguin, South Cotabato, Cotabato, Zamboanga del Sur; and the cities of Caloocan, Angeles and Olongapo.

Earlier, the President approved the promotion of 165 officers in the reserves of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, all on inactive status, in line with the build-up of the country's reserve force.

Prominent among those promoted is Rep. Frisco San Juan of Rizal, who has been raised to the rank of lieutenant colonel. Three others were promoted to the same rank, with 49 raised to major, 58 to captain, and 54 to first lieutenant.

All the promotions were made in accordance with requirements, including fulfillment of annual active duty training, “time-in-grade and time-in-service specifications, as prescribed in Executive Order No. 138, series of 1968.

June 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent most of the morning in his study, as he put the finishing touches to his speech at the convention, in anticipation of a party draft for a second term.

He received from time to time party leaders, who came to consult with him on various matters. Some officials also called on the President, among them PACD Secretary Ernesto Maceda, Press Secretary Jose D. Aspiras and Assistant Press Secretary Jacobo C. Clave.

Later in the morning, the President received a group of Tarlac officials, accompanied by Gov. Eduardo Cojuangco and SSS Administrator Gilberto Teodoro. The local officials were there to take their baths as new Nacionalista Party members. All of them were LP leaders in Tarlac.

Those who took their oaths were former Tarlac Board Member Rosehdo Tomas, and Mayors Vicente Gabriel, of San Clemente, Catalino Cruz of Anao, Manuel Cabrera of Camiling, Catalino S. Modomo of Sta. Ignacia, Federico Peralta of San Manuel; and Venustiano G. Martinez of La Paz.

Early in the afternoon, the President motored to the Manila Hotel for the NP convention. He arrived at the hotel with Vice President Fernando Lopez at about 3:30 p.m.

On entering the convention hall, the President and the Vice President were engulfed in a tumultuous welcome by the convention delegates, party leaders, and guests. The ovation lasted for so long that the convention chairman, former President Carlos P. Garcia, had to rap for order.

The President braved the heat of the afternoon, which had everybody waving fans, to sit out the proceedings. He listened to the speeches and conversed with the party faithful. The First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, was also very much present at the convention, with more than her share of attention and admiration.

After the President was nominated by Senate President Gil J. Puyat, and the delegates affirmed the nomination by a tremendous acclamation, the President made a brief but fighting speech of acceptance.

He pledged the meaningful, extension of the administration's present program of development in all areas of national life, to fulfill the vision of the Filipino people of a free, viable, progressive, and proud nation.

After his speech, the convention was shortly adjourned by former President Garcia. The President lingered for a little longer, as well-wishers and party leaders gathered around him.

He was back in Malacañang about an hour later.

June 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had an unusually busy Sunday.

He was guest speaker at the 12th annual assembly of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines earlier this morning and towards noon he received a 500-man delegation of government prosecutors. Early in the afternoon he conferred with delegates to the Nacionalista Party convention who called at Malacañang for further consultations before returning to their respective provinces.

He addressed the convention of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines at the Veterans Center in Fort Bonifacio.

He was presented the "Golden Kris" plaque, the highest VFP award, for his "continuing concern" for the welfare of veterans, their dependents, widows and orphans.

The government prosecutors group was headed by Juan Reyes, provincial fiscal of Cebu and League president. Secretary of Justice Juan Ponce Enrile accompanied the government prosecutors who are presently on a two-day conference in Manila.

During their call, Nicolas Gallang and Senen Urquiola took their oaths as state prosecutors. Also sworn into office were Cesar G. Abaya and Constante Caridad as first and third assistant fiscals of Laoag City, respectively; and Bartolome Avanceña as assistant provincial fiscal of Cebu.

The President received callers until 4 p.m.

Among the NP national convention delegates who called at Malacañang were those from Negros Occidental and from the six provinces and three cities of the Bicol region, namely, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Albay, Sorsogon, Catanduanes and Masbate, and the cities of Naga, Legazpi, and Iriga.

June 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS prodded local officials from Mindanao and the Visayas who called on him to speed up the completion of ongoing projects in their respective jurisdictions in order to avail of additional aid from the national government.

The President met provincial delegations in the morning and in the afternoon, who called prior to departing for home, after attending the Nacionalista Party convention last Saturday.

In-between meeting the delegations, the President worked on state papers.

Among other actions, the President:

1. Issued a proclamation declaring June 24 a special public holiday in Manila, to mark the city's 398th foundation anniversary.
2. Sent to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation 27 nominations to posts in the judiciary, most of which were promotional appointments.
3. Signed an executive order declaring 16 municipal districts as new municipalities, classifying 15 others in accordance with their revenue intakes, and giving tentative classification to four districts which four years ago did not exist.
4. Signed into law House Bill No. 13854, which created the town of Balabagan in Lanao del Sur.
5. Approved another bill (H. 671) converting the Caromatan Agricultural School in Caromatan, Lanao del Norte into Lanao del Norte Agricultural College, and appropriating a budget of ₱300,000.
6. Issued a series of directives to meet urgent problems, notably an order calling for the immediate investigation of alleged land-grabbing reports in Quezon province and of illegal logging operations at the Mt. Apo national park.

In another area of concern, the President asked Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas to take immediate action on alleged violations by the National Shipyard and Steel Corporation (NASSCO) of regulations on the operation of its bulldozer on a public land in Mariveles, Bataan.

Earlier, the President was guest speaker at the 14th annual convention of the Philippine Association of Vocational Education, held at the Girl Scouts of the Philippines auditorium, where he pledged support to the broadening of vocational education and the manpower training, program.

In an extemporaneous speech, the President said that because of the tie-up envisioned in his development plan between vocational training and private industry, the vocational schools are important elements in the overall development of the nation.

He told the educators that the private sector is willing to become an active partner of the government in the broadening of the manpower training program, which is also tied up to vocational schools, to the extent that it would contribute material resources.

June 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS received local officials and provincial leaders all through the day, even as he buckled down to state business which included signing a new bill and flashing the green light for developing South Cotabato with Italian government assistance.

The provincial officials and leaders continued to troop to Malacañang to take up with the President local problems, particularly pet projects within their jurisdictions. Many of those, who saw the President were delegates to the recently concluded NP convention, who hoped to follow up development projects before returning to their bailiwicks.

In the course of his conferences with the local officials, the President signed the authority granting Gov. Sergio Morales of South Cotabato the powers to conclude an agreement with the Italian government on assistance to the development of that province. Present at the signing were Gov. Morales himself and Rep. James Chiongbian of that province.

The President also signed into law House Bill No. 18008, which increased from 20 to 26 the assistant provincial fiscals in Pangasinan.

The signing of the bill was witnessed by a big delegation from Pangasinan. led by Gov. Tito Primicias, Rep. Aguedo Agbayani, Gov. Conrado Estrella of the Land Authority and former Rep. Tuciano Millan.

The President also issued a proclamation declaring Thursday. (July 1) a special public holiday in Southern Leyte, upon the request of Gov. Salvacion Yñiguez and the provincial board. The proclamation will enable the people of the province to celebrate properly the ninth anniversary of the provincial charter.

The delegations the President met which included those from the Bicol region, and Northern Luzon, shortly after he conferred with Rep. Gregorio Murillo, Gov. Recaredo Castillo and all the mayors of Surigao del Sur.

At about 1:30 p.m., the President, while having a late lunch, was interviewed by newsman Nick Joaquin.

June 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS coped with another heavy schedule as he continued to receive NP delegates from various provinces who consulted with him on local problems before returning home after attending the NP national convention last Saturday.

The President also inducted officers of the League of Women Voters of the Philippines and the Amateur Softball Association of the Philippines, in between receiving callers, conferences and desk work.

In the morning, the President had as breakfast guest Tristan B. Platt, president of Manufacturers Hanover and Trust Company of New York. Also at the breakfast were Senate President Gil J. Puyat, Secretary of Finance Eduardo Romualdez, CB Governor Alfonso Calalang, DBP Chairman Gregorio Licaros, PNB President Roberto Benedicto and a number of leading local bankers.

Inducted officers of the Amateur Softball Association were Gov. Isidro Rodriguez of Rizal, president; Agustin Cailao, Fr. Nicanor Lana, Alfredo Reyes and Emmanuel Ledesma, first, second, third and fourth vice-president, respectively; and Fr. Edgardo Martin, Domingo Luna, Mamerto Lumibaw, Manuel Cruz, Mayor Macario Asistio of Caloocan City and Edgardo Umali, board members; Fernando Bautista, auditor; Felix "Jun" Ledda, executive secretary-treasurer; Ramon Romero, PRO; and Alejandro Cruz, assistant PRO.

In the afternoon, the President received members of the Board of Industries.

In other actions, the President:

1. Appealed to sugar industry leaders to give workers in the sugar centrals the “amelioration bonus” earlier given to plantation workers. The President made the appeal in response to representations of the National Sugar Workers Union (PAFLU), La Carlota City chapter.
2. Directed NBI Director Jolly Bugarin to immediately inquire into the involvement of two of his agents in a shooting incident in a Manila night club.
3. Ordered separated from the service Domado Alonto, city treasurer of Marawi, who had been administratively charged for maladministration, misfeasance, favoritism and neglect in the performance of his duties.

The President also reenacted the signing of the bill which will allow new voters to participate in the coming November elections, arising from their failure to register within 60 days after reaching the age of 21 years.

New voters may henceforth register beyond the 60-day limit of registration set by the election code, with the approval of Senate Bill No. 967 by the President which gives more time for 21-year olds to file their applications for registration.

This latest amendment to the election code however still requires that new voters should register “not later than 60 days before the day of any regular election and not later than 30 days before the day of any special election.”

June 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS once again was fully engaged by urgent paper work and a spate of visitors, many of them on official business.

Notable among his official actuations was the setting aside of 11 forest reserves in various parts of the country, with a total of 1,227,687 hectares, as watersheds.

Set aside were:

1. The Magat River forest reserve in Nueva Vizcaya, with an area of 430,860 hectares.
2. The Chico River forest reserve in the Mountain Province, with an area of 333, 176 hectares.
3. The Abulug River forest reserve in Cagayan, with an area, of 195,659 hectares.
4. The Peñaranda River forest reserve in Nueva Ecija, with an area of 14,888 hectares;
5. The Angat River-Bustos Dam forest reserve in Bulacan, with an area of 28,550 hectares.
6. The Ambayawan River forest reserve in Pangasinan, with an area of 33,688 hectares.
7. The Umiray River forest reserve in Quezon, with an area of 21,362 hectares.
8. The Kaliwara River forest reserve also in Quezon, with an area of 35,150 hectares.
9. The Caliraya-Lumot River forest reserve in Laguna, with an area of 10,771 hectares.
10. The Barit River-Lake Buhi forest reserve in Camarines Sur, with an area of 18,380 hectares.

11. The Jalaur River forest reserve in Iloilo, with an area of 105,203 hectares.

The President successively conferred with key government leaders, and officials at Malacañang all through the day. While engaged in paper work, the President:

1. Submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation 14 more nominations to vacant posts in the judiciary.
2. Declared in separate proclamations” the period from July 1 to August 15 this year as national fund and membership campaign for the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, and the Community Chest of Cebu, Inc.
3. Designated Luis P. Vera and Vicente Gorre as acting chairman and acting member, respectively, of the Board of Accountancy.
4. Approved the recommendation of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs to grant entry visas to Emil Nikolav Razlogov and Ella Nedelcheve, both Bulgarian nationals.
5. Authorized the issuance of temporary visitor’s visa to seven

nationals of communist countries, namely: Franjo Sepic of Yugoslavia, Laszlo Csuth and Zoltan Harsanyi of Hungary, Stancho Stanchev of Bulgaria, Jerzy Kukla and Helena Kukla of Poland, and Orsolya Eva, Hungarian-born but stateless.

Among those the President met with were Vice President Fernando Lopez, Senate President Gil J. Puyat, Minister Samson Sabalones, consul general at San Francisco; PES Director-General Placido Mapa, Jr., Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, Secretary of Education Onofre D. Corpuz, Secretary of Public Works and Communications Rene Espina, Secretary of Labor Bias F. Ople, Press Secretary Jose D. Aspiras and Dean Dioscoro Umali of the U.P. College of Agriculture.

The President also received Gov. Ignacio Santiago of Bulacan, Mayor Guillermo Sanchez of Butuan City, Joseph Estrada of San Juan, Rizal, and NAWASA General Manager Antonio Menor.

Meanwhile, the President, in a speech read by Assistant Executive Secretary Gilberto Duavit at the opening of the 10th annual convention of the Confederation of Government Employes Organizations (COGEO) in Baguio City, said that he will support the organization’s efforts to amend the Civil Service Act toward further boosting and strengthening the merit system.

The President affirmed that he will continue to “fight for the standardization of the salaries of all government employees toward the total “eradication of discrimination in salaries and benefits in. all other matters, among the employees of the civil service.”

Pointing out that as civil servants, the terms and conditions of their employment are not subject to collective bargaining, he said that the law which’ denies the right to strike to government employees provides security of employment, “a right not available to employees outside the civil service.”

Source: Malacañang Records Office

President's Week in Review: June 27 - July 3, 1969

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

June 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS focused his attention on desk work, receiving mostly only provincial leaders and officials who came, to discuss urgent state business.

He, therefore, received few private callers. The only private group who called was that composed of three visiting Russian scholars.

Later, he received former Senator Lorenzo Sumulong and his brother, former Rep. Francisco Sumulong.

Two members of Congress came to consult the President on certain problems, namely, Senators Wenceslao Lagumbay and Salvador Laurel.

The provincial leaders who called included Gov. Murphy Sangkula, Rep. Indanan Anni, both from Sulu, as well as a number of municipal mayors of that province.

The President also discussed local matters, including those on education, with Gov. Linang Mandangan of Lanao del Sur; and Mayor Hilarion Ramiro of Ozamis City.

The President pointed out that his approval of House Bill No. 18717, which sets aside ₱38,187,940, will expand educational services throughout the country.

The new law authorizes the organization of 8,700; extension classes, for which ₱31,450,500 of the total appropriation had been earmarked.

The three Russian visitors came to Malacañang to pay their respects to the President. On meeting them, the President invited the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, to meet the visitors as well, saying that the First Lady was keenly interested in promoting cultural activities.

The Russian visitors were Dr. Alexander Maloy Philippovich, Madame Yulia Levtonova Olegovna, and Dr. Evgeny Ivanov.

During the call, the President and the First Lady received gifts from the Russians, among them a book of paintings and a set of watercolors depicting Russian scenes and life.

The First Couple in turn presented the three visitors with copies of the President's biography, written by Hartzell Spence; their autographed pictures, and other tokens of the trio's visit here.

Accompanying the Russian were Speaker Protempore Jose Aldeguer, and Reps. Carmelo Barbero and Constantino Navarro, and Josefina Barbero, daughter of Rep. Barbero, who will study at the University of Moscow.

While at work on official papers in his private study, the President approved the retirement of seven brigadier generals, upon the recommendation of Defense Secretary Ernesto Mata and Gen. Manuel Yan, Armed Forces chief of staff.

Those retired were Brigadier Generals Ruben Maglaya, Philippine Army commander; Sergio Isada, commander of the 51st Engineer Brigade; Gonzalo Batac, first military area commander; Castor Buenaflor. AFP inspector general;

Restituto Sarcos, fourth military area commander; Emilio Zerrudo, first PC zone commander, and Onofre T. Ramos, chief of the AFP Supply Center.

The retirees called on the President in the evening during which he thanked them “for their efficient and faithful service to the country.”

June 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS kept close to his office to polish off the week’s paper work and attend to other urgent state matters.

An unexpected break in the day’s routine concerns was a radio message received from Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of India who sent here “good wishes for a healthier prosperity” of the people and country as she flew over the Philippines enroute to Singapore from Tokyo.

Among, other actions today, the President proclaimed July 14-20 as National Science and Technology Week, to focus attention on the need of enlarging the role of science in national development.

He also issued orders to the Parks and Wildlife Office to ban hunting in four additional areas in Mindoro, primarily to insure the conservation of the diminished herds of tamaraw, as well as to preserve other valuable Philippine wildlife.

The President did not receive any callers, preferring to devote his full time to desk work since he is scheduled to leave for a five-day provincial trip.

June 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, and their children Imee, Bongbong and Irene left for Tacloban City on board the *RPS 777* a little past 10 a.m.

Before leaving, the President asked Vice-President Fernando Lopez to hold office at the former’s Malacañang study, to attend to routine business, and also receive his callers.

The President at the same time sent a wire to Pope Paul VI congratulating him on the 6th anniversary of his coronation as Pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church.

In his message, sent by cable to the Vatican, the President said that “it is our prayer that even as you strive for a renewal of the Church, your words counselling mankind to come together in peace, justice and brotherhood under God will be heard and heeded.”

The President is expected in Tacloban City about noon Monday. He and his family have been invited to be special guests at the Feast of the Sto. Niño de Tacloban, they being the city’s adopted children.

At last year’s festivities, the President presided as the “Hermano Mayor.” This year’s hermano is Finance Secretary Eduardo Z. Romualdez.

June 30—

PRESIDENT and Mrs. MARCOS arrived in Tacloban City on their annual pilgrimage to pay homage to the city’s patron saint, the Sto. Niño de Tacloban.

Accompanied by their children, Imee, Bongbong and Irene, the President and First Lady landed at the city wharf about 4:30 p.m. aboard the *RPS 777* after arriving in time to join Tacloben in the colorful fluvial parade which started at San Juanico Strait.

The fluvial parade was composed of numerous vessel of various types and sizes. At the head of the traditional procession of seacraft was a gaily decorated launch carrying the holy image of the patron saint.

Aboard the launch was a group of local officials. Finance Secretary Eduardo Z. Romualdez, the “Hermano Mayor” of this year’s festivities in the city, led the parade.

The President was accorded full military honors upon debarking at the wharf. He and his family then joined the procession which snaked through the city streets, terminating two hours later at the Sto. Niño shrine in the city cathedral.

Earlier the President directed Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco to take steps insuring that government operations are not disrupted while the national budget for the new fiscal year pends formal approval.

The President informed the budget commissioner that he had already gone over the general features of the budget bill approved only last Saturday by Congress and that he has approved it in principle.

The President pointed out that since the printing of the bill cannot be finished before the new fiscal year takes effect July 1, the Budget Commission must take appropriate action to insure that government operations continue without any hitch.

Meanwhile, in a speech read for him by Vice-President Fernando Lopez, at the opening ceremonies of the ISSA third regional conference for Asia and Oceania, the President said that despite the differences in approach and ideology, Asian nations ultimately share the aim of alleviating the human condition.

The President stated that the peace for the world lies in the “improvement of the living conditions of the laboring, teeming millions of Asia.”

One of the keys to world peace, he continued, is social security. “Upon air of us lies the burden of establishing not only the confidence but also the effectiveness of the labor systems in our respective societies.” (See pp. 6838-A to 6838-D for full text of the President’s speech.)

July 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS landed in Maasin, Southern Leyte early in the morning after sailing overnight from Tacloban City aboard the *RPS 777* to fulfill his promise to join in the celebration of the 9th anniversary of the province.

The President was later joined by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, who flew by helicopter from Olot in Tolosa, Leyte.

The President also met local officials to inquire into the current problems of the province.

He checked into the progress of various on-going projects in the provinces for which funds from the national government have been released with the aim of hastening the development of the relatively new province.

Accompanied by Gov. Salvacion Yñiguez and Rep. Nicanor Yñiguez, the President saw a newly completed ₱400,000 bridge, the construction of which has for years pended despite the fact that it is considered a vital link between the capital town and the rest of the province.

Gov. Yñiguez showed the President other projects in various stages of construction, like the provincial hospital and a number of roads being concreted.

The President examined the plans of the projected ₱800,000 provincial capitol. The provincial governor is presently holding office in an old building which used to house the extension office in Maasin of the Bureau of Fisheries.

The Presidential ship dropped anchor at Maasin at 7.30 a.m. A fleet of gaily decorated boats escorted the ship as it steamed toward the capital town.

Taking one of the ship's motorboats, the President then landed right on the beach where huge crowd received him, and tagged along to the cathedral for *Te Deum*.

After a tour of the various construction projects, the President met with national, provincial and barrio officials at the local memorial athletic stadium, where the First Lady landed in a helicopter. The First Couple then greeted the people together.

The people, in turn, sang "Happy Birthday" to the First Lady.

The presidential party reboarded the Navy ship at 2 p.m. for the return trip to Tolosa, Leyte, where Mrs. Marcos intends to spend her birthday with relatives and friends.

July 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS started the day by attending a Mass with the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, in connection with the latter's birthday.

Friends and relatives of the First Couple, both resident of Tolosa and coming from Manila and elsewhere, as well as public officials who arrived in Barrio Olot to felicitate the First Lady, also attended the Mass.

Apart from playing host to the guests who came to extend best wishes to the First Lady, the President found time to confer with officials, both local and national, and to do some paperwork brought by aides from Malacañang.

Notable among the officials who took the opportunity to confer with the President were Vice President Fernando Lopez and Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, who reported on his recent trip abroad.

In his talk with Secretary Romulo, the President also discussed the forthcoming visit of President Richard Nixon sometime this month.

The President also conferred with General Manuel Yan, AFP chief of staff; Brig. Gen. Vicente Raval, PC chief; and Commodore. Ismael Lomibao, PN flag officer in command.

Other officials the President talked with included Justice Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, Labor Secretary Blas F. Ople, Land Authority Gov. Conrado Estrella, GSIS General Manager Benjamin del Rosario PACD Secretary Ernesto Maceda, and PES Director-General Placido Mapa, Jr.

The President also took up local and congressional matters with Govs. Jose Sering of Surigao del Norte, Rene Espina of Cebu, and Jose Roño of Western Samar; Reps. Marcelino Veloso, House majority floorleader; Reps. Constantino Navarro of Surigao del Norte, Fernando Veloso of Western Samar, Artemio Mate and Salud Parrefio of Leyte.

Shortly after lunch, the President rested briefly, then in mid-afternoon-started going over official papers.

July 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent most of his time conferring with officials of Samar, whom he had scheduled for conferences on urgent problems of the province.

Apart from this, he studied reports and acted on state matters which required his immediate attention.

The President, on the eve of Republic Day and Philippine-American Friendship Day issued the following message to the nation;

“I believe that to many Filipinos, July 4 this year, which we celebrate as Philippine Republic Day, is more meaningful because of the energetic strides made in recent years to mold our young Republic closer to the image we envisioned for the nation which emerged in 1946.

“Our gains today is properly attributable to the “achieving Filipino,” the productive, well-motivated, and devoted citizen who will ultimately move our nation beyond mere survival, toward the fulfillment of our hopes for a better life, now and in the generations to come.

“Even as July 4 is celebrated in the United States as its own Independence Day, the Filipino people look forward to many more years of close cooperation and comradeship with the American people, born out of respect and understanding, and a deep devotion to common ideals and aspiration. Truly, Philippine-American friendship which we emphasize also in our observance of July 4 has never been so sturdy and so filled with new promise than it is today.

“This milestone in our history will remain meaningful to us only if we keep faith with the second Republic founded on this day 23 years ago, and prove true to the rare friendship which sets apart from the rest of the world the Filipino and American peoples.”

Early in the morning, the President officiated at the inauguration of the San Juanico golf course.

While still at the golf course the President met with Manila newsmen who were with him in the current trip.

Toward noon, the President conferred with Samar officials headed by Gov. Jose Roño and Rep. Fernando Veloso.

Matters taken up centered on the province’s urgent needs, particularly in the area of infrastructure and community development.

In the course of his conference, the President ordered all public works and highway engineers to open their books to municipal mayors.

The President took this action as a safeguard against the misuse of funds allocated for construction of feeder roads and other projects, particularly against the fact that in the past such funds have been used to promote election campaigns.

He asked the highway and public works engineers to give municipal mayors complete access to their records, including payrolls and other expenditures of funds.

The President devoted the whole afternoon in paper work, in the course of which he dispatched a cablegram to President Nixon felicitating him and the American people on the occasion of their independence day.

His message to President Nixon follows:

“It is my great pleasure to express the hope of the Filipino people that your Independence Day today will mark an even greater era of progress and prosperity for the United States, and that our country and America will remain staunch partners in the search for peace and the cause of freedom. The special ties our two nations value is in fact celebrated here this day as Philippine-American Friendship Day. Let me extend as well my personal best wishes to you and your countrymen.”

In the evening, the President boarded the presidential yacht *RPS 777* and sailed on to Mindanao where he is to fulfill engagements starting tomorrow.

Source: **Malacañang Records Office**

President's Week in Review: July 4-8, 1969

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

July 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, landed at Tandag, Surigao del Sur at 9 a.m. after an oversight voyage from Tolosa, Leyte aboard the *RPS 777*.

Looking refreshed and hale, the First Couple acknowledged the warm reception given by a sizable crowd composed of local people and delegations from the two Surigao provinces.

Leading the welcomers were Gov. Recaredo Castillo and Rep. Gregorio Murillo of Surigao del Sur, and Gov. Jose Sering and Rep. Constantino Navarro of Surigao del Norte. Also with the welcomers was Cebu Gov. Rene Espina, who is also the acting secretary of public works and communications,

After the *Te Deum* at the town church the President motored to Barrio Tago, some seven kilometers away, where he inaugurated the new 88-km. highway. It links the capital town of Tandag to 10 municipalities which in the past were accessible only by means of small watercraft.

The new road was started in 1966 as a subsidiary of the projected Pan-Philippine Highway. Built at a cost of ₱2.7 million, the road cuts across vast tracts of virgin land the development of which is now possible, and is seen as a future boost to agricultural production in the region.

Returning to Tandag shortly before noon, the President conferred with national, provincial, municipal and barrio officials. During the conference, he was presented with a plaque of appreciation "for making rural development the foundation of his administration."

The President also administered the oath to a number of mayors and councilors of the two Surigao provinces, formerly with the opposition who formally affiliated with the Nacionalista Party.

After a late lunch at the town hall, the President and the First Lady returned to the ship anchored about a mile from the shore for the trip to Butuan City.

Among those in the presidential party were Gov. Vicente Magsaysay of Zambales, Gov. Eduardo Cojuangco of Tarlac and PACD Secretary Ernesto Maceda.

Also aboard were Ambassador and Mrs. Luis Gonzales, who were complimented by the group on their wedding anniversary.

Earlier, the President sent a wire congratulating Ricardo Cuenca, saying that his feat is "in the tradition of the Filipino spirit of winning."

The 34-year old Parañaque (Rizal) jeepney driver reached the Luneta seawall at approximately 7:45 o'clock in the morning after swimming continuously for 47 hours, starting at Fortune Island off Nasugbu,

Batangas.

July 5—

PRESIDENT MARCOS congratulated the people of Butuan City for the many projects they had initiated and completed by force of civic spirit alone, without government assistance.

The President was impressed by the number of projects completed and still being undertaken in the city and in many parts of Agusan.

He was particularly impressed by the fact-that the completion of the projects were accelerated by contributions from citizens and other private individuals.

These projects include the cementing of streets, the establishment of parks and playgrounds, which he noted was in line with the beautification program of the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos.

The President said that the example set by the people in the region is “worthy of emulation by other cities and provinces in the-country.”

He said that “people who can initiate and carry out projects without waiting for government assistance deserve every encouragement.”

The President and the First Lady received a rousing welcome on arrival in Butuan. Hundreds of people jammed the small wharf at Nasipit, where the presidential party landed at 8:30 a.m., from the *RPS 777*.

From that port, the presidential party motored to Butuan City, where the President conferred with national, provincial, municipal and barrio officials of the two Agusan provinces.

Meanwhile, the First Lady inaugurated two parks in the city, one in front of the capitol building, and the other in front of the St. Joseph Cathedral, where *Te Deum* was sung in honor of the First Couple.

An impromptu rally developed after the President noticed the enthusiasm of the sizable crowd which kept milling around him and the First Lady. He then decided to address the people, at Freedom Park which was finished just a few days ago.

Civic organizations rushed the completion of the park, in time for the President’s visit.

The President met the local official at the city’s gymnasium, where the presidential party, also had lunch. After the meeting, the President and the First Lady returned to Nasipit. Aboard the *RPS 777*, the President had another round of conferences with officials.

In the evening, the President sailed for Cagayan de Oro.

July 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and the First Lady arrived in Cagayan de Oro City about 8:30 a.m. aboard the *RPS 777* following an overnight voyage from Butuan City.

The First Couple motored to Camp 12 in Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon, where the President met with national, provincial, municipal and barrio officials of the province.

While there he was presented with a scroll of gratitude unanimously approved by provincial officials and barrio captains “for dignifying the participation of the rural communities in the overall development of the country.”

Enroute to Bukidnon, the President inaugurated a marker at the boundary between that province and Misamis Oriental and a number Marcos-type schoolhouses set up along the way in time for the opening of the new school year.

After meeting the Bukidnon officials, the President motored back to Cagayan de Oro where he inspected the experimental farms of the Javier University college of agriculture.

He was accompanied by Senator Emmanuel Pelaez, Gov. Pedro Roa of Misamis Oriental, Gov. Carlos Fortich of Bukidnon, Mayor Jesus Serina of Cagayan de Oro, as well as officials from Misamis Occidental.

July 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, were accorded one of the most rousing receptions of their weeklong trip to the Visayas and Mindanao, upon arrival in Tagbilaran City.

In spite of the slight drizzle which developed in the morning over Tagbilaran and persisted throughout the eight-hour visit there, a big crowd of people from all walks of life showed up for the First Couple's visit, and followed them wherever they went.

Accompanied by Gov. Vicente Magsaysay of Zambales, Gov. Rene Espina of Cebu, who is the concurrent secretary of public works and communications Gov. Carlos Fortich of Bukidnon, and PACD Secretary Ernesto Maceda, the President and the First Lady arrived at Tagbilaran City 8:30 a.m., after an overnight voyage from Cagayan de Oro City.

Following *Te Deum* sang at the city cathedral, the President's party proceeded to the city athletic stadium where he met, after the rally, with national, provincial, municipal and barrio officials headed by Gov. Lino Chatto, and Reps. Natalio Castillo, Jose Zafra, and Teodora Galagar.

The *RPS 777* bearing the President's party shoved off at 3 p.m. from Tagbilaran City for the return trip to Manila.

On the way to Bohol, and shortly after weighing anchor, the President worked on state-papers.

Among other actions, he designated Finance Undersecretary Pedro Almanzor acting secretary of finance, in the absence of Secretary Eduardo Romualdez who has a mission abroad to accomplish.

He also, studied reports and followed up on other urgent administration concerns.

July 8—

ABOARD THE *RPS 777*, President Marcos, spent most of the day in his cabin where he went over state papers, studied reports, and anticipated the immediate concerns awaiting him at Malacañang.

He also had a round of conferences with officials aboard the ship, and during the day had an informal huddle with newsmen covering him.

In an informal assessment of his ten-day trip to the Eastern Visayas and Mindanao, he said that it was fruitful on both the political and the government fronts.

In the last ten days, he covered a vast arc of towns and provinces, from Leyte to Bukidnon, to Agusan, to Bohol. He visited barrios and on-going projects, inaugurated completed projects, conferred with local officials at all levels, and carried on a dialogue with the people at public rallies.

He said that from his observations, the people are on the side of the administration program of government and will handily support his bid for reelection.

He also stated that from his assessment of local situations, he came away with helpful ideas of expediting rural and general development, and adding to the projects now being pushed, new initiatives designed to enlarge, the gains already made in improving the lives of the majority of the people.

July 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS concentrated on state papers in his private study, as he caught up with his desk work after a, ten-day trip-to the South.

He received no outside visitors, except officials with urgent business to take up, and aides with whom he consulted as he worked.

By telephone, he talked with Senate President Gil J. Puyat and OEG Administrator Constancio Castañeda, who consulted him on party matters. The President was informed of the decision to postpone the NP national directorate meeting to July 21, to give enough time for the directorate members to come to Manila.

July 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS continued to work in seclusion in his private study, as he coped with an unceasing flow of state papers.

As usual, he conferred with aides but received only officials with urgent official matters to take up with him.

Among other actions, he:

1. Proclaimed July 11 an official public holiday in Valenzuela, Bulacan, so that the townmates of revolutionary hero Dr. Pio Valenzuela can celebrate properly the illustrious Filipino's centenary.
2. Ordered LTC Commissioner Romeo Edu to expedite the licensing of motorized tricycles used as public conveyances, and if possible allow them to ply routes without franchises.

In the evening, the President left his desk work to address the inaugural meeting and induction of officers of the Manila Rotary Club, at the-Manila Hotel.

In his speech, he emphasized the need for Filipinos to support the efforts of the administration to affirm the dignity of the Philippines as a free country and to advance the efforts toward progress and prosperity.

President's Week in Review: July 11-17, 1969

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

July 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS continued to work mostly in his study uninterrupted by visitors, while consulting with administration leaders on various problems.

Among other concerns, he studied reports on important government programs and made decisions on urgent matters. He -also announced the replacement of Acting NAWASA General Manager Antonio Menor by Brig. Gen. Sergio Isada (ret.), former commander of the AFP engineer brigade.

Menor has long been on sick leave after suffering a cerebral hemorrhage.

The President also issued a proclamation, setting aside July 14-20 as Blood Donors' Week, to honor the volunteers who are the mainstay of the Philippine National Red Cross Blood Program. The special week highlights the foundation anniversary of the PNRC on July 17.

He worked alone at the desk through the evening, but remained available to other leaders for consultations.

Meanwhile, the President asked the Filipinos to be guided by the examples of illustrious Filipinos like Dr. Pio Valenzuela, a founding member of the Katipunan, in brief remarks at ceremonies in Valenzuela, Bulacan commemorating the centenary of the patriot after whom his hometown was named.

In a short speech in Pilipino read by Secretary of Labor Bias F. Ople, the President said that in meeting present challenges the nation can take inspiration from the country's heroic past.

The valuable legacy of the Filipino, race, he said, may be gleaned from the numerous events which had glorified Filipino ideals, from the valor of Lapu-Lapu to the other heroic acts of great Filipinos.

The challenges and difficulties facing the country, he said, can be overcome if "we remember always that our forefathers made great sacrifices and even gave up their lives to free our country from bondage."

July 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS bent closely to the desk work at hand, leaving it only once during the day when he addressed the closing session of the joint seminar put up by the FAO, ECAFE, and ILO, at the WHO building on United Nations Avenue.

As is his wont on weekends, the President confined his workday to studying state papers and otherwise doing desk work. He received only officials with urgent matter's to take up, but consulted freely with aides.

He motored to the WHO building in the morning for his speaking engagement, accompanied by Land Authority Gov, Conrado Estrella, and Brig. Gen. Vicente Raval, PC chief.

In his speech, the President emphasized the importance of land reform in Asian countries, as an essential agent in effecting change and in buttressing national stability. He projected the Philippines' own efforts in this field, asserting that substantial gains have been made in land reform since its initial and limited; implementation by the past administration.

From the seminar, the President returned straight to Malacañang where he resumed his paper work.

Early in the evening, the President, along with the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, left for the Plaza Restaurant in Makati, to attend the celebration of the silver wedding anniversary of Colonel and Mrs. Fabian Ver. Col. Ver is the commander of the Presidential Guard Battalion:

July 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent a quiet weekend, devoting most of his time in his study.

He devoted the early morning hours to reading then joined the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, and their children, Imee, Bongbong and Irene, to inquire into the children's studies.

The only officials who saw the President included Assistant Executive Secretaries Jose J. Leido, Jr. and Gilberto Duavit, and Dr. Guillermo de Vega of the Executive Office.

In the evening, the President and the family hear Mass at the Palace chapel.

The President worked on state papers until late at night.

July 14

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a full day of conferences and visitors as well as of continuing desk work.

Among other actions, he formed a committee to investigate the charges of malversation against Licerio Sendaydiego, provincial treasurer of Pangasinan, and several others; extended the fund drive of the Elks Cerebral Palsy project; and asked the Department of Justice to keep hands off the case of Senator Sergio Osmeña, Jr., who is facing graft charges and others, in order to avoid any taint of political persecution. The President conferred with a number of top officials, including Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Manuel Collantes, Assistant Executive Secretary Gilberto Duavit and Assistant Press Secretary Jacobo C. Clave; Immigration Commissioner Edmundo Reyes, Secretary of Justice Juan Ponce Enrile, and Governor Conrado Estrella of the Land Authority.

Other/ callers were:

1. Senator Alejandro Almendras, Rep. Constancio Maglana and Gov. Leopoldo Lopez of Davao Oriental; Gov. Verulo Boiser and Vice Gov. Geeilia A. de la Paz of Davao del Norte.
2. A delegation from Quezon City headed by Mayor Norberto Amoranto and Vice Mayor Ismael Mathay, Jr.
4. Rep. Andres Cosalan of Mt. Province and Councilors Jose Florendo and Ruben Ayson of Baguio City.
5. Luis Narciso and Mac Fabian, national chairman and executive secretary, respectively, of the Farmers Agrarian Reform Movement (FARM), who were accompanied by Dean Jeremias Montemayor, president of the Federation of Free Farmers; and Chairman Raoul Beloso of the Small Farmers Commission.

They discussed the means of speeding up the implementation of land reform.

6. Marinduque mayors headed by Dominador Leonida, president of the Mayors League.
7. Eastern Samar mayors accompanied by Rep. Felipe Abrigo.
8. Mayor Jose Luciano of Makati, Rizal, who was accompanied by Civil Service Commissioner Abelardo Subido.

The President issued a proclamation extending the national educational and fund campaign of the Elks Cerebral Palsy Project, Inc. up to September 30 this year. The organization was originally authorized to conduct a drive from May 1 to June 30, under Proclamation No. 520 issued on February 12, 1969.

The President also ordered the Presidential Investigation Committee headed by Dr. Gaudencio Garcia to inquire immediately into the charges. against the officials of the Games and Amusements Board filed by the Philippine Racing Club, Inc., by one Carlos H. Reyes, and by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

The charges range from fixing of races, falsification, usurpation .of official functions, oppressive exercise of authority, gross insubordination and wilful violation of a lawful order.

July 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had several conferences, notably with, top Nacionalista leaders headed by Senate President Gil J. Puyat, NP president, during which the NP leaders said the national directorate meeting of the NP will be held on July 27, in deference to the crowded schedule of officials just before and during the visit of US President Richard Nixon.

Others at the meeting with NP leaders were Secretary Constancio Castaneda, NP secretary-general; Senator Alejandro Almendras, Speaker Protempore Jose Aldeguer, and Gov. Isidro Rodriguez of Rizal.

Meanwhile, in between, conferences the President worked at his desk. Among other actions, he ordered the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Bureau of Immigration to allow the entry of Larry Tractman, an American who seeks to operate a business here. The US national was denied entry by officials of the two offices ostensibly because of derogatory information on the American entrepreneur's previous business activities here; as well as directed the Department of National Defense to begin paying veterans' claims for certain/benefits amounting to ₱5000 plus.

The President also reenacted the signing of two bills which interested parties requested him to do. The bills are the amended backpay measure,, which now extends benefits to guerrillas previously unrecognized; and. the bill establishing Mandaue City in Cebu.

Notable callers during the day included Princess Tarhata Kiram, accompanied by Sultan Mohammad Esmail, Kiram of Sulu; and a., group of officials from Southern Leyte, accompanied by Rep. Nicanor Yñiguez. The President conferred with the group- on problems in the province.

July 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had as usual a schedule crowded with a variety of activities, including a television interview with a Japanese team of newsmen and a meeting with Senator Ambrosio Padilla who came with provincial political leaders.

Other activities included receiving a steady flow of callers, sitting down for conferences, and doing the usual indispensable paper work. Again, he reenacted for interested parties the signing of a bill.

Early in the morning, the President received Senator Padilla who called along with a group of .his political supporters from the Liberal Party.

Those who came with the Senator were former Governor Alfredo Bantug; Mayors Gavino Lim of Liloan, Edgarino Espina of Maasin, Leonor Galdo of Macrohon, Maximino Tidalgo, Jr. of Malitbog and Perfecto A. Lim of Pintuyan, all from the province of Southern Leyte.

At 9:30 a.m., the President sat down with representatives of the Nippon Hosokai of Japan for a televised interview.

Working on state papers in-between callers, the President, among other actions, proclaimed July 23 as Mabini Day in the province of Batangas and the cities of Batangas and Lipa, to give people in those places ample opportunity to honor the Sublime Paralytic, on his birthday and signed 12 *ad interim* appointments to various posts in the government.

He also reenacted later in the morning the signing into law of House Bill No. 2902, which sets up the charter creating Dipolog City.

Witnessing the signing were Gov. Virginio Lacaya and Rep. Alberto Ubay of Zamboanga del Norte, Dipolog Mayor Felicisimo Herrera, Provincial Engineer Conrado Romero, Solicitor Carlos W. Ortega, and Segundo Cortes, provincial social welfare director.

Among other callers were former Senator Estanislao Fernandez; a delegation from Agusan headed by Rep. Jose Aquino and Gov. Consuelo Calo; a delegation from Cotabato led by Datu Abdullah Sangki; Rep. Lamberto Macias of Negros Oriental; Governors Vicente Magsaysay of Zambales and Vicente Cerillos of Zamboanga del Sur.

July 17—

PRESIDENT MARCOS helicoptered to Nieves, San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija early in the morning where he was guest of honor at the mid-year conference and 17th anniversary of the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement.

The President, accompanied by PACD Secretary Ernesto Maceda, Gov. Eduardo Cojuangco of Tarlac, Brig. Gen. Vicente Raval, PC chief; and Brig. Gen. Hanz Menzi, his senior aide, arrived at the PRRM center at 10:45 a.m., after a 35-minute flight.

The President's party was met on landing by Chairman Manuel Manahan of the Central Luzon Study Commission, who is also the PRRM president; Secretary of Social Welfare Gregorio Feliciano, Rep. Angel Concepcion of Nueva Ecija and Mayor Tagumpay Nagano of San Leonardo.

He was given full military honors by a guard of honor. On emerging from the helicopter, enthusiastic welcomers carried him on their shoulders.

At the PRRM center, the President greeted the rural workers who came from various parts of the country to participate in the PRRM fete.

Among the honor guests were some 27 barrio captains from Batanes province, the northernmost region of the Philippines.

Prominent among others present were Dean Conrado Benitez, chairman of the PRRM Board of Trustees; Senator Helena Benitez, and Brig. Gen. Felizardo Tanabe, First PC zone commander.

During the ceremonies, the President conferred service awards to 32 rural reconstruction workers. Radio Station DZCI of Cabanatuan City was among the awardees.

Secretaries Maceda and Feliciano were also special awardees, the first receiving a PRRM plaque of gratitude, while the DSW chief received the Order-of Sikatuna, rank of Lakan, for distinguished service in the promotion of rural reconstruction.

Chairman Manahan rendered a report on the accomplishments of PRRM, While also pinpointing the movement's problems.

To dramatize public support for the movement, President Marcos announced he was giving ₱5,000 from his personal funds as donation to PRRM, and further pledged government assistance in the amount of ₱100,000 to the movement “if the law allows it.”

The President joined the guests at a luncheon- after the ceremonies. He then flew back to Malacañang at 1:50 p.m.

Before flying to Nueva Ecija, the President directed the People’s Home-site and Housing Corporation (PHHC) to pay the salaries of its employees immediately.

He issued the-order through Assistant Executive Secretary Flores Bayot, upon; receiving a wire in the morning from Armando Malay, president of the PHHC Supervisors’ Union, reporting the non-payment of employees’ salaries since last month.

He told PHHC General Manager Sebastian Santiago to pay all employees’ salaries up to the 15th of this month.

The President worked on state papers in the afternoon and through the evening.

President's Week in Review: July 18-24, 1969

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

July 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS received a new ambassador to the Philippines, attended to everyone listed on his official schedule of callers, and capped the day with; a speech at the 10th anniversary celebration of the Joint Legislative-Executive Tax Commission in the evening, as guest of honor.

At the *Pangarap* guesthouse this morning, the President conferred briefly with DBP Chairman Gregorio Licaros and PAL President Benigno Toda, Jr., and later with Central Bank Gov. Alfonso Calalang.

A little past 10 a.m., the President crossed the Pasig river to the Palace where he received the credentials of Ambassador Bob J. L. Lebacqz, the new envoy of Belgium to the Philippines.

After the rites, the President conferred with PANAMIN Secretary Manuel Elizalde, Jr.; Press Secretary Jose D. Aspiras, Labor Secretary Bias F. Ople and Assistant Executive Secretary Jose J. Leido, Jr.

The President, then met with a delegation of local officials from Capiz, led by Gov. Cornelio Villareal, Jr. and Vice-Gov. Carolina N. Bayot. Also at the meeting was Assistant Executive Secretary Fibres Bayot, husband of the vice governor.

The Capiz officials informed the President that both Nacionalistas and Liberals in their province will close ranks to support his re-election bid.

Another group who called to pledge solid support was composed of the officers of the Manila Market Vendors Association, accompanied by Mrs. Polly Cayetano, president of the Chamber of Filipino Retailers.

Local officials, all Liberals, from the hometown of former President Macapagal also called to offer the President their support. The group from Lubao, Pampanga, was headed by Mayor Salvador B. Dimson.

Among the President's other callers were Senator Ambrosio Padilla; former Senator Lorenzo Sumulong and his brother Ex-Rep. Francisco Sumulong; Rep. Nicanor Yñiguez of Southern Leyte who came with former Gov. Alfonso Bantug, a Liberal; and a delegation from Zamboanga City led by Mayor Joaquin F. Enriquez, Jr. also a Liberal.

Other callers received by the President were:

1. Rep. Pablo Roman, Gov. Guillermo Arcenas and former Rep. Jose Nuguid of Bataan.
2. Gov. Eduardo Cojuangco of Tarlac and Mayor Eugenio Suarez of Angeles City.
3. Reps. Luis Hora, Ali Dimaporo and Pedro Medalla. Rep. Dimaporo was accompanied by Gov. Linang Mandangan of Lanao del Sur and Mayor Omar Diattalan of Marawi City; while Rep. Medalla brought along Mayors Apolinario Zoleta of Abra de Hog and Nestor Abeleda of Sta. Cruz, Mindoro.
4. A delegation of leaders from Cotabato led by former Rep. and Mrs. Blah Sinsuat.
5. Governors Virginio Lacaya of Zamboanga del Norte and Henry Regalado of Misamis Occidental; and Mayor Faustino Dy of Cauayan, Isabela.

July 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS contrary to his week-end norm received a full quota of callers, mostly delegations. Still, he put in enough desk work in order to clear urgent official business.

This morning, the President received a delegation of mayors, both

Nacionalistas and Liberals, from Cavite who apprised him of the priority needs of their municipalities especially in community development.

Accompanied by former Gov. Dominador Camerino and Provincial Board Member Juanito Remulla, the mayors who saw the President were Ernesto T. Genuino of General Trias, Calixto Enrique of Rosario, Telesforo Unas of Maragondon, Benigno Guinto of Bacoor, Macario Pena of Naic;

Jose Jamir of Imus, Eusebio Leachon of Aniadeo, Adelardo Rosanes of Alfonso, Fulgencio Guevara of Indang, Timoteo Boealan of Tanza, Cesar Casal of Carmona: and Florentino Bautista of Kawit.

After the meeting with the Cavite mayors, the President received at the Executive Building some 800 provincial, municipal and barrio officials of Tarlac led by Gov. Eduardo Cojuangco, Jr.

The Tarlac officials reported to the President on the progress of various infrastructure and community development projects, for which they expressed thanks.

Comparing the national aid given and local achievements made during the present and previous administrations, the officials said that what had been accomplished by the present administration for the province in three and a half years dwarfed the combined records of previous administrations, particularly in infrastructure and public works projects, notably in cement and asphalt roads, bridges and feeder roads.

Both NP and LP mayors present were one in crediting the provincial government and the administration for the considerable improvements in their localities.

In mid-afternoon, the President received the officers of the National Congress of Union in the Sugar Industry of the Philippine (NACUSIP).

The NACUSIP officials petitioned the President for his help in assigning more equitable quotas to new or small sugarcane planters.

They also asked the President's intercession toward the adoption and wider implementation of the social amelioration program in the sugar industry, to the end that ₱3 per picul of the net share of sugar centrals on domestic sugar production be given to workers as cash bonuses, beginning with crop year 1968-69.

The President said that the challenge of providing food for the expanding population of the Philippines must be taken up through accelerated development. The President urged Filipino scientists and technologists to do more and better if this nation is to move forward, stressing particularly the need for aggressive action toward meeting the problems of food population, which he said can be squarely met by science and technology.

In a speech read for him in the afternoon by Secretary of Health Amadeo Cruz, at the ceremonies ending National Science and Technology Week, held at the Manila Hotel, the President said that the key to development is science and technology.

Citing the coincidence between the Apollo 11 voyage and the observance here of Science and Technology Week, he said that this epochal event enhances the purpose of the observance which is to promote science consciousness among Our people. (See pp. 7663-7666 for full text of the President's speech.)

Among other actions, the President proclaimed Monday, July 21, a special public holiday in the Philippines to enable the people to witness the historic landing on the moon of Apollo 11.

In his proclamation, the President said that the “people of the Philippines share with the rest of the world the jubilation” over this historic event.

In the evening, the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, honored at dinner Princess Butha Dedi and her party.

The Princess is the daughter of Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia.

July 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS met with top leaders of the Nacionalista Party with whom he discussed preparations for the N.P. national directorate meeting set for July 27 at the Manila Hotel.

At 9:30 a.m., the President received Rodolfo G. Tupas, editor of the *Sunday Times Magazine*, who interviewed him at the *Pangarap* guesthouse.

Among those present at the meeting were Senate President Gil J. Puyat also NP president, Senate Majority Floorleader Arturo Tolentino, Senate President Protempore Jose Roy, Senators Alejandro Almendras and Jose W. Diokno, OEC Administrator Constancio Castaneda, Governors Isidro Rodriguez of Rizal, Rafael Palmares of Iloilo and Benjamin Romualdez of Leyte; RCA Chairman Alfredo Montelibano, Sr., Mayor Leroy Brown of Basilan City, former SWA Administrator Francisco E. F. Remotigue, and J. Antonio Araneta; and Legislative Secretary Ariel Bocobo.

Returning to Malacañang the President then transmitted to Secretary of Justice Juan Ponce Enrile for consideration the petition of the Cebu Lawyers League seeking the transfer of the pending graft charges against -Senator Sergio Osmeña, Jr., from the Cebu Court of First Instance to the Cebu Circuit Criminal Court.

The Cebu Lawyers League, through Emerito Calderon and Board Member

Pablo Garcia, had asked for the transfer of the case in order to speed up its trial.

He also sent congratulations to Miss Gloria Diaz, who was selected “Miss Universe” in the beauty tilt held at Miami Beach, Florida, U.S.A.

The President’s message follows:

“The Filipino people are very much elated and proud of your winning the Miss Universe contest. You brought honor not only to yourself but to your country as well. On their behalf and our own the First Lady and I extend to you our sincerest congratulations.”

Miss Diaz comes from Paranaque, Rizal. She won the Miss Philippine tilt this year.

This was the second time in five years that a Filipino won in an International beauty contest. The first was when Miss Gemma Cruz (no Mrs. Antonio Araneta) won the “Miss International” title in 1964.

At 6 p.m., the President was interviewed by Carl Eowan.

Later in the evening, the President and his family heard Mass at the Malacañang chapel.

July 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS was virtually glued to the television set as he followed the progress of Apollo 11, and closely took in the historic landing on the moon.

Starting his watch late last night, along with the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, and their three children, Irene, Imee and Bongbong, the President was still going strong throughout most of the morning up to early afternoon.

In an interview over the phone with local media men, the President complimented the local networks for the clear telecast, and expressed the hope that the US will, also lead in bringing men together in enduring peace.

In a message he issued shortly after Astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin, Jr. touched down on the moon, the President hailed the space feat as a; triumphant milestone in the conquest of space which augurs greater achievements in the broadening of man's vision and the fulfillment of a larger destiny."

At about half past 1 p.m., the President received Ambassador Ernesto Lagdameo, Philippine envoy to Washington, with whom he discussed the preparations for the visit here of President Richard Nixon on Saturday, July 26.

Ambassador Lagdameo planed in from the United States expressly to help in the arrangements for the US President's visit.

After a brief rest in the afternoon, the President worked on state papers.

In the evening, he motored to the Manila Hilton where he addressed the convention of Filipino businessmen.

July 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS restricted his callers, in order to study position papers relating, to his talks with U.S. President Richard M. Nixon during the latter's visit here come the weekend.

The President also sought to participate-more fully in finalizing the preparations for the U.S. President's visit.

In any case, he was kept busy the whole morning by activities which included conferences with various national officials, among them Secretary of Finance Eduardo Z. Romualdez, PACD Secretary Ernesto Maceda, Highways Commissioner Baltazar Aquino and Chairman Gregorio Abad of the Reparations Commission.

In the afternoon, however, the President received provincial delegations; which chore kept him occupied until 4 p.m.

Gov. Carlos Fortich of Bukidnon saw the President on the expansion and improvement of the airport in Malaybalay, so that it can cope better with the increasing volume of air traffic in the region.

With the Bukidnon governor was Mayor Espiridion Abello of Talakag ho took his oath of affiliation to the Nacionalista Party before the resident.

Delegations of mayors also called to consult with the President on various improvement projects in their respective localities. Among the callers were the groups accompanied by Gov. Henry Regalado and Rep. William Chiongbian of Misamis Occidental; Gov. Tito Primicias of Pangasinan; Gov. Rafael Palmares of Iloilo; and Princess Tarhata Kir am of Sulu. The President also found time to attend to some desk work. Among other official actions, the President:

1. Approved the request of Rep. Joaquin P. Roces, chairman of the

Press Foundation of Asia, for the admission into the country of three journalists who will serve with their Filipino counterparts in that press body. Those given temporary permits were Tarzie Vittachi of Ceylon, Amitabha Chowdhury, of India and Alan B. Chalkley of England.

2. Authorized the retention of the savings of the office of the Presidential Assistant on Housing and Resettlement Agency, which will be used to maintain the roads and other improvements, as well as social services, in the Carmona resettlement community for squatters. Secretary Esteban Bernido recommended the retention of the savings for these purposes.

3. Approved the promotion of some 300 reserve AFP officers in various services, to fill vacancies in the officer ranks.

4. Proclaimed the period from August 1 to December 31 this year for fund raising campaign of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines.

July 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS again concentrated on conferences with various officials notably Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, on the preparations for the visit of US President Richard Nixon. The President continued reviewing position papers relating to the likely topics he may take up with President Nixon. He also looked into the arrangements for the American President and his official party, as well as for the sizable press corps which will cover the visit. Otherwise, the President worked on urgent state matters, confining himself to his private study for the purpose. He received no outside visitors, except a group of sugar industry leaders.

The only action mentioned by his office pertained to the directive issued to Secretary of Justice Juan Ponce Enrile to conduct immediately rigid tests to ascertain whether Manila taxi companies are complying with the requirements set by the PSC in consideration of the hike in cab fares.

Mayor Romeo Guanzon of Bacolod City, who went to Malacanang in the company of sugar industry leaders took his oath of affiliation with the Nacionalista Party before the President.

Among those who witnessed the ceremony were Rep. Armando Gustilo of Negros Occidental, Roberto Benedicto, PNB president; Chairman Ramon Nolan of the Sugar Quota Administration, and Carlos Ledesma, president of the Federation of Sugarcane Planters of the Philippines. Earlier, the President signed Senate Bill No. 1046 (HB No. 19050), creating a fund for the payment of depositors in banks closed down by the Central Bank and prohibited from doing further business.

The sum of ₱15 million, as recommended by the Deposit Insurance Corporation, will be set aside by the Monetary Board from the profits of the Central Bank to institute the fund created under the new law.

As approved, the law also provides that payments shall not exceed ₱10,000 per individual depositor.

July 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS conferred with various officials and met with leaders of his party, while coping in-between with the inevitable paper work flowing to his desk.

Early in the morning, the President attended a meeting of the NP junta held at the *Pangarap* guesthouse in Malacañang Park. Among the decisions reached at this meeting, was the proclamation of NP national candidates, to be held in a centrally located city in the South, on July 31.

Present at the junta meeting were Senate President Gil J. Puyat, who is also the NP president; Speaker Protempore Jose Aldeguer, Senate President Protempore Jose Roy, Senate Majority Floorleader Arturo M. Tolentino, House

Majority Floorleader Marcelino Veloso, Senator Alejandro Almendras, OEC Administrator Gonstancio Castaneda, Rizal Gov. Isidro Rodriguez, Basilan Mayor Leroy Brown, RCA Chairman Alfredo Montelibano, and J. Antonio Araneta.

Back at the Palace about 11 a.m., the President met with publishers and other representatives of national publications, and later with a number of provincial governors.

Others who conferred with him were Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos

P. Romulo, Secretary of Finance Eduardo Romualdez, Ambassador Ernesto Lagdameo, PES Director General Placido Mapa, Jr., Chairman Cesar E. A. Virata of the Board of Investments, Undersecretary of National Defense Alejandro Melchor, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Jose Ingles and U.P. President Salvador P. Lopez.

The President also accepted the resignation of Executive Secretary Rafael M. Salas.

Secretary Salas saw the President shortly after submitting his letter of resignation, to explain that he was anxious to accept a job offered to him by the United Nations because it concerned a vital world problem, the control of population in underdeveloped countries.

Salas' resignation was accepted after the President was convinced that Salas' new position would bring him as well as the Philippines itself added honor and prestige.

Immediately after accepting the resignation of Salas, the President appointed Secretary Ernesto Maceda executive secretary.

Maceda has been the head of the Presidential Arm on Community Development since President Marcos took over the reins of the administration on December 30, 1965.

In the afternoon, the President administered the oath to Judge Andres Reyes as associate justice of the Court of Appeals.

Earlier, the President signed Senate Bill No. 657, fixing the new salary rate for judges of the courts of first instance, presiding justice and associate justices of the Court of Appeals.

As approved, the new law sets the annual salary of CFI judges at ₱23,000; that of the associate justices of the Court of Appeals at ₱28,000; and the appellate court's presiding justice at ₱30,000.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: July 25-31, 1969

President's Week in Review: August 1-7, 1969

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

August 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, arrived in Surigao del Norte late in the afternoon after a brief Stopover at Dinagat island, enroute from Tagbilaran City.

The President, along with Vice President Fernando Lopez, and Surigao leaders led by Rep. Constantino Navarro and Gov. Jose Sering, stopped at Dinagat to attend a rally which local leaders had put up.

Small though the island is, the President and party got a rousing welcome from a crowd which was never seen there, both in size or enthusiasm.

After that exhilarating experience, the President and his party crossed over to the Mindanao mainland, to the capital town of Surigao where the massive public rally prepared for days in advance was already perking, started early in the afternoon by the spearhead group of NP senatorial candidates led by Senate President Gil J. Puyat.

The turnout at the rally amazed even local people. There was great animation in the crowd as the NP stalwarts, led by the President, assailed the opposition even as they raised another notch the popular support for the administration and the NP candidates.

Shortly after arrival in Surigao, the President broke the ground for the P1-million airport improvement project expected to hasten the development of its natural resources.

After the ground-breaking ceremony at the airport, the President addressed a special convocation at the Northeastern Mindanao Colleges, where he discussed his administration's program for youth.

August 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and his party arrived in Tacloban City late in the afternoon from Ormoc City. He arrived about 11 a.m. in Ormoc on board the *RPS 777* after an overnight voyage from Surigao.

The President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, and NP leaders led by Vice President Fernando Lopez and Senate President Gil J. Puyat were welcomed at Ormoc by a big crowd led by Gov. Benjamin Romualdez of Leyte, and Ormoc Mayor Iñaki Larrazabal.

After *Te Deum* at the city's parish church, the President and the NP leaders made for the public plaza where the NP candidates were proclaimed.

In Tacloban as in Ormoc the NP team was reenforced by a gathering of leaders from all over the Visayas and Mindanao, with several making it from Luzon points.

Proclaimed once more at the two spirited rallies were re-electionists President Marcos and Vice President Lopez, Senate President Lai J. Puyat, Senators Arturo Tolentino, Jose W. Diokno and Ambrosio Padilla; CNI Commissioner Mamintal Tamano, Public Works Secretary and Cebu Gov. Rene Espina, Gov. Rafael Palmares of Iloilo, and former Senator Lorenzo Sumulong.

The NP powerhouse again charged full tilt against the LP ticket, with Senator Sergio Osmeña, Jr., opposition standard bearer, absorbing the brunt of the assault.

The President took off for Tacloban from Ormoc at 3 p.m. in a helicopter. A huge crowd was on hand to give him and his party a warm welcome. He went straight to the governor's residence, then proceeded to the city plaza for the proclamation rally.

August 3—

AFTER A HECTIC four-day campaign in several Eastern Visayas and Northern Mindanao provinces, President Marcos is more firmly convinced than ever that he and the entire Nacionalista Party ticket will win by an overwhelming victory in the November polls.

The President was at Guiuan, Samar in the morning and made side trips to the towns of Oras and Borongan in the afternoon together with the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, Vice President Fernando Lopez and the eight-man NP senatorial ticket headed by Senate President Gil J. Puyat.

Also in the group were Senators Arturo Tolentino, Jose W. Diokno and Ambrosio Padilla; former Senator Lorenzo Sumulong, CNI Commissioner Mamintal Tamano, Public Works Secretary Rene Espina and Gov. Rafael Palmares of Iloilo.

The group, at times traveling in two teams, was spearheaded by Governor Victor Amasa of Eastern Samar, a Liberal.

Meanwhile, in a brief speech read for him by Dr. Pacilico Marcos at the opening of this year's NCAA basketball series held at the Loyola Center in Quezon City, the President reminded the participants of the meaning of sportsmanship, a human quality which may be developed through athletics.

The President said that in pursuing a national program of sports, his administration has begun a 10-year program for the construction of sports centers.

As a matter of fact, he said, he has already provided P1 million for athletic facilities for interscholastics and up to P400, 000 for regional meets spread through the nation.

This is as it should be, the President said, because outstanding athletes who bring honor to their country are developed not in any single court or stadium but in some provincial court or athletic field.

It was for this reason, he said, that he has encouraged the development of athletics throughout the country since his assumption of the presidency in 1966.

August 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS relaxed on board the *RPS 777* following the end of a four-day campaign swing in the Visayas and Mindanao. Also aboard are the other Nacionalista Party candidates.

The President stayed in his cabin the whole morning.

Towards noon, he started working on state papers at his desk aboard ship.

Earlier in the afternoon, the President started planning the next campaign swing of the Nacionalista Party team with other NP leaders aboard.

Aside from consulting with NP leaders traveling with him to Manila, he also got in touch with leaders now in Manila by radiophone, through Executive Secretary Ernesto M. Maceda.

The President and his party arrived in Manila in the evening.

Back in Malacañang, the Chief Executive immediately proceeded to his Study where he signed into law House Bill No. 18676, which appropriates P3.3 billion for government operations for fiscal year 1969-1970.

The budget as approved by Congress is P925,445,085 short of the President's line-item budget proposal of P4,249,144,000.

Except for the current operating expenditures under the special funds which got an increase of P2,108,774, all the proposed funds were pruned by Congress.

As approved by Congress, the General Fund totals P2,866,021,527 instead of P3,789,914,000 as originally proposed by the President; the Special Fund is P447,368,774 instead of P448,910,000 as proposed; the Reparations Fund totals P2,664,280 instead of the proposed P2,665,000; and the Fiduciary Fund is P7,644,334 instead of P7,655,000 as proposed by the President.

Among those who witnessed the signing of the bill were Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, Finance Secretary Eduardo Romualdez, Rep. Jose Alberto of Catanduanes, chairman of the House committee on appropriations; Antonio C. de la Cruz and Ramon Maza, Jr. of the appropriations technical staff.

August 5—

DESPITE a badly needed respite after completing a rigorous trip to the Visayas and Mindanao, President Marcos held office as usual, working at his desk in the morning in-between consultations with national and local leaders and close aides.

In the afternoon, he received several waves of callers, beginning with a group from La Union, accompanied by Press Secretary Jose D. Aspiras, and including Gov. Juvenal Guerrero, Chairman Joaquin Ortega of the San Fernando Port Authority; and other provincial officials, as well as nine mayors from the first congressional district of the province.

Others with the La Union delegations were Vice Gov. Ramon R. Villalon, Jr., Board Members David D. Aguila and Anacleto B. Alzate; Mayors Lorenzo Dacanay of San Fernando, Antonio Aquino of San Juan, Mauro Nicha of Balaoan, Timoteo Sta. Iloana of Luna, Avelino Pascua of Bangar, Jose Macusi of Sudipen and Bartolome Dumaoang of San Gabriel; and Vice Mayor Pablo Saluta of Bacnotan.

The group from Tarlac next saw the President, composed of the municipal council of Tarlac, the capital town, led by Mayor Lino David, including all 79 barrio captains from the municipality. The Tarlac group asked for the conversion of the town into a city, reconstruction of the public market, and for assistance in completing rural improvement projects.

Regarding their desire for cityhood, the President said he would first consult with all the leaders of the province, both Nacionalista and Liberal, as well as other sectors, to sound out their views on the effect of such a move on the income capability of the province.

Gov. Vicente Magsaysay of Zambales and former Gov. Manuel Barretto came with a delegation of mayors from their province, also to present their problems.

Other callers on the President were Gov. Vicente Cerilles of Zamboanga del Sur; Reps. William Chiongbian of Misamis Occidental, and Jose Briones of Cebu.

The President steadily worked on state papers throughout the day, among others, directing the:

1. Amendment of existing orders to exempt visiting aliens not expressly banned by the Department of Foreign Affairs from the requirement of a transit visa if their stay here is not more than seven days.
2. POLCOM, PC and NBI to coordinate functions as delineated by his office, in the training and inspection of local police forces.

August 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent most of his time at his desk working on state papers, with one trip out of Malacañang, to preside as guest of honor at the ceremonies celebrating the 68th anniversary of the Philippine Constabulary, at Camp Crame in Quezon City.

He cleared his desk prior to taking off for the Northern Luzon region and part of Central Luzon, in the second phase of the NP drive in connection with the November polls.

In his speech at the PC celebration, the President reiterated to armed forces personnel his order for all men in uniform to stay clear of partisan activities in the election campaign. He said he had ordered the AFP chief of staff to court-martial all those culpable for violation of this order.

He also:

1. Announced the implementation of Republic Act No. 5254, the law which authorized the payment of a daily P3.50 subsistence allowance to Armed Forces officers and men in the active service, effective last July 1.

- 2.. Thanked the children of former Justice Secretary Jose Yulo for donating 20 hectares of the family property in Canlubang to the Philippine Constabulary, which parcel is now the site of the second PC zone headquarters.

Jose Yulo, Jr. signed the deed of donation of the parcel of land during the PC ceremonies, with the President as witness.

3. Thanked the United States government, through Major Gen George Pikett, Jr., JUSMAG chief, for the donation of laboratory equipment to the PC, which is being used in the fight against crime, and has contributed to the professionalization of police services.

4. Asked the PC to keep up its “vigilance and diligence” in the fight against crime and all kinds of lawlessness.

After the Camp Crame speech, the President returned straight to Malacañang where he resumed his desk work. He received no visitors except officials with problems to take up with him, and palace aides.

Among other actions, the President:

1. Transferred the administration of the reservation for the Higa-onon tribe of Mindanao, from the Department of National Defense to the Commission on National Integration and the provincial government of Agusan.
2. Endorsed the project conceived by business executive Domingo Guevara, Jr., to traverse the entire length of the Philippine-Japan Friendship Highway by car, to prove that the highway is “now a reality.”
3. Issued a proclamation setting August 14, as the day of formal organization of the city government of Mandawe in Cebu.

August 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS arrived in Batac, Ilocos Norte in the evening after a spirited rally in Laoag City where it had seemed the entire Ilocano electorate had converged.

The President left Malacañang very early in the morning for the dash to San Fernando, La Union, by motorcar.

From that capital town, he boarded a plane for the flight to Laoag City, the starting point of the Northern Luzon NP campaign rallies.

His plane touched down at the Gabu airport at about 9 a.m., and because of the weight of the welcoming throng, the presidential party did not move out for the ride to the capital city till over half an hour later.

After *Te Deum* at the Cathedral of St. Williams, the President and the First Lady went to the rally held in front of the capitol building.

The enthusiastic crowd packed the wide open spaces around the speaker's platform, and spilled out into other streets in the vicinity. The full NP slate, led by the President and Vice President Fernando Lopez, got waves of ovation from the crowd as they assailed the opposition and spelled out the widened program of the government of the present administration.

From that rally, the President and the NP candidates went to Batac, already off schedule because of the enthusiasm in Laoag. Here, another huge demonstration of popular support was given by the President's townmates.

This hometown of the President really turned out for its favorite son and adopted First Lady. The rally, held at the town plaza, was the biggest seen so far in this locality.

After the rally, the President again whisked back to Laoag, where he had luncheon with the candidates and the leaders in this region. He conferred with the leaders afterward, including barrio captains and councilmen.

It was way past 7 p.m. when he and the First Lady returned to Batac for a quiet dinner and a spell of relaxation.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: August 8-14, 1969

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

August 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS led the rally of the Nacionalista Party in San Fernando, La Union after taking a roundabout way to get to this capital town.

Leaving Laoag City early this morning in the PAP plane "The President," he and his party flew to this town's airport, but after fruitlessly trying to find a hole in the overcast his pilot decided to land at Clark Air Base.

From there, the President and his party motored to this city, bypassing Baguio meanwhile, which was to have been his next stop from Laoag.

The rousing welcome given the President and his party here duplicated if not surpassed earlier reception in this region. Despite the continuing threat of heavy rain, the La Union electorate turned *en masse* to greet the President.

The rally later was a picture of mass attendance. The President concentrated on the record of the LP standard bearer in Congress, which was described as empty, particularly in supporting legislation aimed, at improving the lot of the poor.

With the President in this area were Senator Ambrosio Padilla, CNI Commissioner Mamintal Tamano, Public Works Secretary Rene Espina, Rep. Jose Briones of Cebu, Executive Secretary Ernesto Maceda and Gov. Francisco Nepomuceno of Pampanga.

From San Fernando, the President and his group motored to Agoo, where again the NP national candidates addressed a public rally remarkable for the enthusiasm and numbers of the crowd.

Meanwhile, the President called on all enlisted personnel of the armed, services to "carry on" the government drive against poverty, hunger, disease and ignorance so that the "momentum of progress" already set by the administration will continue.

In a speech read for him by Commodore Santiago Nuval at the inauguration of the Enlisted Personnel Association Center (EPAC) at Camp Aguinaldo, the President said that he has precisely harnessed the AFP to civic action projects for this very purpose.

In another speech read by Secretary of Education O. D. Corpuz at the La Salle College convocation held on the Green Hills campus in Mandaluyong, Rizal, the President called on the youth to consider/constructive ways of helping the nation."

He asked the youth to get more directly involved in concrete tasks to help build a nation, saying that the future belongs to the young.

August 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS joined the Nacionalista candidates for national office in Dagupan City, after motoring with the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, from Poro Point.

The President and the First Lady, both of whom spent the night at Poro Point, had an early start in order to arrive in Dagupan in time for the public rallies scheduled in several towns, including that city.

The presidential party was met at the La Union-Pangasinan boundary by local leaders and sizeable delegations from all points of the province, led by Gov. Tito Primicias.

The President and his party motored first to Urdaneta, where they heard *Te Deum* in the town's as yet uncompleted church, which is being renovated:

Moved by the enthusiasm and the friendliness of the crowd which lined both sides of the streets of the town, in places ten deep, the President and the First Lady left their car to acknowledge the cheers and good wishes of the people. They walked the rest of the one kilometer distance to the church, all the while waving, talking with the people and shaking hands.

The President, along with Gov. Primicias, and the NP candidates and other leaders attended rallies in Alcala, A]aminos, Lingayen and Dagupan.

Everywhere the President and the First Lady went, they were received by outsize crowds, and were the object of admiration, encouragement, and popular, support.

After the rally in Alcala, the President inspected the damage caused by the recent typhoon on the river control dam in the area. The dam was about to be completed, with the President set to inaugurate it during his visit in Pangasinan at this time.

Between rallies, the President inaugurated several, projects already finished in the province, mostly irrigation dams and other facilities, at San Quintin, San Nicolas, and San Fabian.

The President and First Lady had dinner m Lingayen, at the Urduja Guest House before going on to the rally in Dagupan.

Meanwhile, the President underscored the need for expanding the nation's trade operations, saying that it is necessary if "we are to maintain the momentum of growth generated in the past few years."

In a speech read by SSS Administrator Gilberto Teodoro for him, at the joint induction ceremonies of the Quezon City Chamber of Commerce and Chamberettes, held at the SSS building, the President said that the prime consideration in economic development at this time is to "drive forward well past self-sufficiency in essential needs," such that the Philippines can claim its "share of the brisk world trade building up other economies."

In one of his directives, the President asked the Presidential Economic Staff (PES) and the Board of Investments (BOI) to jointly furnish the Private Development Corporation of the Philippines (PDCP) with appropriate supplementary list of priority industries qualified to receive loans from the proceeds of the third development corporation loan.

The lists are in addition to the previous lists of industries specified in the approved Investment Priorities Plan.

August 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, now on the fourth day of his campaign swing – to Northern Luzon with the rest of the Nacionalista Party ticket, arrived in Cabanatuan City about noontime.

He said he came to those regions precisely to see for himself the conditions in the areas he visited "at their worst," so he could act immediately on the most urgent needs especially as the Northern Luzon region has recently been hit by typhoon.

The President said it would entail an expense of about ₱35 million to rehabilitate the places damaged. He has released about P5 million already, he said. This includes the ₱100,000 he ordered released by Budget Commissioner

Faustino Sy-Changco for the asphaltting of the airport in Lingayen, Pangasinan, which worn-off condition he personally saw the previous day.

Meanwhile, the President directed acting Civil Aeronautics Administrator Federico Ablan to investigate the reported padding of payrolls in the construction of the airport in Pagadian City.

The President was in Lingayen the whole morning, where he worked on reports on government matters.

One such report was the alleged tie-up with the Huks of a certain ranking member of the opposition party, about which the President said he directed the gathering of sufficient evidence for a formal investigation.

The President took off from Lingayen 11 a.m. aboard an airforce plane, and landed at Laur, Nueva Ecija 25 minutes later.

His party proceeded to Cabanatuan with the President hearing a t, noontime Mass at the city cathedral upon arrival. His party then | had lunch at the residence of City Mayor Amado G. Espino.

From Cabanatuan, the President motored north, to attend rallies-first in Munoz, then in the new City of San Jose at which formal inauguration he was also guest of honor; and later in Talavera down south on the way back to the city.

Today's major rally was held in Cabanatuan, where the President formally presented to the electorate of the province the entire NF slate, led by himself and Vice President Fernando Lopez, together with the eight senatorial candidates.

The eight proclaimed in the Senate slate were Senate President Gil J. Puyat, Senators Arturo Tolentino, Jose W. Diokno and 2 Ambrosic Padilla, former Senator Lorenzo Sumulong, CNI Commissioner Mafnintal Tamano, Public Works Secretary and Cebu Gov. Rene Espina, and Gov. Rafael Palmares of Iioilo.

The President and his party scent the night at the First Tabak Division headquarters in Laur.

August 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS led the Nacionalista campaign team in an energetic drive which leaped from one province to another, from one town to the next.

Everywhere the President and party went, the crowds set new records in size and enthusiasm. Most observers asserted that the crowds surpassed others in past campaigns.

The enthusiasm for the President and the other NP candidates were such that rallies scheduled for one or two hours often overflowed to five hours or even more.

Unwearied by the exacting demand on their time and energies, the NP team captained by the President followed the region's schedule without let-up.

The President flew on a PAF plane from Laur, Nueva Ecija to Bagabag, Nueva Vizcaya early in the morning. After a rally in that town, he helicoptered to Lagawe, Ifugao for another rousing public meeting; after which he reboarded the copter to fly to Bayombong.

From Bayombong, he again hopped by air to the town of Solana.

At every rally, placards from the crowd thanked the President for the improvements in the locality and region. The people themselves volunteered to state the achievements of the administration.

The President was accompanied on all the sorties by Vice President Fernando Lopez, and the NP senatorial bets, namely, Senate President-Gil J. Puyat, Senate Majority Floorleader Arturo Tolentino, Senators Jose W. Diokno and Ambrosio Padilla; former Senator Lorenzo Sumulong, CNI Commissioner Mamintal Tamano, Cebu Gov. Rene Espina, the concurrent secretary of public works and communications; and Gov. Rafael Palmares of Iloilo.

August 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and the NP national candidates ended their six-day swing through the Northern Luzon region with a rally that properly accented the triumphant NP campaign in the area.

The President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, and all of the NP candidates were received in Tuguegarao, Cagayan with great enthusiasm and by massive crowds. Fireworks enlivened this welcome, lending a festive air to the occasion.

In the morning the President and the NP team visited the province of Kalinga-Apayao, with the President going all the way to the mountain town of La win, one of his operating bases as a resistance leader. Many of the people he knew there were on hand to greet him, including women guerrillas, now a bit elderly, and there was a palpable emotional charge to the reunion.

From La win he flew in a helicopter to Tuguegarao in the afternoon. Both he and the First Lady were received with great affection by the people. Some observers described the reception of the NP team as “overwhelming.”

All the candidates, from the President to Vice President Fernando Lopez, and the eight senatorial bets, spoke at the rally. The President and his party returned to Manila on board the presidential plane in the evening.

August 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS concentrated on his homework, after completing a six-day swing through Northern Luzon, as head of the NP team of national candidates.

He devoted his working hours mostly to state-papers and state matters, among others directing Secretary of Justice Juan Ponce Enrile to look into the case of four newsmen jailed in Cadiz City, after being fingered by captured Huks as subversives.

The President asked Secretary Enrile to ensure that the rights of the newsmen and others arrested in the same case are respected.

The President also ordered the wider use of Pilipino in all official communications and transactions of the government, starting with the observance of National Language Week and thereafter.

National Language Week starts today, ending August 19.

The President's order was issued to all departments, bureaus, offices and agencies of the government, specifying that as far as practicable Pilipino must be used by the government.

In issuing the order, the President emphasized that the development and propagation of a single national language as provided under the Constitution and Commonwealth Act No. 570 is one of the primary objectives of his administration.

The President pointed out that the development and propagation of the national language should be pursued more vigorously inasmuch as “our national language, which is generally accepted and now known to all as ‘Pilipino’, is one of the valuable elements of nationalism that could thrust our nation towards greater progress, peace, and unity.”

In the course of the day, the President received A few officials on urgent business, and constantly consulted with close aides, notably Executive Secretary Ernesto M. Maceda.

Among those who saw the President were Secretary Enrile, Senator Dominador Aytona, Rep. Fernando Pajarillo of Camarines Norte, and Governor Jose Esteves of Albay.

August 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a lively day of conferences, ceremonies, and the inescapable desk work to act on state papers and consider other urgent matters.

Among others, he:

1. Conferred the Presidential Golden Plow Award for 1969 on former Senator Raul Manglapus for the latter's brilliant and dedicated work to make land reform a reality.
2. Reenacted for a big crowd of school teachers and Manila officials the signing of House Bill No. 18834 which, among others, raised the basic pay and authorized a longevity pay for Manila s public schoolteachers.
3. Witnessed the affiliation of former Speaker Cornelio Villareal, in a splashy ceremony at the Manila Hotel, attended by a horde of LP followers of the former speaker, and where a group of LPs also affiliated with the NP.

Among other actions, the President:

1. Proclaimed August 19 a special public holiday in Quezon City, Quezon province and Lucena City, in connection with, the 91st birth anniversary of the late President Manuel L. Quezon.

August 19 is also observed every year as Citizenship Day, by virtue of Proclamation No. 331, dated August 4, 1952.

2. Proclaimed the fund drive of the Philippine Tuberculosis Society, from August 19 to December 31, 1969.

The Anti-TB fund drive, traditionally starting on August 19, is also connoted with Quezon, who supported the Philippine Tuberculosis Society and waged a life-long war against TB.

3. Directed Highways Commissioner Baltazar Aquino to expedite the repair work on all damaged streets in Manila.

The President had earlier authorized the release of an initial ₱300,000 to start the repair work. He asked the Bureau of Public Highways to supply the equipment, asphalt, gasoline and other materials needed by the work teams from the 51st Engineer Brigade of the Philippine Army, the Manila city engineer's office, and the bureau of public highways from the ceremony at the Manila Hotel, the President returned to Malacañang to continue his desk work at his study, during which he consulted freely with aides and other officials.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: August 15-21, 1969

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

August 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS received a full quota of visitors, notably United States Senator Mike Mansfield, and several officials and provincial delegations who came to consult him on urgent problems.

Preparing for another foray into the provinces, the President attended at length to papers on his desk and other urgent matters requiring his attention.

Towards noon, he motored to the Central Bank building in Intramuros, where he officiated at the ceremony launching the operations of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC), handing out checks in the process to depositors in defunct local banks in token of the payments, up to a maximum of P10,000 per depositor, the PDIC will make all depositors who lost their savings in the ill-fated banks.

Returning to Malacañang, the President alternated desk work with feting visitors, and reenacted the signing into law of a bill.

The President reenacted the signing of House Bill No. 18598 which amended R. A. 4734, the law which created the sub-province of Quirino within the province of Nueva Vizcaya. The reenactment was made before a group of citizens from the new sub-province accompanied by Senator Perez.

Among other visitors, he received Mayor Amelia Gordon of Olongapo City, who came with a group of local officials and constituents; Ambassador Gregorio Abad of the Reparations Commission; Reps. Constantino Navarro and Teodulo Natividad, the latter accompanying a group from Bulacan, and Solicitor General Felix Makasiar.

Late in the afternoon, the President received Senator Mike Mansfield, majority floor leader of the United States Senate, who paid a courtesy call in the course of his visit here. Senator Mansfield was accompanied by Frank Vale, Secretary of the United States Senate. Also present during the call was the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos.

Earlier in the afternoon, the President also received Minister James Wilson, charge d'affaires of the U. S. embassy.

The President concentrated fully on his desk work the rest of the evening.

August 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS followed a crowded schedule of activities, highlighted by his induction into office of new appointees to various key positions in Malacañang.

In the whole morning, President Marcos cleared his desk of urgent official state papers preparatory to another campaign trip, this time Zamboanga del Sur, Ozamis City and Zamboanga del Norte.

He had a brief rest after lunch, and then attended to his callers later in the afternoon, which included a delegation from Zambales and Olongapo City led by Gov. Vicente Magsaysay and Mayor Amelia Gordon.

The President, in between callers, swore into office his new appointees to Malacañang posts, namely:

1) *Manila Bulletin* staff member Francisco S. Tatad, as Acting Press Secretary, vice Jose D. Aspiras, who has resigned to run for Congress in the second district of La Union;

- 2) Assistant Press Secretary Jacobo C. Clave as Presidential Executive Assistant, vice Jaime N. Ferrer who is now COMELEC chairman;
- 3) Ponciano Mathay, as Assistant Executive Secretary, vice Jose Leido, Jr. who is running for Congress in the lone district of Mindoro Oriental;
- 4) Lorenzo Cruz, Manila Bureau Chief of the *Asia Magazine*, as Assistant Press Secretary, vice Jacobo C. Clave;
- 5) Juan C. Tuvera as Presidential Assistant (with the rank of undersecretary); and
- 6) Guillermo C. de Vega, as Presidential Assistant (with the rank of undersecretary).

Among those present at the induction ceremonies held at the President's study were the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, former Press Secretary Jose D. Aspiras, Executive Secretary Ernesto M. Maceda, former Assistant Executive Secretary Jose Leido, Jr., Auditor General Ismael Mathay, Commissioner Mamintal Taroano of National Integration, and members of the families and close friends of the inductees.

Following the induction rites, the President repaired to the Executive Building where he reenacted his signing into law of House Bill No. 15936 appropriating P1 million for the establishment of scholarship in arts, sciences and letters by the University of the Philippines.

UP President Salvador P. Lopez and a large delegation of student leaders witnessed the reenactment ceremony.

The President also reenacted his approval of Senate Bill No. 815 (H. No. 1323) prohibiting the collection of contributions from pupils, students, and teachers of public and private schools, colleges and universities.

In the evening, the President and the the First Lady tendered a formal dinner in honor of U. S. Senate Majority Floor Leader Mike Mansfield and his wife.

August 17—

PRESIDENT MARCOS flew to Mindanao to lead the Nacionalista Party candidates in a two-day campaign.

He was accompanied by Senate Majority Floorleader Arturo Tolentino, Sen. Ambrosio Padilla, former Senator Lorenzo Sumulong, Commissioner on National Integration Mamintal Tamano, Cebu Gov. Rene Espina and Acting Press Secretary Francisco S. Tatad.

They left Manila shortly before 7 a.m. for Ozamis City and arrived there at 8:50 a.m. From Ozamis, the President flew by helicopter to Pagadian City (Zamboanga del Sur). He addressed rallies there and in nearby towns.

The President's party was joined in Pagadian by Vice President Fer- 'I nando Lopez, Senate President Gil J. Puyat, Sen. Jose W. Diokno and ' _ Uoilo Gov. Rafael Palmares.

They returned to Ozamis in the afternoon, and attended several rallies there, and in adjoining towns and cities.

The President's party and the other NP candidates addressed a rally in Oroquieta where they stayed for the night.

Before leaving Malacañang the President issued four proclamations declaring a special public holiday in as many localities, on respective dates of historic significance in those places.

The special holidays declared are:

1. August 28 (Saturday) in the cities of Caloocan and Quezon, to give the people there full opportunity to celebrate the “Cry of Pugad Lawin;”
2. August 29 (Friday) in San Juan, Rizal, in commemoration of the 73rd anniversary of the Battle of Pinaglabanan;
3. Also on August 29, in Cotabato City., which marks the 10th anniversary of the city’s founding; and
4. September 1 (Monday) the 60th anniversary of Baguio City

The President also announced that he had ratified the Philippine agreement to the establishment of the Asian Coconut Community.

The instrument was concurred in by the Senate in its Resolution No. 59, adopted last May 19, in accordance with Article VII, Section 10(7) of the Constitution.

The agreement, thus bind the Philippines with Ceylon, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand in establishing the ACC.

The regional grouping was conceived to develop a well-planned program of concerted action to solve common problems, and to mobilize resources to promote the coconut industry in the region, and ensure its rapid development.

August 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ended a two-day sortie to western Mindanao, brimming with confidence that the predominantly Cebuano-speaking region go Nacionalista in the November elections.

In public rallies the people turned out *en masse* to hear the President, Vice President Fernando Lopez, and all the NP candidates for the “Senate present the Nacionalista program of government.

The crowds at the rallies roared approval for the continuation of the massive development projects of the administration launched in the region and in other parts of the country.

The President was further bouyed by the assurances of local leaders that the people of Dipolog will support the NPs in both the polls and in continuing their plan of development.

The leaders said that the people appreciate the projects which are transforming the Mindanao countryside.

Starting at Pagadian, the presidential team covered in two days some 400 kilometers, winding up with a grand rally in Dipolog, which parted in the evening and lasted till the early morning hours.

Crossing over from Misamis Occidental to Zamboanga del Norte shortly before noon, the President took time out from the stumping stint to with the folks of Baliangao, for which he made a detour.

Baliangao is a small fishing village in Misamis where the President once sojourned during the war on a mission to contact resistance leaders in Mindanao on behalf of Luzon guerrillas. He made the trip on a sailboat in 1943.

Meanwhile, the President extended *ad interim* appointments to four judiciary officials, and designated three more to fill other ranking posts in the government.

Appointed by the President were:

1. Carmelo Molleda as clerk of court in the Libmanan branch of the Camarines Sur Court of First Instance;

2. Agileo S. de Villa as municipal judge in San Jose, Batangas;
3. Miguel V. Roca as municipal judge in Santa Fe, Leyte; and
4. Ernesto A. Atienza as senior special attorney in the Office of the Agrarian Counsel, Naga City regional office.

Those designated were:

1. Dr. Jose R. Perez as acting chairman of the board of directors of the Manila Hotel Company;
2. Anastacio Martinez as acting member of the board of directors of the Philippine National Railways; and
3. Tomas G. Caingat as acting provincial treasurer of Tarlac.

The President also announced that he had ratified a treaty with Sweden to avoid double taxation and prevent fiscal evasion with respect to 3 taxes on income and capital.

The tax treaty, which was concluded in Manila April 12, 1966, was concurred in by the Senate May 19, 1969, in accordance with Section 10(7), Article VII of the Constitution, under Senate Resolution No. 60.

The Convention, in general, relieves residents of the contracting states of double taxation on the same income, and prevents or minimizes fiscal evasion through exchange of tax information.

August 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS hit the road again in the afternoon to address a veterans convention in Tiaong, Quezon and rallies in Lucena and San Pablo cities, after attending to important official papers.

The President was back at 10 o'clock in the morning from Dipolog City where he addressed the last of the rallies in his two-day sortie to the Zamboanga provinces.

While still in Dipolog, the President had a brief conference with local officials at the residence of Gov. Virginio B. Lacaya of Zamboanga del Norte. He left the city for Manila at 8 a.m.

The President proceeded direct to Quezon City upon landing at the Nichols Air Base, where he was guest of honor and speaker at the commemoration of the 91st birth anniversary of the late President Manuel L. Quezon.

He arrived at the Quezon Memorial Circle aboard an air force helicopter. The First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, joined him there.

Gov. Isidro Rodriguez and Rep. Frisco San Juan of Rizal, Quezon City officials led by Mayor Norberto Amoranto and Vice Mayor Ismael Mathay, Jr. were on band to meet the First Couple.

The *Pangkat Kawayan* of the Aurora Quezon Elementary School, with its native bamboo musical instruments, greeted the presidential party with the rendition of the Ilocano ditty "Pamulinawen."

In his speech, the President paid tribute to President Quezon as one of the country's heroes and patriots who fashioned the Filipino into a "more militant and assertive citizen," and who taught him the value of commitment and the virtue of excellence.

The President prefaced his prepared English speech in extemporaneous Pilipino, saying that his administration has done everything possible to help in the rapid development of Quezon City as the nation's capital.

He recalled that as of 1967, he had directed the Budget Commissioner and requested the Development Bank of the Philippines to give preference to all projects connected with the construction of public buildings at the government center.

At the close of the commemorative rites, the President reenacted the signing into law of two bills affecting Quezon City, namely:

1) House Bill No. 17110, which establishes a Filipino War Memorial in Quezon City, with an appropriation of P1 million, and

2) Senate Bill No. 696 (H. No. 13277), which amends the Revised Barrio Charter (R. A. 3590).

At about 4 p.m., the President and the First Lady, left for San Pablo City on board a helicopter where the President joined Vice President Fernando Lopez and the NP senatorial bets in addressing a huge rally.

The President then proceeded to Tiaong, Quezon where he addressed the annual convention of the President Quezon's Own Guerillas Veterans Association.

He later motored to Lucena City to rejoin the other NP national candidates in another rally.

Before flying to San Pablo City, the President directed Commerce and Industry Secretary Leonides S. Virata, CAB chairman; and CAA Director Federico Ablan to process the application of an alleged supporter of LP standard bearer, Senator Sergio Osmeña, Jr., to buy a plane from the Philippine Air Lines.

The President issued the order following reports that the Civil Aeronautics Board has deferred action on the projected sale by the PAL of a DC-3 plane to Antonio M. Garcia, a Quezon City businessman, and supposed to be associated with the Liberal Party.

The President said decision on the application should not be motivated by political considerations but should be based purely on merit.

The President also ordered an immediate investigation into published delegations by Opposition circles that alterations have been made on the omnibus tax bill allegedly to benefit certain parties.

The said the investigation should not spare "anyone who is guilty," and should not tolerate any irregularity from any party especially if such irregularity meant to sabotage the administration by exposing it to unjust calumny.

August 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, upon his return from Lucena City at 5:30 a.m., took time out from the hectic campaign trail to attend to state papers.

With no callers on his schedule, the President, after a brief rest, whittled down steadily the papers which had piled up on his desk.

In-between, he had conferences with government officials who came to consult him on problems, and in turn consulted with close aides on the priority matters to be acted on.

Among other actions, the President ordered implemented the plan to pay the teachers their salaries through the Philippine National Bank. The new plan eliminates the delay caused by physically transporting pay checks.

Instead, school superintendents can draw out the amount needed to pay salaries from a fund deposited with the PNB by the Bureau of Public Schools. Then, salaries will be disbursed through local government treasurers.

The President also directed that ₱100,000 be released to the Philippine College of Commerce, as initial aid toward the expansion and improvement of school facilities. The order was given in response to the plea of PCC students aired during a rally at Malacañang in the afternoon.

The President continued to work at his desk through the evening.

August 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS devoted most of his workday to conferences with various officials who consulted him on administrative matters and problems in their respective departments.

First conference was with NP Congress leaders with whom he discussed campaign strategy of party candidates for congressional posts.

Present at the conference were Senate and NP President Gil J. Puyat, Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., Senate President Protempore Jose Roy, Speaker Protempore Jose Aldeguer, Senate Majority Floorleader Arturo M. Tolentino and House Majority Floorleader Marcelino Veloso.

The President then held a series of meetings with close advisers on specific state matters.

Among those who sat down with the President were Secretary of Justice Juan Ponce Enrile, Secretary of Social Welfare Gregorio M. Feliciano, Secretary of Commerce and Industry Leonides S. Virata, Governor Alfonso Calalang of the Central Bank, PES Director-General Placido Mapa, Jr., Undersecretary of Finance Roman Cruz, Jr. and PNB President Roberto Benedicto.

In-between these conferences, the President took time out to receive a number of provincial delegations who updated him on the status of Infrastructure projects in their localities.

These groups included those from Bohol headed by Gov. Lino Chatto, from Zamboanga del Sur led by Gov. Vicente M. Cerilles, from Bacolod City headed by Mayor Romeo G. Guanzon, and from newly constituted Pagadian City led by Mayor Benjamin F. Arao.

Doing some desk work besides, the President, among other things, approved:

1. The nomination by the National Economic Council of Chairman

Cesar E. A. Virata of the Board of Investments as chief delegate of the Philippines to the Top Management Symposium of the Asian Productivity Organization, which will be held in Hong Kong and Japan, from October 22 to November 1 this year.

2. The participation of Chairman Virata in the 13th Governing Council of the Asian Institute of Economic Development and Planning, to be held in Bangkok from August 28 to 29.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Official Week in Review: August 22 – August 28, 1969

August 22—

TODAY'S WORKING day for President Marcos covered a full range of special concerns touching on national development in the economic area as well as in improving those sectors aimed at the life of the citizen.

Normal in his day's routine, the President's actions were however uncommon in the way they covered so many problems and met urgent requirements.

Except for a few callers whom he received, the President focused on state matters, and through Executive Secretary Ernesto Maceda directed:

1. The Mindanao Development Authority, the Civic Action Corps, the Department of National Defense and all other agencies concerned, to assess the progress of work in the establishment of refrigeration plants, especially in the Mindanao and Sulu areas. The President has given importance to this project, since the lack of such facilities has constricted the development of the fishing industry.

2. The Land Authority to consider the petition of settlers in Salug Valley, Zamboanga del Sur to bring that area into the land reform program, and to submit recommendations. In accordance with his policy, the President is anxious to widen land reform as much and as speedy as possible.

3. That an inquiry be made into the complaints against logging in the forest areas of Molave, Zamboanga del Sur. He said that such operations will adversely affect irrigation systems there, which farmers need to hike production. He added that if necessary, all logging operations should be stopped.

4. The immediate release of P500,000 to the Philippine Tobacco Administration, to prop up the agency's fiscal position, specifying that the amount should be spent only for tobacco trading. The PTA is the prime mover in the development of the tobacco industry on which most of the families in Northern Luzon depend for a livelihood.

5. Commissioner Baltazar Aquino of Public Highways to check on the progress of bridge construction in Isabela, especially those in Gamu and Mallig. The President said that if the projects have not been started yet, the project engineers concerned should be relieved immediately. He expressed concern for the communities in the area who had long pleaded for such facilities.

6. The release of P60,000 by the National Electrification Administration to the municipal government of Tambulig, Zamboanga del Sur, for putting up an electric plant to service the community, in line with the administrations program aimed at spreading the benefits of electrification.

7. The Philippine Veterans Bank to consider the proposal of veterans groups in Laguna and Quezon to set up a PVB branch in San Pablo City.

The President also received in the morning about 100 officers of the Self-Help Mutual Aid Association of the Philippines, who had requested him to induct them into office.

The President's mother, Mrs. Josefa Edralin Marcos, accompanied the association officers who were led by Jose R. de Silva and Valerio P. Tria, president and vice-president, respectively.

Notable among the other visitors the President received were Senators Alejandro Almendras and Dominador Aytona, Reps. Lorenzo Sarmiento of Davao del Norte, Gloria Tabiana of Iloilo and Jose Alberto of Catanduanes; and Mrs. Adelina Rodriguez, wife of Gov. Isidro Rodriguez of Rizal.

The President discussed with them both local government problems and the political situation in their respective bailiwicks.

In the afternoon, the President mapped out with government monetary and fiscal officials new moves to conserve dollars, even as Malacañang was formally apprised of the steady gain in the country's dollar position.

The President gave full support to the dollar pool plan of the Central Bank and the Development Bank of the Philippines, which seeks to syphon into the country's foreign exchange reserves dollars earned abroad by Filipinos.

The President also approved the promotion of 11 reserve officers in the active service and four inactive reserve officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

He likewise approved the commissioning of 94 personnel in the AFP reserve force, and the temporary promotion of a Philippine Constabulary officer.

The promotions were made to fill existing vacancies in the grades of major and lieutenant colonel, pursuant to the AFP Personnel Act and the AFP reserve build-up.

August 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS arrived in Bacolod City at 10 a.m. after an hour's flight from Manila. The First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, was with him.

A rousing welcome was given the First Couple by sizable delegations from all over the province, led by Gov. Alfredo Montelibano, Jr., and other local officials.

Notable among the welcomers were top officials of the Philippine National Bank, headed by Roberto Benedicto, president.

The high-spirited and enthusiastic crowd carried placards which spelled out support for the administration's development program, particularly as it affected the region. Other placards welcomed the expanded activities of the PNB in the area.

From the airport, the President and the First Lady went to Silay City, where they were special guests at the inauguration of the extension office of the PNB Bacolod branch.

Then returning to Bacolod, the President officiated at the inauguration of the PNB branch office, one of the handsomest buildings in the city. It stands just across the provincial capitol. The rites lasted till 3 p.m.

After the inaugural, the President had a brief conference with newsmen covering him. Then he had lunch and a brief rest.

In the afternoon, he and other NP national candidates went to Kabangkalan for the first rally. The receptiveness of the people as usual was impressive. After the rally, the presidential party motored back to Bacolod, with brief stops at towns along the way, notably La Carlota and Bago.

The President ended the day with the massive rally at the public plaza, where he expressed once more his support for the sugar industry, both as a premier national industry and as the source of livelihood of thousands of common workers.

He told the people that in helping the industry realize its full potentials, his administration also seeks to improve the lot of the small workers. He said that a start has been made with the agreement his administration has effected with sugar industry leaders to share new profits with the workers under a social amelioration plan.

Earlier in the morning, before the President took off at about 9 a.m., he directed:

1. The Philippine Constabulary to lift PC control over the police force of Tangub City;
2. Fisheries Commissioner Andres Mane to stop or suspend *purse seine* operations in the coastal fishing grounds of Masbate, and to recommend to the secretary of agriculture and natural resources appropriate specifications to go into the administrative order for the purpose stated; and
3. Highways Commissioner Baltazar Aquino to complete the San Pedro road in the area of Caraga, Davao Oriental.

August 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS led the Nacionalista Party candidates in a campaign in seven Negros Oriental towns, as well as in San Carlos City and in Inampulungan Island off Guimaras.

In speeches in rallies, the President told the sugarlandia people of the “many benefits” for the sugar industry that his Administration has worked for, which include the setting up of new mills as well as added income for farm and central workers.

With Vice President Fernando Lopez and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, and joined by all the NP senate slate, the President’s party left Bacolod City at 4 a.m. for San Carlos City, arriving there at 10 a.m. From San Carlos, he had helicopter hops in the towns of Guihulngan, Bindoy, Mabinay, and in the island of Inampulungan, before proceeding to Dumaguete.

August 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS led Nacionalista candidates, including Vice President Fernando Lopez, in addressing a huge rally in Iligan City, which started early in the evening lasting till early morning.

The President and his party, along with the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, arrived in Iligan early in the morning, after sailing overnight on board the *RPS 777* from Dumaguete City. The Navy vessel docked at the Iligan Steel Mill pier. The President suffered a sprained ankle during the hectic stump in Negros Occidental, but he did not feel any discomfort until he arrived at Dumaguete City.

The President and the NP candidates almost immediately left for Marawi City, with the former flying in a helicopter. The NP leaders addressed a massive rally in Marawi, with the President taking on the added chore of inaugurating several infrastructure projects in the area.

Later, the President met with local leaders at Camp Keithley to discuss development problems and other official matters. He assured the officials that his administration will continue to give high priority to development projects in Mindanao and Sulu, and that every effort will be made to give better opportunities to Muslims in improving their lives and in participating in national affairs.

The President inaugurated projects such as bridges, concrete roads and irrigation systems in several Lanao del Norte towns.

The welcome given the President and the First Lady in Marawi and Iligan was indicative of the First Couple’s wide popularity in the region. Despite the bad weather, the people of Marawi City turned out in their colorful Muslim costumes and transformed the city into a festive setting of arches, buntings, and flower-bedecked buildings.

In Iligan, the same festive spirit characterized the welcome to the Presidential party.

During his meeting with local leaders, the latter vowed to give him a resounding victory in the region, in keeping with its reputation as the “Batac of the South.”

August 26—

A SPRAINED ANKLE forced President Marcos to skip a day-long overland swing through the coastal towns of Misamis Oriental from Iligan City.

He instead asked Vice President Fernando Lopez and the First Lady Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, along with the NP senatorial candidates to proceed with the 92-kilometer trip to Cagayan de Oro City

The President then boarded the *RPS 777* in time to rendezvous with his party in Cagayan de Oro where a grand rally was scheduled in the evening.

The President was advised in Iligan city in the morning by his physician to refrain from going through with his scheduled overland swing through Misamis Oriental to insure quick recovery from his sprained ankle.

The First Lady explained to the people at the rallies the inability of the Chief Executive to join the tour.

The President twisted his ankle shortly after alighting from his helicopter in Kabankalan, Negros Occidental Saturday afternoon.

He hurried out of the aircraft upon seeing a big crowd rushing to his helicopter in an effort to meet his enthusiastic welcomers before they could go any nearer the still rotor blades.

The President however devoted his time going over government reports working on official papers in his cabin while enroute to Cagayan de Oro for the grand rally in the evening.

August 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS arrived at mid-morning from a four-day stump of Western Visayas and Northern Mindanao cities and towns, then was off again in the afternoon to attend the rally proclaiming the candidacy of Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr. for the 3rd district of Batangas.

Leaving Cagayan de Oro City early in the morning, the President flew to Manila in high spirits after seeing the enthusiastic response of the electorate in the regions visited. He predicted that the NPs will enjoy some 2 million votes majority over the opposition.

During the fast-paced tour, the President focused on the development plans for Mindanao, particularly on the expansion of the industrial capabilities of that region. He also underlined the administration efforts to support the sugar industry, it being one of the high dollar earners among local industries, as well as a source of livelihood for thousands of common workers.

He pledged the escalation of development efforts in Mindanao, including the full electrification of the big island, as well as the strengthening of its industrial base through new power sources and infrastructure facilities.

Enroute to Manila, the President settled down to a sustained session with state papers. He went over reports and studied problems brought to his attention. He worked with aides during the entire flight to Manila.

Arriving 10:30 a.m. at Nichols Air Base, the President went straight to Malacañang. He rested briefly, then resumed his paper work. He received no visitors except officials with state problems to discuss.

At 3:45 p.m., the President left for Batangas, again flying in an air force plane. The proclamation rally was a full-dress campaign meeting as well, with the NP national candidates attending.

The President returned to Manila after the rally.

In a message issued before leaving for Batangas, the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, expressed their best wishes to Miss Margaret Rose Montinola, "Miss Philippines of 1969," who enplaned for Tokyo for the Miss International beauty contest.

"It is our people's hope that Miss Montinola will succeed both in shining as an individual and as an ambassador of goodwill for the Philippines," the First Couple said.

August 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent most of the morning at his desk, working on state papers and other problems brought to his attention.

He was particularly concerned about reports of the harassment of top LP candidates in Cadiz City, and ordered Secretary of Justice Juan Ponce Enrile to "get to the bottom" of the case, sparing none of those found guilty of breaching the law and other regulations on this matter.

The President stated that his administration is committed to uphold every citizen's right to express ideas and opinions.

In the course of the day, the President:

1. Ordered the Department of Education to study further how the cost of high school education in public schools may be reduced, after book rentals have been abolished.
2. Directed the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Bureau of Immigration and the Bureau of Customs to allow all foreign media men unimpeded entry into the country for coverage of the elections.
3. Directed Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco to release P600,000 for the construction of various development and community projects in a number of cities and municipalities in Western Visayas and Northern Mindanao.

Ordered released by the President were P200,000 for projects in Bacolod City; P250,000 for the completion of several public works projects in San Carlos City, P100,000 for the construction of feeder roads in Bais; and P40,000 for the nationalization of the provincial high school in Baroy, Lanao del Norte.

At about noon, the President motored to his San Juan, Rizal, residence, where he officiated at the formal affiliation of top LP leaders in Bulacan to the Nacionalista Party. Leading the Bulacan group was former Vice Governor Salvador Santiago.

In the afternoon, the President received several officials who consulted him on local problems. Among those who called on the President were Rep. Andres Cosalan of Benguet; Mayor Luis Lardizabal of Baguio City; and ex-Gov. Bado Dangwa of Mt. Province.

Later, he conferred with Gov. Samuel Reyes of Isabela on development projects and other local concerns.

He worked at this desk through the evening.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1965). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 65(35), dxciii-dxcviii.

President's Week in Review: August 29 – September 4, 1969

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

August 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a checkered day, highlighted by a rousing rally held at about 3 p.m. at the Yellow Taxicab Co. compound on Arlegui, where thousands of cabbies had converged to pledge full support to the President's bid for reelection.

He started the day with the usual desk work early in the morning, then at 10 a.m. broke off to receive the credentials of the new US envoy to the Philippines, Ambassador Henry Byroade.

In brief remarks during the ceremony, the President reiterated the will of the Filipino people to uphold self-reliance in nation-building.

He also noted American support for this new ethic, and welcomed the unfolding era of RP-US relations based on dignity, independence, and cooperation.

In the afternoon, the President, accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, went to the aforesaid rally on Arlegui street, where he urged equal support for Vice President Fernando Lopez and all of the NP national candidates, saying that it is the best way to carry on the gains made in development under the present administration.

At 5 p.m., the President was off again, this time to attend as special guest at the installation of Dean Stephen Fuller as president of the Asian Institute of Management, at the Ateneo Law School auditorium on Padre Faura.

From this gathering, the President proceeded to the G. E. Antonino building where he officiated at the inauguration of the microwave network of the Sarmiento Telecommunications firm, which for the first time brings to the country advanced facilities for transmitting messages.

In addition, throughout the day, the President:

1) Received callers, among them a provincial delegation from Cotabato headed by Datu Blah Sinsuat. The group made representations for the opening of additional public school classes in the province.

Other callers included Senator Magnolia W. Antonino who came with the mayors of the first district of La Union; Speaker Protempore Jose Aldeguer, Reps. Nicanor Yñiguez, Ramon Durano, Natalio Castillo; Senator Dominador Aytona, Gov. Irene Balite of Northern Samar, and Vice Gov. Manuel Sandoval of Palawan.

2) Made operational the Foreign Trade Zone Authority when he named Customs Commissioner Rolando Geotina acting chairman, and Dioscoro L. Manrique and Mrs. Eugenia B. Jose as members of the new body created by Republic Act No. 5490.

The designation of Commissioner Geotina as head of the free trade zone body was done to establish effective coordination between the Bureau of Customs and the Foreign Trade Zone Authority, in the spirit of the law creating it.

3) Announced the *ad interim* appointment of Pablo V. Flores as register of deeds of Northern Samar; and the designations of Clodoveo Soriano as acting member of the board of examiners for mechanical engineering, and of Jose Fabila as acting provincial treasurer of Antique.

4) Approved the promotion of 93 reserve officers in the inactive service of the armed forces.

The promotions were authorized to fill up existing vacancies in the different branches of service of the reserve force.

5) Proclaimed August 30 as a special public holiday in the province of Bulacan in commemoration of the 119th birth anniversary of Marcelo H. del Pilar.

Del Pilar was born on August 30, 1850 in Bulacan, Bulacan. The editor of the famed *La Solidaridad*, he became known as “Plaridel” (his *nom de plume*) for his fiery articles and editorials assailing the Spanish colonial government in the country.

August 30—

PRESIDENT MARCOS left Manila early aboard the presidential plane, along with close aides and some members of the NP campaign team, arriving in Cebu City shortly, after 10 a.m.

He landed at the Mactan air base, and was joined minutes later by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos.

The President’s first engagement after being ferried from Mactan to Cebu City was the VIMCONTU convention. Democrito Mendoza, VIM-CONTU president, presented Mr. Marcos with a resolution pledging the all-out support of the 250,000 members of the confederation.

In his speech, the President recounted his consistent fight in Congress to enhance the rights and freedom, the opportunities and the welfare of workers, as well as of organized labor. He cited his vigorous support of such progressive labor legislation as the Magna Carta of Labor, the Minimum Wage Law, the Land Reform Code, and the Anti-Scab Law.

The President, in acknowledging the support pledged by VIMCONTU, said that he welcomes this support “on the basis of a partnership between the government and the free labor movement towards recreating our society in the image of our common vision—society based on dignity, social justice and on the primacy of human rights.”

He pledge that as long as he is President “the rights of the democratic labor movement will never be impaired.”

The President also reenacted at the convention the signing of two bills benefiting workers and barrio officials, namely:

1. House Bill No. 17593 (S. N. 866), which amended R. A. 4694 to allow the confederation to lease out the land or improvements thereon, as a means of generating funds to further promote the welfare of its members.
2. Senate Bill No. 840 which extends to barrio treasurers and barrio secretaries insurance coverage hitherto enjoyed only by barrio captains and councilmen.

From Cebu City, the President flew by helicopter for Sibonga, where the first rally was held. From there, he motored to Carcar, making whistle-stops along the way. Other rallies he attended were in San Fernando and Naga.

In Naga, Mayor Vicente Mendiola told the President that the town has consistently backed him, giving him majorities in all of the elections in which the President had figured. In this town, the President proclaimed Eddie Gullas as NP official candidate in the 3rd congressional district of Cebu.

By helicopter, the President kept his engagement at Mandaue late in the afternoon, somewhat off schedule because of the enthusiasm of the large crowds at the rallies. He inaugurated the new city and inducted the city officials.

After the inaugural rites in Mandaue, the President and the NP team raced back to Cebu City for the major rally of the day.

The President was not disappointed by the turnout of Cebu City citizens, indeed was nearly awed by the massive crowd which continually swelled in size during the rally.

Before leaving for Cebu, the President directed the Board of Travel and Tourist Industry (BTTI) and the Philippine Tourist and Travel Association (PTTA), to exercise only those functions specified by their respective charters.

Generally, these are:

1. The BTTI should limit its functions to- purely supervisory and policy activities, as intended by Congress and embodied in the Divisions of Republic Act No. 1478, as amended by Republic Act No. 2627.
2. The PTTA, as the instrumentality of the BTTI, should carry out all implementing functions in accordance with Section 9 of Republic Act No. 1478, as amended.

The directive was transmitted by Executive Secretary Ernesto Maceda to acting Tourism Commissioner Gregorio Araneta II.

August 31—

PRESIDENT MARCOS wound up in the evening his two-day drive in Cebu province, convinced that the Nacionalista Party will beat the opposition in their own homeground.

The President was visibly impressed by the warmth and enthusiasm with which he was received all over the province particularly in Cebu City, where a grand rally lasting until dawn was held Saturday.

Touched by the cheers of the huge crowds which overflowed the spacious Osmeña Boulevard and spilled out into the side streets in front of the Capitol building where the grand rally was held, the President said: "This is one of the biggest rallies that I have ever seen. It makes me feel as though I am in my home province."

The President was roundly applauded when he presented to the Cebu electorate Vice President Fernando Lopez and all of the NP senatorial candidates.

At the rally were provincial, city, and municipal officials from Mindanao and Visayan provinces who also converged in Cebu to witness the inauguration of Mandaue City yesterday.

At the Mandaue inauguration, Councilor Amadeo Seno of the new city who introduced the President to another overflowing crowd that witnessed the ceremony, said: "President Marcos needs no introduction because we Mandaueños already know him, love him, and are grateful to him."

He continued: "We love him because he loves us, and love begets love. We are grateful to him because no other President has done more for Mandaue."

The President, accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, started his stump in Cebu the previous day, first as guest of honor at the third biennial conference of the Visayas-Mindanao Confederation of Trade Unions (VIMCONTU) held at its main headquarters in Cebu City.

Moving by car and helicopter, the President and his party, which included re-electionist Vice President Lopez and all the other NP candidates, covered all the seven congressional districts of the province in two days, holding public rallies in urban centers and making whistle-stops in the rural areas.

Despite the heavy downpour hundreds of people gathered at the grand rally site in Cebu City, some with umbrellas, others with only newspapers over their head.

More people flowed into the plaza when President Marcos and the First Lady arrived. As if on cue, the rain stopped in time for the President's arrival.

The President and his party started the sortie at Daanbantayan, an island municipality at Cebu's northern tip.

Moving alternately by car and helicopter, the President covered many towns, including Hagnaya, Bogo, Tubuan, Balamban and Barili.

On top of this barnstorming tour in the so-called opposition bailiwick was a grand rally in Toledo City on the western coast.

Following the rally, the President and his party boarded the Navy flagship, *RPS 777*, for Masbate.

In a speech read by his brother, Dr. Pacifico Marcos, at the close of *Turismo Pilipino '69*, highlighted by a program at the Rizal Park, the President congratulated the promoters and participants of the cross-country motor tour, saying that the project served as a trail-blazer for others who may want to see the country by car, adding that the tour anticipated the completion of the Philippine-Japan Friendship Highway.

The President said that a highway such as the Philippine-Japan Friendship Highway is "worthy of a fast developing country like ours."

He stressed, "We need this highway not only to promote tourism but also to accelerate commerce and trade and thereby the material progress of the Philippines."

September 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS arrived in Masbate, Masbate at about 10 a.m. after sailing from Cebu province almost at daybreak.

Relaxed aboard ship after the hectic two-day drive in Cebu, the President exuded confidence that the NP performance will take Cebu away from the opposition in November.

Abroad *RPS 777*, the President caught up with some paper work, in the process proclaiming two special holidays, in the cities of Iriga and Gen. Santos, both of which will celebrate their foundation days.

He also directed police personnel all over the country to observe courtesy at all times, particularly in dealing with opposition candidates and followers.

Arriving first on Ticao island; the President and the NP team got a rousing reception. He rode a jeepney into the town, and was promptly slowed down by hordes of townsfolk, including schoolgirls, who sought to shake his hand.

Through the day, the President and the NP team hopped from one town to the next, by car and helicopter, to attend scheduled rallies, with the big rally in the capital town of Masbate in the evening.

At ceremonies marking the 68th anniversary of the Bureau of Lands, the President, in a speech read by Senator Leonardo Perez, said that social change has been the essence of his administration from the start.

Central to this policy is land reform, he said, which aims at producing independent and self-reliant farmers, whose support will strengthen the base of Philippine democracy.

The overall policy, of course, the President said, "is to provide land for the masses."

September 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS completed a swift and comprehensive tour of Sorsogon province, during which he and members of the NP performance team won the huge crowds attending the rallies with a forthright discussion of national issues and problems, and the projection of the Nacionalista plan for advancing the progress and development of the country.

In his speeches at rallies in Sorsogon and meetings with local leaders, at the capital town and in such population centers as Irosin, Bulan, and Magallanes, the President stressed the administration's projects launched or blueprinted aimed at developing the abaca industry, through diversification and total utilization of the abaca fiber; and the promotion of Bicolandia, which abounds in scenic spots, into a thriving tourist center.

On another front, the President, in a speech read by Secretary of Labor Bias F. Ople, at the opening of the ILO Asian Roundtable for labor administration and development planning, held at the WHO building, said "labor administration will become increasingly important in each of our countries, not only for the enforcement of labor laws, but also as a direct instrument for the promotion of economic and social development."

He stated that in pursuing full employment, a goal of every government he noted, the administration of labor must be given full access to the planning board with sights set on employment targets and development objectives.

The President cited the fact that under his administration the National Youth and Manpower Council was created to ensure that the country's manpower objectives were "fully reflected in our development planning." (*See pp. 9286-Q to 9286-T for full text of the President's speech.*)

September 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS wound up a whirlwind tour of three Bicol provinces with a rally at Legaspi City.

The rally, lasting till dawn, properly capped two days of unprecedented turnouts of Bicolanos everywhere the President and the NP performance team held forth in the provinces of Sorsogon, Camarines Sur and Albay.

The tremendous response to the President and the Nacionalista campaign bandwagon was explained by Senator Dominador Aytona, one of the region's leaders, as a manifestation of the region's total support of the administration's program of government, which has remarkably developed this potentially rich peninsula.

Leaping from one province to the next by car and helicopter, the President proved personally magnetic to all types of crowds, beginning with the youngsters and going all the way to the most venerable oldsters. In many places, his party was received with brass bands and festive fireworks.

Completing a tour of Sorsogon in the morning, the President leapfrogged in a helicopter to Iriga City, to participate in its first anniversary fete. From there, he covered by car the thriving towns of Nabua and Bato, then crossed over to stump in Albay, beginning with the town of Polangui, then moving on to Oas, Ligao, and Tabaco. In Albay as in Sorsogon and Camarines Sur, the President was received with warmth and a continuous wave of cheers.

September 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS returned in the morning from a four-day sortie to Cebu, Masbate and the Bicol peninsula, highly confident that the Nacionalista Party performance ticket will get a new mandate from the people in the coming elections.

The President arrived shortly before 10 a.m. at Malacañang, from a flight direct from Legaspi City where he passed the night.

Upon arrival, the President almost immediately started working on official papers on his desk, and in-between conferred with key aides and government officials on various public matters.

As the day wore on, he received political leaders with whom he discussed the grand proclamation rally of NP candidates at Plaza Miranda on September 7.

Towards evening, the President had a pleasant respite from work when the newly proclaimed Miss Philippines of 1970, Feliza Teresa. Santos Miro of Isabela and La Union, called on him.

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Antonio Miro, the 17-year old beauty will represent the Philippines in the “Miss World” beauty tilt to be held in London early next year.

Miss Miro was accompanied by Ferdinand S. Villar, franchise holder of the contest for Miss Philippines; Mrs. Aida M. Bernardino, national chairman of the nationwide beauty contest; Elizabeth Sales, Miss Mindanao of 1970; Nenita Victoria Guilatco, Miss Manila for 1970; and Maria Lourdes Reyes, Miss Friendship of 1970.

After the call, the President resumed his desk work.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Official Week in Review: September 5 – September 11, 1969

September 5 —

PRESIDENT MARCOS highlighted his activities with a meeting with his Cabinet to discuss, among other things, the release of funds for state colleges and universities, as well as measures that will ensure peak efficiency of the whole government machinery during the electoral campaign period.

One result of the meeting, which lasted from 12:15 p.m. to about 3 p.m., was the Presidential directive to Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco and Secretary of Education Onofre D. Corpuz to meet on the priorities for release of funds to state colleges and universities. Deserving projects, he said, must get primary attention.

In the morning, the President, together with the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, motored to the University of Santo Tomas where he addressed the seminar on rural medicine, attended by provincial health officers and chiefs of provincial and city hospitals, PACD workers, and representatives of the Civic Action Corps of the Department of National Defense.

In his speech, the President said that the rural health program will continue to enjoy the highest possible priority. (See pp. 9594-A to 9594-D for full text of the President's speech.)

The President was introduced to the seminar delegates by Secretary of Health Amadeo Cruz.

Father Rector Jesus Diaz, who welcomed the delegates, extended advanced "Happy Birthday" greetings to the President, who marks his birth anniversary on September 11.

Back in Malacañang at 11 a.m., the President and the First Lady received world famous opera star Beverly Sills who made a courtesy call. Miss Sills won many admirers here after singing at the MeraJco theatre.

With Miss Sills were the diva's mother, Mrs. Shirlev Silverman, daughter Muffy, and husband Peter Greenough.

The President then repaired to the State Dining Hall for the Cabinet meeting.

Among those present were Vice President Fernando Lopez, who is also Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources; Secretary of Justice Juan Ponce Enrile, Secretary of National Defense Ernesto Mata, Press Secretary Francisco S. Tatad, CNI Commissioner Mamintal Tamano, PES Director-General Placido Mapa, Jr., Secretary of Commerce and Industry Leonides S. Virata, Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, Secretary of Health Amadeo Cruz;

Secretary of Public Works and Communications Rene Espina, Secretary of Finance Eduardo Romualdez, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Jose D. Ingles, Executive Secretary Ernesto Maceda, Secretary of Labor Bias F. Ople, NEC Chairman Marcelo Balatbat, BOI Chairman Cesar E. A. Virata, PANAMIN Secretary Manuel Elizalde, Jr., Undersecretary of General Services Dominador Chipeco, Secretary of Social Welfare Gregorio Feliciano, OEC Administrator Constancio Castaneda, and Land Authority Gov. Conrado Estrella.

Following the Cabinet meeting, the President rested briefly. Refreshed, he began receiving provincial delegations. Among the first groups to see him was the Bicolano contingent led by Senator Dominador Aytona, Rep. Jose Alberto and Gov. Vicente Alberto of Catanduanes. He then met in succession Gov. Amado Almazan of Kalinga-Apayao, Sen. Ambrosio Padilla, and Rep. Angel Concepcion of Nueva Ecija.

The local officials reported to the President on various projects in their localities, and apprised him of other urgent needs.

The President later formally inducted into the Nacionalista Party 19 Liberal Party leaders from Eastern Samar, led by Gov. Victor Amasa.

The mass affiliation was sponsored by Rep. Felipe Abrigo, who accompanied the group to Malacañang.

Others sworn in were Mayors Cornelio M. Sison of Guiuan, Luis A. Capito of Borongan, Hospicio R. Rivera of Dolores, Gregorio B. Anguren of Quinapondan, Felix K. Morallos of San Policarpio, Rufilo L. Tan of Llorente, Felix P. Doligon of San Julian, Guillermo M. Altar of Gen. MacArthur, Pedro E. Candido of Hernani, Pio Pinangay of Arteche, Jesus B. Rediang of Mercedes, Gerundio C. Lira of Balangkayan. Francisco Cabugawan of Salcedo, Isidro M. Campomanes of Maslog, and Lucas M. Lomuntad of Jipapad, Vice Mayor Gil A. Corado of Maydolong, Dr. Roberto L. Tan. Jr. of Llorente, and Jaime Opinion of Oras.

In the evening the President was guest of honor at the opening of the convention of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources Employees Association (DANREA), held at the Manila Hotel.

The President emphasized in his speech the two major tasks of government in agriculture, namely, to achieve self-sufficiency in food—which has been realized—and to produce surpluses for export.

In an executive order amending Executive Order No. 182-A which created the National Social Action Council, the President specified the full membership of the body.

As stated in the amendatory order, the Council shall be composed of the chairman of the Manpower Development Council, the secretary of education, the secretary of the PACD, the commissioner on national integration, the secretary-general of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines;

The chairman of the Social Action Committee of the Federation of Christian Family Movement, the executive secretary of the National Council of Churches of the Philippines, the president of the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement, and the presidents of the Philippine Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Philippine Medical Association and the Philippine Bar Association.

The council will elect a chairman and a vice-chairman from among themselves.

September 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had another dialogue with student leaders this time from the University of the Philippines, who have been agitating for the release of P10 million, an unprogrammed outlay earmarked for projects of state colleges and Universities.

The President told them that he will release Monday part of the unprogrammed outlay to fund specified projects, but emphasized that he was doing this not because of pressure from any source, least of all the threat of student protest, but because it was feasible and there are deserving projects which need immediate funding.

Also present at the meeting were Secretary of Education Onofre D. Corpuz and Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco.

Following his meeting with the student leaders, the President conferred with Director of Public Works Alejandro Delena on the progress of the construction of prefabricated schoolbuildings.

Deleña also submitted a report on the allocation of prefab schoolbuildings to provinces, cities and towns, throughout the country.

In the afternoon, the President received Gov. Samuel F. Reyes of Isabela and Rep. Andres Cosalan of Mt. Province, who took up local problems with him.

He later received some 400 foresters from all over the country who called to pay their respects following the opening of their five-day convention at the SSS social hall.

In brief remarks before the foresters, the President announced that he had vetoed certain provisions of the consolidated tax bill, including the transfer from the Bureau of Forestry to the Bureau of Internal Revenue the invoicing and collection of forest charges, and the abolition of inspection fees.

The President said he vetoed the provision on the fees upon previous representations of the forestry bureau, which said that it would lose annually some ₱47 million.

The foresters were accompanied to Malacañang by Reforestation Administrator and acting Director of Forestry Jose Viado.

The President spent the rest of the afternoon in his study going over government reports and working on other official papers.

In the evening, the President was guest of honor at the induction of officers of the Philippine Alliance of Government Employees held at the Manila Hotel.

September 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS was occupied the whole day with the preparation of his speech for the proclamation later in the evening of the entire Nacionalista Party ticket at Plaza Miranda.

The President meticulously went over all documents before finalizing his speech which was highlighted by a listing of some of his proposed programs for the seventies.

He was also in close touch with all the senatorial candidates who were going over their own speeches.

Despite the heavy downpour, the Chief Executive directed his aids to go ahead with the preparations for the Plaza Miranda proclamation.

In the evening, the President motored to the rally site where Vice President Lopez and the entire NP senatorial ticket headed by Senate President Gil J. Puyat were already drawing the crowds.

The other senatorial candidates proclaimed were Senators Arturo Tolentino, Jose W. Diokno, and Ambrosio Padiila; former Senator Lorenzo Sumulong, Commissioner Mamintal Tamano of National Integration, Governors Rene Espina of Cebu and Rafael Palmares of Iloilo.

September 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS figured centrally in a meeting with two groups both of which related to areas of great concern to him, for both are meaningful in the building of a nation.

He was guest speaker at the initial Balagtas Memorial Awards ceremonies, and he formally received the newly elected officers of the National Federation of the Association of Barrio Councils, who paid a courtesy call at Malacañang.

For the greater part of the day, the President worked on state papers, and focused on other official matters.

At about noontime, he met with Secretary of Education Onofre D. Corpuz, Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco and Assistant Executive Secretary Gilberto Duavit to discuss student problems and the requirements of state schools.

At 4 p.m., the President, accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, went to the Malacañang Heroes Hall for the first Balagtas Memorial Awards in Pilipino literature and journalism.

The President declared he wanted to see the nation's leaders and more of the people, including the youth, using the national language on a wider scale.

He also expressed the hope that succeeding national leaders and the generations to come will continue to support the development of Philippine arts and literature.

Amado V. Hernandez, well known poet-journalist, won the first prize of P5,000 and was presented with an accompanying plaque for his epic poem, *Ang Bayang Malaya*.

Recipients of the cash prizes in the Balagtas Memorial Awards were:

POETRY		
1. <i>Bayang Malaya</i>	Amado V. Hernandez	₱5,000
SHORT STORY		
1. <i>Ambo at Ibang Maikling Katha</i>	Wilfredo Virtucio	₱3,000
2. <i>Mga Piling Maikling Katha</i>	Efren R. Abueg	1,000
3. <i>Elias at Salome at Iba pang Kuwento</i>	Domingo Landicho	1,000
4. <i>Sampung Piling Kuwento</i>	Victor Toledo Marcos	300
5. <i>Maikling Kuwento</i>	Rosario de Guzman Lingat	300
6. <i>Katipunan ng Maikling Kuwento</i>	Erlinda T. Namora	300
7. <i>Katipunan mga Kuwento</i>	Levy Balgos de la Cruz	300
8. <i>Sampung Maikling Katha</i>	Agapito M. Joaquin	300
9. <i>Makina, Isang Paghahanap at Iba pang Katha</i>	Dominador Mirasol	300
10. <i>Mga Katha sa Likod ng Rehas na Bakal</i>	Armando Ruiz David	300
11. <i>Sampung Maikling Katha</i>	Mercedes Jose	300
NOVEL		
1. <i>Ama</i>	Lazaro Francisco	₱1,500
2. <i>Si Ringo at ang Bulag na Angel</i>	Pedro S. Dandan	1,500
3. <i>Huwag mo akong Sisihin</i>	Anacleto L. Bustamante	1,500
DRAMA		
1. <i>Bukang Liwayway at Iba pang mga Dula</i>	Dionisio S. Salazar	₱2,000
2. <i>Sabah</i>	Rafael Y. Enverga	500
3. <i>Buhay na Bantayog</i>	Felipe Pagua	500
4. <i>Tatlong Drama</i>	Ruben Vega	500
ESSAY		
1. <i>Si Balagtas, ang Makata at Iba pang mga Sanaysay</i>	Anacleto L. Dizon	₱2,000

2. <i>Sining at Panitikan, Wika at Bayan</i>	Pedro L. Ricarte	1,500
3. <i>Nasyonalismo, Makapangyarihang Lakas</i>	Ang Cornelio de Guzman	1,500
JOURNALISM		
1. <i>Journalism</i>	J. Ser Sehagun	₱1,000
2. <i>82 Araw sa Red China</i>	Rolando Q. Fadul	1,000
3. <i>Bagong Taon at Iba pang Pamamahayag</i>	Cesario del Rosario	1,000
4. <i>Tinig</i>	R. Ordoñez	1,000
5. <i>Lathala</i>	Montano C. Decena	1,000

After the awards ceremonies, the President met the new officers of the barrio councils federation.

During the call the President discussed the problems of barrio development and the important of barrio leaders in bettering the lot of the masses

The officers are: Jaenito Madamba of Capiz, president; Vic Delloro of Camarines Sur, executive vice president; Monico Cervera of Antique and Juliana Lozada of Cebu, executive secretary, and assistant executive secretary, respectively; Glicerio A Lim of Lanao del Norte, treasurer; Arcio Casing of Misamis Occidental, auditor; Charlie Neque of Davao del Sur, PRO;

The regional vice presidents for the seven regions are Mauricio Alcantara from La Union, Cesar V. Jorge from Bataan, Nonilon Gases from Sorsogon, Elias R. Inocando, Jr. from Negros Oriental, Eduardo Maravilla from Iloilo, Columbus Jaucian from Agusan del Sur, and Paul Khingslay Koh from Sulu;

Regional secretaries; Evangelista Raceia of Zambales, Teodoro Agtay of Oriental Mindoro, Marcelo Aguilar of Catanduanes, Juliana Lozada of Cebu, Ernesto Benares of Occidental Negros, Macario Tin of Oriental Misamis, and Arsenio Madayag of Davao del Norte.

While attending to official papers, the President signed a proclamation declaring September 9 a special public holiday in Cebu province and in the cities of Cebu, Danao, Lapu-Lapu, Mandaue and Toledo; and Wednesday, September 10, also a public holiday in Bais City to give the people full opportunity to celebrate the events with appropriate ceremonies.

September 9 marks the birthday of the late Don Sergio Osmeña, Sr., second President of the Commonwealth, patriot, statesman and staunch advocate of nationalism and Philippine independence.

September 10 marks the first anniversary of the founding of the city of Bais.

In other proclamations, the President declared September 19 as "Law Day," and the period from September 15 to 21 as "Savings and Home Loan Week."

He likewise authorized the Knights of Rizal to conduct a national educational and fund campaign during the period September 1, 1969 to April 30, 1970.

In proclaiming "Law Day," the President stressed that the administration of justice is indispensable to a sound and vigorous democracy, and that it is fitting that the important role played by lawyers in the administration of justice and in enhancing the rule of law in a democratic society be duly brought to the attention of the people.

The President also underscored the vital role of savings and loan associations in channelling savings and in financing the construction of homes, particularly to benefit low-income families.

The President authorized the Knights of Rizal to conduct a nationwide educational and fund campaign from September 1, 1969 to April 30, 1970 in order to give “meaning, substance, and reality to the patriotic aims and purposes” of the group.

The Order of the Knights of Rizal is involved in the training and molding of Filipino youth to promote character, dynamic citizenship, civic consciousness, dedicated and democratic leadership and enlightened nationalism.

It likewise seeks to preserve and propagate the ideals and teachings of Rizal.

September 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a full schedule of conferences and desk work, padded further by two speaking engagements.

On trips outside Malacañang, the President attended:

1. The ceremony awarding former Senator Quintin Paredes the Order of Kalantiao, in token of the nation’s appreciation of more than 60 years of exemplary public service.

The Order of Kalantiao is a presidential decoration instituted last year by President Marcos, and primarily intended for distinguished jurists.

2. The investiture and formal installation of former Ambassador Salvador P. Lopez as president of the University of the Philippines, at the U.P. campus in Diliman, Quezon City.

In Malacañang in the morning, the President met both individual and group callers, among the latter a delegation from the Philippine Railways Association of Cebu led by Francisco Pintor; a big delegation from Cavite headed by Commerce Undersecretary Fernando Campos; and a group of mayors from Camiguin province accompanied by Senator Emmanuel Pelaez.

In the evening, President and Mrs. Marcos had Governor and Mrs. Ronald Reagan of California, and their two children, as guests at dinner in Malacañang.

The American governor arrived this afternoon as personal representative of U.S. President Richard Nixon at the inaugural of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

September 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS again followed a full schedule of activities, which included three trips outside of Malacañang, in-between attending to his usual desk work and the usual conferences with aides and officials, as well as the usual meetings with visitors.

Early in the morning, the President visited unannounced the Philippine College of Commerce campus, where he viewed for himself conditions in the school. He was informed that the campus is inundated by every little flurry of rain. During the visit, he was warmly received by the students who wished him happy birthday in song, and vied with each other to shake his hand.

During the meeting with PCC officials and student leaders, the President disclosed several directives he issued to help meet the problems of the PCC, as well as of other state schools.

Later in the morning, the President went to Camp Aguinaldo where he received the salute of the armed forces and their pledge of loyalty. It is a traditional affair, usually held on the eve of the President's birthday. (See pp. 9594-E to 9594-J for full text of the President's speech.)

At luncheon, the President was guest of honor of the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines. The affair was held at The Plaza in Makati, in connection with the induction of the incoming officers of the organization.

The President announced at the occasion the early establishment of the Industrial Development Commission, which he deemed an important element in the nation's pursuit of a balanced agro-industrial economy.

Just before going to The Plaza, the President passed by the offices of the Bureau of Public Highways, to congratulate the BPH personnel on their record of achievements. He also reenacted his signing of the bill increasing the salaries of bureau personnel, which he said they fully deserved.

Among the visitors the President received through the day were the Citizens National Electoral Assembly, headed by Msgr. Mariano Gaviola, assembly chairman, who paid a courtesy call.

With Bishop Gaviola were Mrs. Leticia P. de Guzman, vice chairman; Charito L. Planas, executive secretary; Tomas "Ching" Santos, coordinator of Operation Quick Count (OQC); Baldomero T. Clivera of the Public Relations Society of the Philippines, Bishop Jose Yap of the United Council of Christian Churches, Dr. Beatriz Ronquillo of the League of Women Voters of the Philippines, Sylvia Alejandro Wiloci, Dr. Ceferina Manalo of the Jayceerettes, Serafin Benaldo of the National Social Action Council, Ben Salvidia of the Pasay Jaycees, Susan Kabanao of the Students Chapter of Manila, and Greg Fabros and Ramon Barrientos of MRA.

Later in the evening, President and Mrs. Marcos gave a dinner in honor of the guests at the inaugural of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

The President, on the eve of his 52nd birthday, issued the following message:

On this occasion, I should like to thank all for all their support and encouragement to ensure an effective exercise of the Presidency.

These have been years of deep personal happiness for me, for I have seen the success not merely of my personal endeavors, but above all the emergence of a nation more determined in purpose and secure in its resolve.

At no other time in our recent history, has the Presidency received the nation's generous support.

Our work is unfinished, our goals are larger than what we have accomplished. We face a new decade of rising demands and expectations. The essence of our cause requires a reassertion of our national unity and courage as we travel into modernity.

There are forces that will continue to seek to divide us and voices that will sow discord rather than unity. The duty of us all is to preserve our unity.

September 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS' 52nd birthday, marked simply was highlighted by an estimated 100,000 well-wishers, who trooped to Malacañang from morning till well into evening.

One of his first visitors was California Governor Ronald Reagan and his family, who paid a farewell call prior to their return to the United States. The American official was here as the personal representative of US President Richard Nixon at the formal inauguration yesterday of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Shortly after this call, the President began receiving birthday well-wishers, with the local diplomatic corps, following tradition, formally greeting him as a group.

At 8 a.m., the First Family heard Mass celebrated at the Executive Building by Fr. Jose A. Cruz of the Ateneo University.

Among the notables present at the Mass were Vice President and Mrs. Fernando Lopez, former President and Mrs. Carlos P. Garcia, and Senate President Gil J. Puyat. Close relatives and friends of the First Family also attended.

The President and his family joined the guests at breakfast after Mass, served at the Heroes Hall.

Shortly after 3 a.m., the President started receiving the public, including government officials and other VIPs. The Malacañang ceremonial hall was initially the scene of the reception. Then it was moved to the balcony when the rush of well-wishers thickened.

The President paused at noontime, to formally commission the first ferrocement Patrol Craft Fast (POF 317) of the Philippine Navy, which the Navy itself built in line with its research and development program.

The development of fast, light vessels by the Navy was conceived by President Marcos, to add muscle to the unilateral defense plan of the country. He specified in his order to the Navy on the research and development of watercraft to build ships adapted to Philippine navigational conditions.

The President had a late lunch, and after a brief rest resumed receiving well-wishers at the Executive Building.

He stood at his post until early evening.

Following tradition, the President granted executive clemency to 124 deserving prisoners on the recommendation of the Board of Pardons and Parole.

Of the 124 prisoners extended clemency, 19 were granted absolute pardon, three special absolute pardon, three conditional pardon, one conditional pardon with deportation, 53 conditional pardon with parole conditions, and 45 commutation of sentence.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1969). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 65(37), dcix-dcxvi.

President's Week in Review: September 19-25, 1969

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

September 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS covered eight towns and one city in a fast-stepping drive through South Cotabato, leading the NP performance team, plus former Speaker Cornelio Villareal, at public rallies which drew thousands of enthusiastic citizens.

The President stressed the needs of development in Mindanao, and called for harmony among landowners and settlers, who have long been locked in land disputes. The President said that development will be faster if peace reigned in the region.

He also emphasized the importance of roads in the area, pointing to the vast virgin lands yet to be developed. Only roads, he told rally audiences there, will open up these lands.

The President in his speeches in rallies in the province skirted political issues, choosing to preach development in recognition of the primary importance to this region of aggressive economic build-up.

Following a well-planned schedule, the President visited the municipalities of Surallah, Banga, Norala, Tantangan, Tupi, Tampakan, Koronadal (Marbel), and Polomolok; and Gen. Santos City.

Among those in his party were Vice President Fernando Lopez, Senate Majority Floorleader Arturo Tolentino, former Senator Lorenzo Sumulong, former CNI Commissioner Mamintal Tamano, former Gov. Rene Espina of Cebu, and former Gov. Rafael Palmares of Iloilo.

Others in the NP group with the President were former Speaker Cornelio Villareal, Executive Secretary Ernesto Maceda, Presidential Executive Assistant Jacobo C. Clave; Rep. James Chiongbian and Gov. Sergio Morales of South Cotabato, as well as other local leaders in the province.

While campaigning in the province, the president was informed by acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs Jose D. Ingles that an outlay of P22,500,000 in capital aid to the Philippines has been approved by the German government.

The Department of Foreign Affairs also reported that funds for shipping and general purposes, out of a total of P65,500,000 applied for were still pending approval.

September 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ranged the length and breadth of Davao del Norte continually buoyed by the warm welcome and unrestrained enthusiasm of the people in all the places he and other NP candidates visited in eastern and southern Mindanao.

Up early in the morning after only about four hours of sleep, following the huge rally in General Santos City (Cotabato) which lasted till 2 a.m., the President addressed another overflow morning rally in Glan before proceeding to Davao del Norte on board the presidential plane.

An enthusiastic crowd, which included labor and veterans groups, bearing "thank you" placards for the administration's various projects in the province, surged forward to welcome the President on arrival at the Davao City airport at mid-morning.

Following military honors at the airport, the President went to Samal Island for the first rally in Davao del Norte. While there the President officiated at the inauguration of Samal's new municipal building.

The President's next stop was Maco where he again inaugurated another infrastructure project—the Hijo bridge and addressed a big rally held at the Aguinaldo Development Corporation gymnasium. He had a brief rest after lunch in Maco, and then breezed through the towns of Nabunturan, Sto. Tomas and Panabo on the way to Tagum for the final rally of the day.

It was a heart-warming tour for the President as people turned out *en masse* at every stop to welcome him and his party.

Through the placards they carried, the people expressed appreciation for the countless development projects undertaken by the administration to speed up the development of the province.

The outside crowd that had gathered in the town to welcome and hear him speak, mainly on the need to pursue the multifarious tasks of development, provided a pleasant climax for a day of public demonstration in support of the government's build-up program for Mindanao.

September 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS directed the Philippine Constabulary to "follow to the letter" all recommendations of the Commission on Elections designed to promote a clean, orderly and peaceful election.

In speeches delivered in Davao del Sur, the President said he will approve all measures recommended by the COMELEC to bring about an orderly polls on November II.

"I would like to get re-elected in a peaceful and orderly election," the President said, amid the cheers of large crowds which heard him in public rallies held in that predominantly Cebuano-populated province.

The President in the morning issued a directive to the PC to prohibit the carrying of firearms by non-members of law enforcement agencies, whether licensed or not, not only in Ilocos Sur but all over the country, until after the elections.

Accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, who had flown from Manila in the morning, the President covered no less than 10 towns of Davao del Sur. Most of them are coastal municipalities along the Davao Gulf heretofore accessible only by slow water transportation, but which had been connected by brand new roads constructed under the Marcos administration.

Senator Alejandro Almendras, who hails from this area accompanied the President's party in the tour of southern Mindanao.

The President started the fourth day of his stump of the region by addressing the first Mindanao Abaca and Other Fibers Planters Association's convention at the Insular Hotel in Davao City.

The President pledged that abaca, ramie and other Philippine fibers will be subject to intensive research and will receive full government support in order to promote them in the world market.

The President also told the abaca planters to avail of a new lending policy under which the Development Bank of the Philippines grants loans to abaca farmers at the maximum of P1,500 per hectare.

He distributed brochures showing the farmers how they can avail of this policy and how to use the money to better purpose.

The President also said that on the basis of the findings of the French, German and Japanese scientists, high grade pulp and paper can be manufactured from poor grade abaca fibers, and this is a boon to the abaca industry because heretofore there was almost no market for poor grade abaca.

After a brief conference with the local press and radio representatives, the President started south, reaching as far as Jose Abad Santos town on the southern tip of Davao del Sur.

September 22—

THE LAST LAP of President Marcos' tour of the Davao provinces covered four towns winding up in Mati, Davao Oriental, where a huge rally put a proper ending to the whirlwind campaign.

The same spontaneous turnout of people experienced in the other provinces of southern and eastern Mindanao featured the last leg of the campaign in the region by the President and members of the NP performance team.

Covered by the President and the NP team were the towns of Lupon, Cateel, Banganga, and Mati.

In Mati, after the fast-paced sortie through the other towns, the presidential party had lunch just before the wind-up rally. The rally itself proved to be a warm and rousing affair, with the President and the First Lady obviously the favorite of the crowd.

At about 4 p.m., the President enplaned for Manila, arriving back in Malacañang at around 6 p.m. refreshed and brimming with optimism about an NP sweep in the Mindanao region visited.

September 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS called to a conference all the leaders of the warring factions in Ilocos Sur and Lanao del Sur as he viewed with deep concern the proclivities of certain partisans to engage in violence.

The meeting, underscoring the President's interest in keeping the election campaign and the election itself peaceful, free and orderly, took all of three hours and more, beginning at 1:30 p.m. at the *Pangarap* in Malacañang park.

Earlier in the day, the President devoted most of his time to paper work, so that he would have enough time in the afternoon to thresh out the differences between the opposing groups in the two sensitive provinces. A third group composed of political partisans in Cotabato failed to show at the meeting.

The Ilocos Sur leaders present were, for the NP, Rep. Floro Crisologo and Gov. Carmeling Crisologo, while the LP was represented by Luis "Chavit" Singson, official LP candidates for congressman, and Antonio Villanueva, LP provincial chairman.

The NP group in Lanao del Sur was represented by Rep. Ali Dimaporo, who sat for his brother, Macacuna Dimaporo, official NP bet for representative in Lanao del Sur, while the LP was represented by Princess Tarhata Lucman, who sat for her husband Rep. Rascid Lucman.

Later in the afternoon, the President received the leaders of the National Federated Movement for Social Justice and Reform, led by Manuel Arrejola, the organization president. The group had been demonstrating far sometime in front of the Bureau of Lands, seeking redress of grievances arising from land disputes.

Before meeting the leaders of the demonstration, the President inducted the officers of the Marcos-Lopez Coordinating Secretariat (COSEC), held at the Executive Hall of Malacanang. In the simple program, speakers were the President, Executive Secretary Ernesto Maceda, and Dr. Guillermo Vega, presidential assistant, who was also master of ceremonies. The President delivered brief remarks after inducting the COSEC coordinators and directors, headed by Mario R. Reyes, director-general.

September 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a particularly engrossing day, as he both followed routine and deviated from it, while coping with various important concerns.

In the morning, he was up early and focused first on his paper work, particularly on follow-up of various problems he assayed as urgent from his conferences with local leaders in the regions he visited the previous week. Before flying off to Canlubang, he fired off several directives to meet the problems of funds for projects, the needs of certain towns and barrios in Mindanao, such as schools, roads, and flood control, among others.

Towards noon, he and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, flew to the Canlubang estate of former Secretary of Justice Jose Yulo, where the President conferred the Order of Kalantiao on the venerable statesman, in recognition of a long and distinguished public career, which spanned three decades and covered the three major branches of the government.

In the afternoon, about 4 p.m., the President was back in Malacañang and resumed his paper work. Then he met with the leaders of the major political factions of Cotabato, to iron out their differences. Calling on the leaders to cooperate in insuring a peaceful and free elections, the President received the full support of the leaders in behalf of this goal.

Among those at the meeting were Datu Blah Sinsuat, NP official candidate for congressman; and reelectionist Rep. Salipada Pendatun. Also at the meeting were Datu Abdullah Sangki, Mayor Emma Gaddi of Kiclapawan, and Commissioner Datu Mama Sinsuat of National Integration, all representing the NP. With Pendatun were Rene Farrales, his brother-in-law; and Datu Don Ampatuan.

Late in the afternoon, the President received the prime movers of four youth groups who had pledged their support for the national candidates of the NP. The youth leaders presented the President with a "Manifesto of Faith." This is the second big aggregation of political activists to pledge support for the President and Vice President Fernando Lopez and the NP ticket.

The first to come forward with a resolution affirming support of the NP election stand and the NP candidates was the Manila Voters Movement.

After these meetings, the President returned to his desk work. He saw no other visitors, but frequently consulted with various officials and close palace aides.

September 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS took to the campaign trail once again, covering two provinces in the southern Tagalog region.

Leaving Manila early in the morning, he first stopped at Nasugbu, Batangas, where a huge crowd indicated the order of the day.

The province lived up to its reputation as an NP stronghold as mammoth crowds turned out at every rally during the day, which included the towns of Cuenca, Taal, Bauan, Ibaan, San Juan and Batangas City. In the latter place, the President officiated at the inauguration of the city.

An important mission of the President in Batangas, apart from the rallies, was to confer with officials on the need for a concerted effort toward insuring a peaceful, free and orderly elections.

In all his talks with leaders, the President emphasized the desirability of peaceful elections, as basic to a democracy. He said that he will not countenance any violations of law and order, or of the election code.

In the rallies, the President and the NP team, including Vice President Fernando Lopez, and the NP senatorial hopefuls, namely, Senator Arturo Tolentino, former CNI Commissioner Mamintal Tamano, former Gov. Rafael Palmares of Iloilo, and former Senator Lorenzo Sumulong, stressed the issue of performance.

Batangas leaders with the President were Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., Sen. Salvador Laurel and Ambassador Jose Laurel III.

The President finished his drive in Batangas late in the evening. Then he and the NP team proceeded to Canlubang, Laguna for a conference with local leaders, and the scheduled rallies in the towns of Calamba and Biñan.

He returned Malacañang late in the night, after a satisfying but rigorous campaign drive which observers with the team termed a per-by voters in support of the Nacionalistas.

On another front, the President in brief remarks read by Civil Service Commissioner Abelardo Subido at the opening ceremonies of the 14th Executive Council Meeting of the Eastern Region Organization for Public Administration (EROPA), held at the Luna Hall of the Department of Foreign Affairs on Padre Faura, lauded the EROPA for giving shape to the “common dream of living and working together in harmony” of the Asian region.

The dream of harmony envisaged by Asian peoples, he said, has been to reality by dint of EROPA’s “unflagging endeavors, and functional, which have paved the way to full development” of the Asian region.

The presence of EROPA leaders at the conference, he said, many of them high dignitaries of their countries, was “further testimony of the forward-looking spirit of the organization, manifested in its efforts to continually improve its services, and to pursue the total realization of international harmony.”

Source: Supreme Court Library

President's Week in Review: September 26 - October 2, 1969

President's Week in Review: October 3-9, 1969

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

October 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS swung through four towns of the vote-rich province of Rizal, covering in half a day the entire second congressional district.

Leaving Malacañang at mid-morning, the President and his party first stopped at Tanay, where Rizaleños led by Gov. Isidro Rodriguez gave him and the NP candidates, including Vice President Fernando Lopez, a rousing welcome.

In Baras, the next stop, the same enthusiasm was duplicated by the big throng which turned out for the rally; and in Morong, the President had the added satisfaction of getting a rollicking welcome from schoolchildren at the town public school. He made a stopover at the school to inspect new facilities, including a gymnasium, a home economics building and a pre-fab classroom annex.

The kids gave the President a literally touching welcome, when many of them sought, and succeeded, in caressing his face. The President asked the youngsters to study hard and perhaps become leaders of their people.

The NP team had lunch at Morong, with local officials as hosts. Later, the President had an informal session with newsmen covering him, and also took time out to listen to petitions of local residents as well as conferred with Rizal officials on problems. Out of these meetings, the President ordered steps taken to isolate Laguna Lake, which gives irrigation water to contiguous ricelands, from Manila Bay waters. The, salt water has worked adversely against rice crops.

The President also appealed to political partisans to desist from relying on smear tactics during the campaign, and to adhere closely to the valid issues in the elections and to fair play.

The last stop of the Rizal drive was Teresa, after which the President returned to Malacañang for a breather.

In the evening, he was again on the road, this time to Taguig, where he was guest of honor at the inauguration of the Elizalde Rolling Steel Mills.

The President in his speech at the inauguration of the Elizalde Rolling Mills said that "as your industry grows your responsibility increases; please take care of the interests of your employees and the workers."

He said that with enterprises like Elizalde's "we will be able to gradually solve our unemployment problem." He added the government has given emphasis on the manpower training and development to meet the labor demands of the growing industry in the country.

October 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS was in and out of Malacañang as he continued stumping Rizal towns, without unduly disrupting scheduled activities in the Palace, and worked as well on official papers which could not await action.

At mid-morning, the President left for Marikina to resume his barn storming tour of Rizal's second congressional district. With him were his running mate, Vice President Fernando Lopez, and former CNI Commissioner Mamintal Tamano, one of the NP senatorial, bets.

On hand to meet him on his arrival in Marikina at 10 a.m. were Gov. Isidro Rodriguez, Rep. Frisco San Juan, and former Senator Lorenzo Sumulong, NP senatorial candidate who is a native of the province.

In his speech in Marikina, the President pledged continuing support to the shoe industry adding that it is not only providing the nation with comparatively inexpensive quality shoes and giving a source of livelihood to millions of people, but is also gaining markets abroad.

The President had earlier issued a proclamation declaring October 4 Shoe Industry Day throughout the Philippines in recognition of the industry's contributions to the economic development of the nation.

The three-day First Philippine Shoe Festival was held at the Hotel Inter-Continental in Makati, Rizal. The Festival sought to project the significant strides taken by the Marikina shoe industry and its contributions to the national economy.

From Marikina, the presidential party proceeded to Binangonan where the fierce noonday sun failed to discourage an impressive turnout at the public rally.

The President's next stop was Cardona, where the President addressed another enthusiastic crowd before returning to Malacañang early in the afternoon.

During the tour, the President was reassured by Rizal leaders, Nacionalistas as well as Liberals, that the province will go overwhelmingly for the NP candidates in the November polls.

Large crowds which attended the public rallies cheered as Gov. Rodriguez enumerated the massive development projects undertaken by the Marcos administration which have transformed the province into a lively industrial and trade center.

The President was back in Malacañang at 2:30 p.m. for second wind before tackling other scheduled activities.

At 4:15 p.m. the President sat down at the Maharlika Hall for a full-dress press conference.

During the conference, the President discussed the conduct of government during the current political campaign period, reported on the performance of the administration in the past three-and-a-half years, and answered questions on national and international affairs propounded by newsmen.

Following the press conference, which lasted up to 5:30 p.m. the President went back to his desk work.

In the evening, the President led the NP public rallies in Pasay City and Mandaluyong, the last one starting late and continuing until the early hours of Sunday.

October 5—

PRESIDENT MARCOS addressed public rallies in the Rizal towns as he resumed his whirlwind sorties of the province's second congressional district.

The President said in his speeches that the continuation of the Nacionalista Party administration would mean the completion of the varied development projects being undertaken by the national government not only in Rizal but in the whole country as well.

Rizal Gov. Isidro Rodriguez in turn assured the President that the NP will win with an overwhelming majority in his province in the November polls.

Leaving Malacañang shortly before 11 a.m., the President first motored to Pasig, Rizal where he administered the oath of affiliation to about a hundred barrio captains and other leaders from Laguna, Quezon and Rizal.

From there, he proceeded to Montalban where he and members of his party had lunch, and then to San Mateo, Cainta and Taytay.

Back in Malacañang early in the evening, the President found a large delegation of students headed by Roger Santos, chairman of the Students Movement for Osmeña, who informed the President they were renaming their organization Students Movement for Marcos.

Santos said that their organization, with a membership of 4,957 from 26 universities and colleges in the country, had been “disillusioned” and “disenchanted” with the Opposition standard bearer.

Working on state papers in his Malacañang study later in the evening, the President:

1. Extended *ad interim* appointments to Severino C. Trocino as clerk of court of the Leyte CFI, Burauen branch; and Fred O. Japzon also as clerk of court of the Eastern Samar CFI, Oras branch.
2. Reappointed Filomeno Biscocho as acting member of the board of directors of the Philippine National Railways.
3. Designated Gov. Anacleto C. Alcala of Quezon province as acting member of the board of directors of the Manila Hotel Company.
4. Set aside some 12.7 hectares from the Quezon Memorial Park in Quezon City, and proclaimed it as the site of the Philippine Science High School.

The President signed the proclamation reserving the science high school site, thus amending Proclamation No. 42 of 1954, which established the Quezon Park; and Proclamation No. 481 of 1968, which established the National Government center.

The President himself is scheduled to officiate at the cornerstone laying of the PSHS building complex tomorrow.

October 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, disturbed by persistent reports of violence in Ilocandia, flew to Vigan, Ilocos Sur, to look into the situation.

The President left the Nichols Air Base at 7:30 a.m. and arrived at Vigan an hour later, accompanied by publishers of Manila dailies.

With the President were publishers Joaquin Roces of the *Manila Times*, Sebastian Ugarte of the *Philippines Herald*, Gen. Hans Menzi of the *Manila Daily Bulletin*, and Prudencio T. Europa, editor of the *Evening News*, representing Manolo Elizalde, publisher.

Upon arriving at Vigan, the President attended a *Te Deum* at the three-century-old cathedral of St. Paul.

Later, he addressed his fellow Ilocanos on the need to keep the peace.

Then the President proceeded to the provincial capitol to confer with all political leaders, including senators, representatives, governors, mayors and vice mayors from the five Ilocos provinces—Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte, La Union, Abra, and Benguet.

In quick succession, the President:

1. Ordered the Constabulary to beef up its force in Ilocos Sur, specifying that the unit assigned to Vigan, the capital, be doubled within three days.
2. Held the provincial commander personally responsible for further violent incidents that may arise from the PC's failure to follow his orders.
3. Created a special body, composed of the secretary of justice, the solicitor general and the state prosecutor, or their representatives, to hear complaints, publicly or privately, from people who heretofore had been afraid to come out in the open and denounce the abuses of some politicians.
4. Directed the Constabulary to immediately improve its image in Ilocos Sur in order to restore the people's faith in law enforcement agencies.

The President also had a confrontation with the Crisologo and Singson groups of Ilocos Sur and got them to pledge to respect the September 2 agreement banning gun-toting in the province.

After directing the fiscals to start prosecution of guilty parties, the President flew back to Manila, arriving at 4 p.m.

Once in Malacañang, the President received several foreign correspondents for an interview.

The correspondents were Miss Carol Goldstein of the *Keystone Press Agency*, William Hartley of *Wall Street Journal*, Neil Jilitt of the *Age Melbourne* and the *Canberra Times*, J. Claude Pomonti of *Le Monde*, and Ajit Singh Rye of the *Hindustan Times*.

The President also issued an executive order putting into effect the administration plan to create a far-reaching organization for promoting and accelerating the country's industrial development.

The order established the Council for Industrial Development and three subsidiary arms, the Industrial Planning Committee, the Industrial Research Committee, and the Loans and Investments Committee.

The President said that these organizations "will bring the different government agencies and the different segments of the private sector into one grand unified effort—a conspiracy, even—to accelerate the country's industrial development."

He pointed out that "the operation of these new bodies will lead, not to a multiplicity of directions, but to the convergence of government and private sector efforts towards the same set of objectives."

The President appointed Secretary of Commerce and Industry Leonides S. Virata as chairman and Finance Undersecretary Roman A. Cruz, Jr. as secretary-general and action officer of the Council for Industrial Development.

Also appointed were Sixto K. Roxas, prominent economist and president of Bancom Development Corporation, as chairman of the Industrial Planning Committee. The Industrial Research Committee will be headed by Dr. Juan Salcedo, Jr., NSDB chairman; and the Loans and Investments Committee by Secretary of Finance Eduardo Z. Romualdez. The last two are ex-officio positions.

Also established by the presidential executive order was a Business Economic Staff to provide technical staff support to the three agencies.

October 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS stumped Bataan and Olongapo City with several of the NP senatorial candidates, and leaders of that province and of Zambales.

The reception accorded the President at all the stops and rallies duplicated if not rivalled similar welcomes at other points in the country.

Scoring with his delineation of the administration's development program, the President was highly believable in Bataan and Olongapo City where the many infrastructure and development projects of the administration are visible and apparently paying off in better living for the people.

The President and his party arrived about 10 a.m. at Olongapo City, first stop of the peninsula drive, with Gov. Vicente Magsaysay, nephew of the LP vice presidential candidate, on hand to lead the rousing welcome.

The sizable crowd followed the President's car all the way to the city plaza for the- first rally of the day. From Olongapo the President crossed over to Bataan where he was met by two of the province's top leaders, Gov. Guillermo Arcenas and Rep. Pablo Roman, both of whom joined the NP stump.

Highlight of the Olongapo rally was the President's swearing in of the city mayor, Mrs. Amelia Gordon, and City Councilors Remigio Tierro and Abner de Guia, all ranking LP leaders turned Nacionalista.

Mayor Gordon told the President that Zambales will give him an even wider margin of victory this election- year than four years ago, with the many projects in the province virtually campaigning for his re election.

Moving fast and fairly close to schedule, the President and the NP team rallied the people to the administration side in the towns of Orion, Balanga, Orani, Hermosa and Dinalupihan. Everywhere the NP team went, there was an instant festive atmosphere, with the crowds as usual besieging the President for handshakes.

With the President were Senate Majority Leader Arturo Tolentino, former Senator Lorenzo Sumulong, former Governors Rene Espina and Rafael Palmares, and former Commissioner Mamintal Tamano, all on the NP senatorial ticket.

The President returned to Malacañang at about 6 p.m. after what he deemed a most fruitful day of barnstorming.

Earlier in the morning, before he left for the Bataan drive, the President received several callers, notably the delegations from Isabel, Pangasinan and Sorsogon, who discussed local problems with him.

October 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS stumped the second congressional district of Bulacan, visiting five towns, all' except one confirmed LP strongholds, with LP mayors and officials.

But judging from the reception the President got at all the towns, where welcomers came out in impressive numbers, led by their officials, LP or NP, the Nacionalistas can expect a major showing in the Bulacan polls.

Provincial leaders, notably Gov. Ignacio Santiago, assured the President that Bulacan will go all-out in November to give him and the NP national candidates a resounding majority.

The President was mobbed at every stop, with people including youngsters tagging after him, and tugging at him for a handshake. The towns he visited were San Miguel, San Ildefonso, Angat, San Jose and Meycauayan. All have LP mayors, except San Jose.

The stump which went smoothly, ended in Meycauayan about 5:30 p.m., after which the President proceeded direct to the GSIS Hospital in Quezon City to inaugurate the edifice.

Among those who attended the inaugural rites were Executive Secretary Ernesto Macecla, former Press Secretary Jose D. Aspiras, Justice Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, Presidential Executive Assistant Jacobo C. Clave, Mrs. Carlos P. Garcia, and Quezon City Vice Mayor Ismael Mathay.

He was back in Malacañang about 7 p.m.

Acting on the request of Customs Commissioner Rolando G. Geotina, the President ordered the NBI to enter the investigation of the smuggled firearms intercepted at the MIA.

Geotina said that the NBI's assistance will be needed in making a thorough probe of all aspects of the smuggling attempts, including the identification of all persons involved. He added that it was also necessary to determine whether the aborted smuggling was part of the operations of a gun-running syndicate.

Geotina's preliminary report to the President on the case carried a breakdown of the 112 seized firearms, as follows: Armalite rifle AR-15—91; AK-47—1; Chinese automatic rifle—1; automatic carbine—6; Thompson submachinegun—1; grease gun submachinegun—1; pistols: .45 cal.—2; .38 Cal.—7 and .357 cal.—1; and one Swiss-made rifle.

Pending the termination of the investigation, Geotina said, the confiscated firearms will remain in the Bureau of Customs vault for safekeeping.

October 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS flew off to Oriental Mindoro for a quick campaign swing without necessarily setting aside official chores, which went on as usual, including receiving delegations and individual callers as scheduled, and taking up state papers and problems as they came to his desk.

Up quite early this morning, not at all an unusual thing for him, the President had time to work at his desk before moving out to the airport for the short flight to Calapan, where he and his party landed at about 9:45 a.m.

Two rallies were scheduled for the NP team headed by the President and Vice President Fernando Lopez. The two places were some 68 kilometers apart, but they were central points, and as it turned out both rallies registered crowds which were the largest seen in these parts.

On arrival at Calapan, the mood of the NP rallies was immediately set, with the welcomers, led by Gov. Alfonso Umali, big in numbers and eager in spirit. The President was almost immediately mobbed on setting foot on solid ground, with the friendly welcomers offering handshakes and reaching out to touch him.

The enthusiastic welcome delayed the President from heading direct to the *Te Deum* set for him at the Calapan church.

After the services, the President and the NP team addressed the crowd which had swelled at the public plaza.

On the platform with him were Vice President Lopez, former CNI Commissioner Mamintal Tamano, and Rizal Gov. Isidro Rodriguez, NP national campaign manager, among others.

The rally broke up around 11:30 a.m., because the President had to hop to Pinamalayan for another rally. Despite the inconvenient hour, the crowd that greeted him and the NP team in that town was impressive.

The rally was spirited enough to last till 1:40 p.m., with many in the audience going without lunch for the whole period. The response to the President's presentation of the issues in the elections was more than enthusiastic.

The President flew back to Manila direct from Calapan, and after a brief rest was back at his desk.

Among other callers he received was a delegation from Cagayan, led by Gov. Teresita Dupaya and her husband, Rep. Tito Dupaya, who consulted him on local problems.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: October 10-16, 1969

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

October 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS stumped Negros Oriental, including Siquijor Island, with obvious success, as the people responded not only in large numbers but with parades and fireworks.

Arriving at about 9 a.m. at Dumaguete City after an uneventful flight the President and Vice President Lopez were immediately swamped by well-wishers. On hand to give them welcome were local leaders, including Gov. Mariano Perdices, Rep. Lamberto Macias and Senator Lorenzo Teves.

From the rally in the city, the President moved swiftly to Valencia, Bayawan, where the whole group of campaigners lunched, then on to Santa Catalina, Siaton and Zamboanguita.

Crossing on the *RPS 777* to Siquijor, the President had a breather from the fast pace of the drive, then was once again engulfed by popular clamor for a personal greeting from him, through handshakes or a word or two.

Late in the afternoon and toward early evening, the President rounded out the campaign in the province with rallies at Larena and Lazi. Then he reboarded the *RPS 777* for the overnight trip to Bukidnon.

While working on state papers on board the ship, the President:

1. Directed National Land Reform Council Chairman Conrado F. Estrella to proclaim Jala-Jala, Rizal a land reform area. The President had promised the Jala-Jala farmers when he visited Rizal province recently that he would include the town in the land reform coverage.

The Land Reform Council had earlier announced the proclamation bringing 10 towns in Cavite under land reform. With Jala-Jala added, a total of 134 towns in 13 provinces had thus far been brought under land reform.

Three estates, namely, Hacienda Poblacion, Hacienda Punta, and Hacienda Bagombong, each 1,348 hectares in area, comprise the new farm lands included in the land reform coverage.

2. Ordered a nationwide manhunt for the killers of nine security men in Tarlac, telling the Philippine Constabulary and other law enforcement agencies "not to rest until all the killers are apprehended."

The President issued the directive to Brig. Gen. Vicente Raval, PC chief, specifying that all steps be taken, including harnessing the military and other government police agencies if necessary.

He specified that "no effort be spared in tracking down and apprehending the killers." The government, he said, should "not compromise in enforcing the law."

3. Directed the Department of Foreign Affairs to prepare a request asking the U.S. government for the early renegotiation of the U.S. military bases agreement.

At the same time, the President directed Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs Jose D. Ingles to lodge a strong diplomatic protest on the acquittal of American serviceman Michael Moomey by a courtmartial which heard the charges against the serviceman.

Moomey was accused of the slaying of Filipino national Glicerio Amor inside the Subic Naval base. The serviceman was acquitted on the theory that the slaying was accidental. At the time, Moomey was off-duty.

The President instructed Secretary Ingles to lodge the protest on the basis of “comity,” allowing Philippine courts to try Moomey.

October 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS travelled more than 350 kilometers through the Sayre highway for a day-long stump of Bukidnon where he visited 12 towns in all most of them not on his itinerary.

The President landed in Cagayan de Oro City in the morning after being ferried by a naval vessel from Siquijor Island. The big crowd of welcomers was led by Gov. Carlos Fortich, Cagayan de Oro City Mayor Jesus Serina, Gov. Pedro Roa of Misamis Oriental, and former Rep. Cesar Fortich.

From Cagayan de Oro the President motored to Don Carlos in Bukidnon for the first rally. He then proceeded to Kibawe for the next rally, where he and his party also had lunch. Afterward, the NP team breezed through 10 other towns of the province, on the insistence of people in those localities.

Because of the large turnout of townspeople who met him all along the route the President had to stop and address them. In the afternoon and evening he led the rallies in Valencia and Malaybalay.

Gov. Fortich informed the President that the huge turnout of people affirmed his belief that the Nacionalistas will carry the province as they had in the past.

Gov. Fortich added that his province had always voted Nacionalista, and will surely vote the same way again because of the development projects of the administration which have considerably improved the region.

Because the President had to travel long distances overland, the rallies were held in the afternoon instead of in the morning as originally scheduled. But despite the sudden change in his timetable, people waited patiently for the President and his party to arrive at the rallies.

The President interrupted his campaign schedule to issue directives to ail appropriate agencies of the government to assist those affected by the Kanlaon Volcano eruption in Negros Occidental, alerting them to possible disaster relief operations following receipt of information on the volcano’s eruption.

Initial reports said a pillar of dark, ash-laden cloud was observed early in the morning rising to about 4,000 feet above the summit of the volcano.

The report also stated that the areas immediately affected were Kanlaon City and the suburbs of La Carlota City, and that more than 6,000 persons had been evacuated to La Castellana, Isabela, Murcia and La Carlota City, proper.

October 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS came back from a two-day stump of Visayan and Mindanao provinces confident more than ever that he will be the first reelected President.

“There is no turning back the clock of progress,” the President said, as he explained why he thought he would win in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

“The people have seen what partnership between the people and government can do to achieve positive results. They are not willing to gamble away the gains so painstakingly achieved in the last few years,” the President said, in assessing the two-day stump of Negros Oriental, Bukidnon and Butuan City.

One of the official actions taken by the President upon arrival in Malacañang was to direct the Department of Foreign Affairs to seek immediate discussions with the United States government on the revision of the Philippine-United States military bases agreement of 1947 in order to correct existing inequities and imperfections.

The President told Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs Jose D. Ingles, that it has become necessary for the Philippine government to enjoy the same rights enjoyed by other countries where there are American military bases, such as Japan and Spain.

These governments are known to exercise wider jurisdiction over offenses committed by American servicemen assigned in the American bases in the countries mentioned.

The President also ordered Secretary of Justice Juan Ponce Enrile and Defense Undersecretary Alejandro Melchor to go down to the scene of the Sta. Lucia, Capas, Tarlac killings of October 8 and dig into the bottom of the incident.

The President ordered the presidential special team to spare no one who may have participated in the incident. No effort should be spared to bring the killers to justice, he pointed out.

The President also ordered the team to extend maximum police protection to the families of the victims and three reported survivors of the carnage.

In a speech thanking organized labor for its support for his reelection bid and that of Vice President Lopez, the President outlined the program he will follow for the workingmen should he be reelected to a second term.

The resolution was presented to the President by the Labor Unity Convention meeting at the Manila Hotel.

President Marcos' proposed program includes:

1. Setting up of a Worker's Bank.
2. Establishment of an unemployment insurance system which shall cover all members of the GSIS and the SSS.
3. Low-cost housing program on easy installment for the low-wage earners.
4. Full development of the present medicare program to assure free medical care to every Filipino, particularly the indigent.
5. To carry on the present manpower training program on a more massive scale to equip job applicants with useful skills.
6. Continued encouragement of the growth of trade unionism, labor unification and the development of industry-wide collective bargaining.
7. Enforcement of labor laws, especially for the protection of the sacadas, household help and other underprivileged and unorganized workers.

The President called on the gathered representatives of more than one million organized workers to work with him and the Vice President in the meeting of these objectives.

October 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS flew north early in the morning for a day-long drive in La Union, and to promote an equally important concern of his, which is to rally the people to an orderly and peaceful elections.

Compelled by prior events of overzealous partisan rivalry, in some places exploding into violence, the President underscored in his speeches that it is not enough that the NPs will win overwhelmingly in these elections; it is imperative that the administration should gain victory in a free, honest and orderly polls.

Before taking off for San Fernando, the capital town, the President issued directives from Malacañang, including:

1. To the public works director, in connection with the allocation of 13 units of prefab schools to Pinamalayan, Mindoro Oriental, saying that this should be programmed new but released after the elections;
2. To RCA Chairman Alfredo Montelibano, also the rice agency's general manager, asking him to inquire into reports that the RCA is not buying palay directly from local farmers;
3. To Secretary of Labor Blas Ople, instructing him to probe reports that alien loggers in Agusan are exploiting workers, particularly by delaying payrolls and underpaying workers.
4. To officials of the National Irrigation Administration and the Irrigation Service Unit, asking them to study the possibility of constructing an irrigation system in Santa Catalina, Negros Oriental, and possibly to give it priority; and
5. To the Land Authority governor, asking him to look into the problems of settlers on the Don Caspar estate in Negros Oriental.

The NP team covered eight big towns in the first and second congressional districts of La Union, and made brief stops at several other towns in-between when big crowds virtually blocked the path of the presidential party in order to get the President to speak.

During the swing through this province, the President also formally proclaimed the candidacies under the NP banner of Joaquin Ortega in the first district, and of Jose D. Aspiras in the second district.

After arrival at the airport in San Fernando, the President drove direct to Bangar for the first rally, then doubled back to stump Balaoan, Bacnotan, and this town.

He had lunch at the Poro Point naval base, after which he was back on the road to speak at Aringay, Bauang, Naguilian and Rosario. His whole schedule, however, was thrown off by the whistle-stop speeches in the towns in-between, setting back the timetable by as much as two hours.

Accompanying the President throughout the tour, aside from the NP team, were local officials led by Gov. Juvenal Guerrero.

Later in the evening, the President issued a proclamation declaring Wednesday, October 29, as ILO Day, and created a Philippine committee to take charge of activities insuring its proper observance.

In issuing the proclamation, the President stated that the Philippines recognizes its solemn obligation to the ILO to help promote universal lasting peace based on social justice.

He also issued an administrative order creating a technical committee to study the establishment of free ports in the country.

The President said that a free port or ports in the Philippines will enhance possibilities for increasing foreign trade and will also stimulate activity in other Philippine ports and domestic shipping, as well as develop the processing industries.

October 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS pressed the NP drive to solidify North Luzon votes, as he went on the third day of a campaign swing in the region, with a sortie to Nueva Ecija, touching some eight towns.

He flew from Baguio City in the morning to Laur, lump-off point of the drive. Before leaving Baguio, he conferred with provincial and city officials there, notably Baguio City Mayor Luis Lardizabal, Benguet Gov. Ben Palispis, Rep. Andres Cosalan, and former Gov. Bado Dangwa. Also present at the meeting were Executive Secretary Ernesto Maceda, Press Secretary Francisco S. Tatad, and Presidential Executive Assistant Jacobo C. Clave.

Arriving at Laur 9:30 a.m., the President pushed off shortly after for the rallies at the towns of Bongabong and Rizal, which took him and the NP team straight through to high noon. The presidential party had a late lunch in Rizal.

After a brief rest, the President once again led the Nacionalista Party performance team in the public rallies at the towns of Lupao, Cuyapo, Guimba, Cabiao, and San Isidro, each of which bloomed with colorful and vast crowds which exhibited robust enthusiasm for the President and other NP candidates.

The NP stumpers had dinner at San Isidro, before proceeding to Gapan to cap the day's successful sorties with a mammoth rally.

October 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS held a series of meetings on various national problems the whole day.

Early in the day, he had brief consultations with Secretary of Justice Juan Ponce Enrile, Secretary of Finance Eduardo Romualdez, and Secretary of Social Welfare Gregorio Feliciano on state matters affecting their departments.

Shortly before 10 a.m., he motored to Pasig, Rizal where he had two more conferences.

The first was with the representatives of the Inter-Island Deep-Sea Fishing Association, who presented the problems of the fishing industry. The President, recognizing the reasonableness of the requests and urgency of the problems, acted on-the-spot to meet the needs of the industry, by giving specific orders to the government officials concerned.

Among other directives, the President ordered:

1. Customs Commissioner Rolando Geotina to set aside Pier 14 for the use of deep-sea fishermen, and that improvements and repairs needed by the pier be immediately attended to; including better lighting facilities and an efficient water system.
2. Fisheries Commissioner Andres Mane to study the feasibility of returning to the Fisheries Commission the supervision of fishing vessels. The Philippine Coast Guard was recently authorized to exercise this function.
3. The Fisheries Market Administration to recognize the joint chairmanship of Mayor Felipe del Rosario of Navotas and the Fisheries Commissioner.
4. Secretary of National Defense Ernesto Mata to conduct an investigation of reported negligence in the maintenance and operation of the lighthouse on Apo Reef, located at a point between Mindoro Occidental and Buswanga in Palawan.

According to fishermen the lighthouse is often out of commission causing hazards to fishermen who must sail without the navigational aid provided by the installation.

5. Director Deleña of Public Works to assign immediately a crew to dredge the Navotas River in Malabon.

The second conference was with provincial, municipal and barrio officials of Rizal's first district. The President threshed out with these officials their most pressing problems. The group also pledged full support for the President's bid for a second term.

The President's conferences in Pasig lasted until about 12:30 p.m. He then returned to Malacañang, proceeding straight to the *Pangarap* guesthouse, where another series of conferences awaited him. This time congressmen, provincial governors, and several congressional candidates composed the conferees.

Among those present were Governors Samuel Reyes of Isabela, Vicente Cerilles of Zamboanga del Sur, Moises Espinosa of Masbate, Anacleto Alcala of Quezon, Jose Evangelista of Ilocos Norte, Tito Primicias of Pangasinan, Sergio Morales of South Cotabato;

Former Gov. Eduardo Cojuangco of Tarlac, Vice Gov. Guardson Lood of Misamis Occidental, Datu and Mrs. Blah Sinsuat of Cotabato, Mr. and Mrs. Rafael Aquino of Sorsogon, Mayor Jose Escribano of Tacurong, Cotabato;

Mayor Elias Lopez of Davao City, Reps. Floro Crisologo of Ilocos Sur, Constantino Navarro of Surigao del Norte, Ali Dimaporo of Lanao del Norte, Ramon Durano of Cebu, Leopoldo Diaz and Angel Concepcion of Nueva Ecija, and Teodulo Natividad of Bulacan.

The President later met with former Gov. Rene Espina, former Press Secretary Jose D. Aspiras, and Commissioner Jack Arroyo of the Social Security System.

Executive Secretary Ernesto Maceda and Presidential Executive Assistant Jacobo C. Clave were present at all the President's meetings, as his immediate aides;

Late in the afternoon, the President was interviewed for radio and television jointly by Nick Joaquin of the *Philippines Free Press*, Edward Tipton of *DZHP*, and Ronnie Nathanielz of *Channel 13*.

In-between desk work, the President continued to receive visitors at his Malacañang study till late in the evening.

In a speech read for him by Board of Investments Chairman Cesar Virata, at the opening of the first national convention of the League of Administration Executives, held at the GSIS social hall, the President appealed to government executives to realize the "urgency of raising" efficiency and competence in government, thus making government services "more responsive to the needs of the people."

The President stressed, "we must, above all, attend with dispatch to the problems of the poor." He said this is imperative because it is the poor who are "in most need of assistance from the government."

October 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS put in a full day's work at Malacañang with the only political rally he attended held right in Manila, in the heart of the city's second district.

For the rest, the President attended to his homework and presided at a round of conferences with local and national officials, covering a wide spectrum of subjects.

So many provincial groups representing political and governmental concerns flowed through the President's office, Malacañang aides had a hard time keeping track of them.

Early in the day, the President received the credentials of Ambassador Haji bin Mohamed, the first Singapore envoy to be accredited to the Philippines as a resident diplomat.

At the usual ceremony, the President responded to the high hopes of the diplomat for an energized regional grouping by affirming his faith in the eventual growth and effectiveness of ASEAN. Both expressed the wish that closer relations between Singapore and the Philippines will grow with the establishment of Singapore's diplomatic mission here.

Up to the time he left Malacañang for the rally in Manila's second district, the President worked on papers in his study, in-between receiving visitors and official groups from all over who came to consult him on various matters.

Among other actions, the President issued two proclamations: one declaring the third week of October of every year as Credit Union Week, the other proclaiming the last week of November of every year as Philatelic Week.

In issuing the proclamations, the President pointed out that credit unions help enhance the dignity of man and strengthen his spirit of self-reliance, while philately fosters international understanding and friendship and promotes patriotism, interest in the arts, culture and science.

The President was in fine form at the San Nicolas rally, with the crowd which filled the rally site and nearby streets highly responsive to the NP explication of issues.

The President told the second district electorate that Manila in this election will break the oppositionist mold of the past and vote the incumbent administration back to office, in appreciation of its achievements in development and in the revitalization of the government.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: October 17-23, 1969

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

October 17—

CAVITE CITY turned out for the Nacionalista rally and for President Marcos, who campaigned with Vice President Lopez and the NP senatorial bets in Cavite beginning early in the afternoon.

The President in the morning followed his usual schedule at Malacañang, rising early and working before breakfast. Then he buckled down to his desk work before receiving callers.

Among others, the President received Sen. Alejandro Almendras and Rep. Constantino Navarro of Surigao del Norte. Most of his callers were public officials whom he summoned for consultations, or officials with urgent problems to take up with the President.

Just before the President left for the Cavite campaign, he sat down with Maximo Soliven of the *Manila Times* for an interview.

The President's first target in the Cavite sortie was Indang, where a warm welcome awaited him from residents and local NP leaders headed by former Undersecretary of Commerce Fernando Campos, who is running for congressman under the NP banner.

Accompanying the President were Executive Secretary Ernesto Maceda, Presidential Executive Assistant Jacobo C. Clave and Assistant Press Secretary Lorenzo J. Cruz, among others.

The President had lunch in Indang and a brief conference with leaders in the locality, then led the NP rally at the public plaza. The enthusiasm of the crowd signalled the unexpectedly responsive audiences in other towns on the NP team's itinerary.

From Indang, the President and NP candidates rallied the electorate in Dasmarinas, Bacoor, and other Cavite towns not on the schedule. The President emphasized the historic role of the province in the struggle for independence, stating that the same heroic spirit is needed to advance national development and make a strong and creative nation.

In behalf of this goal, the President told the Caviteños, his administration will continue to provide ample assistance to all towns-and provinces seeking to enlarge their development, regardless of partisan affiliations. The rally in Cavite City which started in the early evening lasted longer than scheduled because of the enthusiasm of the people.

From Cavite on his return trip, the President attended rallies set in Las Piñas and Parañaque (Rizal), which kept the NP team up till midnight.

October 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS arrived in Santa Cruz late in the afternoon, after a successful stump of several municipalities of Laguna, at which he scored with the large crowds attending the NP rallies.

His first stop was at Siniloan, where he arrived at 10:15 a.m. Mayor Arcadio Releñas headed a lively crowd which gave the President a warm welcome.

Afterward, with the town officials as guide, the President toured the place, with a special eye for the 4-km, concrete road recently finished for which he had given the town the funds needed.

After viewing other completed projects, the President addressed the big crowd that had gathered at the town plaza for the rally.

Mayor Releñas pledged the full support of the town for the President and other NP candidates, saying that with their concern and assistance the town made unprecedented progress.

From Siniloan, the President and the NP team hopped to Famy, then to Paete, making whistle stops at Pangil and Pakil. The outsize crowd at Paete was again led by the town mayor, Severino, Villarin, an LP. Informed of the damaged water system of the town, the President ordered the release of ₱50,000 for its repair.

From Paete, the President and his party proceeded to Santa Maria and Pagsanjan; at the latter the President received waves of ovation as he outlined the development of the town as a center of tourism. He had lunch at the residence of Minister Cesar Lanuza.

In the afternoon, the President and the NP team breezed through Luisiana, Majayjay, Nagcarlan, ending up at the Capital town of Sta. Cruz. The President then proceeded to Los Baños and Santa Rosa for scheduled rallies late in the evening.

At the program celebrating the 13th anniversary of the Self-Help Mutual Aid Association, held at the Camp Aguinaldo Officers Club in Quezon City, the President, in a speech read for him by Mrs. Josefa Edralin Marcos, his mother, declared that his administration is committed to “intensify the support that the government is giving to rural communities in terms of initial capitalization, credit facilities and technical assistance.”

He recalled that since 1965, his administration has given emphasis to the program of community development, which, he pointed out, is basically a program of self-help.”

The administration subscribes to the “idea that the government in community development will provide the initial capital, say ₱2,000 for a rural community, to enable the citizens themselves to finish a community project such as an artesian well, an irrigation project, a cottage industry, a community center,” the President said.

October 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS followed a hectic schedule addressing the Federation of Free Farmers in the morning, and flying to the Visayas towards noon.

The President was guest of honor at the 16th national convention of the FFF, held at the San Beda College gymnasium, where he revealed that vested political groups tried but failed to pressure him into foregoing the implementation of land reform.

Leaving the FFF convention about 10:30 a.m., the President motored straight to the airport and enplaned for Sta. Cruz, Marinduque, where he officiated at the inauguration of the \$40 million Marcopper Mining plant there.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremonies, the President said the new mining plant was a testament to “the wisdom of a nationalist-oriented economic policy as it applies to foreign investments.”

“We have shown here,” said the President, “that we welcome capital, that we even invite it, so long as it respects our desires and it respects our rights.”

The President emphasized that the presence of foreign investments should provide true cooperation and partnership to the recipient of such investments, and not merely exploit for the gain of foreign investors.

The President was in Marinduque from 11:50 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. when he left for Iloilo City. The President's party arrived in Iloilo at about 3:30 p.m., and proceeded to the site of the Calinog-Lambunao Sugar Central, arriving there an hour later, to inaugurate the new sugar mill.

The President also officiated at the cornerstone laying of the Passi Sugar Central in Passi town, before proceeding to the other towns of Dingle and Janiuay, where he led the Nacionalista performance team in addressing popular public rallies.

The President boarded the *RPS 777* for Leyte.

October 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS was at Red Beach in Palo, Leyte to lead the nation in the observance of the 25th anniversary of the historic landing of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's liberation forces.

The President used the occasion to make a solemn appeal to his countrymen to reexamine "old ties and old assumptions," at the same time, reaffirming friendship with the United States based not on "reminiscences and sentimentality," but on "mutual respect and mutual achievement."

The President was introduced by General Carlos P. Romulo, secretary of foreign

In his brief remarks, Romulo, declared that "liberation is freedom, and freedom is meaningless without sovereignty."

U.S. Ambassador Henry Byroade represented his government at the gathering.

The President landed in Tacloban City shortly before noon accompanied -by Vice President Lopez. They arrived from Iloilo City where they stumped with several NP senatorial candidates.

October 21—

LEYTEÑOS continued to give President Marcos an exuberant demonstration of support and appreciation as he and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, traversed the western region of Leyte to solidify the NP position in the area and to return the people's obvious preference for the administration candidates.

Shoving off for the day's rallies from Ulot, a barrio of Tolosa, and the homeplace of the First Lady, the President first touched down at Naval town, where a big crowd gave him a royal welcome.

Then, proceeding on a well-planned schedule, the President and the NP team, including former Gov. Rene Espina of Cebu, and a reinforced platoon of local officials and political leaders, notably House Majority Floorleader Marcelino Veloso, sparked up the rallies in Calubian, San Isidro, Villaba, Palompon, Gigantangan, and Ormoc City, where a mammoth gathering gave the NP team a heartwarming reception.

Leyte proved its affection for the President and the First Lady by turning the rallies into fiestas, with bells heralding the arrival of the couple, and fireworks lighting up the skies, even as brass bands signaled instant parades of townspeople.

Though the western coastal towns are populated mostly by Cebuano-speaking people, the President's visit proved that he is the man who will take precedence in Leyte in the November polls. Rep. Veloso categorically stated that not one of the 17 towns in the 4th district will give the opposition enough votes to make a dent in the region.

From Ormoc, the President proceeded to Baybay, where he boarded the *RPS 777* for Agusan.

In a letter to Vice Mayor Felicisimo Cabigao, who presides over the board, the President took the initiative in resolving the impasse among city officials in regard to the early implementation of the pay increases and benefits authorized by law for Manila public schoolteachers, by urging the municipal board to pass the ordinances or resolution needed to generate the total outlay for meeting the problem.

The President also indicated to the municipal board that the national government will assist in meeting any difficulties the city may experience by applying the authority given by R. A. 6053. This will be in the form of extending ₱4 million from the special education fund.

October 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS returned from a three-day trip to the South, and immediately buckled down to his office work.

Concerned about a report that a PANAMIN medical camp was under siege by a band of goons in Kamato, Surallah, South Cotabato, he ordered rescue teams to the site.

In another order, issued through Assistant Executive Secretary Ponciano Mathay, the President set aside 100 hectares of the Tala reservation in Caloocan City as permanent site of the Central Luzon Sanitarium.

By this order, the President revoked an earlier directive, issued in September, 1968, to transfer the Tala Sanitarium to another site, so that the reservation could be transformed by the National Housing Corporation into a housing project.

The President returned to Malacañang 2 p.m. today from a campaign trip to the provinces of Iloilo, Leyte and Agusan.

In a speech at the inauguration of the Cantilan River Irrigation Project in Surigao del Sur, read by Infrastructure Chairman Antonio D. Raquiza, the President stated that it is often his thought that “our salvation from the tragic waste of our colonial years, from the decades of dependence on others, lies in the ethic of self-help,” asserting that “the citizen who relies on self-help is an involved citizen” in the “very act of creating a nation.”

Stating that the new irrigation system is “not just a technological breakthrough” but touches both the past and the future of the country, he explained that the new irrigation system will increase crop and thus benefit more people.

“In other words,” the President said, “this single project will energize commerce, quicken agricultural progress, and contribute to Surigao del Sur’s prosperity.”

October 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS concentrated on his desk work, among others filling up vacant posts, acting on urgent state papers, and as usual holding consultations with aides and officials, while also coping with his schedule of visitors.

At least a couple of delegations called on the President, both in behalf of the present election race, one composed of a group representing a former third party; the other NP diehards from Caloocan City.

The President also received the new Filipino boxing champion, Bernabe Villacampo, who wrested the WBA flyweight crown recently from the Japanese, titlist.

Appointed by the President were:

1. Victor D. Pagayuna, as member of the provincial board of Palawan, to fill the third slot in the provincial body, which was created following the reclassification of Palawan from 4th to 2nd class province.

The Department of Finance issued Department Order No. 23 last Sept. 23 reclassifying Palawan province.

Pagayuna garnered the 3rd highest number of votes in the last elections for board members in that province.

2. Urbano Caldoza as member of the Board of Liquidators, to fill the post vacated by Lumen Policarpio who resigned to run for Congress representing Sorsogon.

Among the President's callers were:

1. A delegation of some 50 national, regional, and provincial coordinators of the Progressive Party of the Philippines (PPP) led by Nick Santos Estrella, who pledged the full support of the party members for the Marcos-Lopez team and the entire NP senatorial ticket.

2. A delegation from Caloocan City composed of local NP leaders and coordinators.

3. Bernabe Villacampo who paid his respects after returning from Osaka, Japan where he won the world flyweight boxing title from the Japanese title-holder.

The President continued to work at his desk through the evening.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Official Week in Review: October 24 – October 30, 1969

October 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had quite a busy day with a long list of callers to cope with, beginning in the morning straight through to about 2 p.m., and with three speaking engagements at as many major Manila universities.

The President's first caller was Ambassador Heinrich Roehreke of West Germany, who paid a farewell call. The German envoy has completed his tour of duty here, and has been reassigned to Tokyo.

A big delegation called on the President consisting of aged retirees from government service.

The President informed the group that he had already approved House Bill No. 17084 which extends additional benefits to government retirees, who left the service on or before June 16, 1951.

In a brief meeting with Secretary of Labor Blas F. Ople, the President discussed the plans for the establishment of a National Manpower Development Center. The site of the Center was pinpointed during the meeting.

Among the President's other callers were Rep. Jose Fornier, Gov. Julian Pacificador, and Mrs. Lolita Cadio of Antique; Gov. Virginio Lacaya and Vice Gov. Guardson Lood of Zamboanga del Norte; Gov. Ignacio Santiago of Bulacan and RCA Chairman-General Manager Alfredo Montelibano.

At 4 p.m., the President motored to the University of the East, his first appointment with students, who had him as guest of honor at a popular campus rally.

From the U.E., the President moved on to the University of Manila, then to the Far Eastern University. In both schools, the President was also guest of honor at student convocations.

In an unprecedented series of addresses at these universities, the President sharply etched the administration's efforts to deepen the sense of nationalism of the people and to give it meaning by making it part of government policy—in economic development, foreign affairs, and in education.

"Nationalism is the vital issue of our times," the President said, stressing that it "gives dimension to all our acts and it will shape the future of this country."

"Our foreign policy now is dictated solely by our national interest," he said, adding that it is shaped by "our own ends and for our own purposes."

The President also informed the students that he had directed the Social Security Commission (SSC) to work out a system of loans to enable deserving but needy students to pursue college studies on funds borrowed from the Social Security System.

As conceived, the President said, the student loan shall be "payable on a long-term basis subject to the most liberal and practical terms and conditions."

In the allocation of SSS funds, the President directed the SSC that it is "necessary to give top priority to the Student Assistance Fund of the System in order to effect this scheme of student assistance immediately."

The President also directed the SSS commissioners "to adopt such other measures and steps within the bounds of the charter of the Commission as may contribute to the furtherance of the welfare of our studentry."

October 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS set out for a two-day high intensity drive through Pangasinan by flying to the capital town of Lingayen, where he jumped off for the countryside.

But first he presided at the inauguration of the ₱5-million Ambayaoan irrigation dam in San Nicolas as guest of honor. After the rites, he buckled down to the campaign trail in earnest.

San Nicolas, the first rally site of the day, proved a fine choice. The townspeople, reinforced by crowds from nearby barrios and towns, turned out for the President, Vice President Lopez, and a batch of NP senate bets.

Then the President deflected his course to be guest of honor once more at the inauguration of the ₱1.5 million De Palo irrigation system in San Quintin.

The Ambayaoan and De Palo irrigation projects will service a total of some 15,000 hectares in the municipalities of San Nicolas, Natividad, Tayug, Sta. Maria and San Quintin. They are expected to boost rice yield in the area by at least 500,000 cavanese.

From the inaugural, the President joined the NP team at Tayug, thence to Asingan, where both rallies teemed with what looked like entire populations rooting for the NP.

After these rallies, the President took a breather; when the NP cavalcade moved again, it was to virtually race through Calasiao, Malasiqui. San Carlos City and Binmaley, because of the disrupted timetable, caused by insistent crowds along the way, between rallies, who clamored for a presidential handshake of a few words of greeting.

The rallies at all the stops were persuasive signs of a Pangasinan mandate for the President and his running mate. Also great crowd pleasers were NP senatorial candidates Ambrosio Padilla, a native son; Arturo Tolentino, Rene Espina, Mamintal Tamano and Rafael Palmares.

The day's exhilarating work ended up in Lingayen, where the biggest gathering yet seen gave the rally an awesome dimension.

In another front, the President, in a speech read for him by Executive Secretary Ernesto Maceda, at the closing ceremonies and presentation of awards of the First Constitutional Youth Convention of the Philippines, held at the Lyceum of the Philippines in the evening, pointed out that nationalism, an issue which is central to this year's elections, will be the most important issue in the constitutional convention in 1971.

"The decision on whether we mean to be self-reliant, as demanded by nationalists, or to be dependent for all time on other countries, as proposed by the colonialists, will be decisive for our future," the President said.

Stating that the true character of any administration is defined by its policies, the President said that with the consent of the people, he has pursued policies which are essentially nationalistic.

He averred that it has been his concern to protect the Filipino investor and to encourage his larger participation in the economic development of the country without however slamming the door against foreign investors in areas where Filipinos can not compete.

"I invite them on terms which do not prejudice Filipino interests," he added.

In the crucial matter of foreign policy, the President said, "I have sought to re-establish our dignity as a sovereign people, to abolish the "special relations" which in the past had characterized our relations with the United States, and to open our eyes to the possibilities of commercial intercourse with countries of different ideological persuasion, if by this the national interest will be served."

PRESIDENT MARCOS returned to Manila about 3 p.m. from a hectic two-day barnstorming tour of Pangasinan towns in time to address members of the Manila Overseas Press Club.

After spending the night at the Urduja Mansion in Lingayen, following a whole-day stump of 10 major towns the day before, the President early in the morning heard Mass at the famous pilgrimage town of Manaoag.

Then, accompanied by Vice President Lopez, his reelectionist running-mate, the President stumped in several towns, including Pozorrubio, Mangaldan and Bugallon.

In Bugallon, the President noticed that the municipal building used to be the headquarters of the 21st Infantry Division under then Col. Mateo Capinpin. The President served in that outfit as second lieutenant in 1941.

“This is where I learned soldiering,” the President recalled.

The President promised to renovate the dilapidated building after his reelection.

Also with the presidential party were NP senatorial candidates former Gov. Rene Espina of Cebu, former Gov. Rafael Palmares of Iloilo and former CNI Commissioner Mamintal Tamano.

In the evening, the President, in a major policy speech, offered the electorate clear choices in the November elections. “My antagonist offers the bondage of the past,” he said, “I offer the liberation of the future.”

The President spoke at a dinner hosted by the Manila Overseas Press Club of the Philippines.

President Marcos presented the nation with alternatives on domestic and foreign policies, social reform and political levels.

“To begin with,” the President said, “where the Nacionalista is the party of independence, the Liberal Party is the party of colonial dependence.” The President noted that it was the Nacionalista Party which had opposed the parity amendment to the Philippine Constitution, while it was the Liberal Party which upheld it. (*See pp. 11992 to 12002 for full text of the President’s speech.*)

October 27—

IT WAS A DAY of speeches for President Marcos, as he moved from one occasion to another, mostly as guest of honor.

The first speech he made was at the turnover of command of the ROTC, held at the Philamlife auditorium, where he emphasized the role of the corps in making soldiers out of youths.

Then returning to Malacañang after fulfilling another appointment outside, he made brief remarks at the awards ceremony, after conferring decorations on the outgoing German envoy to the Philippines, Ambassador Heinrich Roehreke; and on World War II hero, Col. Jesus Villamor, who led Filipino pilots against Japanese warplanes despite being outnumbered and outgunned.

Ambassador Roehreke, who is leaving Manila after completing his tour of duty here, was awarded the Order of Sikatuna, rank of *Lakan*, “for outstanding services in the field of international relations.”

The German envoy has represented his country in the Philippines since November 17, 1967.

Col. Villamor was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Star (with bronze anahaw leaf) and the Distinguished Aviation Cross for his daring exploits during the defense of the Philippines against the Japanese invaders.

Back at his study near noon, the President began receiving callers, including local officials, and private individuals. After lunch, he rested briefly then worked on state papers till mid-afternoon.

Then, at 4 p.m., he was off again to attend as guest of honor the cornerstone-laying rites at the Fort Bonifacio site of the Greater Manila Terminal Food Market.

The President, enroute to the GMTFM, passed by Hulo, in Mandaluyong, Rizal, where he witnessed the formal signing of the contract selling some property of the Philippine National Railway to the provincial government of Rizal.

The property consists of 16 hectares mortgaged to the PNB. The provincial government which had requested the sale of the property, will use the land to provide a low-cost housing project for the public.

From Hulo, the President proceeded to Fort Bonifacio. In his remarks, the President said that the GMTFM fulfills his desire to thresh out the conflicting interests of diverse groups engaged in food production and merchandising, such that more people will be benefited.

“The stepped-up food production campaign and the promotion of export crops, for example, will be self-defeating unless we provide a marketing system that will allow the proper and economical handling, packing, transport collection, storage and distribution of perishable food products,” the President explained.

The disappointing results of past efforts to increase food production, he said, were due to limited marketing and storage facilities. The GMTFM is the answer to this problem, he continued, for it will minimize loss and wastage, while its various other projects and operations will reduce distribution costs and thus narrow the gap between farm and consumer prices.

On one hand, he pointed out, farm producers will have a greater share of the price and on the other, consumers will pay less for fresh foodstuff.

More than just a trading place, he said, the GMTFM will also go into “the root of the problem of sharp imbalances between food supply and demand in our country.”

After the GMTFM rites, the President went on to the Philippine Air Lines compound where he officiated at the formal induction of the new officers of the PAL Employees Association (PALEA).

On his return to Malacañang, he resumed his desk work, punctuated by conferences with aides and officials.

October 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS arrived in Bacolod City at about 2 p.m., via Lipa City where he headlined the NP rally, which was attended not only by an outsize crowd of residents but also by delegations from nearby towns.

Arriving in the city early in the afternoon, the President had a round of talks with local leaders, then an hour later showed up at Kabankalan, where he inaugurated the new sugar mill of the Southern Negros Development Corporation.

In his speech, the President noted the need for improving the lot of the common workers, and asked sugar industry leaders to lead the way in bringing social justice to workers.

In the evening, the President once again led the NP candidates in a grand rally in Bacolod City. As before, the city turned out for the President in impressive numbers.

Besides the President, other NP stalwarts including Vice President Fernando Lopez, sparked the rally.

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Another heartwarming sight for the President was that of the proliferation of NP and Marcos-Lopez posters and stickers, as well as billboards, along the way. Most of the houses displayed NP campaign posters on their walls.

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This sharing, he said, is “at the very heart of social justice.”

“We in the Philippines feel a vacarious sense of triumph” he said, “for we have always closely supported the varied ILO programs for the common man.”

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He added that the ILO ideal of peace based on social justice “encapsulates the whole purpose and spirit of the United Nations itself.”

In the spirit of the national ideology of liberty and social justice, and of the ILO’s guiding principles the President said, “we are carrying out far-reaching reforms in our society, designed to liberate the energies and talents of our people.” (*See pp. 12003 to 12006 for full text of the President’s speech.*)

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He joined at Camp Capinpin, site of the village, in Barrio Sampaloc, Tanay, the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, who had arrived earlier.

The President formally received from the First Lady, the 18-hectare Vicente Madrigal Training School for Boys, the fifth project completed under Mrs. Marcos’ integrated social welfare program aimed at assisting the administration’s youth and manpower development program.

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He congratulated the men responsible for the transformation of the AFP into “a large creative force for our social and economic development.” He said that the military has been “a strong catalyst in our drive to build and change our society.”

Earlier in the day, the President issued a proclamation declaring Nov. 1, a special public holiday to give the people ample opportunity to mark the day (All Saints Day) properly, particularly in remembering with prayers departed loved ones.

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Office of the President of the Philippines. (1969). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 65(44), dclxxi-dclxxvii.

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

October 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had quite a busy day with a long list of callers to cope with, beginning in the morning straight through to about 2 p.m., and with three speaking engagements at as many major Manila universities.

The President's first caller was Ambassador Heinrich Roehreke of West Germany, who paid a farewell call. The German envoy has completed his tour of duty here, and has been reassigned to Tokyo.

A big delegation called on the President consisting of aged retirees from government service.

The President informed the group that he had already approved House Bill No. 17084 which extends additional benefits to government retirees, who left the service on or before June 16, 1951.

In a brief meeting with Secretary of Labor Blas F. Ople, the President discussed the plans for the establishment of a National Manpower Development Center. The site of the Center was pinpointed during the meeting.

Among the President's other callers were Rep. Jose Fornier, Gov. Julian Pacificador, and Mrs. Lolita Cadio of Antique; Gov. Virginio Lacaya and Vice Gov. Guardson Lood of Zamboanga del Norte; Gov. Ignacio Santiago of Bulacan and RCA Chairman-General Manager Alfredo Montelibano.

At 4 p.m., the President motored to the University of the East, his first appointment with students, who had him as guest of honor at a popular campus rally.

From the U.E., the President moved on to the University of Manila, then to the Far Eastern University. In both schools, the President was also guest of honor at student convocations.

In an unprecedented series of addresses at these universities, the President sharply etched the administration's efforts to deepen the sense of nationalism of the people and to give it meaning by making it part of government policy—in economic development, foreign affairs, and in education.

"Nationalism is the vital issue of our times," the President said, stressing that it "gives dimension to all our acts and it will shape the future of this country."

"Our foreign policy now is dictated solely by our national interest," he said, adding that it is shaped by "our own ends and for our own purposes."

The President also informed the students that he had directed the Social Security Commission (SSC) to work out a system of loans to enable deserving but needy students to pursue college studies on funds borrowed from the Social Security System.

As conceived, the President said, the student loan shall be "payable on a long-term basis subject to the most liberal and practical terms and conditions."

In the allocation of SSS funds, the President directed the SSC that it is "necessary to give top priority to the Student Assistance Fund of the System in order to effect this scheme of student assistance immediately."

The President also directed the SSS commissioners "to adopt such other measures and steps within the bounds of the charter of the Commission as may contribute to the furtherance of the welfare of our studentry."

October 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS set out for a two-day high intensity drive through Pangasinan by flying to the capital town of Lingayen, where he jumped off for the countryside.

But first he presided at the inauguration of the ₱5-million Ambayaoan irrigation dam in San Nicolas as guest of honor. After the rites, he buckled down to the campaign trail in earnest.

San Nicolas, the first rally site of the day, proved a fine choice. The townspeople, reinforced by crowds from nearby barrios and towns, turned out for the President, Vice President Lopez, and a batch of NP senate bets.

Then the President deflected his course to be guest of honor once more at the inauguration of the ₱1.5 million De Palo irrigation system in San Quintin.

The Ambayaoan and De Palo irrigation projects will service a total of some 15,000 hectares in the municipalities of San Nicolas, Natividad, Tayug, Sta. Maria and San Quintin. They are expected to boost rice yield in the area by at least 500,000 cavanese.

From the inaugural, the President joined the NP team at Tayug, thence to Asingan, where both rallies teemed with what looked like entire populations rooting for the NP.

After these rallies, the President took a breather; when the NP cavalcade moved again, it was to virtually race through Calasiao, Malasiqui. San Carlos City and Binmaley, because of the disrupted timetable, caused by insistent crowds along the way, between rallies, who clamored for a presidential handshake of a few words of greeting.

The rallies at all the stops were persuasive signs of a Pangasinan mandate for the President and his running mate. Also great crowd pleasers were NP senatorial candidates Ambrosio Padilla, a native son; Arturo Tolentino, Rene Espina, Mamintal Tamano and Rafael Palmares.

The day's exhilarating work ended up in Lingayen, where the biggest gathering yet seen gave the rally an awesome dimension.

In another front, the President, in a speech read for him by Executive Secretary Ernesto Maceda, at the closing ceremonies and presentation of awards of the First Constitutional Youth Convention of the Philippines, held at the Lyceum of the Philippines in the evening, pointed out that nationalism, an issue which is central to this year's elections, will be the most important issue in the constitutional convention in 1971.

"The decision on whether we mean to be self-reliant, as demanded by nationalists, or to be dependent for all time on other countries, as proposed by the colonialists, will be decisive for our future," the President said.

Stating that the true character of any administration is defined by its policies, the President said that with the consent of the people, he has pursued policies which are essentially nationalistic.

He averred that it has been his concern to protect the Filipino investor and to encourage his larger participation in the economic development of the country without however slamming the door against foreign investors in areas where Filipinos can not compete.

"I invite them on terms which do not prejudice Filipino interests," he added.

In the crucial matter of foreign policy, the President said, "I have sought to re-establish our dignity as a sovereign people, to abolish the "special relations" which in the past had characterized our relations with the United States, and to open our eyes to the possibilities of commercial intercourse with countries of different ideological persuasion, if by this the national interest will be served."

PRESIDENT MARCOS returned to Manila about 3 p.m. from a hectic two-day barnstorming tour of Pangasinan towns in time to address members of the Manila Overseas Press Club.

After spending the night at the Urduja Mansion in Lingayen, following a whole-day stump of 10 major towns the day before, the President early in the morning heard Mass at the famous pilgrimage town of Manaoag.

Then, accompanied by Vice President Lopez, his reelectionist running-mate, the President stumped in several towns, including Pozorrubio, Mangaldan and Bugallon.

In Bugallon, the President noticed that the municipal building used to be the headquarters of the 21st Infantry Division under then Col. Mateo Capinpin. The President served in that outfit as second lieutenant in 1941.

“This is where I learned soldiering,” the President recalled.

The President promised to renovate the dilapidated building after his reelection.

Also with the presidential party were NP senatorial candidates former Gov. Rene Espina of Cebu, former Gov. Rafael Palmares of Iloilo and former CNI Commissioner Mamintal Tamano.

In the evening, the President, in a major policy speech, offered the electorate clear choices in the November elections. “My antagonist offers the bondage of the past,” he said, “I offer the liberation of the future.”

The President spoke at a dinner hosted by the Manila Overseas Press Club of the Philippines.

President Marcos presented the nation with alternatives on domestic and foreign policies, social reform and political levels.

“To begin with,” the President said, “where the Nacionalista is the party of independence, the Liberal Party is the party of colonial dependence.” The President noted that it was the Nacionalista Party which had opposed the parity amendment to the Philippine Constitution, while it was the Liberal Party which upheld it. (See pp. 11992 to 12002 for full text of the President’s speech.)

October 27—

IT WAS A DAY of speeches for President Marcos, as he moved from one occasion to another, mostly as guest of honor.

The first speech he made was at the turnover of command of the ROTC, held at the Philamlife auditorium, where he emphasized the role of the corps in making soldiers out of youths.

Then returning to Malacañang after fulfilling another appointment outside, he made brief remarks at the awards ceremony, after conferring decorations on the outgoing German envoy to the Philippines, Ambassador Heinrich Roehreke; and on World War II hero, Col. Jesus Villamor, who led Filipino pilots against Japanese warplanes despite being outnumbered and outgunned.

Ambassador Roehreke, who is leaving Manila after completing his tour of duty here, was awarded the Order of Sikatuna, rank of *Lakan*, “for outstanding services in the field of international relations.”

The German envoy has represented his country in the Philippines since November 17, 1967.

Col. Villamor was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Star (with bronze anahaw leaf) and the Distinguished Aviation Cross for his daring exploits during the defense of the Philippines against the Japanese invaders.

Back at his study near noon, the President began receiving callers, including local officials, and private individuals. After lunch, he rested briefly then worked on state papers till mid-afternoon.

Then, at 4 p.m., he was off again to attend as guest of honor the cornerstone-laying rites at the Fort Bonifacio site of the Greater Manila Terminal Food Market.

The President, enroute to the GMTFM, passed by Hulo, in Mandaluyong, Rizal, where he witnessed the formal signing of the contract selling some property of the Philippine National Railway to the provincial government of Rizal.

The property consists of 16 hectares mortgaged to the PNB. The provincial government which had requested the sale of the property, will use the land to provide a low-cost housing project for the public.

From Hulo, the President proceeded to Fort Bonifacio. In his remarks, the President said that the GMTFM fulfills his desire to thresh out the conflicting interests of diverse groups engaged in food production and merchandising, such that more people will be benefited.

“The stepped-up food production campaign and the promotion of export crops, for example, will be self-defeating unless we provide a marketing system that will allow the proper and economical handling, packing, transport collection, storage and distribution of perishable food products,” the President explained.

The disappointing results of past efforts to increase food production, he said, were due to limited marketing and storage facilities. The GMTFM is the answer to this problem, he continued, for it will minimize loss and wastage, while its various other projects and operations will reduce distribution costs and thus narrow the gap between farm and consumer prices.

On one hand, he pointed out, farm producers will have a greater share of the price and on the other, consumers will pay less for fresh foodstuff.

More than just a trading place, he said, the GMTFM will also go into “the root of the problem of sharp imbalances between food supply and demand in our country.”

After the GMTFM rites, the President went on to the Philippine Air Lines compound where he officiated at the formal induction of the new officers of the PAL Employees Association (PALEA).

On his return to Malacañang, he resumed his desk work, punctuated by conferences with aides and officials.

October 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS arrived in Bacolod City at about 2 p.m., via Lipa City where he headlined the NP rally, which was attended not only by an outsize crowd of residents but also by delegations from nearby towns.

Arriving in the city early in the afternoon, the President had a round of talks with local leaders, then an hour later showed up at Kabankalan, where he inaugurated the new sugar mill of the Southern Negros Development Corporation.

In his speech, the President noted the need for improving the lot of the common workers, and asked sugar industry leaders to lead the way in bringing social justice to workers.

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President's Week in Review: October 31 - November 6, 1969

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

October 31—

PRESIDENT MARCOS at about 3 a.m. was just returning from an all night rally at Taytay, Rizal to Malacañang, after leading two other NP rallies in that province.

But only with a few hours rest, the President was refreshed enough to be at his study for the day's official chores, including receiving callers.

After working for a time at his desk, he received the officers of the Federated Movement for Social Justice and Reforms, who petitioned him for the proclamation of 10 provinces as land reform areas.

The President took under consideration the request, asking that proper study and preparation should first be undertaken before such a proclamation can be made. However, he said that he is for the plan in principle.

Earmarked for early proclamation are three provinces out of the 10, which will be done after a report on the areas eyed is turned in by a group he named.

Among those in the delegation were Manuel Arejola, FMSJR coordinator, Dean Jeremias U. Montemayor and Edgardo M. Virina, president and executive vice president, respectively, of the Federation of Free Farmers (FFF), and Charles Abila, also of the FMSJR. On the government side were Land Bank Chairman Benjamin del Rosario, Agricultural Productivity Commissioner Francisco Saguituit, Justice Undersecretary Felix Antonio, Land Authority Governor Conrado Estrella, and Dean Dioscoro Umali of the UP College of Agriculture.

In the afternoon, the President met with Nacionalista leaders in the Manila area, and discussed with them the homestretch campaign in the city.

The President also received several students of the University of the Philippines Institute of Mass Communications. The group interviewed him in connection with their course in political science.

The rest of the day, the President worked on state papers.

November 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent the day quietly with his family in Malacañang, in keeping with the solemn mood of All Saints Day.

He paid homage to departed national leaders and heroes by posting honor guards at their graves.

He ordered the Presidential Guard Battalion to post honor guards at the mausoleums of past Presidents and at the *Libingan Ng Mga Bayani* in Fort Bonifacio, and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Memorial for Defenders and Martyrs, both in San Fernando, La Union.

Presidential mausoleums at which honor guards stand 24-hour vigils were those of Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo in Kawit, Cavite; Dr. Jose P. Laurel, Sr. in Tanauan, Batangas; Elpidio Quirino at the Manila South Cemetery; and Manuel L. Quezon, Sergio Osmeña, Sr., Manuel Roxas, and Ramon Magsaysay, all in the Manila North Cemetery.

November 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS stayed in the Palace the whole day today and devoted himself to the official business at hand. He did not receive scheduled callers but was available to public officials with urgent matters to take up with him.

November 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS went through a rather subdued day compared to the strenuous weeks behind him in the last couple of months.

Concentrating on his deskwork, the President went through the official concerns of the day as though there was no election campaign about to wind up.

He consulted with aides and officials as problems came up, but otherwise worked steadily at his desk. He received few visitors.

He also found time to spend a longer interval with his family than other days. But for the most part, the President bent down to the work at hand.

November 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent the greater part of today on the campaign trail, as he thrust into Quezon province to strengthen further the NP position in the coming polls.

All morning, the President worked in his study to whittle down state papers on his desk. At the same time, he received officials who came to consult him on official problems. He did not see many private callers.

Early in the afternoon, the President left Malacañang for the scheduled rallies in Quezon province. On his itinerary were three central points of the region, namely, Candelaria, Sariaya and Lucena City.

Arriving at Candelaria about 3 p.m., the President was buoyed immediately by the big and surging crowd that welcomed him. The crowd was further augmented at the rally site, prompting local observers to remark that it was a gathering never before equalled in size in the town.

After the rally, the President immediately proceeded to Sariaya, again meeting such a warm and spirited reception that he perceptively grew in vigor as he acknowledged the cheers and talked to the highly responsive audience.

The main rally was held in Lucena, where again the outpouring of citizens was phenomenal. Many took advantage of vantage points at the rally site to get a better view of the proceedings. People climbed trees, roofs and filled windows near the rally site. The President was accompanied by NP Senate bet Mamintal Tamano, and on the local side, by Gov. Anacleto Alcala and former Gov. Claro Robles.

While at work in his study this morning, the President issued an administrative order condoning the penalties amounting to ₱4,560,170.58 for which tenants and vendees are liable, in connection with the acquisition of estates under the Land Reform program.

The President issued the order in appreciation of the fact that tenants failed to meet their obligations on time because of setbacks suffered from drought, typhoon and pest infestations.

The President noted that the condonation would not adversely affect government investments in the acquisition of the landed estates.

Affected by the condonation order are estates under the jurisdiction of the Land Authority, namely:

1. The Buenavista, Coloong, Panginay and Polo agricultural estates; Bautista, Tibaguin and Taal residential estates under the Bulacan Resettlement Agency;
2. Viola, San Luis, Roma, and Felicidad Intal agricultural estates in Isabela;
3. Toledo, Chipeco, Sabanilla, Divisoria, Kaledian, Sta. Maria, Katubusan, Bahay Pare, and Ma. Alicia Leuterio agricultural estates; and Quitangil, Gutierrez-Morales, Mabalacat, San Angelo, Sandico, and Henson residential estates in Pampanga;
4. Calatagan and Lian agricultural estates; and Lian residential estates in Batangas;
5. Marikina, Baclaran, La Faja del Mar, Pateros, Longos, Tambobong, Maysilo, and Protacio residential estates under the Rizal Resettlement Agency;
6. Dinalupihan and Barretto agricultural estates; and Dinalupihan residential estate in Bataan;
7. Causip, Hacienda Uy, Quitang, and Lirag agricultural estates in Camarines Sur;
8. Caguray agricultural estate in Mindoro;
9. Luisa agricultural estates, and Muñoz residential estate under the Leyte-Samar resettlement agency;
10. Garcia residential estate in Davao;
11. Bongao Island agricultural estate in Cotabato;
12. Luisita, Valdez, Laoang, and Armando Lim agricultural estates; Lim-Sioco, Lim-Bautista, Tizon, and Castillo residential estates in Tarlac;
13. J. Ongsiako, Halili, Lichauco, De Leon, and Crisostomo, and Del Rosario residential and agricultural estates in Nueva Ecija;
14. Hacienda Esperanza, Nable Jose, and El Porvenir agricultural estates; and Chito Gonzales residential estate in Pangasinan;
15. Greymar residential estate in Lanao del Norte;
16. Calawan, Marfori, Philippine Sugar, Yaptinchay, Ambulong, and Laguna Project agricultural estates; Tunasan, Numeriano Reyes, and Lipa residential estates under the Laguna resettlement agency;
17. De Guia, Sande, Tondo Foreshore, Sta. Clara (Old), Sta. Clara (New), Fabie, Ana Sarmiento, Tuason I & II, Barretto, San Nicolas, Mabini, Guido, and Punta, Sta. Ana residential estates in Manila and Suburbs.

November 5—

PRESIDENT MARCOS met his Cabinet for the last time before the elections, in what was described by those attending as one of the most relaxed sessions they had with the President, who himself was in an expansive mood.

Meeting at 12 noon, the core of government leadership discussed with the President the most urgent state matters at this time, including the coming elections.

The President, notably, set the tone for his administration in the next four years, in anticipation of a new mandate from the people. It will be a government even more-closely attuned to development needs, and particularly focused on the new challenges of the coming decade.

The President told his Cabinet that the aftermath of the elections should not color any actions of government, particularly insofar as recriminations and retaliation against opposition elements or oppositionist thinking is concerned.

Topping the list of topics discussed at the meeting was the funding of priority projects of the government. He asked the fiscal policy committee to sit down with him next November 15 for a thorough discussion of this subject.

He also asked the other department officials to submit to him immediately their priority requirements for the rest of the current fiscal year.

Other major matters discussed were:

1. The intensification of the nations export drive, relative to which the President asked the Department of Commerce and Industry to organize the mechanics for the exportation of local products, especially products of cottage industries.

2. The preparation of next year's budget.

3. The immediate needs in financing of the government reorganization, as provided by law. On this point the President asked Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco to submit to him after the elections the budgetary requirements on this.

4. The move to effect the immediate repatriation of 39 Filipino sailors detained by the Saudi Arabian government. He asked the Department of Finance to pay the \$90,000 indebtedness of Rep. Rascid Lucman to the Saudi Arabian government, and collect later from Lucman.

In this connection, the Cabinet recommended a study of the feasibility of attaching the properties of Rep, Lucman, as a means of compelling him to settle his obligation with the Saudi Arabian government.

5. The legislative program for the next year, on which the President asked the Cabinet to make studies on the creation of a special fund for peace and order through legislation.

6. The follow-up moves on the rural electrification program.

7. The tourist industry, on which the President instructed Secretary of Commerce and Industry Leonides S. Virata to report on the financial requirements of a crash program on tourism. "We should be preparing for Exposition 70 in Osaka" he said.

8. The establishment of farmers' cooperatives, to prepare farmers fully for the benefits accruing from land reform.

The President said one of the main problems in the implementation of land reform is the tendency of tenants to revert to their old status as mere cultivators for rich landowners, because of lack of training in land management.

9. The postal problems, on which the President directed Transportation and Communications Undersecretary Manuel B. Syquio to act immediately in meeting the expected mail jam during the Christmas season.

10. The financing of irrigation pumps, which he asked the Development Bank of the Philippines to take charge of, including purchase and distribution to farmers needing them, all over the country.

During the meeting, the President also exhorted the Cabinet officials to use their influence and moral power to encourage all employees of the government in fully exercising their right of suffrage.

For this reason, he issued a proclamation making Nov. 7 and 10 public holidays, so that employees and other workers in and out of government may be able to trek to home provinces where they are registered as voters.

Earlier in the day, the President had a series of brief meetings with Manila leaders and with private groups, notably officials of the Philippine Chamber of Wood Industries.

In the afternoon, the President did some desk work and as usual consulted with officials, among them RCA Chairman and General Manager Alfredo Montelibano.

Late in the afternoon, he motored to Quezon City to attend a rally held by public school teachers.

Back in Malacañang, the President resumed his desk work, remaining in his study through the evening.

November 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS was virtually besieged by media men for interviews in connection with the elections on November 11. He graciously submitted to all requests, which included taping sessions for radio-TV.

Among the radio-TV programs which will feature interviews with the President were the "Let's Talk Business," "Encounter," and the Tri-Media presentation with a panel composed of newsmen Nestor Mata, Ronnie Nathanielz, and Eduardo Lachica.

Others who had tapping sessions with the President were Jose E. Romero, Jr., Alfio Locsin, and Ralph Tagle for the "Let's Talk Business" program; and Marita Manuel and Jorge Arago of "Encounter."

At lunch way after the lunch hour, the President had yet another interview for TV, this time with the Elizalde Tri-Media team, composed of staffers and executives of the Elizalde media organization. The luncheon meeting was held at the Casino Español.

At this meeting, the President pointed out that the government and the economy have worked together to maintain the strength of the peso, and therefore devaluation is a remote possibility in the immediate future.

Other points made by the President include the determination of the NP leadership to develop a strong middle class in the country and to increasingly turn outward to other friendly states with the aim of expanding the export trade of the Philippines.

The development of a strong middle class in the Philippines will be one of the main objectives of his administration in the next four years, he said, if given a new mandate by the people in the coming polls.

In-between these interviews, the President kept pretty much to his usual schedule, working at his desk and receiving callers, notably U.S. Ambassador Henry Byroade, who was in Malacañang briefly.

The rest of the President's workday was devoted to state matters and consultations with close aides and public officials with problems to take up.

Earlier, the President proclaimed Saturday, November 8, a special put holiday in order to give personnel of private firms the same opportunity to vote in their home provinces, as given government employees.

The president has already proclaimed Friday, November 7, and Monday, November 10, as special public holidays.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: November 7-13, 1969

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

November 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS topped his day with a marathon speech at Plaza Miranda where he led the Nationalista Party's *miting de avance*.

Earlier in the day, after putting in some work at Malacañang, the President went out to address the demonstrators representing the Federated Movement for Social Justice and Reforms, at the Agrifina Circle, on the invitation of the group itself, as it prepared to wind up the demonstration.

From that engagement, the President proceeded to the Manila International Airport area, where he was guest of honor at the preview of the Philippine Village, a project of the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, which depicts through typical Filipino edifices the cultural history of the nation.

The President described the project as "a touchstone of our identity and of our ceaseless search for such identity."

From the village, the President fulfilled private engagements, and conferred with NP leaders. Back at Malacañang, he worked on state matters, and received officials who came to consult him on various problems. Then he concentrated on polishing the speech he was to deliver at the Plaza Miranda rally.

In the evening, he led a triumphal parade to the Quiapo rally site, and began a long and rousing night which was marked by the biggest crowd ever seen at a political meeting in Manila.

November 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS kept close to the palace, as he devoted himself to the official business at hand. He did not receive scheduled callers but was available to public officials with urgent matters to take up with him.

With the elections virtually over, the President did not make plans for any political activity, but kept in touch with his leaders in the field through reports, and acted on the problems submitted to him.

In the evening the President went out to the Manila Hotel where he attended a gathering hosted by the Manila Jaycees, to which the leaders of prominent civic and business organizations were invited, including Rotarians and Lions.

In his speech, the President, who was guest of honor, spelled out the primary issues in the current elections, bearing down hard on the lack of program of the LPs, and their antagonistic attitude toward nationalism.

Returning to Malacañang, the President continued to work at his desk and consult with officials who came in from time to time.

November 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS devoted the greater part of the day clearing his desk of urgent state papers. He set aside his usual schedule of callers so that he could immediately attend to problems, especially those having to do with the national elections, as they came in.

Among the more important actions taken by the President was the issuance of a proclamation postponing the elections in Magsaysay, Lanao del Sur to November 22 in order to "preserve the sanctity of the ballot."

Basis of the President's proclamation was Resolution No. 682 of the Comelec (*See* pp. 12411-A to 12411-D of the Nov. 10, 1969 issue, vol. 65, no. 45 for full text of the Resolution), promulgated on November 7, 1969, which declared the registry of precinct books in the seven precincts of Magsaysay, null and void.

The President likewise fixed the last day for registration of qualified voters in said municipality to November 15.

The postponement of elections in Magsaysay town was prompted by the "statistical improbability, with no satisfactory explanation offered, for the increase in the number of registered voters from 1,174 in the 1967 election to 6,003 for this 1969 election."

The above figures represent more than 600 per cent increase in the number of registered voters for 1969 over those of 1967.

November 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS kept close to his office in Malacañang where he carried on with government matters. He was available however for consultations with various officials, and kept close tabs on the situation all over the country as the nation prepared to go to the polls.

The President was aroused earlier by reports of violence from Ilocos Sur, but later confirmation of the press stories on the alleged trouble there showed that the incident was of a different hue and was well under control by government authorities.

Nevertheless, the President sat down to write an appeal to the people, calling for all-out effort in keeping the elections peaceful, honest and free. At the same time, he warned against what he called the desperate tactics of the Opposition, involving rampant falsehoods to agitate the voters and sow confusion.

Early in the afternoon, the President met the Malacañang press corps to brief the newsmen on the current situation and to answer all questions they may have on the campaign and the prospects for voting.

The President continued to work at his study through the evening, keeping open, however, his schedule for any special activities that might require his attention or participation.

November 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent the entire day in the Ilocos provinces, first to cast his ballot in his hometown, second to further look into the peace and order situation in Ilocos Sur, and third to confer with local leaders. Leaving Manila by car shortly after midnight, the President motored all the way to Ilocos Norte, with a brief stop in La Union and a longer stay in Ilocos Sur.

Arriving in La Union early in the morning, he conferred with local leaders, particularly on the arrangements ensuring an orderly polling. Then he proceeded to Vigan where he brought together once more the warring factions which have made the congressional race in the first district of the province a very touchy thing.

The President made no bones about his determination to keep the polls peaceful in Ilocos Sur and sternly ordered the PC command in the province to uphold the law in all cases of violence and other lawlessness.

Assured that he had damped down any prospect of a hot election day in Ilocos Sur, the President went on to Batac, arriving there well past noon. He first headed for the town church to offer a prayer before casting his ballot in the town schoolhouse. It was 1:47 p.m. when he finished voting.

In brief remarks, he called on the people to come together in unity the better to meet the challenges of the new critical years of the nation.

After a late lunch, the President received local leaders, then motored to the capital city of Laoag, where he boarded the plane which flew him back to Manila. He arrived in Malacañang about 4:30 in the afternoon.

An hour later, the President repaired to his private study and worked on official papers, in the course of which he signed an administrative order suspending from office District Judge Tito V. Tizon of the court of first instance of Balanga, Bataan, pending investigation of administrative charges filed against him.

The suspension of Judge Tizon was recommended by the Supreme Court. Judge Tizon was charged in an administrative case filed with the Supreme Court by the Secretary of Justice with serious misconduct and gross inefficiency in office.

The bill of particulars against the Judge included dishonesty (extortion, bribery, exaction and oppression), gross misconduct, falsification of public documents, violation of laws and regulations, inefficiency and incompetence, and scandalous behavior.

Aside from these charges, the Department of Justice also cited as basis for suspension specific acts of intimidation, pressure and harassment employed by the respondent against the witnesses for the government.

The Secretary of Justice further stated that the efforts of the prosecution agencies to file charges against the respondent's associates and confederates have been obstructed by the respondent.

The rest of the evening, the President kept watch on the election returns, just like the rest of the nation.

November 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had his first opportunity to unwind after months on the campaign trail and unabated involvement with multi-faceted problems which included the election drive.

Sitting up all night last night and well into the next morning, he finally retired at 4 p.m. But it was a restive attempt to court sleep for he was up a couple of time to talk with friends and family. He had breakfast, then again sought to take in some rest.

In the afternoon, he was refreshed enough to do some steady work in his study, even as he received well-wishers. He also sat down with a group of newsmen for a relaxed interview. Early in the evening, he received Vice President Fernando Lopez who came calling.

For the rest of the evening, the President intermittently worked on state business and received visitors.

Earlier, the President congratulated the Filipino people for a peaceful election.

He cited particularly the various civic and tri-media groups, as well as law enforcement agencies and the Commission on Elections, for having worked together to insure a generally clean and peaceful polls.

November 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS held his first press conference after the elections in the afternoon, and later conferred with his financial advisers, which were the main features of his working day.

Apart from these, he worked as usual on state papers, met visitors, including the Philippine basketball team competing in Bangkok; and well-wishers.

The President conferred with Secretary of Finance Eduardo Romualdez and Central Bank Governor Alfonso Calalang on financial matters, during which he announced, among others, that there will be no devaluation of the peso or licensing of dollars, and that the parity of the peso will be defended with every conceivable measure.

He also directed the Governor of the Central Bank and the Secretary of Finance, concurrently chairman of the Monetary Board, to:

1. Negotiate trade credits with the Philippines' trading partners, the United States, Japan, Germany, Australia, the United Kingdom, Italy, Netherlands and Switzerland.
2. Enforce more strictly the limitations on dollar availability for travel.
3. Restrict non-essential imports.

Among his well-wishers was a group of women who congratulated him on his reelection. The First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, was on hand to share in the congratulations.

The President was also enthused with the call of the cage team of the Philippines who bade him goodbye. The group was headed by Councilor Lito Puyat of Manila, Coach Lauro Mumar and trainer Margarito Baruel. The team will compete in the Asian Basketball Confederation games in Bangkok, Thailand, as defending champion.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: November 14-20, 1969

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

November 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS convened his first important official meeting since the elections, when he called the highest advisory body on foreign affairs—the bipartisan Foreign Policy Council—to consider urgent questions.

The meeting, which lasted two hours, focused on the Philcag and the renegotiations of agreements with the United States. The decision reached was to pull out the Philcag, and to start the negotiations with the U.S. as soon as possible.

In a later meeting, the President threshed out with a small group the mechanics of the Philcag pullout from Vietnam, as well as the composition of the Philippine panel which will sit with its US counterpart on the renegotiation of the RP-US agreements, notably the Laurel-Langley Agreement.

The President, acting on a recommendation by the Foreign Policy Council, designated Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo as chairman of the two panels, to be assisted by Senator Emmanuel Pelaez on the military bases negotiations, and by Chairman Cesar E. A. Virata of the Board of Investments on the Laurel-Langley negotiations.

Former President Diosdado Macapagal was asked to act as adviser to the two panels, along with Former President Carlos P. Garcia. Mr. Macapagal accepted his designation, saying "I am happy to do anything to help."

The two panels are each to be made up of nine members.

In the course of his desk work, the President, among others, directed the Central Bank and other monetary authorities to continue stock arbitrage, that is, the free movement of shares of stocks in and out of the country; and suspended two more judges for irregularities.

Suspended were:

1. Santiago Catane, city judge of Ozamis City, for three months without pay. Judge Catane was found guilty of falsification of public documents and wilful neglect in the performance of official duty.
2. Manuel Javelona, city judge of Bago City, for six months without pay. Judge Javelona was found guilty of ignorance of the law and gross negligence in sentencing an accused to a prison term of only 20 days "despite the evidence on record that the physical injuries constituting the offense were serious."

The President received few visitors, but consulted with officials and aides as he worked. He remained at his desk through the evening.

November 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS turned his attention to the problem of speedy administration of justice, initially the clearing of clogged court dockets, following yesterday's decisions on foreign affairs.

In coping with the problem, the President also considered, among other things, the setting up of fixed standards on the qualifications of prospective judges, including those for the courts of first instance; and the streamlining of court procedures, such as the data recording system.

In the course of the day, the President also held conferences with provincial delegations which have been flocking to the Palace since election day to report on the poll outcome in their respective areas.

Many of the delegations were accompanied by NP reelectionist congressmen who were either winning or teetering in the current poll tabulations. But even more people came just to felicitate the President on his victory, and to reaffirm support for his policies.

Among the congressmen who came to the Palace were Constantino Navarro of Surigao del Norte, Gregorio Murillo of Surigao del Sur, Salvador Encinas of Sorsogon and Jose Alberto of Catanduanes.

In the evening, the President also conferred with a number of ranking executive officials who consulted him on problems of their departments.

November 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS received a manifesto from the Bulacan Marcos-Lopez Movement which called on the leaders of the Liberal Party “to respect the will of the Filipino people.”

At the same time, the President was informed by Labor Relations Director Amado Inciong that the heads of 24 labor federations in the country have appealed to Senator Sergio Osmeña, Jr. to concede the President’s victory in the last elections.

The labor leaders, Inciong said, sounded the appeal in order to “ease political tensions generated by the last election campaign,” and to strengthen the unity of the entire nation.

In its manifesto sent to the President, the Bulacan Marcos-Lopez Movement emphasized that the Filipino people’s will to reelect President Marcos “has been expressed clearly, unequivocally and forcefully in the November 11 national elections.”

The President, with his family, heard Mass at the Malacañang chapel about noontime.

The rest of the day was devoted by the President to studying state papers.

November 17—

PRESIDENT MARCOS went into the third of a series of policy and action meetings with ranking officials and top advisers, with the conference this noon at Malacañang with members of the Peace and Order Council.

Tackled at the meeting were the problems of the anti-crime drive, including the weaknesses of the current program, recommendations for excising these weaknesses and strengthening the drive.

It was observed during the conference that the hitherto untouched gambling joints have been the main spawning grounds of organized violence and other forms of criminality, especially in the urban centers.

The President then told the police chiefs present, particularly Francisco Villa of Pasay City, that if he fails to close in a week the gambling dens pointed out as enjoying protection from influential officials, “I will be going after you.”

The President continued to set the foundations of his second term as national leader, even as congratulatory messages steadily piled up at Malacañang from world leaders and from all sectors within the country.

Among the foreign dignitaries who had cabled congratulations were U.S. President Richard M. Nixon, General Prapass Charusathiara, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand; Governor Ronald Reagan of California, Governor John

A. Burns of Hawaii, former Mayor Gordon A. Clinton of Seattle, and Vietnamese Ambassador Pham Dang Lam, who is now in Paris.

He also received various callers, notably former President Carlos P. Garcia, who discussed with the President the current political developments in the country; Ambassador Gerardus Johannes Dissevelt of Netherlands, who paid a farewell call following the completion of his three-year tour of duty here. He is set to leave for his home office for reassignment.

In the afternoon, the President was guest of honor at the inauguration of the Department of Social Welfare building, on Gastambide St., Sampaloc, Manila.

The President was back at his desk about 6 p.m., where he continued to work through the evening.

In connection with the anti-crime drive and the social justice program, the President called on the various responsible sectors of the national community to help in filling up existing vacancies in the judiciary by forwarding to Malacañang their recommendations of able men of probity to occupy these posts.

The vacancies include one seat in the Supreme Court, six in the Court of Appeals, and about 120 Court of First Instance judges and provincial fiscals.

The President specifically directed his appeal to the Supreme Court itself, and the other courts; the bar associations, civic groups, church leaders and leading educators. He asked these sources for recommendees to existing court vacancies.

He had also asked Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco to coordinate with Secretary of Justice Juan Ponce Enrile on the funding of the CFI salas recently created by law. Financing will include facilities for both the clerical and technical staffs of the judges.

November 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS sat down with his fiscal policy advisers to assess high priority concerns of government in this area, with the promotion of Philippine export products given high emphasis.

Continuing his series of meetings with top level government officials, the President discussed with Cabinetmen concerned and other advisers on fiscal matters general government operations in connection with fiscal policies.

The President observed that “our present export pattern does not reflect the most efficient and most advantageous use of our resources.” He urged, “We must develop new export products from our existing raw materials.”

Aside from export promotion, which was the main focus of the fiscal policy meeting, the imperatives of more efficient government operations were also taken up.

The other topics taken up include:

1. The implementation of on-going projects and programs. The President asked that these be pressed. In this connection, he also said that no new projects will be initiated until the existing priorities have been restudied and reestablished.
2. The measures the Development Bank of the Philippines should take to insure the payment of overdue accounts from subscribers of reparations goods, with the President directing the bank to foreclose and take possession of properties obtained from reparations by delinquent end-users.

3. Strict implementation of the restrictions on local and foreign travel by government personnel. The President also ordered that no new purchases of equipment, especially vehicles, and no filling up of vacancies and/or promotions will be made in the meantime.

Among those at the meeting were Executive Secretary Ernesto Maceda, PES Director-General Placido Mapa, Jr., NEC Chairman Marcelo Balatbat, GSIS General Manager Benjamin del Rosario, Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, SSS Administrator Gilberto Teodoro, Secretary of Commerce and Industry Leonides Virata, DBP Chairman Gregorio Licaros, Secretary of Finance Eduardo Romualdez, Central Bank Deputy Governor Amado Briñas, and PNB Vice President Eusebio Villatuya.

Earlier the President conferred the Order of Sikatuna on the outgoing Japanese Ambassador, Mr. Takeshu Yasukawa, who has completed his tour of duty here. The award was given for distinguished service in international relations.

The President also received a number of callers, among them Vittorio Vacarri, vice chairman of Alitalia airlines. But for most of the time, he concentrated on desk work.

At lunchtime, he had as guests the staff members of the NP headquarters to thank them for their share of the work in bringing about the successful election campaign.

In the afternoon, after a brief rest, the President was back at his desk.

The President directed Brig. Gen. Vicente Raval, PC chief, to saturate Porac, Pampanga with government troops and bring to justice those responsible for the raid on that town which resulted in seven townspeople dead and 15 wounded.

The President gave the order on receipt of a report from Gen. Raval on the raid. The report said that armed men riding in three jeeps, and believed to be Huks under Commander Tony and Fonting, raided Porac, firing indiscriminately at persons in the streets and at houses.

The President also dismissed four municipal judges and suspended one other for two months.

The drastic action taken by the President was in line with the policy of the administration to purge the public service of corrupt and unscrupulous officials and employees.

Removed from the service were:

1. Juan Bayuga, municipal judge of Flora, Kalinga-Apayao, who was found guilty of oppression and abuse of power, and ignorance of the law.
2. Dionilo Marfil, municipal judge of Esperanza, Masbate, who was found guilty of misappropriation.
3. Felix Saniel, municipal judge of Makilala, Cotabato, who was found guilty of bribery and/or extortion, and defiance and/or disobedience of the law.
4. Cezar Zayas, municipal judge of Lugait, Misamis Oriental, who was found culpable for gross indiscretion and injudicious conduct "tantamount to improper performance of his official duties."

Suspended for two months without pay was Municipal Judge Mariano C. Rosales of Cortes, Surigao del Sur, who was found guilty of abuse of authority and of partiality.

The President continued to receive messages of congratulations on his reelection. Among the notables who felicitated him were Prime Minister Keith Holyoake of New Zealand and Prince Norodom Sihanouk, President of Cambodia.

November 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS stayed close to his office as he worked through the pile of state papers on his desk, and received a stream of visitors.

He took a break for a taped interview with Luis Beltran who conducts a TV public service program, “Straight from the Shoulder.” Also in the interview were newsmen Maximo Soliven and Prudencio Europa.

Gov. Cornelio Villareal, Jr. of Capiz called on the President to report on the election day ambush in the town of President Roxas, during which the governor asked that the incident be thoroughly probed by the PC. The President then directed the CIS to undertake the investigation, particularly in the face of Gov. Villareal’s findings that the ambush was sprung not by NP partisans but followers of Senator Gerardo Roxas.

The President also conferred with various officials, who came to consult him on problems in their spheres of responsibility. Among them were Ambassador Vicente Arenas, Philippine envoy to the Vatican; Senator Helena Benitez, and Mayor Amado Espino of Cabanatuan City.

Private callers included Sebastian Ugarte, Jose Soriano and Andres Soriano, Jr., Jesus and Jacobo Cabarrus of MARCOPPER; Jose P. Marcelo, and Domingo Guevarra, all prominent businessmen.

Later, mostly in the afternoon, more visitors saw the President, among them House Majority Floorleader Marcelino Veloso, Reps. Ramon Durano, Natalio Castillo, Lamberto Macias, Teodoro Galagar and William Chiongbian; and

Representatives-elect Joaquin Chipeco of Laguna’s 1st district; Eduardo Guiles, Emerito Calderon, Manuel Zosa, and Celestino Sybico of the 3rd, 5th, 6th and 7th district, respectively, of Cebu,

November 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS devoted most of his working hours to state papers, but welcomed the relief of callers, particularly the courtesy call of the 40 receptionists of the Philippine pavilion at Expo ’70 which the city of Osaka is set to open in March next year.

The President also received the 19-man trade mission from Norway, who likewise paid a courtesy call. The group was here to sound out local business and industrial leaders on possible trade ties.

Others who called were outgoing Korean Ambassador S. H. Yun, to bid the President goodbye after completing his tour of duty; and a group representing local film, producers and film exchanges.

The President had a lighthearted moment with the 40 attractive Filipinas who will receive visitors to the Philippine booth. Noting their expertise, the President said that the group will help promote local exports and tourism, as indeed will the overall Philippine participation in the exposition.

For the rest of the day, the President interspersed paper work with official staff consultations and with receiving callers. He also took time off at mid-day to tape an interview for the TV program “Encounter.”

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: November 21-27, 1969

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

November 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS mapped out with his Cabinet the broad plans of the administration in the next four years at a two-hour meeting held at noon in Malacañang, based on the principle of maximum public service at minimum cost to the people.

He stressed that the guiding principle of the administration is “what is correct and what is right, what is moral and legal.”

The Cabinet agreed on giving emphasis to the strengthening of the country's dollar position, primarily by tapping substantially the country's export potentials.

The President required the heads of all departments to submit to him their specific plans for the next four years; especially those pertaining to the reorganization of their offices, as required by law; national targets, their fiscal positions and the problems to be met.

Among others, the President asked the Cabinet officials to:

1. Draft legislative proposals affecting their offices intended for presidential certification to Congress, as well as list pending bills the passage of which is considered urgent.
2. List all vacancies and proposed new positions.
3. Prepare recommendations for bolder incentives to prospective exporters; tourism promotion and industrialization; for improving the educational system; manpower training and land reform implementation.

The President told the Cabinet officials that they have till the end of this month to submit all their papers and recommendations.

During the meeting, Vice President Fernando Lopez, who was asked by the other members of the Cabinet to speak for them, conveyed to the President the desire of the Cabinet to resign *en masse*, to give him a free hand in reorganizing the executive branch leadership.

The President rejected the proposed resignation outright, saying that since the Cabinet's “performance was good” he could not see any reason for a Cabinet shakeup.

Before meeting with his Cabinet, the President received callers in his study.

Among the President's visitors were:

1. A group representing the University of the Philippines Alumni Association headed by Eduardo Escobar, who invited the President to attend the alumni reunion early next year.
2. Senator Lionel Murphy of Australia, and his wife, Ingrid, who are on a visit to this country. They paid a courtesy call. Senator and Mrs. Murphy informed the President they were newly married, and the President delightedly remarked, “So, you're having your honeymoon here!”

The President also met with Central Bank Governor Alfonso Calalang, Secretary of Finance Eduardo Romualdez, PES Director-General Placido Mapa, Jr., Chairman Cesar E. A. Virata of the Board of Investments, Secretary of Commerce and Industry Leonides S. Virata, Executive Secretary Ernesto Maceda, and GSIS General Manager Benjamin del Rosario.

The President took up with his fiscal advisers further measures to conserve the country's dollars, by approving the plan to restrict dollar allocations for travel abroad and for the importation of non-essential commodities.

On the other hand, the President made available dollars for the importation of raw materials in the manufacture of prime commodities.

If necessary, the President said, dollars will also be provided for the importation of canned foods and other prime commodities in order to ensure a steady supply of these, with no prejudice, however, to local manufacturers.

On another front, the President ordered a crackdown on the unauthorized use of government vehicles by officials and employees of the government.

The President gave all government offices a week's notice before rigid implementation of this ruling is carried out. Violators of existing regulations on the use of government vehicles will be sternly dealt with, he said, after the notice runs out.

He then directed Acting PARGO Chairman Quirico Evangelista to strictly enforce the regulations a week hence.

November 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent the day in Malacañang working on state papers in his private study.

He did not receive any caller.

Among the papers he worked on were drafts of proposed measures submitted by different government agencies for possible inclusion in the administration's legislative program when Congress opens its regular session in January.

The President also went over records of administrative cases most of which involved erring municipal judges and government prosecutors stationed in different parts of the country.

He signed administrative orders dismissing Assistant Provincial Fiscal Jose P. Santos of Rizal who was found guilty of dishonesty and grave misconduct in office.

The President also ordered the suspension of two additional municipal judges charged of various infractions committed in office.

Suspended were Ciriaco C. Barte, municipal judge of Bato, Leyte and Paccual S. Valera, municipal judge of Barotac Nuevo, for various infractions committed in office.

Just recently, the President fired four municipal judges and suspended one other in his drive to set a high standard of morality in the administration of justice.

In the evening, the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, motored to Makati, Rizal where they headed the list of principal sponsors at the wedding of Eloisa A. Garcia and Ramon B. Guevarra solemnized at the St. Andrew de Apostle Church.

November 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS kept himself busy in his study poring over a pile of state papers.

In the afternoon, the President found time to be with his family, and talked a great deal with his children, Imee, Bongbong and Irene, a rare occasion indeed.

While at work in his study, the President issued instructions to key government officials in pursuance of policies laid down earlier.

The President directed, among others:

1. Secretary of Finance Eduardo Romualdez to study which areas of business are overcrowded, with the view to withdrawing government funding assistance from such business ventures now considered capable of moving on without government help.
2. Economic advisers of the administration to study the possibility of the government launching an unprecedented export tax incentives program to boost its massive export promotion drive all around the world.

The President meanwhile received a wire from Fernando Borres, husband of the late Libertad Borres who was shot to death last election day allegedly by bodyguards of Senator Gerardo Roxas.

Borres thanked the President for his personal concern in ordering investigation of Mrs. Borres' death.

Mrs. Borres, then president of the Marcos-Lopez Women's Chapter of President Roxas town, was shot, according to her husband, while distributing sample ballots.

Borres said in his wire: "We who are poor and unknown cannot avail of TV, radio and newspapers to air the truth against the false and concocted lies being aired against my poor wife and her companions. Congratulations. Your victory is the victory of the poor Filipinos like me."

November 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS received several delegations, all the more interesting for their diversity, while also putting in a full day's work on state matters.

After polishing off urgent papers from early morning to about 10 a.m., the President began receiving scheduled callers.

Among them:

1. The family of Municipal Treasurer Rodolfo Salae of Candaba, who was slain by Huks for resisting their pressure to alter election returns. The President asked the family to Malacañang in order that he may personally extend his sympathies. In the process, he ordered the PC to give full protection to the family in the face of threats from the dissidents.
- 2; Representatives of the Philippine Press Institute and other prime movers of the forthcoming "One Asia" conference, led by *Manila Times* Publisher Chino Roces and U.P. President S.P. Lopez.
3. Members of the Expo '70 caravan from Osaka, to promote that city's international fair, which is set to open in March. Led by Eiji Hamanaka, deputy secretary general of the Japan

Exposition Association, the group paid a courtesy call and presented the President with a replica of the Osaka tower.

4. The members of the ABS-CBN telethon staff, which reported the election returns round the clock for two straight days. The group paid a courtesy call.

5. A delegation of Quezon City Jaycees, accompanied by QC Vice

Mayor Ismael Mathay, Jr., who paid a courtesy call prior to the departure of a goodwill team of Jaycees which will tour Southeast Asia, and promote broader trade between the Philippines and its neighbors.

6. A group of officials and residents of the newly established San

Jose City (Nueva Ecija), led by Mayor Arturo Pascual. During the call, the President announced his designations of the officials to administer the city.

Other callers included Justice Francisco Capistrano of the Supreme Court.

Late in the afternoon, the President relaxed at the Malacañang Park golf course, with former President Diosdado Macapagal as guest. The former President was also in Malacañang the previous week to participate in the meeting of the Foreign Policy Council.

In the course of the day, the President directed Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo to verify reports indicating that the security of employment of Filipino workers overseas is threatened by third country nationals.

The President instructed Secretary Romulo to bring said reports, if confirmed, to the attention of the United States government "for immediate remedial measures" to protect the interests of Filipinos working with American contractors abroad.

This matter was brought to the President's attention by Secretary of Labor Bias F. Ople who pointed to the serious threat to Filipino workers posed by underpaid South Koreans in U.S. trust territories, notably Guam.

November 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent the day mostly close to his desk, as he coped with the paper work at hand and mapped out the priorities in government concerns for the immediate future.

In-between long sessions of desk work, he received callers, among them businessmen, foreign visitors, and public officials.-'

The President also considered such problems as the country's dollar reserves and the logging industry, which he felt should now give way to extractive mining which offers enormous potentials for development.

Among the President's callers were:

1. Duncan Ballantine, World Bank official, who paid his respects in the course of a visit here to discuss a WB loan in connection with the survey of the country's educational system to be conducted by the Ford Foundation.

Ballantine was accompanied by Clark Bloom, Reuben Frodin and Arthur Hill of Asia Foundation, and Hugh Philip of the Masquarie University of Australia.

2. Senator Jose W. Diokno; Dr. Cayetano R. Oca, administrator of the National Orthopedic Hospital; Governors Carlos Fortich of Bukidnon and Osmundo Rama of Cebu; former Rep. Cesar Fortich, and Mayor Demetrio Cortez of Mandaue City.

3. A group of staffers of the Kanlaon Broadcasting Service led by Benjamin Benedicto, and including Buddy Tan and George Biduya.

4. Stephen Fuller and Fr. Pacifico Ortiz of Ateneo University.

November 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS focused on the economic measures taken by the government to buttress the dollar position of the country and its monetary stability in general.

In this connection, he held a conference with his fiscal advisers, with publishers, economic writers and editors even as he appealed to the nation for all-out support to the steps taken. He also met with a group of rural bankers.

The President took time out to confer an award on Dean Conrado Benitez, the Rizal Pro-Patria Award, in recognition of distinguished achievements in the fields of education, economics and social reform, which have “immeasurably contributed to the elevation of the quality of life in our country.”

The award, given to distinguished achievers in perpetuation of the ideals of the national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal, was presented to coincide with the 80th birthday of Dean Benitez.

Held at the Malacañang ceremonial hall in the morning, the award ceremony was witnessed by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, and members of the honoree’s family and close friends,

The President reserved the morning for his noontime chores and received callers, notably Lt. Gen. Julian Ewell, commander of the II Field Forces of the US military command in “Vietnam.

Early in the afternoon, he began his round of meetings, ending with the late afternoon conference with newspaper leaders and writers.

Afterward, the President went back to his paper work.

November 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent the whole day virtually closeted in his study, working on state papers. He did not receive any private visitors, but consulted frequently with officials on various matters. He conferred, for instance, with Secretary of Justice Juan Ponce Enrile, and at another time with Executive Secretary Ernesto Maceda.

Among others, the President took up the renewed drive against smuggling, given urgency by reports that big time operators are set to resume activities, particularly with the Christmas season in the offing. He said however that government men are ready to intensify the war against smuggling.

He also moved to investigate all charges of election law violations, particularly reports of terrorism and fraud. For this purpose, he formed a special investigating committee, headed by the secretary of justice. He asked the committee to begin the inquiry immediately, and to take court action against all those confirmed as responsible for violation of the law.

The President worked steadily in his office till evening. He broke off only to attend, with the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, the reception given by Vice President Fernando Lopez, in celebration of the NP victory.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: November 28 - December 4, 1969

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

November 28—

PEESIDENT MARCOS again worked steadily on state matters at his study, as he continued to anticipate the priority concerns of the next four years and cope with immediate problems.

Among others, the President communicated his new plans relating to the peace and order drive, particularly in areas where dissidence is active and agrarian problems are complex. He announced that the people themselves will be trained to deal with lawlessness, with government forces acting only in support of citizen initiatives.

The few callers he received included members of the Radio-TV Federation of the Philippines, headed by Leon O. Ty, who paid a courtesy call; former Ambassador Emilio Abello, and industrialist J. Antonio Araneta.

The President also officiated at the ceremonies conferring awards to envoys who had completed their tour of duty here.

The Order of Sikatuna, rank of *Lakan*, was presented by the President to Ambassador H. S. Yun of South Korea, and Ambassador Gerardus Johannes Gissevelt of the Netherlands.

The two envoys were cited for "meritorious services in the field of international relations."

The joint award ceremonies were held at the Malacañang ceremonial hall. Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo led other members of the Cabinet, members of the diplomatic corps and their wives, and members of embassy staffs in paying honors to the outgoing ambassadors.

The President continued to work at his desk through the evening.

In a statement issued earlier in the day, the President assured that sufficient funds are available for both peso and dollar funding of international obligations and local requirements for production and employment, as he announced complementary measures planned to stabilize prices and meet other urgent needs.

The Chief Executive said that he approved the two new Central Bank circulars prescribing new regulations and restrictions on the use of foreign exchange as the first of a series of systematic and coordinated steps to redirect effectively efforts to solve the country's critical balance of payments problems.

CB Circulars Nos. 281 and 282, the President explained, are measures aimed at insuring full inflow of dollar-earnings, reduction of unnecessary dollar disbursements, curtailment of non-essential imports, and maintenance of the country's international credit standing.

November 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent a full day at his desk doing his homework, which focused mainly on the continuing response to the problems of foreign reserves and the immediate priorities in development for the coming year.

.Among other activities, he had a last meeting with Secretary of Finance Eduardo Romualdez on the tasks the latter has to accomplish in the United States, for which he departed in the afternoon; signed proclamations setting aside sites for the proposed free trade zone and industrial estates in Bataan; and followed up on the other requirements arising from the recent measures adopted by the Central Bank to shore up dollar outflow.

The President had a pleasant break from work when a group of young Russians, composing the cultural troupe which will present ballet performances and folk dances in several cities here, called to pay their respects.

He expressed pleasure at meeting the young artists, and complimented them for their talent, diplomacy and good looks. In turn, the troupe invited the President to visit Russia, promising a warm welcome to offset the bitter Russian winter.

Aside from this visit and consultations with aides and other officials, the President worked on uninterrupted in his study through the afternoon and evening.

Among other actions, the President:

1. Directed both the Development Bank of the Philippines and the

Philippine National Bank, through the Governor of the Central Bank, to temporarily stop guarantees extended by said institutions or their subsidiaries to cover the foreign obligations of local borrowers.

The President also directed all government financial institutions, including the PNB, DBP, SSS and GSIS, to stop granting commercial loans pending the establishment of priorities in the grant of loans.

This move was taken to assure that the extension of such guarantees is in accordance with proper priorities relating to the economy's requirements.

2. Instructed Secretary of Finance Eduardo Romualdez to firm up negotiations for availment of trade and other credits and advances which would further bolster the President's efforts in stabilizing the monetary situation.

Secretary Romualdez conferred lengthily with the President prior to his departure for Washington and New York.

The President, on the eve of the 106th birthday anniversary of Andres Bonifacio, issued the following message:

"I think it is only fitting that, in remembering Andres Bonifacio, we should as a people summon the same spirit which moved him and his equally inspired followers to strike the blow for freedom despite, the overwhelming odds against victory.

"I like to believe that Bonifacio triumphed because he would not admit defeat, and thus imbued the Filipinos with the sense of achievement. The revolution he started is not finished. We have gained our freedom, but are still far short of the other goals implicit in nationhood. We have yet to develop our land with our own resources and energies, we have yet to unite toward a common purpose and a common dream. We have yet to conquer the new and overwhelming odds which face us.

"If we can move forward even halfway of our envisioned goals, then we shall have measured up to the heroic stature of Bonifacio and the indomitable men who started us toward independence."

November 30—

PRESIDENT MARCOS made a full working day as he evaluated problems and developments relative to the administration's short- and long-range programs, specially those relating to the country's fiscal and monetary position and the development of foreign trade.

Immediately after hearing Mass at the Palace chapel with his family, the President retired to his study where he first went over the speech he was scheduled to deliver later in the afternoon in connection with the rites in Caloocan City commemorating the 106th birth anniversary of Andres Bonifacio.

Later, however, he asked Senator Jose J. Roy to proxy for him at the occasion so that he could work uninterrupted on urgent matters of state. In his speech, the President focused on the problems and challenges that confront the nation, and stressed that the call for unity Bonifacio sounded in his own time must be sounded anew.

“I call on you to rally behind the cause of their own revolution. Let us not be overwhelmed by problems, remembering that Bonifacio and his generation faced even greater obstacles,” he said.

Pursuant to the administration’s program aimed at increasing production of export goods at prices competitive in foreign markets, the President issued two proclamations reserving parcels of public lands in Mariveles and Limay, Bataan as sites of free trade zones and industrial estates.

The reservation of said parcels of land was recommended earlier by Vice President Fernando Lopez, in his capacity as secretary of agriculture and natural resources.

The foreign trade zone reservation in Mariveles total 682 hectares, while that in Limay consists of 3,881,991 square meters.

The President relaxed briefly later in the day with his children, then resumed work in his private study as reports from different government agencies reached his desk.

December 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS continued to focus on his desk work, with many state problems to study and cope with, and the priorities for the coming year to consider.

Accordingly, he did not receive any visitors. Except for officials he consulted or worked with, and palace aides, he kept his schedule of callers closed.

In a formal appeal, the President asked members of Congress out of Manila, abroad or in the provinces, to participate in the canvass of votes cast in the last elections.

Most of the state business he dealt with were continuing matters, but two announcements *came from Malacañang, one, on the President’s pending appointment of four members of the UP board of regents, to fill vacancies, and for which recommendations, are awaited; and, two, on the resumption of the distribution of free medicines to rural folks.

Otherwise, the President worked uninterrupted through the day on undisclosed government business.

December 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS took the first steps towards normalization of relations with Malaysia as a new initiative toward regional unity and cooperation, with a directive to the Department of Foreign Affairs to sound out Kuala Lumpur on this objective.

At the same time, the President moved to dissipate the cloud of doubt over the Philippine Constabulary which charges, speculation and continuing partisan sentiment have formed, by ordering the secretary of national defense to convene a general court-martial, or courts-martial, which will try all PC officers and men against whom charges of election law violations have been levelled.

The President took the latter action in an effort to exonerate the PC command in general, which in the main had performed well in policing the last national elections.

For the most part, he was involved during the day with continuing but urgent state matters.

He received no private visitors and limited those public officials who sought to see him.

He remained in his office through the afternoon and evening.

December 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS broke his concentrated desk work since the weekend last, to make an unscheduled visit to the Manila International Airport, and in the afternoon to speak as guest of honor at the inauguration of the new power unit of the Manila Electric Company.

For most of the working day, however, he continued to focus on state papers, during which he made an appeal to all traders especially those in the retail business, to desist from manipulating the prices of prime commodities even as he instructed all government agencies concerned to investigate hoarders of such goods and every instance of price manipulation.

“I wish it known that I will not hesitate to use the full force of the law” to protect the public, the President ‘said in a letter to Ralph Nubla, president of the Federation of Chinese Chambers of Commerce, on whom he called to lead the Chinese community in extending full cooperation.

The President was especially concerned about the participation of the Chinese traders because of confidential reports received in Malacañang that certain Chinese wholesalers and importers of essential commodities are hoarding or “planning to hoard” these items.

Making an unexpected visit at noon at the MIA, the President inspected the facilities of the airport, then conferred with CAA Administrator Federico Ablan, Jr., MIA Manager Luis Tabuena and MIA Customs Collector Salvador Mascardo on the various means of improving civil aviation capacities, MIA facilities, and the processing of plane passengers to; expedite movement and ease the strains on visitors. Returning to Malacañang, the President again buckled down to his desk work, and late in the afternoon, he left for Sucat, Muntinlupa, Rizal, for the Meralco Gardner Unit No. 2 inaugural rites.

In his speech, the President saw the end to the economic restrictions within the next year, which were taken to rehabilitate the nation’s foreign reserves. He said that success is assured with the people’s cooperation.

Again, in the evening the President was back in his study to carry on his desk work.

December 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS focused once again on his homework, with no outside engagements to fulfill and with his schedule of visitors quite blank.

Among other directives, the President:

1. Asked Acting Commissioner Jose Rivera of the Bureau of Public Highways to help repair roads in Manila, notably by making available all the equipment and personnel that the bureau could spare.

The President noted the sad state of city streets on his frequent movements around the city and suburbs.

He also ordered Rivera to submit a progress report on the projected improvement of the road to Tagaytay City.

The President was interested in the improvement of this highway from Manila to the scenic summer resort overlooking the unique Taal Volcano, "because it is vital to the promotion of tourism in this country."

2. Ordered the Reparations Commission to foreclose on and take possession of all vessels procured through reparations, the end-users of which have violated the condition that the vessels should be utilized in international operations.

The use of these vessels in international trade serves the dual purpose of conserving foreign exchange, which would otherwise be spent on foreign bottoms, and of increasing the country's dollar earnings through the international operations of Philippine flag carriers.

For the most part, the President went through year-end reports from various government offices, and studied the plans projected for the coming year. He also dealt with all urgent matters referred to him.

He worked through the day at his study, receiving few visitors, most of them officials, in order to concentrate on official business

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: December 5-11, 1969

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

December 5—

PRESIDENT MARCOS received a few callers even as he continued to work steadily on state papers.

Among others, the President:

1. Signed Executive Order No. 200, promulgating a new manual of student rights and responsibilities, which aims at bringing about tighter rapport between students and school authorities, to the end that {academic development and fruitful social participation by the campus community may be achieved.
2. Ordered the deportation of five aliens, whose continued presence in the country was considered a menace to the peace and safety of the community.
3. Issued an administrative order creating a special committee to take charge of the observance of Rizal Day on December 30. The committee is headed by Secretary of Education Onofre D. Corpuz.
4. Instructed Director Fernando S. Busuego, Jr. of the Bureau of Mines to work out a bill to be submitted to Congress which would set forth procedures for administrative disposal of conflicts in mining claims.

The President underscored the fact that such conflicts have been one of the principal deterrents to the development of mining.

At about 9:30 a.m., the President interrupted his paper work to confer with a group of government officials and private leaders on the existing policies relating to banking and money problems.

Present at this meeting were Central Bank Gov. Alfonso Calalang and Deputy Gov. Amado Brifias, Secretary of Commerce and Industry Leonides S. Virata, Chairman Cesar E. A. Virata of the Board of Investments, PES Director-General Placido Mapa, Jr., Chairman Gregorio Licaros of the DBP, Chester Babst of the Bankers Association, and Victor Lim of the Philippine Chamber of Industries.

Other callers paid courtesy calls on the President, among them Ching Tan of the La Suerte Cigar and Cigarette Factory; Hugh Cullman, Justus Heymans, and Hamish Maxwell, all of Philip Morris, International.

Among other callers on the President were NP senatorial candidate Mamintal Tamano, Rep-elect and Mrs. D. O. Plaza of Upper Agusan, and Gov. Henry Regalado of Misamis Occidental.

December 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS continued to work at his desk, for which reason he called off a personal appearance at the opening ceremonies of the Telecommunications and Electronics Week, where his scheduled speech was read instead by Executive Secretary Ernesto Maceda.

In the speech, the President endorsed the Filipinization of the telecommunications and electronics industries, and asked Filipinos involved in these fields to accelerate their efforts toward attainment of this objective.

During the day, the President received Secretary of Education O. D. Corpuz and Secretary of Social Welfare Gregorio Feliciano, both of whom submitted the draft of the policy statement of the Commission on Population.

The President approved the document, which gave full recognition to the urgency of instituting rational family planning in accordance with individual conscience, through education and reasonable persuasion.

The program was deemed crucial because uncontrolled population growth will hamper the improvement of Filipinos living standards and the common effort to achieve national development goals.

The national population policy and program are to be developed as organic parts of social and economic planning and development activity, and will have the following principal elements:

1. The establishment and adoption of specific and quantitative population goals on the basis of reliable demographic data and expected demographic trends.
2. The promotion of the broadest understanding by the people of the adverse effects on family life and national welfare by unlimited population growth, and extension of the means by which couples can safely, effectively and freely determine the proper size of their families.
5. Integration of planning into a broad educational program oriented to the harmonious development of the individual personality, the family, and the nation.
4. Deeper study of legal and administrative policies and measures affecting family size, and if deemed essential, the revision of such policies and measures to balance family size with social and economic goals.
5. The continuation of efforts toward the further reduction of the still high rates of morbidity and mortality among infants.
6. Adoption of policies and programs which will guide and regulate the flow of internal migration, and influence spatial distribution in the interest of development progress.
7. The establishment and maintenance of regular contact with international and private organizations concerned with population problems.

In other actions, the President:

1. Asked for a report on the status of all bills submitted to Malacañang for action, to which the legislative secretary's office said that only three bills signed by the President are yet to be transmitted to Congress.
2. Gave a temporary permit to the Royal Air Cambridge for twice weekly flights between Phnom Penh and Manila. Grant of the permit to Air Cambridge follows the policy laid down earlier, that of giving reciprocal rights to foreign airlines desiring to fly to the Philippines. Under this condition the same right will be given to Philippine air carriers by countries concerned.

This reciprocal "open skies" policy was adopted last year by the administration in conformity with its goals of promoting international friendship and developing the local tourism industry.

3. Created a committee to study the problems of the tourist industry and recommend measures for promoting it and expanding its contribution to the national economy. Named to compose the committee were Executive Secretary Ernesto M. Maceda, as chairman; and Secretary of Commerce and Industry Leonides S. Virata, Atty. Teodoro F. Valencia, Director of Civil Aviation Federico Ablan, Jr., and Miss Nimia Arroyo, as members.

The President received few visitors so that he could work on important state business with a minimum of distraction.

He remained at his desk through the afternoon and into early evening.

December 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent the day quietly at Malacañang with his family.

With the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, and their children, Imee, Bongbong and Irene, the President heard Mass about noontime at the Palace chapel.

Although a Sunday, the President also spent a great deal of his time conferring with key officials over the telephone.

He discussed with Chairman Gregorio S. Licaros of the Development Bank of the Philippines the progress of the Greater Manila Terminal Food Market, and ordered Licaros who is also president and chairman of the GMTFM, to put the farmers market into business operation immediately.

In his study, the President also went over price situation reports, and summoned for a conference in Malacañang several leaders of the sugar and flour industries.

He also directed Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco to effect a 10 per cent across-the-board reduction of the proposed budget for the ensuing fiscal year, in conformity with the government's austerity program.

The President, however, indicated that notwithstanding the austerity program and the reduction of 10 per cent of the cost of government for the next fiscal year, the policy should be followed to channel more and more funds to capital outlays.

This policy envisions the expenditure of more and more funds for purposes that will generate additional income.

December 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS called to a conference sugar and flour producers and millers in the wake of reports that prices of prime commodities were scaling upward, and gave notice that he will also discuss the situation with other handlers of such goods in the next few days.

The President worked for most of the day on state papers, but gave Primary attention to the reports on price spirals, since there is no ground for marking up the prices of essential goods,

Aside from the meeting with the sugar and flour people, the President, among others, ordered the Board of Liquidators to release into retail outlets the goods stockpiled since the National Marketing Corporation (NAMARCO) went out of business to ease the strain in supply of goods in the market.

On another front, the President directed the Department of Education to implement immediately the project on the printing of textbooks, to meet the requirements of Philippine schools.

At the same time, he named an advisory committee of the Special Project Group for Textbooks. The committee will oversee the printing contracts, and make the necessary recommendations on these matters for the secretary of education's consideration.

In the morning, the President had a welcome and pleasurable break from state affairs when he attended the program in which his eldest daughter, Imee, participated at her school, the Assumption Convent.

In this connection, the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, also had the pleasant duty of attending in the afternoon a school program where the youngest of the brood, Irene, participated.

The President met late in the afternoon with representatives of the sugar and flour milling industries, to inquire into the reports that prices of these commodities have gone up. He was informed, however, that the two industries have held fast to current prices, and that if any increase have been made, these were done on the initiative of retailers.

The President therefore set an early meeting with retailers of prime commodities.

For the rest of the day, the President focused on his desk work. He received limited visitors, which included a number of legislators who paid unofficial calls.

December 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a fuller schedule than usual, which included conferences with private and public groups, addressing a ceremonial gathering and acting on official matters in-between.

The President started the day with a breakfast meeting with Messrs. Stephen H. Fuller, president of the Asian Institute of Management; Lew Calloway, vice chairman of the board of Newsweek; and George P. Baker of Harvard University.

At about 10:15 a.m., the President conferred with Vice President Lopez on government projects earmarked for implementation in the next four years.

Following his meeting with the Vice President in his study, the President repaired to his office at the Executive Building where he received the participants in the Regional Seminar on Equality of Opportunity in Employment being held in Manila.

The seminar delegates are E. S. Appadurai of Ceylon, A. N. Buch and Vishu Sahay of India. Dr. David Chew Chin Eng of Singapore, S. Tomas de la Cruz of the Philippines, J. J. Hernandez of the Philippine Trade Unions Council, D. Juzar of Indonesia, Myer Kangan and G. Polites of Australia, F. A. Mehta of India, P. P. Narayanan of Malaysia, Y. Shimomura and Kyuma Tamio of Japan, S. Thondaman of Ceylon. Trung-Cong-Long of South Vietnam and Jeffrey Yang Cheng-Yu of Nationalist China.

Also in the group were the following ILO officials: Donald L. Snyder (Kuala Lumpur), C. Rossillion (Geneva) H. Karasaki (Bangkok), C. A. L. von Knorring (Geneva) and D. L. Khanna (New Delhi).

They were accompanied to Malacañang by Secretary of Labor Bias F. Ople.

The President then met with the officials and members of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce on the problem of spiraling prices, during which the President succeeded in getting the members' pledge to hold prices down.

The Federation informed the President that while there has been a rise in the prices of certain commodities, the prices of the majority of essential goods have remained constant.

Nevertheless, they pledged to cooperate with the government in bringing prime commodity prices within the reach of the general public.

The President stressed that the government is ready to take stern steps to maintain normal price levels, and if hoarding should force price hikes he will use his powers to break such a move, even to the extent of raiding warehouses.

He added that in the case of any real shortage, he will use trade credit and authorize government importation to maintain the market supply-However, he expressed the hope that none of these steps will have to be taken.

In the afternoon, the President motored to Makati, Rizal where he was guest speaker at the dedication rites of the Asian Institute of Management (AIM).

The projected multi-million peso building complex of the Institute was donated by the Eugenio Lopez Foundation.

In his remarks, the President assured the nation that the balance of payments problems are manageable and that measures to solve them are already being implemented. (See pp. 13826 to 13838 for full text of the President's Speech.)

The President was back in Malacañang early in the evening, with just enough time to prepare for the formal dinner given by the board of trustees of the AIM for Mr. Eugenio Lopez at the Intercontinental Hotel.

December 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS again focused on his desk work, receiving few visitors, most of them officials with whom he consulted on various state problems.

In the course of the day, the President approved the new list of commissioned officers for the nation's reserve force, among other official business, and late in the afternoon held a press conference with the newsmen covering his office on the new initiatives taken by the government to promote Philippine exports and the local tourist industry.

The President has already asked for bolder plans in promoting Philippine export trade, which would emphasize the incentives to be used beyond those provided now.

He asked his fiscal policy advisers recently to draw up this incentives plan, and have it ready for discussion at the next meeting the President will call.

At the same time, the President directed the University of the Philippines to make a study of what incentives to adopt in order to better promote local exports in world markets.

The President has given impetus to the promotion of Philippine exports since last year by encouraging business, industrial and commercial groups to press hard on broadening efforts to expand export products.

On the development of tourism, the President created recently a special committee which will study the problems of the tourist industry and recommend measures to maximize its dollar-earning capacity.

The President has likewise directed that drastic improvements in the country's civil aviation facilities be undertaken to meet the expected increase in tourist traffic in the coming years.

He underscored the huge potentials of tourism as a major dollar earner, pointing out that this area can be vastly stimulated with the modernization of the country's air transport capabilities.

Because of the heavy pressure of paper work, the President was unable to deliver a speech at the banquet honoring Northern Luzon candidates in the last national elections, who won the posts they aspired for.

Instead, he delegated PVTA Chairman Federico Moreno to act as his proxy.

In his speech, the President asked the newly elected officials to abide by the trust given them by the electorate, and to do better than their best in fulfilling their assigned duties and in exercising leadership.

Among the few callers received by the President were the Papal Nuncio, Msgr. Carmine Roceo, who paid him a social call; and a group of officials from Negros Oriental headed by Gov. Mariano Perdices, who took up local problems with him

The Negros officials were accompanied to Malacañang by Sen. Lorenzo Teves.

The President worked at his desk through the evening.

December 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS continued to concentrate on desk work, as he pressed forward the priority programs of the government.

He was again concerned with the initial steps toward the expansion of the country's international trade and the development of the tourism industry.

The President issued a memorandum enjoining the executive branch to participate in the planning and implementation of the priority projects he has set.

He asked specifically for the submission of explicit plans and goals, to enable him to follow the progress of implementation.

At 10:30 this morning, the President disengaged from state papers to receive Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, and the noted Eurasian novelist, Han Suyin, and her husband, Col. Vincent Ruthnaswami.

Secretary Romulo saw the President for last minute instructions preparatory to leaving for Kuala Lumpur to attend the ministerial meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in the Malaysian capital.

Han Suyin called to pay her respects to the First Couple. She arrived yesterday from Japan, for a series of lectures before educational, civic and professional organizations here.

Just past noon, the President had a taped interview with Peter Grant of Commercial Broadcasting, Hongkong.

The President was back at his study in the afternoon, working on urgent papers through the evening.

While at work in his office, the President received a congratulatory message from the Student Council of the University of Indonesia on his reelection as President of the Philippines.

The letter was coursed through the Philippine Embassy in Djakarta and was signed by Hariadi Darmawan, president of the Student Council and Aulia Rachman, secretary.

Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo acknowledged the Council's letter on behalf of the President.

The Council's letter follows in full:

"Your Excellency:

"The Student Council of the University of Indonesia would like to congratulate Your Excellency, on his reelection as President of the Republic of the Philippines.

"May God protect and guide Your Excellency in undertaking his future tasks."

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: December 12-18, 1969

President's Week in Review: December 19-25, 1969

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

December 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS broke his rigorous schedule of desk work to meet visitors and confer with several officials, and enjoyed a Christmas party for the children of Malacañang employees at Malacañang Park.

Following the proclamation of his victory at the polls by Congress, the President created the inaugural committee to take charge of the ceremonies, with the injunction that everything should be as simple and inexpensive as possible.

Designated co-chairman of the committee were Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo and Executive Secretary Ernesto Maceda, with the following named as members:

Senate President Gil J. Puyat, Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., Secretaries Onofre D. Corpuz of education and Bias F. Ople of labor, OEC Administrator Constancio Castañeda, Press Secretary Francisco S. Tatad, Governors Isidro Rodriguez of Rizal and Benjamin Romualdez of Leyte, Mayor Antonio Villegas and Vice-Mayor Felicisimo Cabigao of Manila, Roberto Benedicto, PNB president; Gen. Manuel Yan, armed forces chief of staff; Commissioner Gregorio Araneta II of tourism, and Mrs. Lourdes Villacorta, social secretary of Malacañang.

Among the visitors he received in the morning were Secretary Romulo, who reported on the recent ASEAN ministerial conference in Kuala Lumpur and on his meeting with Malaysian leaders; and the members of the Philippine goodwill mission to Taipei, composed of students.

In the afternoon, the President conferred with his fiscal advisers, then received Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., Speaker Protempore Jose Aldeguer and Majority Floor Leader Marcelino Veloso.

Before buckling down to his desk work, the President joined the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, the Blue Ladies, and other volunteers to launch the "Maligayang Pasko" project, which sent a 50-truck convoy to all depressed areas in Manila and suburbs where deserving poor families were cheered with gifts. The President stayed after the brief rites to play host, along with the First Lady, to the Malacañang employees and their children who also received gifts.

Afterward, he returned to his study to carry on his paper work.

Earlier, the President ordered the immediate suspension of arbitrage, as one of the means of regulating the dollar outflow.

Arbitrage is the simultaneous purchase and sale of securities in two different places with the view of making profits from the difference in prices of such securities in the two places.

The President's order followed closely the recommendation of his fiscal policy committee which he met this evening.

December 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS was guest speaker in ceremonies commemorating the 34th anniversary of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. He also personally led a large group of welcomers which met the returning Philcag contingent from Vietnam, at Pier 15 in the South Harbor.

Early in the morning, the President received Secretary of Finance Eduardo Z. Romualdez who just arrived from abroad where he met representatives of the World Bank and consortiums of foreign banks.

Accompanied by Sixto K. Roxas, president of the Bancom Development Corporation, Secretary Romualdez reported, among -others, that trade credits were offered to the Philippines by consortiums of banks in America, Europe and Japan.

About 9 a.m., the President motored to Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City where he addressed AFP officers and men on their 34th anniversary. Present at the anniversary rites were other ranking government officials, members of the diplomatic corps and ranking foreign military officers.

The President asked the officers and men of the AFP to “set the highest example” in self-discipline and sacrifice in order that the nation will attain its goals.

“Our armed forces today are faced with the increasing challenges of modern life, and of a nation set to break out of its age-old restraints,” the President said, as he asserted the progress made in the last four years.

“I am proud to say, as your commander-in-chief, that you have shared in the accomplishments of our nation,” he declared.

In the armed forces, he said, “we can see the rewards of self-discipline”.

The AFP, he continued, has concrete proofs of achievement. “Your productive hands and spirit have given our people more roads, more bridges, more livable rural communities, more healthy children, more schools, more confidence in the authority of the law and the healing hand of justice,” the President stated.

Despite the critics of the armed forces, he said the organization as a whole “is sound, is purposeful, is dedicated to the ideals which make the best of soldiers also the best of citizens.”

The President told the members of the AFP:

“I ask you to continue your good work. I ask you to give all of your loyalty to flag and country. I ask you to live always with honor, to fight with courage, and if necessary, to die for a good cause.”

In the afternoon, the President motored to the Port Area where he met the more than 1,000 officers and men of the Philcag who disembarked from two Philippine Navy LSTs, the EPS Albay and the EPS Bohol, which ferried them from South Vietnam.

He was accompanied to the welcome rites by his son, Bongbong. Also at the rites was Nguyen Van Loc, charge d’affaires of the South Vietnamese embassy in Manila, and a large group of relatives and friends of the returning contingent.

The President disclosed at the welcome rites that the Philcag will be redeployed to Central Luzon where its training and experience in Vietnam will be utilized to improve the living conditions of the masses in the region.

Headed by Brig. Gen. Ceferino Carreon, Philcag commander, all the returning troopers had a chance to shake hands with the President, as they filed past him single file.

The President said to them: “Good work and carry on.”

December 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent a quiet weekend with his family. As usual, he was up early, and read the newspapers and weekend magazines. The President found time to work at his desk towards noontime. Among other actions, he directed the NBI and the PC CIS to investigate thoroughly the killing of a trader, described by a newspaper as a “business rubout.”

The President specifically ordered the NBI and the CIS to identify the alleged Malacañang official involved in the business deal, “without fear or favor.”

December 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS followed his old, regular schedule as he met visitors and worked in his study. Still, he still gave prior concentration to his deskwork.

Notable among his callers today were legislators and local officials, and the South Vietnamese minister of state. The only visitors to come as a group were the members of a family planning organization.

Minister of State Pham Quang Dan of the Republic of South Vietnam paid his courtesies shortly after arrival here, in the course of a Southeast Asian tour. He brought a letter from the South Vietnam prime minister, formally thanking the Philippine government for the services of the Philcag in Vietnam.

Minister Dan also told the President that his country “supports wholeheartedly the concept of ASEAN of which the Philippines is a most prominent and active member.”

The group of family planning activists was headed by Dr. Ruben Apelo. The group, composed of the officers of the Family Planning Organization of the Philippines, submitted proposals to the President on the advancement of family planning in the country, which proposals were endorsed to the Commission on Population for study.

One of the proposals endorsed by the President was the setting up of family planning clinics in hospitals.

Others in the group were Dr. Jose Katindig, FPOP vice president, Mrs. Louise Orendain, Dr. Raymundo Rivera, Dr. Esperanza de Castro and Mrs. Luz Einsindel.

Also among the callers at Malacañang were Reps. Ramon Durano of Cebu, Indannan Anni of Sulu, Constantino Navarro of Surigao del Norte; Rep-elect Guillermo Sanchez of Agusan del Norte; Gov. Murphy Sangkula of Sulu, and Mayor Titina Anni of Siasi, Sulu.

The President continued his desk work through the evening.

December 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS closeted himself in his study the whole day, to work on state papers.

Except for a few officials whom he summoned, the President received no callers.

He had given strict instructions to Col. Venancio S. Duque, appointment secretary, that he would not be available to visitors the whole day.

One of those the President met was Teodoro Q. Peña, whom he designated member and executive officer of the Foreign Trade Zone Authority. Peña was inducted into office by the President.

He was the latest member assigned by the President to the free trade body since the FTZA was made operational last August 29.

The initial assignment that the President gave to Pena was to assist the FTZA board in the drafting of overall plans to make the Mariveles free port immediately operational.

The President specifically asked Peña to draft the rules and regulations for the implementation of Republic Act No. 5490, and the overall operations of the free trade zone.

In a memorandum dispatched to Camp Aguinaldo, the President ordered Gen. Manuel T. Yan, AFP chief of staff, to submit in 24 hours a report on the progress of the investigation and prosecution of all armed forces officers and men charged with terrorism and other irregularities during the November elections.

He reminded Gen. Yan of his previous orders issued immediately after this year's polls for the prompt investigation of all AFP personnel reportedly involved in poll complaints to determine the veracity of the charges against them.

The President recalled he had ordered the institution of court-martial proceedings should the results of the investigations warrant or the filing of charges in the civil courts, if necessary.

He directed that all witnesses to the complaints be extended all assistance, including the necessary transportation to enable them to testify before the appropriate tribunals.

In his memorandum, the President likewise directed the chief of staff to await the results of the current investigation being conducted by the Commission on Elections on alleged poll terrorisms in Batanes and to file, the corresponding charges against any officers and men who might be found guilty of the charges.

December 24—

ON THE EVE of Christmas, President Marcos carried on as usual, adhering to a regular work schedule, with emphasis on state papers.

Among other actions, he:

1. Signed an executive order directing that payments of national internal revenue taxes may be made through the banking system.

This procedure will prevent losses in tax collections arising from falsification of tax receipts and misappropriation of collections, minimize payment of taxes by rubber checks, and improve the recording of tax collections and accounting of tax payments.

2. Issued another executive order placing state universities, colleges, schools and other educational institutions under the supervision of the secretary of education.

The order was given in line with the President's policy of decentralizing the powers of his office. The President said this arrangement will meet the need of integrating the activities of all educational institutions in order that they may, individually and collectively, participate more actively in the socio-economic development of the country, as, for instance, extending the necessary educational, research and extension services to the various sectors of the economy.

3. Gave executive clemency to 198 prisoners, on recommendation of the Board of Pardons and Parole, in line with the holiday tradition of accommodating deserving prisoners.

A decision, however, on the cases of 98 other prisoners who had been convicted of capital offense had been deferred by the President for his further study of their individual cases.

December 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS just like most Filipinos spent the day quietly at home with his family, to enjoy Christmas Day.

In his message to the Filipino people, the President said:

In the timeless spirit of “peace on earth and goodwill toward men,” we once again celebrate Christmas today.

The austere atmosphere under which we celebrate this day makes it all the more meaningful for us, because it asks of us—in the spirit of giving—to give more of ourselves to the human endeavors which our nation must undertake. Amidst our present anxieties, this occasion provides us with an opportunity for closer introspection and assessment of our capabilities.

It is my hope that we shall strive to make this spirit live in our country, not merely in our circle of family and friends, but also in the circle of our human community.

Together, let us share not only in the blessings that are ours today, but also in the labor and the burden that now dawn on our highest aspirations as a people.

To each and everyone of my countrymen, I commend this thought while I convey the very best wishes for the holiday season.

Merry Christmas to you all.

After attending an early Mass at the Palace chapel, the President settled down to a quiet day. Except for the most urgent state matters, which required his attention, he spent most of the day with his family.

Earlier, the President created a commission to assess and improve the nation’s educational system.

Through an executive order, he established a presidential commission to survey the Philippine educational system, with a view to making the system responsive to the challenge of modernization and the goals of national development.

The President named Secretary of Education Onofre D. Corpuz chairman of the Commission, with PES Director-General Placido Mapa, Jr. as vice-chairman. From the private sector, he picked Dr. Lino Q. Arquiza, Rev. Fr. Horacio de la Costa, Dr. Miguel B. Gaffud, Dr. Sixto K. Roxas, and Dr. Abelardo G. Samonte as members.

The President charged the Commission to make a thorough study and evaluation of education in the Philippines, and make recommendations for policy and implementation.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: December 26, 1969 - January 1, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

December 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS once again focused on his paper work, receiving no visitors all day except public officials who came to consult him on particular problems.

Among state matters he studied was the Land Reform Code, for which he proposed certain amendments to make it work better and to bring the farmers and tenants themselves into the center of the program.

The President proposed, among others, the enlargement of the National Land Reform Council, by including a member from the farmer or peasant group.

The President emphasized that amendments should be embodied in one single bill, which will be submitted to the next Congress.

The original law, which was approved on August 8, 1969, has had two amendments, namely:

1. RA 4366, defining the annual compensation, powers and duties of the clerks of; court of the Court of Agrarian Relations.
2. RA 4886, which enlarged the responsibility of the Office of the Agrarian Counsel, to "include representation before courts, including appellate, in cases, civil or criminal, instituted by or against said tenant, agricultural lessees, farm workers or owner cultivator!, or the, members of their immediate farm household, where ,the cases arise from or are connected with, or are results or effects of, an agrarian dispute."

For the rest, the President was involved with other state business projected for the coming year and covering priority programs during his second term.

He also worked on his inaugural speech.

December 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had an interesting day as he received a variety of callers while also coping with his usual heavy desk work and other state matters.

In the morning, he received a group from Hawaii composed of Filipinos here to attend his inauguration, with Miss Hawaii-Filipina of 1969, Leilani Tumaneng Petranek, easily a standout.

She, conveyed the personal message of Gov. John Burns of Hawaii, congratulating the President on his reelection; and greetings from compatriots as the official goodwill ambassador of the Hawaii Filipinos.

The President also met later in the afternoon Mexican Minister of External Affairs Antonio Carillo Flores, who is also here; for the inauguration of the President. The affable dignitary brought gifts for the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos. He also met all the, three children of the First Family. He was accompanied to Malacañang by Ambassador Librado Gayco, the Philippine envoy to Mexico.

Others in the Hawaii-Filipino group were Gov. Jose Evangelista of Ilocos Norte, Consul General Trinidad Alconsel, and PTTA Executive Director Salvador C. Pena.

At about noon, the President and the members of his family sat down for a television interview with an ABS-CBN team.

During the interview, the President pointed out that the concept of providing a national solution to the peace and order problem is “faulty.”

He stressed, “It should be a regional solution,” adding that “we are going into this now.”

In the evening, the President and the First Lady honored at dinner Terence Cardinal Cooke of New York, who is an overnight houseguest at the Palace. The Catholic prelate is in Asia to visit US military personnel in various bases and in Vietnam, a personal Christmas commitment he has observed for some years now.

Among other actions, the President cautioned Secretary of Justice Juan Ponce Enrile to proceed slowly in the filing of charges against LP leaders for various offenses by making sure first that there is a strong and Valid case against each of them; and ordered the NAWASA general manager to submit a report on the projected increase in consumer rates as announced earlier by the water firm.

December 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent a quiet weekend with his family at Malacañang.

With the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos and their children Imee, Bongbong and Irene, the President heard Mass celebrated at the ceremonial hall by Terence Cardinal Cooke of New York.

Cardinal Cooke, who was an overnight houseguest at the Palace, stopped briefly in Manila in the course of a tour of American military installations in the Far East, a Christmas trip he has undertaken for years.

Vice President and Mrs. Fernando Lopez also attended the Mass at Malacañang, along with Senate President Gil J. Puyat, justices of the Supreme Court led by Chief Justice Roberto Concepcion, and some Cabinet members and their wives.

The President worked on-state papers in the afternoon, in the course of which he granted executive clemency to 31 jockeys and six race horses suspended-from the race tracks for various violations of regulations.

December 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent most of his time at his desk in his study, primarily working on his inaugural speech, but also polishing off the urgent state papers coming to his desk. He did not receive any visitors. But he called in aides and advisers as he worked.

Although the pressure of work caused him to miss the arrival at Malacañang of U.S. Vice President Spiro Agnew and Mrs. Agnew, whom the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos welcomed, the President later saw the distinguished visitors, who are houseguests at the Palace during their stay in the Philippines.

The US Vice President will represent President Richard Nixon at the inaugural of the President.

After a bit of relaxing late in the afternoon, the President, refreshed, returned to his study to work further on his speech. He also studied other official papers brought to his attention.

On the eve of Rizal Day the President issued the following message:

We commemorate Rizal Day this year with the relevant theme of “Freedom Through Discipline,” not only in remembrance of an overriding principle which governed the life of the hero, but also in emulation of his ethic with the purpose of applying to our present tasks and concerns that virtue which carried Rizal through the profound dilemmas of his life and caused him to triumph.

As we accept our own sacrifices and undergo the test of self-discipline, let us remember that Rizal and other committed Filipinos in their own time unquestionably submitted to this rigor so that their nation will live in freedom and dignity.

December 30—

THIS WAS A HISTORIC day for President Marcos.

His entire daylong activities were centered on the inauguration ceremonies installing him as President of the Republic for a second term, and on the observance of Rizal Day.

He was up early with his first activity attending a Mass. Then he prepared for the inaugural at the Luneta, now known as Rizal Park.

Riding with his son, Bongbong to the Luneta, he arrived at about 10:50, then received military honors with characteristic crispness. He then led the crowd in saluting the national flag. After the salute to the flag, he ascended the grandstand, signalling the start of the military parade.

At high noon, he took his oath of office administered by Supreme Court Chief Justice Roberto Concepcion, in Filipino, the first in the Republic’s history.

Then he delivered his inaugural address, which pledged vigorous leadership, both in transforming the land, the people and in making the nation more self-reliant, morally responsible, and progressive.

“It is our destiny to transform this nation,” he said, adding that “we begin by transforming ourselves first”.

The President thanked the people for the new mandate given him and pledged “the severest leadership in integrity as well as discipline”.

He stressed, “Public officials shall set the vision for simplicity within the bounds of civility”.

The presidency, he vowed, will “set the example of his official morality and oblige others to follow”. He promised to punish extravagance in government, and to attain “our dreams no matter at what cost of personal pain and suffering” (See pp. 46-A to 46-F for full text of the Inaugural Address)

Returning to Malacañang, the President and his family followed custom by registering in the Palace registry, which signified tenancy of Malacañang. In their case, for another four years.

In the afternoon, the President went out again, first to lay a wreath at the Rizal monument on the Luneta, then to present Rizal Pro Patria awards to Teodoro F. Valencia and Leoncio Lopez Rizal, and a presidential citation to Senator-elect Mamintal Tamano.

He then proceeded to Fort Bonifacio where he laid a wreath at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

In the evening he and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, were hosts at a dinner honoring foreign guests representing various nations at the inaugural.

In an exchange of toasts, the President said that although the nations of the world, including the Philippines, had their own individual problems, the common problem among them was still war, diseases and ignorance.

“We join all nations in the pursuit to overcome and surmount these problems,” he said. “Small and impoverished as our country is, we know our duties and we shall perform such duties”.

December 31—

PRESIDENT MARCOS started his new term as President of the Republic.

Highlight of the President’s activities was his issuance of an official statement in which he made public his decision to give away his worldly possessions.

Full text of the President’s statement follows:

Moved by the strongest desire and the purest will to set the example of self-denial and self-sacrifice for all our people, I have today decided to give away all my worldly possessions so that they may serve the greater needs of the greater number of our people.

I have therefore given away, by a general instrument of transfer, all my material possessions to the Filipino people through a foundation to be organized and to be known as the Ferdinand E. Marcos Foundation.

It is my wish that these properties will be used in advancing the cause of education, science, technology and the arts.

This act I undertake of my own free will, knowing that, having always been a simple man, my needs will always be lesser than the needs of many of our people, who have given me the highest honor with their gift, an honor unshared by no other Filipino leader.

Since about a year ago, I have asked some of my closest confidantes to study the mechanics of this decision. Today studies have been completed, and a foundation will now be formed to administer these properties and all funds that may be generated therefrom.

My wife, Imelda, is in full agreement, and wholeheartedly supports me in this decision.

Provisions will be made for my children, so that they shall be assured of satisfactory education and be prepared to meet their lifetime duties and endeavors.

For the moment, my most sincere hope is that this humble act shall set the example, and move to great deeds of unselfishness and compassion, many of our countrymen whose position in society gives them a stronger duty to minister to the needs of our less fortunate brothers and countrymen.

Early in the morning, he relaxed a bit with former Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi of Japan, Ambassador Toshiro Urabe, also of Japan, and Ambassador Jose Laurel HI, Philippine envoy to Tokyo, and others at the Malacañang Park golf course.

Refreshed, the President began his paper work, then at 9:30 knocked off to receive the special representatives of 44 countries to the Inaugural. He and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, greeted the guests as they were presented.

He then individually received Korean Prime Minister Chung II Kwon, former Prime Minister Kishi of Japan, Foreign Minister Gregorio Lopez Bravo of Spain, and U.S. Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, in that order.

During the meeting with the Spanish foreign minister, the President was presented with a Katipunan battle flag and several bladed weapons used by the revolutionaries against Spanish troops.

Vice President Agnew gave the President a moonrock and the Philippine flag flown to and from the moon by the Apollo II astronauts. Astronaut Eugene Cernan, Apollo 10 Commander was also present.

Speaking of the Katipunan weapons consisting of two sabers, two krises and a bolo, the President said he was overwhelmed “by these symbols of courage and manhood that are returned to our land,” adding that “our land was occupied, but our hearts were not conquered.”

The Katipunan flag, which showed its age, measures about three feet by nine, and was the battle standard of one of the Katipunan field units:

In receiving the moonrock from Astronaut Cernan, the President recalled that when President Nixon visited here last June he promised Bongbong a ticket on the first commercial liner to the moon.

“I remind the Vice President (Agnew), or rather, at the instance of Bongbong, I am reminding the Vice President about this,” the President remarked in a light vein.

In the afternoon, the President presided at several meetings with NP leaders, beginning at 4 p.m. He first met governors and mayors at the residence of Gov. Isidro Rodriguez of Rizal at Mandaluyong; then sat down with representatives at Speaker Jose B. Laurel’s home, also in Mandaluyong; then he drove to the house of Senate President Gil J. Puyat in Quezon City, to meet with the senators and other NP leaders.

In the evening, he conferred with the members of the Blue Ladies and the COSEC at the house of NACIDA Administrator Pacita Gonzales in Makati.

On the eve of New Year’s Day, the President issued the following message:

As at no other time in the past perhaps, a new tide of change is upon us, and the new year as well as the new decade brings us to heart of unusual and not easily understood problems which man-kind has not had to face before.

While it has been our good fortune as a people and a nation to surmount the problems of the past decade, it shall be our fate to wrestle with the essential difficulties of the 70’s.

Because progress creates its own problems, it cannot be hoped that technological and industrial progress will automatically bring about a period of general ease.

Our main task, as I pointed out on my second inaugural address, will be not only to seek to excel the performance of other nations, but to transform the character of our people so that there shall grow in this nation a new heart and a new spirit that relies solely in the capacity of the individual to understand and apply himself to his burdens, without depending on the generosity of others.

But on the other side of this ethic is the even more demanding moral responsibility of those endowed with material possessions that offend and oppress the stations of the poor.

Henceforth, they will be called upon to share whatever they can of their lot with all your people. Having the duty to lead in this endeavor, I have today renounced my material possessions in favor of the Filipino people.

United in effort, singular in resolve, let us now work together to make this new year a new era in which our people will continue to be free and secure in their freedom because they concern themselves not only with their personal interests but above all the nation’s well-being.

January 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent a quiet New Year's day with his family at home in Malacañang.

However, because state matters could not wait, he also worked a while in his study, as urgent papers came up for action.

Among other matters, he decided to defer the implementation of the plan of the NAWASA to raise service rates by directing the water agency to shelve the proposal until after public hearings are held.

Otherwise, the President enjoyed a relaxing day with his family, in the immemorial Filipino way on the first day of the new year.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: January 2-8, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

January 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS stepped into the current efforts to clear up the alleged election irregularities in Batanes when he advised school teachers to testify at the Comelec probe of the case, directing at the same time the AFP chief of staff to provide protection for the teachers and all others who would testify at the hearings.

The President's action came on the heels of the plan of Comelec Chairman Jaime N. Ferrer to hold hearings in Batanes so that teachers and that a telling other witnesses may testify. The Comelec has received reports "judge and a fiscal had been going the rounds of Batanes towns the teachers that they would be charged with perjury if they testified.

Buckling down to his ever flowing paper work early in the morning, the President quickly whittled down the first pile of papers on his desk, deluding the issuance of an executive order creating a committee to conduct public hearings on the proposal of the NAWASA to hike service rates in order to meet financial commitments.

Then at mid-morning, he received a group from Guam, headed island's Speaker of the Legislature Joaquin C. Arriola. In the group were Mrs. Arriola, Lt. Gov. and Mrs. Kurt Moylan, and other islanders of Filipino descent. Accompanying the visitors were Secretary of Blas F. Ople. Undersecretary Tomas dela Cruz, and PTTA Director Salvador Peña.

The President was pleased with the memento presented by the Guamanians, consisting of colored rocks found on the island, mounted on a hardwood stand. The group came here primarily to represent Guam t the presidential inaugural.

There were few other visitors, giving the President time enough to work on other state matters till lunchtime. Early in the afternoon, he sat down with his fiscal advisory council to thresh out current problems -the regular weekly meeting of the council. Present at the conference were President Roberto Benedicto of the Philippine National Bank, airman Gregorio S. Licaros of the Development Bank of the Philippines, Secretary of Finance Eduardo Romualdez, Social Security Sys-Administrator Gilberto Teodoro, GSIS General Manager Benjamin Rosario, Central Bank Governor Alfonso Calalang, Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, Board of Investments Chairman Cesar E. Virata, Secretary of Commerce and Industry Leonides S. Virata and PES Director-General Placido Mapa, Jr.

After the meeting, he crossed over to Malacañang Park for a bit of relaxation. Then he returned to his study to continue his labors. He worked through the evening.

January 3—

WORKING IN HIS study through the morning, President Marcos studied reports and other state papers on various government concerns, including measures for further paring down government expenditures.

The President, notably, moved to effect the lay-off of Malacañang technical assistants, on which the Executive Office is now working, to weed out all dispensables.

He also issued a directive suspending all public school athletic meets for 1970.

The decision to suspend the meets would save the government about P15 million, and relieve teachers who had just undergone heavy election duties of additional loads normally entailed in the preparation of the athletic meets.

The President returned to his study early in the afternoon, and remained there going through more state papers brought to him for action. Late in the afternoon, he disengaged to relax a bit at the Malacañang Park.

But he returned shortly to his desk, and worked till dinnertime.

January 5—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, assisted by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos and their children Imee, Bongbong and Irene, received the New Year greetings of about 50,000 government officials, foreign dignitaries and the general public from 9 a.m. to about 1 p.m. at the traditional Malacañang open house.

In an exchange of toasts with members of the diplomatic corps, the President gave assurance that the Philippines will continue to work together with other freedom loving countries for a “one world for all humanity.”

The reception was open to all comers.

After the reception, the President had a late lunch, and then rested briefly before sitting down in his study to work.

Among other actions, the President:

1. Appointed Vice President Lopez as *ad interim* Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources.
2. Ordered studies made on how the nation's heroes, could be remembered appropriately on their birth or death anniversaries without declaring special public holidays each time.
3. Designated the Filipinescas Dance Company as the Philippines ambassador of goodwill for this year, which they will discharge by giving performances around the world.
4. Directed the Department of Education to prepare a new integrated athletic program, which will take effect once the suspension of regional sports meets is lifted.

January 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS received the credentials of a new foreign envoy and handed out awards to a total of 99 officials, lay leaders and civic organizations, among other activities during an unusually crowded day.

The President also received a number of callers, including Antonio Delgado, chairman of the Golden Jubilee Committee of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, with whom he conferred on preparations for the observance of the 50th year of the scout movement in this country.

Delgado, who is vice president of the International Scouting Commission, reported on the recent World Conference on Scouting held in Helsinki, at which conference he was elected vice chairman.

In the morning, the President accepted the credentials of Ambassador Abdul Hakim Tabibi, first envoy of the Kingdom of Afghanistan to the Philippines. Present at the presentation rites, which was held at the Palace ceremonial hall at 9 a.m., were members of the Cabinet headed by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo and ranking officials of the Afghanistan embassy in Manila.

Then the President crossed over to the Maharlika Hall in the Executive Building, where he gave away trophies, medals, plaques and other awards to a sizeable number of national, provincial, city, municipal and barrio officials, as well as to lay leaders, and civic organizations for outstanding accomplishments in community development and land reform.

The award ceremony was held in connection with the observance of the 14th anniversary of the Presidential Arm on Community Development. Assisting the President was Executive Secretary Ernesto M. Maceda, concurrently PACD secretary.

The awardees included four senators, namely, Dominador Aytona, Jose Roy, Lorenzo Teves and Leonardo Perez, who through legislation they authored or sponsored contributed substantially to the promotion of the government's community development efforts.

January 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had two important meetings, first, with his Cabinet and, second, with his Fiscal Policy Committee, to round out a day devoted to the examination of current and long-range problems.

At the Cabinet meeting, which was the first called by the President after winning a second term, the President directed members of his official family to analyze the problems facing the nation and set [the objectives of their respective departments in the light of these studies.

The President also asked members of his Cabinet to reevaluate their achievements during the last four years and draw up plans covering the next four years to attain national objectives.

A good part of the Cabinet meeting was devoted to the promotion of tourism and the development of exports.

During his meeting with fiscal policy advisers, the President likewise directed the preparation of a list of infrastructure projects that should be given top priority in the allocation of funds, and thus be implemented immediately.

The list will be made by a committee composed of Secretary of Finance Eduardo Romualdez as chairman, and Acting Secretary of Public Works and Communications Manuel Syquiao, PES Director-General Placido Mapa, Jr. and Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco as members.

The Cabinet meeting began 10:30 a.m. and ended 12:30 p.m., while the fiscal policy conference which followed immediately lasted up to 1 p.m. Both meetings were held at the Council of State room in Malacañang.

Earlier in the morning, the President received a few callers. Among those who saw him were Ambassador and Mrs. Bob Lebacqz of Belgium who called to pay their respects.

The President did not receive callers in the afternoon, but worked on in his study, remaining at his desk through the evening.

“While working on state papers, the President:

1. Directed the Philippine Air Force to ferry to Manila by military plane Batanes school teachers willing to testify at the current probe of alleged election irregularities committed there.

The President issued the order following receipt of a request from Comelec Chairman Jaime N. Ferrer for a PAF plane to transport the schoolteachers to Manila. The Comelec had been informed earlier that three Batanes schoolteachers had expressed readiness to testify before the Comelec in response to a call from the President for them to do so “without fear.”

2. Gave the go signal for public schools to hold athletic meets with, however, certain conditions to be met designed to make these sportfests more economical.

The President imposed the conditions on the recommendations of Secretary of Education Onofre D. Corpuz during the Cabinet meeting held at Malacañang.

Among the conditions are:

1. That no school official or personnel not directly involved with sports or connected with the athletic meets be made a member of athletic meet delegations;
2. That the number of officials and other personnel accompanying delegations be reduced to the minimum;
3. That certain standards of performance be set and met by athletes before they are qualified to participate in the meets.
4. That optional events like pingpong and badminton be scrapped;
5. That no facilities of the Philippine Air Force or the Navy be utilized to transport delegations;
6. That no public works funds be expended for the construction or repair of roads, ports or airports solely for the promotion of the meets; and
7. That teachers and students will not be required to contribute to funds being raised to finance meets.

January 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS again pressed efforts to boost the country's export and tourist industries, as he met with various groups of government and private sector leaders.

He conferred with tourist industry entrepreneurs at Malacañang in the morning, and at noontime he was guest speaker at the regular meeting of the Manila Rotary Club, held at the Manila Hotel.

The President also received a number of callers at his office in the Executive Building.

Among those he received were Prof. Francisco Ventura; Ambassador Modesto Farolan. Philippine envoy to Indonesia; and former Senator Manuel P. Manahan, chairman of the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM).

At mid-morning, the President met behind closed doors Secretary of National Defense Ernesto Mata; Gen. Manuel Yan, AFP chief of staff; Brig. Gen. Ismael Lapuz (ret.), chief of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency; Brig. Gen. Felizardo Tanabe, commanding general of the first PC zone; and Col. Fidel Ramos, chief of AFP intelligence.

Later, the President met with Antonio Delgado, Mrs. Rebecca Panlilio, Rodolfo Cuenca, Jose O. Cobarrubias, and Reneo A. Albano.

Also attending were Roberto Benedicto, PNB president; and Cols. Gerardo Tamayo and James Barbers, chief and deputy chief, respectively, of the Manila Police Department.

The President discussed with this group the plans for promoting tourism, and for encouraging foreign tourists to visit the Philippines.

Shortly after 12 noon, the President, accompanied by Antonio Roxas Chua, Manila Rotary Club president, motored to the Manila Hotel where he was guest speaker at the regular luncheon meeting of the club.

In his speech, the President reaffirmed the determination of the government to press the development of the tourism industry with the move to adopt the open skies policy and to do away with visa requirements for foreign visitors.

“We have to get involved more intensively with tourism.” the President told the Rotarians.

As a start, he said, the directed the immediate study of the possibility of opening the country’s skies to all foreign airlines with no limit on frequencies.

The President explained, however, that the open skies policy will be experimental, to take effect for only one year. (See pp. 166-276 for full text of the President’s speech).

In the afternoon, the President worked mostly in his study. Pie remained at his desk through the evening.

While working on state papers, the President:

1. Listed the suspension of loans by government financing institutions and commercial banks primarily to meet the needs of export industries, as well as those of the mining and new and necessary industries.

The suspension was scrapped in order to meet the credit needs of export-oriented industries, especially, those industries engaged in mining and the new and necessary industries needed by the economy.

2. Directed all government agencies to adopt a policy of not assigning field officials and other ranking government personnel to their respective home provinces. The President called for the adoption of this policy in order to preclude possible charges of favoritism that normally arise when government officials have to deal with their own relatives and friends in the performance of their duties.

3. Directed Commissioner Mama Sinsuat of National Integration to limit the number of Muslim pilgrims to Mecca to one shipload only, in follow-up of a decision arrived at during the Cabinet meeting yesterday.

The President said that the pilgrims should be so selected that all Muslim provinces are represented.

He emphasized that only one ship of Philippine registry preferably of the Compania Maritima, which has successfully transported pilgrims before, be utilized for this year’s pilgrimage.

The President also imposed two conditions before any pilgrim is allowed to leave the country, namely:

1. That the *mutawiff*, the fee imposed by the Saudi Arabian government on every pilgrim, be paid by the pilgrim himself through the Philippine National Bank.

2. That the pilgrim should pay his fare direct to the shipping company before accommodation can be obtained for him aboard the ship.

The President emphasized he had to impose these conditions to avoid recurrence of embarrassment suffered by the government in connection with the annual pilgrimage.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: January 9-14, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

January 9—

THE PRESIDENTIAL pace visibly quickened as he met various congressional leaders, received a sizeable delegation of citizens and individual groups from various sectors, while in-between putting in a full day's work at his desk.

The President started the day off with a working breakfast attended by Speaker Jose Laurel, Jr., Speaker Protempore Jose Aldeguer and Majority Floor Leader Marcelino Veloso, during which the legislative program was discussed and priority legislation eyed by the administration threshed out.

After this meeting, the President began his desk work, firing off several directives on such matters as the reported landgrabbing cases in Laguna, and the reappointment of members of government examination boards.

At mid-morning, the President began receiving private visitors, among them Earl Mazo of the U. S. *News Digest*; executives of the Standard Fruit Co., and a farmer, Primitivo Aclan, who presented the President with his millionth bunch of bananas, grown on his 7-hectare farm,

The Standard Fruit executives were Geronimo Velasco, president, and Charles Bauman, executive vice president.

This meeting was followed with a conference with Rep. Cornelio Villareal and Gov. Cornelio Villareal, Jr. of Capiz, both of whom took up local problems.

Then the President received a 500-man delegation of Batanes folk, composed of prominent civic and community leaders, and including students from that province studying in Manila.

As a result of the meeting, the President ordered a special team of NBI agents to probe the reported terrorism by goons in that province and bring to heel the malefactors. In this connection, he froze all movements of transportation in that province, after being informed by delegation members that goons usually clear out when probers show up, only to return after the government men leave the province.

While engaged in paper work, the President signed the appointment of DBP Chairman Gregorio S. Licaros as governor of the Central Bank, vice Alfonso Calalang, who has resigned.

The President also reappointed a total of 30 chairmen and members of Boards of Examiners for different professions and of the Board of Pardons and Parole.

Reappointed were:

1. Eric C. Nubia and Tomas Arguelles as Members of the Board of Examiners for Architects;
2. Petronilo Gaitos, Jr. as chairman of the Board of Examiners for Chemical Engineers.
3. Jones R. Castro and David P. Cruz as chairman and member, respectively, of the Board of Examiners for Mining Engineers;
4. Socorro A. Gillera as chairman, and Rafaelina T. Legaspi and Patrocinio S. Santos as members of the Board of Examiners for Pharmacists; and

5. Dean Vicente Abad Santos and Catalino Macaraeg as members of the Board of Pardons and Parole.

January 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS followed his regular weekday schedule, a departure from his usual weekend norm, when he usually focuses on his desk work and does not receive visitors.

He had several visitors in the morning, a conference in the afternoon, and inducted the new Central Bank governor in addition. In-between all these chores, he also worked at his desk going over state papers and reports.

The President inducted Gregorio S. Licaros, the DBP chairman in the last four years, as the governor of the Central Bank vice Alfonso Calalang, at a simple ceremony in Malacañang.

Present at the ceremony were members of the Licaros family, officials of the DBP and the CB, and other prominent public officials.

Among the President's callers were:

1. A wartime buddy of his, American Capt. Donald Jamesen and his wife, whom the President met when he was brought in by submarine to help guerrillas operating in Northern Luzon.
2. USAF Brig. Gen. Joseph Capuchi, and his wife, who is here as official guest of Secretary of National Defense Ernesto Mata. The USAF brass called to pay his respects.
3. A group of teachers from Batanes who came here to testify at the Comelec probe of election venalities in that province.

The teachers attended the meeting between the President and Comelec Chairman Jaime Ferrer and Commissioners Cesar Miraflor and Lino Patajo. Also at the meeting were Brig. Gen. Vicente Raval, PC chief, and Col. Rafael Dumlao, C-2, who reported on the Batanes situation.

During the meeting, the President announced that he was ready to call a special election in the lone congressional district in Batanes should the Speaker of the House of Representatives certify to the existence of a vacancy on the basis of findings and recommendations of the Commission on Elections.

In the afternoon, the President directed Secretary of Justice Juan Ponce Enrile to designate one city court and one court of first instance as salas for hearing cases involving foreign tourists visiting in the Philippines.

The President specified to Secretary Enrile that these courts should operate with specific instructions from the secretary of justice "to dispose of any case brought before them within 48 hours."

In two separate memoranda, the President also formalized various decisions he announced earlier, namely:

1. To the Secretary of National Defense, to organize a special Metrocom team to help the Manila police and the Pasay City police provide protection and security for tourists, [especially those within the tourist belt area.

The team shall include a mobile patrol unit and a foot patrol group, which will be deployed in coordination with the police units from the Manila and Pasay City police departments which have primary patrol responsibility in the tourist belt area.

2. Also to the defense secretary, to place at the disposal of the Board of Travel and Tourist Industry two Philippine Navy hydrofoil, which will be used to ferry tourists to and from Corregidor, and other nearby areas.

On this point, the defense secretary was instructed to discuss with the Commissioner on Tourism the matter of expenses for the operation of the two boats, preferably on a 50-50 basis.

3. A joint memorandum to the secretary of foreign affairs and the commissioner of immigration, to abolish visa requirements for any tourist bound for the Philippines.

“For their entry to the Philippines, it shall be sufficient for tourists to present confirmed airplane or ship, as well as hotel, reservations for their trip to and out of the Philippines,” the President specified.

The President also told the foreign office and customs officials to take any other steps, or adopt other measures, that will facilitate the entry of tourists into the country.

He stressed, “It is my desire that efforts be exerted to make crossing of papers of tourists a very pleasant experience for them.

In another directive, the President asked Secretary Alejo Santos of the Anti-Crime Commission, and concurrent director of prisons, to ensure that working prisoners get mere privileges such as better food and clothing, medical care, and other essential needs.

In this connection, the President directed the prisons chief to Organize

a management council which will supervise all the properties¹ of the

Bureau of Prisons, particularly the rich untapped lands belonging to the penal colonies.

The President gave these instructions to Secretary Santos upon the latter’s submission of a proposed bill to Congress which would authorize payment of reasonable compensations to prisoners working at trades in the colonies.

January 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS moved for the hastening of the country’s agro-industrial development by creating a top-level body, with himself as chairman, to formulate national development policies.

Dubbed the National Development Council, it has as members the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the majority and minority leaders of both houses of Congress, the chairmen of the Senate and of the House committees, the work of whose committees is related to the subject to be discussed by the council; and the Cabinet member or members, the work of whose departments is related to the subject to be discussed by the council.

With the new arrangement, the leaders of Congress, the policy making body of the government, will be fully informed on the thinking of leaders in the executive. This is expected to hasten legislation of measures affecting the nation’s economic development.

Earlier, the President directed Secretary of Justice Juan Ponce Enrile to draft a bill reorganizing the Public Service Commission, make this quasi-judicial body more responsive to the interest of the general public.

The President’s directive comes in the wake of complaints continuously denouncing the PSC for acts allegedly inimical to the welfare of the general public, the supposed beneficiaries of public services.

The latest of these complaints pertains to the increase in shipping fees imposed by the management of interisland vessels, and said to have been approved by the PSC “when the public was not looking.”

To make the PSC more of an instrument of public service, thereby protecting the general welfare as its utmost mission, the President has asked Enrile to draft a bill to reorganize the PSC.

On another front, the President supplemented his earlier moves to make the tourists' sojourn here more pleasant by ordering the establishment of tourist shopping booths at the Nayong Pilipino and inside the customs zone.

The President instructed acting Secretary Manuel B. Syquio of Public Works and Communications and Customs Commissioner Rolando Geotina to coordinate efforts and put up bonded warehouses inside the customs zone and in the Nayong Pilipino, where goods could be sold to tourists free of tax.

This arrangement is also aimed at providing easily accessible stores for tourists, especially these who pass by Manila only very briefly while enroute to other destinations, or transients about to leave who may have last minute decisions to buy Philippine goods as well as foreign products.

January 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS formally received six vessels from the US government, in the only activity which took him away from Malacañang.

The rest of the day, the President worked on state papers and received callers.

At 9 a.m., the President motored to the Philippine Navy headquarters, where he received for the government three LST's, one patrol craft and two landing craft from the US government, which were extended to the Philippines under the military assistance program.

US Ambassador Henry Byroade made the presentation.

Back at Malacañang about 11 a.m., the President first received Roy Mason, president of the Board of Trade of the British government, who paid his respects. The British official is here on a three-day working visit.

Mason was accompanied by British Ambassador John Mansfield Addib.

At the Council of State room later, the President met with the young officials who took over the Manila city hall in connection with the observance of Boys and Girls Week.

Led by Lilian Romero of the Manila Science High School, who was chosen mayor, the youthful officials paid their respects to the President.

They discussed various matters with the President, including a proposal by the youngsters to legalize gambling under certain conditions; the activation of a manpower and youth program, and the lowering of the voting age to 18 years.

At noon, the President met with Senator Dominador Aytona, House Majority Floorleader Marcelino Veloso, and Rep. Artemio Mate.

He worked at his desk afterward through evening, in the course of which he ordered the Bureau of Immigration and the police agencies concerned to deport immediately eight Chinese nationals convicted of various offenses and considered as undesirable, directing that they be put on the first available transport to China or Formosa.

January 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS devoted most of the day to his desk work, breaking off only to confer the Rizal Pro Patria Award on Don] Vicente Madrigal at simple ceremonies held in the morning at Malacañang.

The President paid moving tribute to the venerable economic leader and industrial pioneer in brief remarks during the award rite, stressing that Don Vicente's example should be followed by other Filipinos.

Present at the ceremony were the sons and daughters, children-in-law, and other kin of the honoree, close family friends, colleagues in the Senate where he served a term, and other dignitaries. Also present was the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos.

The President presented the award to Antonio Madrigal, son of the honoree, who proxied for his father, who has long been incapacitated by illness and old age.

During the day's stint at his desk, the President, among others:

3. Directed the Budget Commission to release in three segments the P6.5 million earmarked for the expansion and modernization of the Manila International Airport, beginning with the initial release of P2.5 million for the immediate improvement of the MIA terminal building.

The project is considered urgent in the face of the coming of the jumbo jets, scheduled next November.

2. Required the Land Authority to course its plans for resettling squatters in public lands through Malacañang, which will assess and approve the plans before implementation.

This procedure was set following complaints received from various sources about the conduct of the resettlement of displaced families in the San Pedro Tunasan Estate in Laguna.

3. Ordered Executive Secretary Ernesto Maceda to integrate all peace and order bodies created by previous presidential decrees under one central agency, in order to pinpoint responsibility for the overall anti-crime drive.

Slated for integration are such groups as the Peace and Order Council, the Peace and Order Coordinating Council, the Peace and Order Commission, and possibly the Anti-Crime Coordinating Office.

The President did not receive visitors the whole day, but instead remained working at his desk through the afternoon and evening.

January 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS addressed a gathering of priests, met with sugar industry leaders, and attended a caucus of representatives, thus once again projecting the variousness of a presidential working day.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

President's Week in Review: January 16-22, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

January 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS in the morning received a few callers at the Executive Hall, and worked on state papers the rest of the day.

At 10 a.m., the President met with officials of the Philippine Council of the International Chamber of Commerce, led by Dr. Manuel Lim, who called to submit formally their written pledge of support to the President's program of government.

Later, the President inducted the new set of officers of the Federation of Provincial Press Clubs of the Philippines, headed by Felipe Delfin of the Aklan Press-Radio Club, the federation president.

Other callers of the President were Msgr. Mariano Gaviola of the Catholic Bishops Conference, Consul Jose Teodoro of the Philippines . Consulate in Seattle, President Takeshi Watanabe of the Asian Development Bank, and acting Secretary of Public Works and Communications I Manuel B. Syquiao.

Secretary Syquiao reported personally on the fire which occurred at the Post Office building the previous night.

The President, in a speech read for him in the evening by Chairman Cesar E. A. Virata of the Board of Investments at the anniversary dinner of the Philippine Society of Mining, Metallurgical, and Geological Engineers and the Geological Society of the Philippines, said that the development of the mining industry will continue to receive greater encouragement and support from the government, it being one of the brightest and most dependable hopes of the country's economy.

"We must now make a bold and purposeful effort to realize its fullest potential for the nation," the President added.

The President however said that while the government is ready to give the industry the support it needs, the leadership in spurring it must still come from the mining engineers.

January 17—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent the day in Malacañang, working at his desk in his private study.

Among others, he went over the curriculum vitae of individuals being considered for appointment to various key positions in the government, including the judiciary.

The President signed the *ad interim* appointments of four associate justices of the Court of Appeals and three district judges.

The President also elevated Presiding Justice Julio Villamor of the Court of Appeals to associate justice of the Supreme Court and CA Associate Justice Salvador Esguerra to presiding justice of the appellate court, vice Villamor.

Extended *ad interim* appointments as associate justices of the Court of Appeals were Undersecretary of Justice Felix Q. Antonio, Judges Jose N. Leuterio and Manuel P. Barcelona of the Manila court of first instance, and Judge Lourdes P. San Diego of the court of first instance of Rizal.

Named *ad interim* district judges were:

1. Senior State Prosecutor Alejandro Sebastian for the 16th judicial district, to preside over the CFI of Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur and Davao Oriental, Branch VIII, with official station at Tagum, Davao del Norte;
2. Sisenando Villaluz for the 15th judicial district, to preside over the CFI of Agusan del Sur, with station at Prosperidad; and
3. Judge Amado B. Reyes of the Cagayan Criminal Circuit Court, for the 5th judicial district, to preside over the CFI of Bataan, Branch II.

The President previously expressed his desire to fill up more than a hundred new judges and fiscal to clear crowded court dockets. He had directed Secretary of Justice Juan Ponce Emile to set up a comprehensive criteria, embodying rigid requirements for nominees to the post of CFI judge and other members of the judiciary.

The President has also directed Secretary Enrile to pinpoint how many more judges are needed in the CFI to improve and accelerate the administration of justice, in connection with the government's peace and order campaign.

In the afternoon, the President motored to the Veterans Memorial Hospital in Quezon City where the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, is confined following a surgical operation to remove a benign cystic maps from the right chest wall.

Before leaving Malacañang, the President signed the appointment of Col. Rafael G. Zagala as *ad interim* brigadier general of the Armed Forces of the Philippines

Zagala is area commander of the first military area.

He also directed PC Chief Brig. Gen. Vicente Raval to investigate the departure of a private plane from Batanes even while the isolation of the province, which he had ordered last week, was in force.

The President issued the order upon receipt of a report from Gov. Silvino Agudo that three of the suspected malefactors in connection with the November 11 polls had escaped m- a private plane.

January 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS asked Commissioner Abelardo Subido of the Civil Service Commission to resign his post, in view of the findings of the Presidential Investigating Committee of his culpability in one of ; the charges filed against him.

The Committee, headed by Dr. Gaudencio Garcia and with former Justice Edilberto Barot as member, in an 86-page report, found Subido guilty of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act (RA 301&).

The case against Commissioner Subido arose from a formal complaint to the President, in a sworn letter dated February 20, 1967, by Faustino Tugade charging the CSC chief with the commission of various irregularities.

The Committee refrained from making a recommendation on the case when it submitted its report on July 1, 1969, and "leaves the decision to the President as to the penalty, if any, that should be imposed on the Commissioner (Subido)."

Executive Secretary Ernesto Maceda, who reviewed the Committee report, recommended dismissal as penalty for Commissioner Subido in view of the seriousness of the offense committed.

Maceda said that the nature of the position of respondent (ex officio member of the Cabinet) and the strict policy of the President in administrative cases against public officials and employees warrant the dismissal of the CSC chief.

January 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS started his day with a meeting early in the morning with his fiscal policy advisers at the Veterans Memorial Hospital, before coming to Malacañang where he received callers and worked on state papers.

Topping the list of callers was Ambassador John Mansfield Addis of the United Kingdom, who paid a farewell call prior to his departure for London Thursday for a new assignment.

A group of 138 Filipino teachers also paid a farewell call, on the eve of their departure for Addis Ababa to fulfill a three-year teaching-contract with the Ethiopian government.

The group was accompanied by Pompeyo Gregorio of the Department of Education.

In connection with the teachers' call, the President directed Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo to make a study on the redeployment of Philippine diplomatic missions, particularly to African countries where many Filipinos are residing.

In other separate actions the President:

1. Ordered the investigation and cancellation of mining concessions granted to mining companies which are not capable of developing them but secured them merely for speculative purposes.
2. Signed a proclamation declaring the period from January 24 to 31 this year as National Securities-Investment Consciousness Week.
3. Summoned Civil Service Commissioner Abelardo Subido to appear at Malacañang in connection with his demanded resignation from his post.

The President also gave an interview to Burt Hoffman, of the *Washington Star*, who was accompanied by Amando Doronila of the *Daily Mirror*, who is also the Philippine correspondent of the American publication.

The fiscal policy meeting in the morning was held at the Presidential Suite of the VMH, where the President spent the night.

At the meeting were Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, Central Bank Gov. Gregorio Licaros, Chairman Cesar E. A. Virata of the Board of Investments, PNB President Roberto Behedicto, General Manager Benjamin del Rosario of the GSIS, PES Director-General Placido Mapa, Jr., SSS Administrator Gilberto Teodoro, and Presidential Executive Assistant Jacobo C. Clave.

The President directed Commissioner Sy-Changco to prepare and implement balanced budgets during the next four fiscal years and to take steps to generate a surplus in order to reduce the deficit incurred by the government during the first six months.

In a speech read for him in the morning by Secretary of Health Amadeo Cruz before the 9th World Congress of the International Committee of Catholic Nurses, the President paid tribute to the average nurse whose dedication and devotion to work is almost a universal trait among nurses the world over.

"If only we can approximate the devotion of the average nurse to her work," the President said, "then perhaps men and nations will attain the higher goals that they conceive."

The President expressed the hope that one day, “Filipinos shall become a race of devoted workers, not working for themselves alone but for all their fellows, including those generations yet to come.”

January 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS met with members of Congress who called at Malacañang in the morning.

The President also received Civil Service Commissioner Abelardo Subido, whom he had earlier asked to resign from his post in view of the findings of the Presidential Investigating Committee that the CSC chief violated the anti-graft law.

Subido requested the President for a reconsideration of his case. The President advised him to make a formal written petition to this effect, and to submit evidence which would warrant a reinvestigation.

In his meeting with the lawmakers the President was informed by the Nacionalista majority in the House if Representatives that Reps. Cornelio Villareal and Jose B. Laurel, Jr. have reached an understanding for Laurel to continue as Speaker of the House in accordance with the wishes of the majority congressmen.

The President also witnessed the oathtaking of Senator Ambrosia Padilla as a new member of the Nacionalista Party.

Sen. Padilla, who was reelected senator as a guest candidates in the Nacionalista ticket last year, took his oath of affiliation with the NP before Senate President Gil J. Puyat, who is also the NP president.

Padilla’s oathtaking took place at the President’s office beside the Maharlika hall.

The President’s meeting with the lawmakers lasted until early afternoon, in time for him to welcome the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, who came home from her brief confinement at the Veterans Memorial Hospital, following an operation. The President congratulated her for her quick recovery, adding that she didn’t look like one who had just been to a hospital.

Pursuing efforts to promote the tourist industry, the President asked Secretary of Health Amadeo Cruz to direct efforts toward the eradication of cholera and other quarantinable diseases in the country’s ports of entry, especially the port of Manila, through an intensive program of environmental sanitation, immunization and other epidemiological measures.

This will include proper garbage disposal, adequate water supply and food sanitation.

“But with or without tourist,” the President stressed, “government owes it to the people to maintain healthy surrounding for the citizens, especially the children.”

The expansion of the tourist industry is one of the top priority programs of the administration because of its huge potential as a major dollar-earner for the country.

While working on official papers in his study, the President signed the *ad interim* appointment of former CIR Judge Vicente Rafael as associate justice of the Court of Appeals, to fill one of the two remaining vacancies in the appellate court.

He also designated Lucio N. Tan as acting City Treasurer of Oroquieta City.

January 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS met with the Cabinet, conferred an award on a ranking US Air Force official, and received two foreign newspapermen, and in-between worked at his desk.

At the Cabinet meeting held at the Council of State room starting about noon, the President served notice that the executive branch is the sole implementing arm of the Republic, and that it will discharge this constitutional duty without any interference from the other branches of the government.

“There has been much talk about forming a centralized agency of the government to implement programs to meet national problems,” the President said. “The President is the centralized implementing arm under our republican form of government. I think we are capable of implementing these programs and we will do it.”

The President pointed out that because of the limited resources of the government, there was need of pinpointing projects to be given priority. Among such priority projects, he said, are rural electrification and the emphasis on arts and trades in school curriculum in connection with the manpower development program of the administration.

The President stressed, however, that the establishment of priorities did not mean the abandonment of old projects, like infrastructure, land reform and resettlement. He asked Vice President Lopez, concurrently secretary of agriculture and natural resources, and other Cabinet members concerned, to push through these projects.

During the Cabinet meeting, the President emphasized anew the need to pare down expenses. He directed his department secretaries to refrain from filling up vacancies, except urgent ones like those in the judiciary and in the prosecuting agencies of the government.

The President also called the attention of his Cabinet to reports of petty graft again reaching his office. He ordered not only the dismissal but also the prosecution of erring officials and employees.

He warned anew against the misuse of government vehicles, singling out those of the Armed Forces and the Department of Public Works and Communications which, he said, were reported roaming around picnic grounds on Sundays, with large “For Official Use Only” signs painted on their sides.

At a simple rite earlier, the President awarded the Philippine Legion of Honor, degree of commander, to Lt. Gen. Francis Gideon of the U.S. 13th Air Force, for meritorious services to the Filipino people.

During the day the President also received William Winter, who conducts “William Winter Comments,” and Joseph A. Amter, president of the *World Press Syndicate, Inc.*

The two American journalists, who were accompanied by their wives during the call, exchanged views on a wide range of subjects with the President.

Among other official actions, the President directed Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo to waive the fees for the travel documents of Muslim pilgrims who are leaving for Mecca.

January 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS attended the meeting of the Nacionalista Party Junta and later presided at the caucus of NP senators, as titular head of the Nacionalista Party.

The four-hour long sessions, held at the Pangarap, across the Pasig from Malacañang, engaged the President’s attention and concern, particularly because of the spirited rivalry for the Senate leadership.

But all ended well, as the conferees reached consensus on Senator Gil J. Puyat as the NP choice for Senate president. It was also agreed that Senator Jose J. Roy will be acting NP president.

The President first attended the Junta meeting, then had a caucus with the NP senators: later he sat clown with Senators Roy, Puyat, and Arturo Tolentino. All the meetings were private.

The President then met individually with the other senators present, namely: Senators Lorenzo M. Tañada, Magnolia W. Antonino, Rene Espina, Salvador Laurel, Ambrosio Padilla, Helena Z. Benitez, Dominador Aytona, Lorenzo Sumulong, Wenceslao R. Lagumbay, Eva Estrada Kalaw, Lorenzo Teves, and Leonardo Perez.

The Junta members present were Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., Gov. Isidro Rodriguez of Rizal, Mayor Leroy Brown of Basilan City, Rep. Jose Aldeguer, OEC Administrator Constancio Castaneda, who is NP secretary-general; Gov. Conrado Estrella of Land Authority, former SWA Administrator Francisco E. F. Remotigue, House Majority leader Marcelino Veloso, RCA Chairman Alfredo Montelibano, Sr., and Leyte Gov. Benjamin Romualdez, assistant NP secretary-general.

Also present were former President Carlos P. Garcia and Vice President Lopez.

Earlier the President worked at his desk to dispose of urgent state papers, and after the meetings with the NP leaders, he returned” to” his study to continue his desk work.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: January 23-27, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

January 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS worked mostly on his state-of-the-nation speech. He also considered urgent state business brought to his attention, signed papers and studied reports.

But for the most part, he was engaged by the speech he is set to deliver Monday, at the joint session of the two houses of Congress, which marks the opening of the regular session of the legislature.

The President remained at his desk through the evening.

January 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS continued to concentrate on his desk work with the polishing of his state-of-the-nation speech getting his primary attention.

However, he also disposed of a big pile of state papers, inducted two justices and received a group of AFP generals who paid a courtesy call after taking their oaths.

The President at simple ceremonies administered the oath of office to Justice Julio Villamor as associate justice of the Supreme Court and Justice Salvador V. Esguerra as presiding justice of the Court of Appeals.

The President inducted the two justices at Malacañang in the presence of members of the judiciary led by Chief Justice Roberto, Concepcion of the Supreme Court and associate justices of the high tribunal and the appellate court, as well as immediate members of their families, relatives and friends.

Until his appointment to the -Supreme Court to fill the post vacated recently due to the retirement of Justice Francisco Capistrano, Justice Villamor was presiding justice of the appellate court.

He was succeeded by Justice Esguerra, who is the most senior associate justice of the Court of Appeals.

In his brief meeting with the top brass of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the President enjoined them to be more vigilant than ever and to exert their utmost in preserving the security of the country.

The President told the group of newly-appointed generals who called on him that there are elements, including foreign, bent on disturbing the stability of the government but that he had complete faith in the military's ability to recognize and thwart the hostile designs of these elements.

Those who called on the President were Brig. Gen. Roso Sabalones, deputy commander of the I PC zone; Commodore Hilario Ruiz, deputy commander of the Philippine Navy; Brig. Gen. Domingo Tucay, commander of the second military area; Brig. Gen. Jose Rancudo, commander of the Fifth Fighter Wing, PAF; Brig. Gen. Antonio Tamayo, chief of the AFP Supply Center at Camp Aguinaldo; and Brig. Gen. Juan D. Cruz, commander of the Fourth Infantry Division. They were accompanied by Secretary of National Defense Ernesto Mata and Gen. Manuel Yan, AFP chief of staff.

The President received no other visitors, and after these welcome interruptions, he returned to his desk work. He remained in his study through the afternoon and evening.

January 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent quite a busy day even though it was a Sunday.

He started with a breakfast meeting with the country's labor leaders, inducted the new associate justices of the Court of Appeals, conferred with military generals, and later met with the leaders of student demonstrators.

In his meeting with labor leaders, accompanied by Secretary of Labor Bias F. Ople, the President asked them for first hand accounts on the prevailing situation in the country's economic and social life.

Thus, the President obtained direct information from the representatives of the working masses, without relying on the cumbersome formality of written reports.

From this conference, the President excused himself to administer the oath of office to newly appointed Associate Justices of the Court of Appeals, namely: Felix Q. Antonio, Lourdes San Diego, Jose Leuterio, Manuel Barcelona, and Vicente Rafael.

After his meeting with the labor group, the President conferred with a group of military generals headed by Gen. Manuel Yan, AFP chief of staff

The President told the generals to prepare themselves for even greater service to country, even after they are retired from military duty.

He said the administration was prepared to help the retiring officers, especially those with valuable technical, executive and organizational abilities in getting into responsible positions in the civilian sector where they could further help in the economic development of the country.

At a meeting with leaders of student demonstrators later, the President prevailed upon them to call off their picket.

An understanding was reached between the President and the students on the latter's demands.

Led by Miss Portia Ilagan, the student leaders included Pedro Barrameda of UP, Philip Parca, Julius Ballesteros and Cris Aranda of PCC, Jose Sayson of CLSU, and Victor Parawan and Dever Besana of the PMMA.

They were accompanied by UP President Salvador P. Lopez, Dr. Nemesio Prudente, president of PCC and of the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges; Secretary Ople, Labor Relations Director Amado Gat Inciong; and Antonio Policarpio, Felixberto Olalia and Rogelio Villegas, all labor leaders.

The President rested briefly after a belated lunch, and then put the finishing touches on his state-of-the-nation message to Congress.

He also signed the ad interim appointment of four new members of the Board of Regents of the University of the Philippines, and reappointed another member whose term had expired.

Appointed for various tenures in office were:

- 1) Abel L. Silva, for a term expiring August 6, 1975.
- 2) Alexander Sycip, for a term expiring August 6, 1974.
- 3) Leonides S. Virata, for a term expiring August 6, 1973.
- 4) Fernando T. Barican, for a term expiring August 6, 1970.

Reappointed for another term expiring August 6, 1976, was Dr. Ambrosio F. Tangco, whose original appointment to the UP Board of Regents expired August 6, 1969.

January 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS laid down the imperative of self-discipline as “our salvation as a nation and the key to our future greatness.”

In his state-of-the-nation address before the joint session of the 7th Congress, which opened its regular session, the President affirmed confidence in the capacity of the Filipinos to solve their problems and move their country forward.

But, first, he said, there must be national discipline, and he called on the leaders of government, including the members of Congress, to set the example.

The next four years, he said, are crucial, with the nation compelled to embrace change, to make innovations, to accelerate development, and break the barriers to progress.

But these exertions, he said, already started in the last four years, have strained and will continue to strain the resources and energy of the nation. (See pp. 989 to 1044 for full text of the President’s state-of-the-nation address).

Earlier in the day, the President officiated at a mass-oathtaking ceremony in Malacañang, where he administered the oath to a group of *ad interim* colonels, out of a total of 137. The induction was held at the spacious Malacañang reception hall.

In brief remarks following the oath-taking, the President declared that he looks to the new colonels to establish higher standards of morality, proficiency, incorruptibility, and patriotism “which others may not even approach and approximate.”

He stated: “This is the role of the soldier, this is the role of the public servant; and the man in uniform sets a higher standard than anybody else.”

Congratulating the new coloneis, the President asked them to always “do honor to our flag, do honor to our country, do honor to our Constitution.”

The First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, top military officials led by Secretary of National Defense Ernesto Mata and General Manuel Yan, AFP chief of staff, the inductees’ wives and close kin witnessed the oathtaking.

Shortly before 1 p.m., the President received the special committee from Congress, composed of senators and representatives which officially informed him that the 7th Congress was convened.

The committee was composed of Senators Alejandro Almendras, Magnolia Antonino, Rene Espina, Mamintal Tamano and Benigno Aquino, Jr., and Reps. Marcelino Veloso, Mohamad Ali Dimaporo, Emerito Caldemn and Antonio Villar.

The President, accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, then left for Congress. On arrival at the session hall of the House of Representatives, the First Couple was given a standing ovation by all those gathered.

The President, took exactly 40 minutes to deliver his speech. Then after the thunderous ovation died down he shook hands with Congress leaders and prominent guests, including Vice President Fernando Lopez and Mrs. Lopez. Shortly after, he and the First Lady left for Malacañang, arriving there at about 7 p.m.

In a statement issued later, the President made an urgent appeal to the students who demonstrated in front of Congress in the afternoon to cooperate with the authorities of government in trying to determine what precise elements provoked violence during their demonstration.

The President also reiterated the position that the students “have a legitimate right to manifest their grievances in public and we shall support their just demands, but we do not consider violence as a ” legitimate instrument of democratic dissent, and we expect the students to cooperate with government in making sure that their demonstrations are not marred by violence.”

January 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, in a long conference with the police chiefs of the Greater Manila area, asked for the dropping of charges preferred by the Manila police against student demonstrators, and enjoined them to be “more tolerant of the future leaders of the country.”

He told the police chiefs that steps will also be taken to have the students drop their charges against the police but, at the same time, the President directed Chairman Crispino de Castro of the Police Commission to look into charges against individual policemen.

The President summoned the chiefs of the various national investigative and law enforcement agencies and the Manila and suburban police to Malacañang to brief him on the demonstration which erupted in violence in front of Congress.

The President, however, said that the police should continue with their investigations and to press charges against non-students who were in the demonstration and who were found to have been guilty of violence.

He also ordered the different law enforcement agencies to refine their techniques and methods in dealing with disorders and to avoid the unnecessary use of force.

Apart from this conference, the President was involved mostly with desk work, receiving no visitors except U. S. Ambassador Henry Byroade and Rep. Justiniano S. Montano of Cavite, both in the morning.

Later, in a television interview, the President said:

“I personally feel that every Filipino should have the opportunity, as you have the right, to ventilate any grievances peacefully. However, I consider that violence should never be a rightful or lawful instrument of ventilating grievance. I have directed Gen. De Castro, the PC and METROCOM to prepare their own critiques. We will then determine what measures should be taken to prevent any untoward event like the event yesterday. I have asked the police to be more tolerant of the students. We are living in an Aldeguer, Marcelino Veloso, and Aguedu Agbayani; and Governor Isidro Rodriguez of Rizal.

The only other engagement the President had was the meeting with members of the Nacionalista Party junta, who sat down with him in Malacañang in the morning to consider primary state problems. The President received no other visitors the whole day.

In-between these two engagements, the President concentrated on his paper work.

He also sent a directive to Mayor Antonio J. Villegas of Manila asking the latter to maintain peace and order “in all demonstrations that may be held in the territorial jurisdiction of the City of Manila.”

The President issued the order in the wake of reports that Mayor Villegas had withdrawn Manila policemen assigned to demonstration areas purportedly because of criticism of the way the MPD handled the riotous student rally before Congress last Monday.

The President's order was handcarried to Mayor Villegas by Col. Gerardo Tamayo, MPD chief, who was summoned to a conference at Malacañang at noon.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: January 28 - February 5, 1970

President's Week in Review: February 6-12, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

February 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS met with former Ambassador Amelito R. Mutuc who, along with seven of his nine children, staged a "demonstration at the freedom Park in front of Malacañang.

"I was just showing my children, Mr. President, how to conduct a peaceful demonstration," the former ambassador informed the President who had invited him up the Palace upon learning of the "demonstration."

Earlier, the President received a large delegation composed of officers and members of different veterans organizations who formally pledged support to various government programs.

Headed by Col. Simeon Medalla and Col. Agustin Marking, president and executive vice president, respectively, of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines, the delegation also presented a resolution adopted by the VFP Supreme Council in a meeting on Feb. 2 reiterating their faith in the leadership of President Marcos.

Among the President's other callers were Mayor Amelia Gordon of Olongapo City and Placido Real, Jr., who was accompanied by Manuel R. Benedicto.

Mayor Gordon submitted to the President for approval the master plan for the development of Olongapo City along modern lines, calculated to make the city less dependent on the United States naval base in Subic.

According to Mayor Gordon, implementation of the plan will make the people less dependent for their livelihood on the U. S. naval base. She foresees the development of Subic as another free port like Mariveles in. the event the U.S. relinquished it to the Philippine government.

The other callers, Placido Real, an Ilocano writer, and Manuel R. Benedicto, a local business executive, presented the President with 500 copies of the book "Ferdinand Edralin Marcos," written in Ilocano by Real and published by the firm headed by Benedicto.

Among the actions taken by the President in the afternoon was the designation of Undersecretary of National Defense Alejandro Melchor as spokesman on defense and military matters.

He also directed Secretary of Justice Juan Ponce Enrile, Jr. to investigate reports of an alleged kidnapping of a young labor union leader by Philippine Constabulary soldiers last January 26.

The President further directed the justice secretary to immediately prosecute the parties responsible if the alleged facts were confirmed to be true.

February 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS presided over a meeting of the National Development Council and of the Cabinet.

Convoking the development council for the first time since its reactivation tort last Jan. 11, to a luncheon meeting at the Pangarap guesthouse in Malacañang Park, the President impressed upon the Council members the agency of enacting price and rent control laws, and other measures designed to alleviate the conditions burdening low-income groups of the population.

Due to the limited resources of the government, the President in consultation with the Council, drew up a list of priority projects for which special funds must be provided for prompt implementation. The programs chosen are land reform, peace and order, and housing.

With the President as chairman, the council is composed of Congress leaders, members of the Cabinet whose departments are concerned with matters taken up by the Council, and presidents of all major political parties.

After the council meeting which lasted from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. the President crossed over to Malacañang proper where he presided over a meeting of his Cabinet.

During the Cabinet meeting, the President decided to order the resumption on Monday (Feb. 9) of classes in public and private schools in the Greater Manila area which had been suspended by the Department of Education for one week.

The President also took up with his Cabinet other urgent legislative measures, including the 1970-1971 budget which is due for submission to Congress on Feb. 10.

Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco reported at the meeting that a balanced budget has been programmed in compliance with the instructions of the President.

Next year's budget will also include special funds for the implementation of the land reform program, the peace and order drive and other high priority projects.

In the evening, the President conferred with Brig. Gen. Vicente R. Raval who called at Malacañang to submit his resignation as chief of the Philippine Constabulary. The President accepted his resignation.

He named Brig. Gen. Eduardo Garcia, commander of the First Infantry (Tabak) Division, to succeed Raval as PC chief, and Brig. Gen. Rafael Zagala, First Military Area commander, to replace Garcia in the Tabak Division stationed in Fort Magsaysay, at Laur, Nueva Ecija.

In a message issued on the eve of Constitution Day, the President said:

"As we prepare ourselves for the constitutional convention of 1971, it is desirable that the nation involve itself in a dialogue of ideas that would lead to a strong Constitution embodying the best aspirations of Filipino nationhood.

"It is appropriate that all sectors of the population now participate in such a dialogue so that those who will take part in the convention will be able to bring to that convention the best ideas that have been refined and distilled in the forums of free expression and free speech.

"Today, as we observe Constitution Day, it is with a deep sense of gratification that I note the involvement of our youth in the effort to ensure a free constitutional convention, to make sure that it is not dominated by any single party, but dominated only by the people's highest interest.

"I am also gratified to note that at a time of stress, the Constitution has remained the best guarantee against abuse, and continues to serve as an instrument of social and political order during a time of tumultuous manifestations and violent debate."

February 8—

PRESIDENT AND MRS. MARCOS honored the surviving members of the Constitutional Convention with a reception in Malacañang.

In brief remarks, the President expressed the belief that while we recognize the virtues of the Constitution, we must also recognize the fact that no Constitution can remain static, unmoving, unchangeable, inflexible or rigid, nor preserve the prescription of a bygone age while the world move on to new frontiers.

“For it to embody the nation’s soul,” the President said, “for it to speak its voice and pulsate with the nation’s heartbeat, it must move and grow with time, reflecting the metamorphosis and evolutions of our values and our mores.”

The President also said that the Constitution must also contain utmost understanding of human conditions and frailties and weaknesses, bordering on tolerance, because it is not only the recognized framework of government, but the source-spring and the very vitality of the institutions.

“It must also develop particular sensitivity to the various demands of our people, including the minorities of our society. It must resound with responsibility, and guarantee the protection of the rights of every citizen, whoever he may be; whether engaged in violence or not, and even the latter still has rights. This is the beauty of the Constitution,” the President added. (See pp. 1550-1553 for full text of the President’s remarks.)

Later in the afternoon, the President inducted into office five newly-appointed members of the Cabinet and one official of lower rank.

Inducted were:

- 1) Former Secretary of Justice Juan Ponce Enrile, Jr., as acting secretary of national defense.
- 2) Chairman of the Board of Investments Cesar E. A. Virata, as acting secretary of finance.
- 3) Former Solicitor General Felix V. Makasiar, as acting secretary of justice.
- 4) Director-General Placido Mapa, Jr., concurrently as chairman of the National Economic Council.
- 5) Administrator Constancio E. Castañeda of the Office of Economic Coordination, as secretary of general services.
- 6) Newly-appointed Court of Appeals Justice Felix Antonio, as Solicitor general.

The President also announced the appointment of Brig. Gen. Florencio Medina (ret) nuclear physicist, as chairman of the National Science Development Board. Gen. Medina, however, could not take his oath as he is in Bangkok.

The President announced that Secretaries Ernesto Mata of defense, Eduardo Romualdez of finance, and Salih Ututalum of general services, and Chairman Marcelo Balatbat of the National Economic Council and Juan Salcedo of the National Science Development Board have all retired from the government.

However, the President said that he will recommend Ututalum to the Board of Regents of the Mindanao State University, for MSU president, and expressed the hope that he may be prevailed upon to stay in the service.

The President administered the oath of office to the new officials in the presence of members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the judiciary, and surviving- members of the Philippine Constitutional Convention.

In announcing the new appointments, the President said that it was his desire to engage the services of young men who can help face the problems now confronted by government.

He said that evolving problems of government must be faced by men qualified to do so mainly because they belong to those who can confront the present generation with imagination, with confidence, with talent with patriotism and with vision.

The President also inducted into office former Defense Undersecretary Alejandro Melchor as Executive Secretary, vice Secretary Ernesto Maceda.

Secretary Melchor took his oath of office in the presence of the other newly-inducted members of the Cabinet and other officials led by Vice President Lopez.

February 9—

AFTER DOING his usual early morning desk work, President Marcos headed for the Philippine Navy headquarters on Roxas boulevard to attend the rites celebrating the 31st anniversary of the nation's sea arm as guest of honor.

Given the usual military honors on arrival, the President afterward delivered an address calling on the Navy to help preserve civil liberties, to increase vigilance against subversion, and to set the example in self-discipline as the country confronts the big problems and tasks of nation-building.

After conferring awards on servicemen, PN civilian employees and plain civilians for outstanding accomplishments in service to the Navy, the President inspected new products of the naval shipyard, then whisked back to Malacañang.

He worked for a while on papers that had come afresh to his desk, then took time out to receive James Conway, president of Rotary International, and local Rotary officials including Francisco Delgado. David Sycip and Antonio Roxas Chua, among others.

For the rest of the morning, the President was busy with state affairs issuing among others orders to investigate violations of the minimum wage law in sugarlandia, the reported illegal detention of a labor leader and the dismantling of the alleged tobacco blockade in the Hocus.

He also issued an executive order slimming down the Cabinet to a more handy and efficient size, by pulling out several offices from his official family and integrating them into other offices involved with the same responsibilities.

Henceforth the regular members of the Cabinet shall be limited to the following:

1. Department of Foreign Affairs
2. Executive Office
3. Department of Finance
4. Department of Justice
5. Department of Education
6. Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources
7. Department of Labor
8. Department of National Defense
9. Department of Health
10. Department of Commerce and Industry
11. Department of Public Works and Communications
12. Department of Social Welfare
13. Department of General Services
14. National Economic Council

The heads of the National Science Development Board, Civil Service Commission, Office of Economic Coordination, Commission on National Integration, and the Budget Commission shall maintain their cabinet rank, but shall attend Cabinet meetings only upon call by the President.

In the afternoon, the President's day was highlighted by the ceremonies launching the preparation for the celebration of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines' Golden Jubilee in 1973.

Among other callers in the afternoon were William Campbell and Antonio Delgado, who are scouting leaders; and later, Rufino Cardinal Santos and Julio Cardinal Rosales.

February 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS was busy all day with state matters, conferences and visitors, making a fuller day than usual, topped late in the afternoon with a merienda with student and labor leaders.

In the morning, he received former Senator Manuel Manahan, and later Dr. Jorge Juliano who came with a group of student leaders of the Central Luzon State University, not to render a protest but to discuss certain problems of the institution.

Also in the morning, the President received Lt. Gen. Marvin McNickle, who took over command of the U.S. Thirteenth Air Force, with head quarters at Clark Air Base, from Lt. Gen. Francis Gideon.

The President also received Kervin Buckley of *Newsweek* magazine and Stanley Karnow of the *Washington Post*. Both interviewed the President.

Early in the afternoon, the President submitted to Congress his budget proposal for the fiscal year 1970-71, which calls for a total expenditure from all funds of P3.482 billion, against expected receipts of P3.668 billion, or an expected surplus of P186 million.

The President submitted his budget proposal within the deadline set by the Constitution which provides that the budget message be submitted to Congress within 15 days after the opening of the regular session (January 26).

In his message to Congress, the President said that the expenditure policy for the incoming fiscal year was formulated in the light of current economic and monetary problems, which require fiscal policy to complement the monetary policy.

The President said the measures supporting restraint embodied in the proposed budget are necessary to correct the imbalance in the country's international transactions.

The following guidelines were set by the President in relation to the expenditure policy for the coming fiscal year:

- 1) To observe the rule of fiscal restraint.
- 2) To limit total general fund obligations to the level of collectible revenues.
- 3) To curtail current operating expenditures, particularly for travel, supplies and materials, equipment and personnel.
- 4) To rechannel savings to productive programs.
- 5) To postpone new public investments until after the completion of on-going projects.
- 6) To give priority to programs promoting food production and to dollar-earning industries.

7) To provide funds for social services requiring urgent expansion or upgrading.

8) To limit the budget for national defense and maintenance of peace and order to a level consistent with a policy of self-reliance and internal security.

9) To use the proceeds from the sale of bonds exclusively for self-liquidating or income-producing projects.

10) To avoid borrowings from inflationary sources.

In accordance with these guidelines, the President ordered enforcement of austerity measures such as the sidelining of new positions; the suspension of purchase of supplies and equipment, including motor vehicles; restriction of domestic and foreign travel as well as overtime services; reduction of the number of casual workers; and implementation of the economy proposals made by the Reorganization Commission.

Late in the afternoon the President sat down with student and labor leaders at merienda. The meeting, attended by Secretary of Labor Blas F. Ople, lasted till evening.

Earlier, the President directed acting Secretary of Finance Cesar E.A. Virata to conduct an examination of the financial status of the government's financial institutions.

These financial institutions are the Philippine National Bank, Government Service insurance System, Social Security System, Development Bank of the Philippines, and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

The President said that the examinations should reveal their respective financial status as of September 30, 1969 and as of December 31, 1969.

He asked Secretary Virata to submit to him a report on the examinations as soon as possible.

In an address read for him in the afternoon by Legislative Secretary Flores Bayot on the occasion of the observance of Constitution Day at the National University, the President pledged that civil rights and all the freedoms guaranteed in the Constitution will be protected under his administration.

The President said the democratic system was not a perfect system but it is the only option for men who care for their freedom. "The reforms may come slowly, but they will come," the President declared, "for otherwise, the democratic spirit will wither."

Addressing himself to the radical youth, the President asked them "to help build and not tear apart our society and our government,"

"I ask the hardliners among the student activists to give this system a second hard look and to consider its advantages over any other

"I ask the student groups on both the extreme left and the extreme right to give us the benefit of a second chance and accept our invitation to more purposeful dialogue and reconciliation with our people.

"I ask the students and all our young people to wage the peaceful revolution—one that will not maim bodies but which will enrich minds, the kind that will not divide our people but would bring them together.

"I am with you in this movement. As long as I am President, it shall be a matter of national policy to assimilate the views of the young in our political and national policies," the President said.

February 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS continued to carry on an increasingly substantive dialogue with student leaders, when he conferred with a representative group in Malacañang for about an hour.

The leaders of the National Union of Students of the Philippines who met with the President were:

Edgar Jopson, president; Lulut Valte, vice president; Melanie Dacudao, secretary; John Dimalanta and Alfredo Zamora of the Philippine Science High School; Jimmie Dizon of San Sebastian College; Gigi Katigbak of St. Theresa's College and Paul Dominguez and Romy Chen of Ateneo University.

Also present at the conference were Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Press Secretary Francisco S. Tatad, Secretary of Labor Blas F. Ople and Presidential Executive Assistant Jacobo C. Clave.

Following his conference with the students, the President received Liharat Ham, president of the International Chamber of Commerce, who paid his respects to the Chief Executive following his arrival here on a tour of ICC chapters.

Dr. Ram was accompanied to Malacañang by the officials of the Philippine chapter of the ICC, headed by Dr. Manuel Lim, and including Dr. Ralph Nubla, Roger Manalo, Luciano E. Salazar, Justo N. Lopez, Kay Sham, Ramon Faustmann and William H. Quasha.

After receiving Dr. Ram, the President inducted into office Brig. Gen. Florencio Medina (ret.), as acting chairman of the National Science Development Board, vice Dr. Juan Salcedo.

Present at the oath-taking were congressmen led by Speaker Jose B. Laurel Jr. officials of the NSDB led by outgoing Chairman Salcedo, and close relatives and friends led by Mrs. Medina.

At well past noon, the President started receiving callers, most of whom were congressmen, it being Congressmen's Day at Malacañang.

Later Director of Forestry Jose Viado called to submit a partial report on the resettlement of urban squatters. Viado pinpointed some 3,000 hectares of the public domain in Rizal, and 9,000 hectares in Bataan, as possible sites for the relocation of squatters from the Greater Manila area.

Director Viado added that he will continue to look for other likely areas for resettling squatted.

Rep. Aguedo Agbayani of Pangasinan also submitted a plan to the President, for developing the Hundred Islands as a potential tourist attraction. Rep. Agbayani proposed the improvement of a 9-kilometer road serving Lucap, Alaminos, Pangasinan, from where tourist will have easy access to the Hundred Islands.

Chairman Faustino Tobia of CEPOC Industries, Inc. called on the President to report on the progress of negotiations for the acquisition of machinery, which is needed to fully exploit the CEPOC Malangas coal deposits.

Chairman Tobia reported that due to lack of machinery, the monthly production of Malangas coal, which is considered of very high grade, was limited to from 200 to 400 tons, which is not enough to meet even local needs.

Tobia reported that according to estimates, the Malangas coal mine has deposits of between 15 to 20 million tons of high quality coal, and that if fully exploited this could be a high-potential dollar-earning industry.

Rep. Jose Neri of Camiguin reported to the President that Hibok-Hibok volcano was showing signs of activity and requested that the Commission on Volcanology be asked to conduct investigations.

Other callers who took up with the President matters affecting their districts were Reps. Guillermo Sanchez of Agusan del Norte, Felipe Abrigo of Eastern Samar, Lamberto Macias and Jose Pro-Teves of Negros Oriental, Antonio Diaz of Zambales, Mariano Peñaflorida of Iloilo, Felipe Azcuña of Zamboanga del Norte, Joaquin Ortega and Jose E. Aspiras of La Union, Manuel Zoza, Emerito Calderon and Eduardo Gallas of Cebu, and Roberto Sabido of Albay.

The President finished receiving callers at almost 3 p.m.

Later in the afternoon and through the evening, the President attended to his desk work.

Among other actions, the President:

1) Directed Secretary of Social Welfare Gregorio Feliciano to extend all possible relief and assistance to the victims of the fire which hit Dagupan City recently.

The President also asked the Philippine National Bank and the Development Bank of the Philippines to extend rehabilitation loans to the fire victims at liberal terms.

2) Instructed Roberto Benedicto, president of the Philippine National Bank, to leave for the United States and assist Central Bank Governor Gregorio S. Licaros in present economic negotiations with the United States.

3) Submitted to the board of the National Housing Corporation the name of Major General Gaudencio Tobias [unreadable] as general manager and executive vice president of the housing corporation with instruction for him to undertake massive attack on the nation's resettlement and housing problem, aimed at bringing about a substantial solution to that problem by 1971.

The NHC board of directors will elect the NHC general manager and executive vice president.

At the same time, Presidential Press Secretary Francisco S. Tatad said that surveys will be immediately initiated to determine how many families and individuals are directly affected by the housing and resettlement problem in the metropolitan areas.

Immediate government efforts in this direction will include studies on credit for housing, along with similar studies on credit for education and self-employment.

February 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS received only a few callers. He spent the day mostly in his study with a bunch of state papers.

In the morning, the President received Rolf Deinoff and Ove Sundberg, executives of the Swedish Match Company who called to pay their respects.

The President also received Don Vicente Araneta who proposed the establishment of agro-industrial enterprises in the rural areas as a means of providing employment and improving the living conditions in outlying communities.

Among others with whom the President had conferences were Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Senators Leonardo Perez and Rene Espina, NEC Chairman and PES Director General Placido Mapa, Jr., and Undersecretary of Finance Roman Cruz, Jr.

Working on state papers in-between callers and conferences, the President:

- 1) Issued a proclamation declaring February 15 to April 16 this year as a period for a national fund campaign for educational and other youth welfare purposes;
- 2) Granted reprieves to all convicts in the national penitentiary sentenced to die by electrocution pending serious study by the government on the possible abolition of capital punishment; and
- 3) Proclaimed Monday, Feb. 16, as a special public holiday in Caloocan City, to give the people of the city a chance to observe with appropriate ceremonies the 8th foundation anniversary of their city.

The Chief Executive also certified to Congress the necessity of the immediate enactment of a Senate bill providing for price control “to protect the common consumer who suffers most from high prices, specially of prime commodities.

“We are all aware of the difficulties of implementing a price control and rent control law,” the President said in his message to Congress.

However, in view of the attempts of some heartless businessmen and merchants to manipulate prices by such practices as hoarding, it becomes imperative and necessary for us to immediately adopt appropriate measures to protect the common consumer who suffers most from high prices,” he said.

The bill seeks to authorize the President to create a Price Administration Board and to fix the ceiling prices of certain commodities. Certain acts are required of importers, producers and distributors and their violations penalized.

To prevent an arbitrary fixing of ceiling prices, certain guidelines are provided for in the bill, and producers as well as distributors are given representation in the board.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: February 13-19, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

February 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had an early breakfast with Virgilio Marco, executive director of the World Bank for the area including the Philippines, Brazil, Colombia, among other countries, starting off a day which counted many conferences.

Marco reported to the President on his talks with heads of local agencies having business transactions with the World Bank.

Also present at the breakfast were Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Carlos P. Romulo, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata, NEC Chairman Placido Mapa, Jr., PNB President Roberto Benedicto and Acting Central Bank Governor Amado Briñas.

After this meeting, the President received John McDavid, supreme grand knight of the Knights of Columbus, who is in the Philippines to visit all KC chapters in the country.

McDavid gave the President a replica of the chalice that President Kennedy donated to the President of Mexico. He also presented a replica of the tiara of Pope Paul VI.

McDavid was accompanied by former Ambassador Oscar Ledesma, president of the KC in the Philippines; Fr. George Wilmann, national deputy commander; Secretary of Justice Felix V. Makasiar; Dr. Ramon Campos; Fr. Francisco Tantoco, secretary-general; and Melquiades Virata, Jr.

The President then received Antonio Delgado, who took up with the President, in behalf of the Philippine Chamber of Tourism, the ways and means of attracting to the Philippines tourists from the United States and Japan who might go to Expo '70 in Osaka.

Shortly before 12 noon, the President received a delegation which presented him with a "responsible parenthood program" prepared by a group of civic and religious leaders.

Headed by Jaime Zobel de Ayala, a management expert, and Bishop Felix Perez, the delegation sought the President's endorsement of the plan entitled, "Catholic Approach: The Rhythm Method." The group intends to launch a nationwide information campaign aimed at securing public acceptance of the plan.

The President referred the plan to the Population Control Commission headed by Secretary of Education O. D. Corpuz.

The President also conferred with officials of the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation on the launching of a massive housing program for the working class and other low-income groups.

He informed them that he had designated Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor to coordinate the operations of all government agencies engaged in housing and to marshal their combined resources and facilities behind this new housing program for the poor.

Through the rest of the day, the President concentrated on his desk work.

Working on state papers, the President among others:

1. Issued a proclamation creating the Tondo Condominium Project and placing government lands and buildings in Vitas, Tondo, Manila on sale to actual occupants. The proclamation will enable the 252 families, consisting of 1,712 persons, to own the units they occupy in the 252-apartment tenement building, which was constructed at a cost of P3,084,000 on a 15,000 square meters foreshore land in Vitas.
2. Appointed Ramon Duremdes of Dumangas, Iloilo, as representative of the minority party in the Committee on Disposal of Valuable Government Properties, vice former Rep. Toribio Perez of Albay. Duremdes was recommended by Senator Gerardo Roxas, president of the Liberal Party, as provided for under Republic Act No. 5169. The same law empowers the President to sell government properties for the purpose of raising funds to pay for the government subscription to the Land Bank and to finance the operations of the Agricultural Credit Administration.

February 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS issued a number of directives on certain problems requiring early action, received some visitors, met officials on other problems, and made at least one appointment to a special post.

Otherwise, he kept his Saturday activities light, except for the usual concentration on urgent state papers and other official matters.

Among his first callers were officials of the Commission on Elections, who discussed a sheaf of proposed bills aimed at strengthening the authority of the Comelec, and introducing some reforms in the election process.

Earlier, the President named Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata as governor of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development representing the Philippines and as representative on the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank, replacing former Secretary of Finance Eduardo Z. Romualdez, who had resigned.

Calling at Malacañang in the morning were Comelec Chairman Jaime N. Ferrer and Commissioners Lino Patajo and Cesar Miraflores who submitted four bills proposing amendments to the Revised Election Code, with the request that the President certify them to Congress.

After meeting with the Comelec officials, the President conferred with Director of Forestry Jose Viado regarding the possible release of public lands which will be used as relocation sites for squatters from the Greater Manila area. Eyed were public lands in Rizal and Bataan.

After this conference, the President worked for a while on official papers. Among others, the Chief Executive:

1. Created a committee to look into all educational foundations assisted by United States funds, and directed it to submit a report on its findings as soon as practicable.
2. Directed PHHC General Manager Sebastian Santiago to give a 90-day grace period to PHHC tenants facing eviction for delinquency in settling accounts. In giving the order, the President emphasized that "no tenant or awardee shall be deprived of his property nor should his rights be in any way disturbed without first giving him the opportunity to settle his obligations to the corporation."
3. Proclaimed Monday, February 16, a special public holiday in Muslim regions, in connection with the feast of Eidul Adh-ha.

February 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS called on a united labor front to join the government in pursuing measures for change and progress by the times.

The President, addressing the delegates to the merger convention of the Pinagbuklod na Manggagawang Pilipino, or Trade Union Congress of the Philippines, also urged them to seek closer ties with other segments of Philippine labor not covered by the merger.

The President motored to the GSIS Social Hall at 4 p.m. to deliver his address.

The merger of the Philippine Trade Unions Congress headed by Pedro D. Fernandez and the Philippine Labor Center headed by Roberto S. Oca, brought into the new organization some 300,000 organized laborers, comprising about 65 per cent of all workers in the country.

The President said that the merger climaxed a long and difficult struggle of the workingman for solidarity because over the decades Philippine Labor had always been “fragmentized, a house divided against itself, organized around personalities, and therefore powerless and impotent.” (*See* pp. 1805 to 1812 for full text of the President’s speech.)

Earlier, the President issued an executive order requiring government offices, agencies and instrumentalities to submit to the Bureau of Internal Revenue an annual list of money payments on transactions with private individuals, corporations, partnerships and associations.

The Chief Executive issued the order after it was ascertained that many government offices, including government-owned or controlled corporations, have not withheld from money payments to private individuals, corporations, partnerships and associations the internal revenue taxes due and payable on account of said money payments on transactions made.

This practice, the President pointed out, is not only a clear violation of the provisions of Republic Act No. 1051 and Revenue Regulations No. 21-67, but it also creates opportunities for unscrupulous taxpayers to evade the payment of internal revenue taxes.

The President also issued another executive order creating a Presidential Census Coordinating Board, which will be responsible for the systematic coordination of government agencies and instrumentalities involved in the conduct of the 1970 census of population and housing.

As counterpart of the census board at the local government level, there shall be established provincial, city or municipal census boards in each province, city and municipality, which shall provide such facilities and assistance as the Bureau of Census and Statistics may require.

In the same executive order, the President designated May 6 this year as Census Day, the date when the field enumeration for the census of population and housing of 1970 commences.

February 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS concentrated mostly on state papers, but also received a number of callers, including a 40-man delegation representing tenants of the Tondo foreshore lands, and two officials going abroad on assignments.

In the case of the Tondo group, the President was informed of irregularities allegedly committed by certain Land Authority personnel in connection with applications for acquisition of lots in the foreshore lands. The President ordered the immediate filing of charges in court against erring personnel.

Earlier, in the morning, the President received Ambassador Romeo S. Busuego, who called for final instructions preparatory to departing for his post in Kuala Lumpur, as Philippine envoy to Malaysia.

Busuego, who was accompanied by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo to Malacañang, was chief of mission in Malaysia for more than two years, returning home when Philippine-Malaysian diplomatic relations were suspended in November, 1968.

The President also received Brig. Gen. Felix Pestaña, who paid his respects prior to his leaving for Bangkok where he will assume his post as deputy chief of the Military Planning Office of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO).

General Pestaña has been in the service for almost 30 years, rising to the rank of vice commander of the Philippine Air Force and later deputy chief of staff of the AFP. He will be away for two years.

In the afternoon, the President received the Council of Tondo Foreshore land Community Organization, a conglomerate of 76 individual organizations representing 100,000 residents of Vitas and Isla Puting Bato in Tondo, and areas in-between.

Accompanied by PANAMIN Secretary Manda Elizalde, the group headed by Restituto de Leon and Feliciano V. Reales, vice-chairman and executive vice-chairman, respectively, included Leonard A. Villacorta, Josephine J. Domico, Gervacio D. Acebo, Francisco Militar, Joseph Venida, Feliciano Maraliga, Eleodora B. Tuazon, Patria Valles and Fr. Henry B. Aguilar, adviser.

Present at the meeting were Vice President Fernando Lopez, Secretaries Felix V. Makasiar of Justice, Gregorio Feliciano of Social Welfare, Amadeo Cruz of Health, and Blas F. Ople of Labor. Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Deputy Governor Benicio Eusebio of Land Authority and Customs Commissioner Rolando Geotina.

The President also received Reps. Manuel Zosa, Emerito Calderon, and Celestino Sybico, who took up problems of their respective districts, with the President.

February 17—

PRESIDENT MARCOS took immediate steps to resolve peace and order problems which were brought to his attention.

The President, together with Secretary of Justice Felix V. Makasiar, met with a delegation of Masbate students, who requested that NBI team be sent to look into the unsolved killings and the presence of goons in their province.

The President immediately directed Secretary Makasiar to confer with NBI Director Jolly Bugarin and organize an NBI investigating team. In addition, the Chief Executive also placed under the PC command the Masbate Anti-Cattle Rustling Team.

Earlier, the President received Wesley C. Haraldson director of the United States Agency for International Development who bade goodbye before leaving for a new assignment in Washington, D.C

The President later met with Undersecretary of Public Works Manuel Syquio and inquired into the status of various public works projects.

The President devoted most of his time to working on state papers, until late in the evening.

In the course of acting on official papers, the President approved the increase from P1 to P2 daily of the subsistence allowance of government hospital personnel.

The President also recommended to the Board of Directors of the Philippine National Bank the election of Secretary Makasiar as chairman of the board, and designated Generoso Tanseco as board member.

February 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS met with some 100 provincial governors and city mayors at Camp Aguinaldo in the morning.

The provincial and city executives received a military briefing on the national situation from Lt. Col. Delfin Castro of the AFP intelligence section.

The President announced that he has issued an executive order authorizing the provincial governors to organize provincial strike forces from existing municipal police forces.

These strike forces will be used in case of emergencies. They will be under the control and supervision of the Philippine Constabulary but will be at the disposal of provincial governors.

The President said that while it was his duty to preserve peace and order throughout the country, it was the primary responsibility of local executives to maintain peace and order within their jurisdictions.

He assured the conferees that the national government was strong and stable and able to defend itself against any force seeking the overthrow of its democratic institutions.

The President said his administration will continue to encourage student demonstrations but warned subversive elements against violence.

He urged the provincial and city executives to conduct an information campaign on the national situation and acquaint the people against the dangers of communism and subversion.

Back in Malacañang early in the afternoon, the President resumed filling up vacancies in the judiciary with the appointment of eight new judges of courts of first instance covering judicial districts in different parts of the country.

Nominated as judges of courts of first instance were:

1. Fernando Santiago for the 9th judicial district, Branch VI, with station at Lucena City;
2. Catalino Macaraig, Jr. for the 8th judicial district, Branch VI, with station at Calamba, Laguna;
3. Alberto Q. Ubay, for the 7th judicial district, Branch XXXII, with station at Caloocan City;
4. Mrs Floraiana C. Bartolome, for the 5th judicial district, Branch VI, stationed at Malolos, Bulacan;
5. Cavetano Tuason, for the 16th judicial district, Branch X, with station at Mati, Davao Oriental;
6. Moises Dalisay, for the 15th judicial district, Branch V, with station at Malabang, Lanao del Sur;
7. Mario J. Gutierrez, for the 2nd judicial district/Branch III, with station at Vigan, Ilocos Sur; and
8. Severo Malvar for the 15th judicial district, Branch VIII, with station at Cagayan de Oro City.

Nominations of the eight new judges were forwarded to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation.

In his talk with ASEAN secretaries who called on him later, the President expressed hope that the just concluded meeting in Manila of the administrative machinery of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) would pave the way for greater cooperation among the nations of the region.

The ASEAN secretaries bade the President goodbye prior to their departure for their respective countries.

The President said he was pleased to note that the other ASEAN member nations entertain the same hope for cooperation, and that the United Nations had sent a special technical team to help the ASEAN nations.

According to Gunal Kansu, leader of the UN mission to ASEAN, ASEAN nations need not go from one financing institution to another for funding. The UN special team will study specific projects and recommend funding to the proper UN agencies.

Accompanied by Ambassador Modesto Farolan, the group included S. T. Stewart, permanent secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore; Mohd. Yusof Hitam, charge d'affaires, Malaysian Embassy, Manila; and Rukmito Hendraningrat, secretary general, ASEAN National Secretariat of Indonesia.

PRESIDENT MARCOS focused on his desk work, receiving few visitors, mostly public officials with whom he discussed current problems and consulted in the course of coping with official matters.

The biggest group to see him were lawmakers, including both senators and representatives, and a number of local chief executives.

The solons discussed with the President matters concerning their constituencies, particularly community improvement projects.

Among the solons who called on the President were Senators Ambrosio Padilla and Dominador Aytona, and Reps. Felix Fuentebella of Camarines Sur, Pablo Ocampo and Ramon Bagatsing of Manila, Constantino Navarro of Surigao del Norte, Natalio Castillo of Bohol, Indanan Anni of Sulu, Lamberto Macias of Negros Oriental, Joaquin Chipeco of Laguna, Pablo Malasarte of Bohol, Constancio Maglana of Davao Oriental, Fernando Veloso of Western Samar, and Frisco San Juan of Rizal.

The local chief executives who discussed with the President problems in their bailiwicks were Governors Lino Chatto of Bohol, Francisco Nepomuceno of Pampanga, Vicente Magsaysay of Zambales, Jose Evangelista of Ilocos Norte, Ramon de los Santos of Davao del Sur, Recaredo Castillo of Surigao del Sur; and Mayor Elias Lopez of Davao City.

The President finished conferring with the solons and local executives at about 3 p.m.

He then resumed his desk work.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: February 20-26, 1970

President's Week in Review: February 27 - March 5, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

February 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had several conferences with public officials, a couple of interviews with newsmen, and to top the day delivered a speech before Rotarians.

The President started the day much as usual, by working at his desk. About 10 a.m., he received once again the leaders of Mindanao and Sulu, with whom he had conferred on peace and order problems in that southern region.

The second meeting with the same group was a follow-through on the conclusions and agreements reached at the earlier conference. The Mindanao-Sulu leaders pledged in a signed paper their support of the President's stand against communism and of his policy of maintaining public order.

Among those at the conference were former Secretary of General Services Salih Ututalum, Rep. Indanan Anni of Sulu, Rep. Salipada Pendatun of Cotabato, Governors Linang Mandangan of Lanao del Sur, Mayors Omar Dianalan of Marawi City, Datu Balakat Sangki of Ampatuan, Cotabato, and Barlie Abubakar of Jolo, Sulu; Mr. and Mrs. Blah Sinsuat of Cotabato; and former Governors Arsad Sali and Benjamin Abubakar of Sulu.

Later in the morning, the President conferred with Speaker Pro-Tempore Jose Aldeguer, and Reps. Fermin Caram and Lamberto Macias.

Two foreign journalists interviewed the President, namely, Eve Desscarre of *Combat* magazine and Carol Goldstein of *Keystone Press Agency*.

In the afternoon, the President concentrated mostly on his interrupted deskwork. Shortly after 7 p. m., he motored to Manila Hilton where he was guest of honor at the annual convention of International Rotary District 308.

The President pledged "sympathy and understanding to the true student who seeks reform" but warned that there can only be one answer to the hard core communist who advocates anarchy—"force against force."

Speaking before the annual convention of Rotary International District 380 at the Manila Hilton, the President said: "We will be patient with the reformist students no matter how radical, for these are our children, but we can be firm and forceful with the violent no matter how intellectual."

The President said the state is capable of preserving itself and has the power to fight its enemies.

At the same time, he reaffirmed his administration's commitment to liberal democracy.

He called upon the nation to embrace the same commitment. (See pp. 2319 to 2321-G for full text of the President's speech.)

February 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS practically spent the whole day working on state papers.

Early in the day, the President wrote letters addressed to members of both houses of Congress urging the immediate passage of the bill regulating the selection of delegates to the forthcoming Constitutional Convention.

About noontime, the President received Antonio Heras of the JD Transit and Ramon Manzano and Jose Crisanto of the Alarco of Iriga City, who took up problems of bus companies.

A 40-man delegation of provincial officials of the new province of Agusan del Sur, led by Rep. Democrito O. Plaza, later called on the President to pledge their faith and confidence in his leadership. Also with the group were officials of national government agencies assigned to the province.

The President assured the delegation that he would give the province the needed assistance from the special highways fund to carry on the development projects there.

After the delegation departed, the President returned to his desk to work. State papers kept him busy through the afternoon and into the evening.

Matters acted upon by the President included the promotions of 631 regular and reserve officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the Secretary of National Defense and the AFP chief of staff.

The promotions were to ranks ranging from lieutenant colonel to captain in the Philippine Constabulary, Philippine Army, and Philippine Air Force, from commander to lieutenant junior grade in the Philippine Navy and the Bureau of Coast and Geodetic Survey, as well as in the various special services of the AFP.

In a speech read for him by Secretary of Commerce and Industry Leonides S. Virata at the second national convention of the Hotel and Restaurant Association of the Philippines, held at the Hotel Intercontinental in the evening, the President called for a common effort in developing tourism, saying that it is the entire nation's concern, aimed both at earning dollars to further overall development and at familiarizing other peoples with the Philippines' true virtues and conditions.

The President said that a well developed tourist industry will "open up the country" to the world.

He pointed out that many foreigners who have come to visit or work here have remained to make the Philippines a second home "because they have made personal self-discoveries here, have become intimate with the many good things we have."

He stressed, "this is the kind of discovery we would want tourists to make in the Philippines. And this is the kind of opening up I mean when I say that tourism will open up the Philippines. It is our opening up to the hearts and minds of other peoples, and the opening up of the hearts and minds of peoples in the world outside to our special world here." (See pp. 2321-H to 2321-J for full text of the President's speech.)

March 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS took note of the grievances of jeepney, taxi and bus drivers by receiving leaders of a confederation of these workers and listening to their problems; at the same time, he also gathered police chiefs in the Greater Manila Area and in nearby towns, to discuss ways of improving police efficiency.

These two conferences highlighted the President's day which was also featured by other callers and some paperwork.

One of the first callers was Senator V. C. Gair of Australia, who is here at the beginning of a Southeast Asian tour to study conditions in the region. The Australian solon was accompanied by his country's envoy here, Ambassador Francis Hamilton Stuart, and the foreign office's deputy protocol officer, Mariano C. Ruiz.

After this visit, the President received the police chiefs, including Police Commission Chairman Brig. Gen. Crispino de Castro (ret.), who presented the drafts of bills designed to upgrade police work as well as beef up the Polcom's effectiveness. The President said that he will certify the bills to Congress, after they have been studied by his office.

Among those at this conference were Cols. James Barbers of Manila, Tomas Karingal of Quezon City, Francisco C. Villa of Pasay City, and the chiefs and members of the municipal police forces of Muntinglupa, Cainta, Teresa, Taytay, San Mateo, Montalban, Pateros, Cardona, Angono, Baras, Binangonan, Marikina, Parañaque, Mandaluyong, San Juan, Rizal; San Pablo City; Biñan, Sta. Cruz, Magdalena, Sta. Maria, Famy, Nagcarlan, Rizal, Parigil, Alaminos, Pagsanjan, Siniloan and Pila, Laguna; and Hagonoy, Valenzuela, Angat, San Ildefonso, Malolos, Baliuag, Obando, San Rafael, and Bocaue, Bulacan.

Then the President sat down with representatives of the Philippine Confederation of Drivers Organizations. He threshed out their problems, notably alleged mulcting by policemen, and received a list of requests from the group aimed at improving conditions for their drivers.

Among those at this meeting were Manuel Villano, Tomas Mendoza, Alberto Celubequel, Teotimo Mulete, Pedro Bolivar, Mario Balane, Alfredo Geray, Mario Malnay, Manuel Madrid, Pol Castro, Jose Calixto, Rodolfo Beso, Jose Ancheta, and others.

For the rest of his working day, the President focused on the state papers brought to him for action, in the course of which he accepted the resignation of Godofredo Reyes, Jr. as chairman and general manager of the Philippine Coconut Administration (PHILCOA).

Reyes resigned in order to assume the post of director in the Asian Coco nut Community, based in Bangkok, Thailand. The post has a term of five years.

March 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS met with various key officials of the government.

The President also accepted the credentials of two new ambassadors accredited with the Philippine government in presentation ceremonies held at the Palace ceremonial hall.

Earlier in the morning, the President received Lt. Gen. Lucious D. Clay, Jr., vice chief of staff of the United States Air Force, Pacific, with head quarters in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Accompanied to Malacañang by U. S. Ambassador Henry Byroade, Gen. Clay is currently on a round of calls on heads of states within the Pacific area following his assumption of his new post.

The President received the letters of credence of Ambassador Khurram Khan Panni and Ambassador B. Devi Rao, new Pakistani and Indian envoys to the Philippines, respectively, in separate presentation ceremonies attended by members of the Cabinet headed by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo.

In accepting their credentials, the President told the new envoys that the Philippines will continue to maintain close collaboration and cooperation with the Republics of India and Pakistan.

Back at his study, the President held conferences with a number of key government officials, including some members of his Cabinet who consulted him on pressing problems in their respective departments

Among those who saw the President were Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor Jr., Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, Secretary of Justice Felix V. Makasiar, Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata, NEC Chairman Placido Mapa, Jr., and Commissioner of the Budget Faustino Sy-Changco.

The President also conferred with Brig. Gen. Carlos Oanes, IV PC zone commander, and the provincial commanders of Cotabato, Sulu and the two Lanao provinces who reported on the peace and order situation in the South.

March 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS met with representatives of drivers and transport operators to consider both short-range and long-range solutions to be problems of transport operations in the Greater Manila area.

Key government officials concerned with the problem attended the meeting Jeepney drivers in Manila and suburbs had staged a three-day strike to project their varied complaints.

The conference, held at the Malacañang Council of State room was attended by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, Secretary of Labor Blas F. Ople Secretary of Justice Felix V. Makasiar and acting Secretary of Public Works and Communications Manuel B. Syquiao; Mayor Antonio Villegas of Manila, Land Transportation Commissioner Romeo F. Edu, Public Service Commissioner Enrique Medina, Solicitor General Felix Antonio and Police Commissioner Jose Lukban;

Antonio Heras and Guy Rodriguez, acting president and director-treasurer, respectively, of the Bus Operators Association of the Philippines; officials of Jeepney Drivers of the Philippines headed by Bonifacio de Luna;

Brig. (Jen. Mariano Ordonez, chief of the Metrocom, Col. Jaime Catral, Trafcon chief, and the chiefs of police of the greater Manila area.

The late morning conference was the only one held by the President, thus giving him time to concentrate on urgent paper work which he started soon after breakfast.

In the course of the day, the President issued a directive to the Central Bank and the National Economic Council to undertake a thorough study of the effect and impact of the floating peso-dollar rate on the country's economy.

He told CB Governor Gregorio S. Licaros and NEC Chairman Placido Mapa, Jr. to submit to him within fifteen (15) days all the necessary data and research gathered by their respective technical staffs to guide him in instituting measures to curb any undue rise of prices.

March 5—

PRESIDENT MARCOS attended to the problems of two important groups, the leaders of which he met in conference in the morning, while also sticking close to his regular schedule which included private visitors and the usual desk work.

One of the first callers on the President was C. C. Pocock of the Royal Dutch Shell Group of Companies, who called to pay his respects. Pocock planed in the course of a tour of the firm's offices in Asia.

At mill-morning, the President sat down with officers of the Philippine Copra Exporters Association, with whom he discussed the present dollar policy, in respect to its impact on the copra industry. The President asked for a memorandum from the group which he said he would refer to monetary officials for study, with an eye to helping the copra exporters solve their problems.

Among those at the meeting were Juan Collas, president; Manuel J. Igual, vice president; Luy Kim Guan, 2nd vice president; Benjamin Salvosa, Enrique P. Boitiz and Thou Baker.

In an hour-long conference, the President also charted the ways by which the Philippine National Railways could enhance its standard while providing cheap and efficient transportation for the general public. A number of measures were agreed upon by the President and leaders of the PNR's Federation of Labor Unions, aimed at solving the problems of the firm.

Present at the meeting were PNR General Manager Nicanor T. Jimenez who brief the President on the present situation of the railway firm, and Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., whom the President designated to confer with various finance officials on ways of meeting the financial requirements of the firm.

The PNE union leaders presented the President with a manifesto signed by Macario C. Roque and Eduardo L. Morales, chairman and general secretary, respectively, of the PNR Federation of Labor Unions, embodying several requests.

Earlier, the President appointed Secretary Leonides S. Virata, the incumbent secretary of commerce and industry, as the new chairman of the Development Bank of the Philippines.

Chairman Virata succeeds former chairman Gregorio S. Licaros, who is now governor of the Central Bank.

Chairman Virata will remain at the Department of Commerce and Industry in a concurrent capacity while awaiting the appointment of his successor.

In the afternoon, the President focused on his desk work. He remained in his study throughout the rest of his working day.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: March 6-12, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

March 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent most of the day working on state papers during which he freely consulted with his financial and economic advisers.

In the morning, the President had a long conference with Vice President Fernando Lopez, concurrently secretary of agriculture and natural resources, and Chairman Alfredo Montelibano of the Rice and Corn Administration.

After this conference, the President met with Speaker Protempore Jose Aldeguer, Majority Floorleader Marcelino Veloso and Rep. Tito Dupaya of Cagayan. They discussed the status of administration bills pending in Congress.

The President also had consultations with PES Director-General Placido Mapa, Jr., who is concurrently chairman of the National Economic Council, Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco and Secretary of Commerce and Industry Leonides S. Virata, who took his oath of office as Chairman of the Development Bank of the Philippines before the President.

About noontime, the President received the officers of the Manila Live stock Marketing Corporation who came to discuss certain problems, not ably the suspended arrangement with the Greater Manila Terminal Food Market on the stabilization of the price of meat.

The President summoned GMTFM General Manager Eliseo Ocampo and directed him to make arrangements for the continuing stabilization of the price of meat in Manila markets.

Early in the afternoon, the President received the congressmen, governors and city mayors of the Bicol region who were accompanied to Malacañang by Senator Dominador Aytona.

The Bicol leaders took up with the President problems facing their respective provinces. The officials also informed him that they had organized "peace forces" which will be utilized in the event of emergency.

The group consisted of Reps. Felix Fuentebella of Camarines Sur, Roberto Sabido of Albay, Rafael Aquino of Sorsogon, and Jose Alberto of Catanduanes," Governors Armando Cledera of Camarines Sur and Jose Esteves of Albay; Provincial Board Member E. Tible of Camarines Sur; and Mayors Gregorio Imperial of Legaspi City and Jose Villanueva of Iriga City, and S. P. Bigay.

The President also designated Arturo R. Tanco, Jr. as acting undersecretary of agriculture.

Secretary Tanco, the latest of young technocrats tapped by the administration for a top level post, fills the vacancy in the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources left by Dean Dioscoro Umali.

Until his designation, Tanco was president and general manager of the Management and Investment Development Associates, Inc. (MIDA), as well as a ranking executive in 15 other private firms.

The President likewise submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation 44 nominations to judiciary posts, all of whom had been extended *ad interim* appointments prior to the opening of the regular session of Congress.

Topping the list of nominees was Justice Julio Villamor, who was named associate justice of the Supreme Court. The other nominees include five associate justices of the Court of Appeals; two judges of the Court of First Instance;

ten city judges; 12 municipal judges; nine clerks of court; one member of the Board of Pardons and Parole; one solicitor, one assistant provincial fiscal, and two special attorneys in the Office of Agrarian Counsel. (See pp. 2571 and 2572 for the list of nominations submitted to the Commission on Appointments.)

In the evening, the President was the keynote speaker at the special convention of the Junior Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, held at the Rizal provincial capitol in Pasig.

In his address, the President stressed the massive scale of the reforms envisioned in the nation's life and government, and asked that the people come together to work out these reforms on the basis of reason and through peaceful means under the democratic process.

The Chief Executive conceded the urgent need for change, but appealed to the people that in instituting change they should "submit first of all to the authority of reason."

In the face of the vast dimensions of the reforms sought, he said, "if we are to succeed, we must work together, pool our energies and vitality, chart together our course and agree to follow it unwaveringly."

And to do all this, he added, "we must move on the basis of reason." (See pp.2570-A to 2570-D for full text of; the President's speech).

March 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS devoted his time, as is usual for him on weekends, to his desk work during which he received no callers except for government officials and close aides whom he expressly called for consultation.

About noon, he broke off his desk work to attend as guest of honor the reunion of ROTC graduates of the" University of the Philippines, under the association known as Vanguard, of which he is a member.

Delivering the main speech, the President reiterated the need for transforming the nation, in which he said the youth, possibly with the example set by ROTC graduates can participate through substantive contributions to the effort to uplift the masses and improve the rural areas.

He also asked that the AFP continue to escalate its civic action missions aside from its regular military duties, in keeping with the new concept of a citizen army and an: army for peace.

Arriving back at Malacañang about 2 p.m., the President resumed his desk work after a brief rest. Among his actions was to proclaim March 9 a special public holiday in Batangas and in chartered cities within the province, in order that people in these places can properly celebrate the birth anniversary of the late Senator Jose P. Laurel.

The President remained working in his study through the evening.

Meanwhile, as an aftermath of the recent transportation strike in the Greater Manila area, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. issued a memorandum circular creating a committee to study the possible establishment of a mass transit system to service the Greater Manila area.

The committee is composed of the Secretary of Public Works and Communications as chairman, and the Secretary of Justice, the Mayor of Manila, the chairman of the Public Service Commission, the Land Transportation" Commissioner and a representative of the executive secretary, as members.

Specific objectives of the committee are:

1. To resolve the existing serious transportation problems to the mutual convenience and satisfaction of vehicle owners and operators on the one hand and commuters on the other;
2. To evolve a modern system of transportation comparable to the best existing transportation system in other countries; and
3. To submit necessary legislation to Congress and such other measures as may be necessary towards the accomplishment of these objectives.

In view of the urgency of its work, the committee was directed to submit its recommendations to the office of the executive secretary on or before April 30.

March 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS devoted his time, as is usual on weekends, working on state papers during which he received no callers except for government officials and close aides whom he called for consultation.

In a message issued on the eve of the birth anniversary of Dr. Jose P. Laurel, the President said:

“Today, many years after his passing, we find the voice of Senator Jose P. Laurel still strong and relevant to our gravest concerns as a people.

“Today’s clamor for change recall much of what Senator Laurel had first and consistently brought before the high councils of our nation.

“Senator Laurel sought a change in the course of the nation not out of forlorn hope of coming doom, but out of an infinite faith in the capacity of the Filipinos to fulfill their destiny as a free and democratic people.

“We are now called upon to heed his admonition, especially his advocacy of peaceful and democratic action towards a new and freer Philippines.”

March 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a comparatively well-focused day with few visitors to divert his attention from the state matters at hand.

He had only two callers in the morning; the first was C. Maxwell Stanley, well-known philanthropist, who arrived recently to receive an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree from a local university and to address the Manila Rotary Club.

The visitor was accompanied by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo.

Later in the morning, Senator Helena Z. Benitez called along with Mrs. Belen Enrile Gutierrez, president of the Philippine Women’s University and member of the Monetary Board, to take up some official business with the President.

The President was free all afternoon to work on state papers and discuss problems with his aides and ranking officials concerned. In the evening he went out to the Hotel Intercontinental to speak as guest of honor at the opening of the 6th Asia-Pacific Food Production Conference.

Expressing hope that the meeting will contribute to the world's response to the challenge of food production, the President noted that the so-called "miracle rice" in the development of which the Philippines has pioneered, has produced a rice glut which in turn scaled down the price of rice in the world market.

The President also urged that immediate attention be given to the production of more protein foods, pointing out that protein deficiency in Asian countries "accounts partly for the poor health of our peoples."

He said that new and modern techniques of agricultural production and management are needed in Asia, adding that in order to attain self-sufficiency in food, closer "collaborative effort, a sharing of knowledge, a continuing exchange of information" must be undertaken by Asians.

Closer cooperation between governments on one hand and between governments and the private sector on the other would help meet the many challenges that agricultural development in Asia faces in the Seventies, the President asserted.

In a memorandum circular, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. listed additional exemptions to the ban on filling vacant government posts, in connection with the fiscal restraint policy of the administration.

The new exemptions as authorized in the circular with the approval of the President are:

1. Vacancies resulting from the retirement, resignation or death of the incumbent;
2. Essential positions in law enforcement agencies and postal and communication services;
3. Essential positions in newly created units undertaking vital social services or implementing projects of the Capital Development Program such as extension classes, hospitals, INDESCOR, Free Trade Zone, munitions plant and the Upper Pampanga Multipurpose Project; and
4. Private, and assistant private, secretaries of department and agency heads.

Only positions in the judiciary and the prosecuting arm of the government were exempted, because they were considered essential to the peace and order drive.

Secretary Melchor, in recommending the additional exemptions, informed the President however that no appointments will be retroactive.

May 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a series of conferences with various entities, and received as well all scheduled callers, notably two royal princes of Malaya and a large number of mayors.

Early in the morning, the President first put in a session of work at his study, then began receiving callers.

The group from Malaysia, headed by Prince Tengku Makhota of Pahang and Raja Muda of Johore arrived in Manila upon invitation of the Manila Polo Club, to participate in a series of matches with local polo teams.

Among the visiting Malaysians were Tengku Ismael, Major Daud, Lt. Hussein, Dr. Vijay Lukshumenyah, Rajah Harun, Al Rashid, Mohammed Hatta, and Ali Ismael.

After this courtesy call, the President conferred in succession with Congress leaders and his fiscal advisers, to thresh out the problem of prices and assess the status of pending administration bills in both houses; a group of Laguna mayors; and finally with Cagayan mayors, who were his guests at lunch.

Among the bills submitted to Congress were those seeking:

1. improvement of the tax collecting machinery;
2. creation of a Special Peace and Order Fund;
3. funds for Land Reform;
4. revision of the Minimum Wage Law;
5. creation of the Oil Commission.

The mayors pledged full support to the President's leadership and policies. For the rest of his working day, the President attended to state papers.

March 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS devoted most of his working day to state business, particularly in the study of state papers and reports, while acting on urgent problems.

Among others, he made new designations to important posts notably that of the Gold Mining Industry Assistance Board to which he named Norberto de Guzman, former Baguio City Mayor.

He also received officials and consulted with aides during the day. Among the groups he received were those composed of Public Service Commission officials and the officers of the University of the Philippines Planning Society.

The PSC officials headed by Commissioner Enrique Medina conferred with the President on the petition of jeepney operators to hike their fares.

The President told the commissioners it was his feeling that a hearing be set as soon as possible to decide the petition.

Present were Commissioners Jose Cadio and Paz Planas, among other officials, with Secretary of Justice Felix V. Makasiar sitting in on the talks.

The UP group called to present the President with a plaque of appreciation for his concern for the planning profession, as borne by the scholar ships granted to government personnel for advance study at the UP Institute of Planning.

Toward noon, the President received a group of congressmen who took lip with him various matters affecting their constituencies.

Early in the afternoon, the President directed Secretary of Commerce and Industry Leonides S. Virata to look iiito reports that a number of gasoline retailers have increased their prices.

The Chief Executive has received reports that despite assurances from big oil companies that they will not raise the price of fuel, some retailers have actually gone ahead and increased the prices on their stock.

The President also directed Secretary Virata to include in his investigation the prices of auto spare parts.

In the course of the day, the President forwarded to the Commission on Appointments two nominations for national posts in Davao Oriental and in Oroquieta City.

Nominated were Teodoro D. Nano, Jr. as register of deeds of Davao Oriental, and Arercio O. Casing as city engineer of Oroquieta City.

March 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS for the most part was involved with his usual heavy desk work, in-between callers. But at about mid-morning, he put aside his chores to attend the ceremonies at Assumption Convent elevating to Star Scout a bunch of girl scouts including Irene, the youngest of the First Family's brood.

Back at Malacañang, the President resumed his chores, including receiving, among others, Col. Simeon Medalla of the Philippine Veterans Bank; Bishop Mariano Gaviola; Mayor Amelia Gordon of Olongapo City; and Mayor Udtog Matalam, Jr. of Pikit, Cotabato.

The President also saw Secretary of Social Welfare Gregorio Feliciano who brought a petition from a number of student leaders, seeking the improvement of the general well-being of college students in the Greater Manila area, including living conditions, school and campus facilities, and school fees.

In response to the plea, the President created a special committee to inquire into the problems of students and plot solutions.

The Cabinet committee is composed" of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs as chairman, and the Secretary of Social Welfare, the Secretary of Public Works and Communications, the Secretary of Education and the Executive Secretary as members.

Later, the President once more sat down with Senate leaders to further assess the urgent problems of the country, particularly those which could be solved by pertinent legislation.

In the afternoon, the President met with a group of officials and leaders of the business community on the stabilization of commodity prices which lately have unreasonably spiralled upward.

In the afternoon, the President held a two-hour meeting with representatives of importers, producers, wholesalers, retailers, processors of food stuffs and other prime commodities at the Maharlika hall in Malacañang.

During the meeting, the President:

1. Appealed anew for cooperation in government efforts to bring down the prices of prime commodities;
2. Announced plans for the importation of prime commodities such as milk, meat and fish products in quantities sufficient to stabilize prices at reasonable levels;
3. Directed the Central "Bank to make available immediately \$200,000 for the importation of prime commodities. The President said this is only an initial amount being made available to cooperatives.
4. Created a committee composed of Undersecretary of Agriculture Arturo Tanco, Jr. as chairman and the Undersecretaries of Commerce, Justice, and representatives of the Central Bank, Board of Industries and the Presidential Economic Staff as members, to reconcile the varied problems of importers, producers,, distributors, wholesalers and retailers, with the end in view of stabilizing prices of prime, commodities;
5. Was informed that the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce headed by its president, Ralph Nubla, and other importers were ready to turn over to the government all their stocks acquired at the old P3.90 to \$1rate at very minimal profits, for distribution to the consumers, to show their readiness to cooperate with the administration;
6. Announced that the Free Trade Zone in Bataan is ready to take on imported prime commodities for storage and for distribution to the market as needed to stabilize prices.

Present at the meeting which was held from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. were some 500 leaders of private business, including importers, wholesalers, food processors, retailers and heads of various business and commercial chambers.

Also present at the meeting were Vice President Fernando Lopez, Secretary of Commerce and Industry Leonides S. Virata, Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata, Central Bank Governor Gregorio S. Licaros, Secretary of Justice Felix V. Makasiar, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. and Chairman Placido Mapa, Jr. of the National Economic Council.

For the rest of the working day, the President worked quietly in his study, in the course of which he signed the designations of Esteban Buhat as acting city treasurer, Jose M. Aquino as acting chief of police, and Ricardo E. Villena as acting city assessor, all in the City of Batangas.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: March 13-19, 1970

President's Week in Review: March 20-26, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

March 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that the floating exchange rate for the peso will remain for sometime although he predicted that by the end of May a fixed dollar-peso exchange rate will emerge.

Speaking as guest of honor at the luncheon marking the 21st anniversary of the Manila Lions Club, held at the Manila Hotel, the President devoted a large part of his speech to explaining the necessity for passing the export tax bill which will supersede CB Circular 289.

In this connection, he appealed to the exporters to accept the tax as their share of the burden of stabilizing the economy and the fiscal position of the country.

The President stressed that Circular 289 will have to go because of the storm of speculation it has stirred which has resulted in the inability of the business sector to fix prices of commodities.

Earlier in the morning, the President accepted the credentials of two new ambassadors in separate presentation rites held at the Malacañang ceremonial hall. The formal rites were attended by members of the Cabinet led by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo.

The newly accredited envoys were Herr Jobst Freiherr von Buddenbrock of the Federal Republic of Germany and T. A. Meurs of the Netherlands.

After the presentation rites, the President received a group of Hilton general managers who informed him that contrary to "exaggerated" reports in foreign publications, demonstrations in Manila are relatively tame compared to the violent riots in other cities of the world.

Accompanied by Antonio Delgado, the Hilton executives who called at Malacañang asked the President how they could help promote tourism in this country.

The Hilton executives were Kenneth Moss, area vice president for the Far East. Albert Grieder of Tokyo, Ewe Hin Lim of Singapore, Hans Oppacher of Bangkok and Andre F. Charriere of Manila Hilton .

Shortly before 1 p.m., the President motored to the Manila Hotel where he was guest speaker of the Manila Lions Club at a luncheon meeting commemorating its 21st anniversary.

While working on state papers in the afternoon, the President signed the nominations of nine municipal judges, an auxiliary city judge and two clerks of court. The nominations were forwarded to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation. (See p. 3152 for list of nominees.)

He also accepted the resignation of Mrs. Pacita M. Gonzales as administrator of the National Cottage Industries Development Authority (NACIDA), as well as personally acted on complaints from the public against abusive increase of transportation fares.

The Chief Executive issued a memorandum addressed to the Public Service Commissioner, the Land Transportation Commissioner and the Chief of the Trafcon, asking them to work jointly to prevent such abuses.

March 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent the day mostly at his desk working on state papers, among others firing off a directive to Secretary of Justice Felix V. Makasiar to wind up the probe of alleged irregularities in the San Pedro Tunasan Resettlement Site operations in three days, and through Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. calling on the Manila mayor to prevent violence during transportation strikes.

The President broke off from his desk work only to swear in newly designated Secretary of Commerce and Industry Ernesto Maceda, vice Leonides S. Virata, now the chairman of the Development Bank of the Philippines.

The President also approved the promotion of 95 regular Philippine Army majors to lieutenant colonel and 321 reserve officers in the inactive status to their next higher grades.

The President likewise approved the commission of 6.5 graduates of the Philippine Military Academy, Class 1970, in the regular force for assignment in the major branches and 145 individuals in the reserve force of the Armed Forces.

Through the day the President concentrated on desk work, and did not receive callers. He worked through the evening to clear his desk of all urgent state business before trekking to Baguio City where he is slated to go into his annual spiritual retreat in connection with the Holy Week observance.

March 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS appealed to the nation for quiet and solemnity in keeping with the spirit of the Holy Week.

The President made the appeal in an informal interview with newsmen shortly before going into retreat at Mirador Hill in Baguio City.

He said: "Today is Palm Sunday, and we are entering the most solemn period in the Christian calendar.

"I appeal to those who are thinking of strikes, demonstrations and violence to reflect on the meaning of this period and think of our country.

"Let us take care of our country because nobody else will."

The President continued: "We are working on the things that cause us impatience, the reforms that some people want today we have been working for and advocating since the beginning of our first term, and even before that.

"I hope that as I go into retreat this afternoon, everybody including those who had in the past used and espoused violence to attain then-ends, think deeply of the principles on which the Christian faith is founded."

The President was scheduled to end his spiritual retreat Tuesday evening.

He arrived in Baguio City at 9 a.m., accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos and their children Imee, Bongbong and Irene.

Upon arrival at the Loakan airport, the President's party was met by a tog group of welcomers headed by Baguio City Mayor Luis Lardizabal and Governor Ben Palispis of Benguet.

Also on hand to meet him were officials of neighboring provinces, including Reps. Andres Cosalan, Jose D. Aspiras and Joaquin Ortega; Gov. Juvenal Guerrero of La Union and Mayor Lorenzo Dacanay of San Fernando.

The President flew to Baguio to address the graduation ceremonies of the Philippine Military Academy and to go into spiritual retreat.

The President had a conference with officials who met him, upon arrival at the Mansion House. In the afternoon, he went to Fort Del Pilar, where he was guest of honor at the commencement exercises of the PMA.

Among those who joined the President in the summer capital were Vice President Fernando Lopez, Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile and Secretary of Commerce and Industry Ernesto Maceda.

At the PMA commencement, the President was introduced to the graduating cadets by Brig. Gen. Cesar M. Garcia, PMA superintendent.

After addressing the cadets, the President proceeded to his retreat.

Meanwhile, Malacañang transmitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation 47 nominations to various posts,

Leading the new list of nominees were Alejandro Melchor, Jr. as executive secretary, Placido Mapa, Jr. as chairman of the National Economic Council, and Brig. Gen. Florencio Medina (ret.) as chairman of the National Science Development Board. (See pp. 3152 to 3154 for list of nominees.)

March 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS took further steps to decentralize the executive office by delegating several of its important powers to heads of departments, offices and agencies.

In this connection, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. issued Executive Order No. 218, signed by the President on March 21, to amend Executive Order No. 70 of 1967, a 17-point order implementing the policy of decentralization.

The new decentralization move was the latest in a series of actions designed to relieve the Presidency of functions which could be delegated to department heads, thereby, minimizing official “red tape” and ensuring speedy action on purely administrative matters.

The President also moved to speed up the distribution of lots in Tondo Foreshorelands to deserving citizens in need of homesites.

In response to the clamor of residents in the Tondo Foreshorelands for the immediate distribution of lots, the President:

1. Designated Sebastian Santiago, general manager of the PHHC, as action officer of the Presidential Coordinating Committee on Housing and Urban Development pending appointment of a permanent action officer.
2. Directed the Land Authority to designate Associate Governor Ernesto Valdez as successor to Associate Governor Venecio Eusebio in the PCCHUD, and to speed up action on land distribution including immediate processing of applicants, determining allocation procedures of uncontroverted areas and publication of the names of applicants and corresponding allocations;
3. Directed Public Works Director Alejandro Deleña to meet with the recognized leaders of the Tondo Foreshorelands residents on the proposed amendments of Proclamation No. 378 establishing a port zone in the Tondo Foreshorelands.

Later, the President submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation the names of 41 other nominees to positions in the executive department, boards of government corporations, boards of regents and the judiciary. (See pp. 3154 to 3155 for list of nominees.)

March 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS abolished 30 government bodies and transferred the functions of 16 others, in line with the administration policy to simplify government operations and avoid duplication of efforts, functions and activities.

The abolition was embodied in Executive Order No. 219, and the transfers in Executive Order No. 220, which were issued by the President shortly after checking out of the Mirador Hill retreat house in Baguio City.

The transfers of certain offices hitherto directly under the Office of the President was part of the decentralization process, through relinquishment of presidential powers to regular departments.

In scrapping the offices, the President pointed out there were other proper government agencies wherein the functions of the abolished bodies could be embraced and consolidated.

The President checked out of the retreat house at the conclusion of his two-day spiritual retreat in connection with the Holy Week observance.

The President was met upon his arrival at the Mansion House by Manila newsmen covering him with whom he had a brief interview.

Following the interview, the President buckled down to work on piles of urgent state papers he brought along with him as well as those brought up by Malacañang aides.

March 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, refreshed by a two-day spiritual retreat, took up public affairs with some zest as he interspersed private consultations and desk work with conferences with local officials who flocked to the Mansion House for an airing of; their problems.

Among other urgent concerns, the President discussed with PSC Commissioner Enrique Medina by telephone the public outrage against exorbitant bus and jeepney fares. He then asked the PSC chief to crack down on the unscrupulous operators.

In consultations with national officials, the President talked with Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Director of Forestry Jose Viado, Director of Mines Fernando Busuego, Jr., Vicente Arancill, DBP branch manager in Baguio; and District Land Officer Angel Sangalang.

Among the local delegations he received were those from Benguet headed by Gov. Ben Palispis and Mayor Luis Lardizabal of Baguio. The Benguet group put before the President the problem of conflicting mining claims, reforestation projects and public works improvements for the province.

Mayor Lardizabal discussed the city's perennial water shortage, the relocation of squatters and other concerns.

In the afternoon, the President conferred with Councilors Antonio Romero, Jose Florendo, Ruben Ayson, Dionisio Claridad, and Pedro Claraval, all of Baguio City.

In the course of the day, the President reconstituted four high advisory bodies with which he consults on various matters relating to national policies.

The agencies reorganized were the Council of Leaders, to supersede the abolished Council of State; the Financial Policy Committee, the Air Navigation Services Coordinating Committee, and the Exchange Visitors Program Committee.

The President also ordered the release of some P37 million from the highways special fund for the improvement and maintenance of national and provincial roads.

The amount released corresponds to the allotment for the fourth quarter of the fiscal year ending June 30.

Of this amount, P18, 754,688 will be used for the maintenance of national and provincial roads, with the provincial roads getting P6, 155,349.

The sum of P17, 739,966 will be utilized for the improvement of national and provincial roads, with the provincial roads getting P3, 859,685.

The Bureau of Public Highways will allot the sums released to the different engineering districts and offices.

In a speech read for him by Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile at the opening of the SEATO Exercise "Sea Rover," the President called for the pooling of will and strength in a common thrust to lick poverty and uplift the status of the masses in Asia. The President said that the framework for this type of cooperation exists.

"It will be a kind of undertaking vested with a more enduring validity that along with the series of military exercises we hold periodically, there shall be in SEATO some worthy forms of 'economic exercises' that will similarly test and demonstrate the fruitful coordination and willingness to cooperate among our member countries in this particular regional association," he said.

The President pointed out that the ancient challenges of mass poverty and economic inequities affect all of Asia which will inevitably affect the social stability and the quality of peace in the world should they remain unchecked. (See pp. 3156-3161 for full text of the President's speech.)

March 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS took off in the presidential plane early in the morning for Laoag City, where he was slated to confer with local officials on various urgent problems and projects.

Arriving at Laoag just before 9 a.m., the President was met by a large group of welcomers headed by Gov. Jose Evangelista, Mayor Eulalio Siazon and Rep. Simeon Valdez.

After the usual welcome ceremonies, the President set down with the Ilocos Norte officials to discuss among other things the need for extending the Ambuklao line to the province, and an additional waterworks system.

Following the talks, the President heard Mass at the parish church of Laoag. After the services, the President set off by car for his hometown, Batac, where he briefly visited with relatives and friends.

It was nearly noon when he flew off from the Laoag airport for San Fernando, La Union. At the airport, he was met by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos and son Bongbong, as well as by another big crowd of welcomers headed by Reps. Jose D. Aspiras and Joaquin Ortega, Gov. Juvenal Guerrero and Mayor Lorenzo Dacanay.

From the airport, the President and the First Lady drove to Barrio Lingsat where they laid a wreath at the memorial to the local heroes and martyrs, notably his own father, Don Mariano.

Then the First Couple retired to Poro Point to relax a bit before trekking back to Baguio, where they will stay for the duration of the Lenten season.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: March 27 - April 2, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

March 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent the day quietly.

He received a few visitors, among whom were City Mayor Luis Lardizabal and Peter Rindel, an Austrian author, who called for an interview.

The President also consulted with key administration officials, among whom were Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Secretary of Justice Felix V. Makasiar, and Chairman Placido Mapa, Jr. of the National Economic Council, concurrently Director-General of the Presidential Economic Staff.

Together with Secretary Melchor, the President also met with Vicente Arancillo, branch manager of the local Development Bank of the Philippines; and Angel Sangalang, district lands officer here.

The two branch officials gave the President a detailed briefing on the Baguio City squatter problem, how the Bureau of Lands is working to solve it, and how the DBP could assist to help the squatters.

Most of the time during the day, the President worked on pending state papers.

The Chief Executive approved the Third Investments Priority Plan prepared by the National Economic Council in accordance with Republic Act No. 5186, otherwise known as the Investment Incentives Act.

The third IPP was approved by the NEC last March 18 and submitted to the President by NEC Chairman Mapa, Jr.

Consisting of 89 projects, the plan is expected to have an aggregate output of P12.4 billion.

In preparing the plan, the NEC took the following into consideration:

- 1) The 15 criteria in Section 3(k) of RA 5186;
- 2) The plan's consistency with previous IPPs;
- 3) Its consistency with basic policies for industrial and agricultural development, such as export oriented industries, industrial projects with high forward and backward linkages, industries which require further processing, traditional export products to increase dollar receipts, and preference for capital goods industries;
- 4) Consistency with the objectives of the overall economic development programs, particularly industries that generate employment, contribute to sustain growth of the gross national product and income, improve the balance of payments position, promote social welfare, and improve the people's standard of living.

March 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a work-day not very much removed from his usual norm in Malacañang, as he worked on state papers, received callers, and presided at a round of conferences.

Among the top officials he received was Vice President Fernando Lopez, the first visitor to see him. The two officials discussed a wide range of government problems.

After this meeting, the President received the group of officials who came to thresh out the mechanics of the proposed reorganization of the National Waterworks and Sewerage Authority. In this connection, the President named a special committee to oversee the reorganization and to look into the recommendations of a previous presidential committee which studied the problems of the government water firm.

The next group of officials took up with the President the needs of the tobacco industry, and as a consequence of this meeting, the abolition of the government subsidy to the industry was mapped out to cover three years.

Other callers included Sen. Ambrosio Padilla and Rep. Emilio Espinosa of Masbate.

During the day, the President also found time to meet with Manila newsmen covering Malacañang.

In the afternoon, he worked mostly on state papers, staying at his desk till evening.

In an Easter Message to the nation, the President said:

As Easter Sunday dawns, the Christian community once again feels the unmistakable surge of hope and the affirmation of faith. Today more than ever, Christians the world over need such an affirmation of the spirit for the Christian ethic is engaged by relentless forces which seek to destroy it. Already, many of those professing Christianity are wavering in their beliefs. Others have all but buried their faith.

Not long ago, the question was asked, or rather stated, God is dead. It would seem so, with certain peoples turning godless, certain ideologies denying indeed the existence of a Supreme Being. But for the larger community of the civilized world, God remains at the center of the universe and at the center of life.

We in the Philippines certainly assert this belief, in our continuing allegiance to our Christian faith. And though other Filipinos may worship other faiths, they too in their own way affirm God, and in thus upholding the spiritual side of man, they share with all Filipinos a sense of holy community.

I like to think that Easter this year, the beginning of a new decade, observed as in years past with the same luminous joy, the same vitality of faith, will also mark the beginning of a new promise of national community. A community welded together both by common aspirations and by a renaissance of spiritual fervor. For Easter is a rebirth, Easter is regeneration. This ushers in for us a new nation, a new national fervor. Let it be the harbinger of a better day to come.

We are often challenged by thoughtful countrymen to reassert moral authority over the nation. I feel that if ever this country will return to a high moral plane, there must first be a spiritual rebirth. For such a condition must be both the work of the people and of their leaders. As faith springs from below, so must the moral order spread from the roots to all the components of a living being.

Let Easter Sunday be the beginning of this miracle for the Filipino people.

March 29—

PRESIDENT and Mrs. Marcos spent a pleasant Easter Sunday.

In the morning the First Couple joined the Marcos children and their friends for an “Easter egg hunt” behind the Mansion House.

Later, the First Family heard Mass at the amphitheater kiosk.

After the Mass, the President conferred with government officials, among them Sen. Mamintal Tamano and other Mindanao leaders, who were spending the Holy Week in Baguio City.

At noon, the President had lunch with a group of Air Force officers led by Brig. Gen. Jose Rancudo, commander of the 5th Fighter Wing, with headquarters at Basa Air Base, Floridablanca, Pampanga.

The Air Force officers called at the Mansion House to present Bongbong with a miniature model of the latest jet fighter aircraft.

In the course of the day, the President called a number of Cabinet officials by telephone for briefings on their respective areas.

In an interview with Malacañang newsmen, the President said that the problem of prices was the first to be tackled after the Holy Week.

The President has alerted the Department of Commerce and Industry, on the implementation of the price control measure.

The bill, which created a Price Control Council, was one of the key measures enacted by Congress before the Holy Week recess.

The President also disclosed that the groundwork has been laid for a nationwide network of consumers and agricultural cooperatives, "being-established by the PACD, the Agricultural Productivity Commission and the Agricultural Credit Administration.

"I would like to see a direct tie-up between the producers cooperatives and the consumers cooperatives," the President said.

March 30—

PRESIDENT MARCOS arrived about 9 a.m. in Manila after an early morning flight from Baguio City where he spent most of the Holy Week, with side trips to the Ilocos provinces where he surveyed conditions and conferred with local officials on the region's problems.

Soon after settling down to his Malacañang schedule, the President summoned various officials for impromptu conferences on urgent state business. Most of the talks were held in private in his study. Among others, he conferred with Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile and AFP brass; Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, and close aides.

Among other actions, the President created two special committees, one to look into the Tondo foreshorelands problems and the needs of residents in the area; the other to study the salary and wage scales of personnel of government-owned or controlled corporations.

The Chief Executive also ordered Government Corporate Counsel Leopoldo Abellera to act within three days on all contracts of government corporations coursed through his office.

The President noted with concern the adverse financial effects of the delay in the processing of contract documents for projects proposed by the various government corporations, which are usually coursed through the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel for evaluation ultimately resulting in loss of income among implementing government Corporations.

He also directed Secretary of Labor Blas F. Ople to mediate immediately the strike called by some 50 employees of Rizal Park against the park management.

The President said he could not grant off-hand the demands of the striking workers without first conducting an investigation. He stressed that both sides in the dispute should have a fair hearing.

Because of the pressure of work, which built up during his sojourn in the Pines City, the President rescheduled the meeting of the Foreign Policy Council, formerly set for this week, to a date still to be decided next week. The Council will assess the events in Cambodia, in relation to the country's interests.

The President worked at his desk through the afternoon and early evening.

He took time out from his paper work late in the afternoon to confer with the prospective members of the Price Control Council on the implementation of the Price Control law which was enacted by Congress recently.

Present were Vice President Lopez, who is also the Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Secretary of Commerce and Industry Ernesto Maceda, NEC Chairman Placido Mapa, Jr. and Secretary of Health Amadeo H. Cruz.

Also present was Agriculture Undersecretary Arturo Tangco, Jr.

The council also have a representative of the consumers as member.

March 31—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a long meeting with Nacionalista Party senators and Congress leaders on measures pending in Congress, particularly bills pertaining to labor welfare.

He asked the prime movers in Congress during the 3-hour meeting starting at 10:30 a.m. to expedite the movement of the bills through the legislative mill in view of the need for them.

Present at the caucus were Vice-President Fernando Lopez, Senate President Gil J. Puyat, Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., Senate President Protempore Jose J. Roy, Speaker Protempore Jose Aldeguer; Senator Arturo M. Tolentino, Dominador Aytona, Wenceslao R. Lagumbay, Helen Benitez, Leonardo Perez, Lorenzo Teves, Emmanuel Pelaez, Lorenzo Sumulong, Salvador Laurel, Rene Espina, Mamintal Tamano;

Reps. Marcelino Veloso, Jose Alberto and Natalio P. Castillo; Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata, NEC Chairman and PES Director-General Placido Mapa, Jr. Central Bank Governor Gregorio S. Licaros, Bud get Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, Assistant Executive Secretary Flores Bayot, and Presidential Executive Assistant Jacobo C. Clave.

The President saw no other outside group during the day, except a delegation of some 59 press photographers who presented their views on the right of Malacañang photographers to cover student demonstrations. They were headed by Manuel Silva and Domingo Suba of the *Manila Times*.

For most of the working day, the President focused on his desk work. Among other actions, he named four more members to the PTTA board, leaving only one vacancy; and ordered Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. to study the feasibility of putting up a village for handicapped persons, in response to the petition of an organization of blind people, *Tinig ng mga Pinagkaitan ng Liwanag*, for such a place where they could live and work.

Appointed to the PTTA board were: Firmo Liwanag, president of the Manila Jaycees; Antonio Delgado, Jose Cobarrubias, and Immigration Commissioner Edmundo Reyes.

The President also appointed Francisco G. Abrogar as member of the Provincial Board of Misamis Oriental.

April 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS pledged the government's continuing commitment to positive change while standing fast for the preservation of orderly society and the country's democratic tradition.

In a speech delivered for him by Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile at the annual field day of the Manila ROTC and PMT units at the Quezon City stadium, the President said that "continuity and change" must be every citizen's responsibility.

"The continuity of democracy" the President stated, "remains today the strongest element in our national life."

Official business started at breakfast for the President when he had as guests Senator Dominador Aytona, Rep. Jose Alberto, Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata, NEC Chairman Placido Mapa, Jr. who is also concurrent PES director-general; Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. and Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco.

As may be gleaned from the composition of his breakfast companions, the talk at the table focused on economic fiscal matters.

After breakfast, the President worked for a spell at his desk, during which he received PANAMIN Secretary Manuel Elizalde, Jr. and Anionic Delgado, recently named member of the BTTI board.

At 10 a.m., the President sat down with Congress leaders and labor bosses for a thorough study of the various minimum wage proposals. After this conference, the President received individually congressmen who called, it being Congressmen's Day at Malacañang.

For the rest of the day, the President continued to receive congressmen who sought consultations with him, while tending to his desk work in-between.

Among other actions, the President:

1) Signed Administrative Order No. 213, which created a committee to study budget concepts as they relate to national plans.

In signing the order, the President ordered that budgets should henceforth be formulated to reflect income sources and provide financial support for duly approved national plans and programs.

2) Appointed Mario R. Reyes acting administrator of the National Cottage Industries Development Authority (NACIDA), vice Mrs. Pacita M. Gonzales, resigned.

Reyes's nomination was forwarded to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation.

3) Issued a proclamation declaring Thursday, April 2, a special public holiday in Bulacan, to give the people of the province the opportunity to celebrate appropriately the birth anniversary of Francisco Balagtas, Prince of Filipino poets, who was a native of the province.

4) A Memorandum Circular enjoining all government offices, agencies and instrumentalities to use Pilipino in all official communications on April 2, which is Balagtas Day, was also issued.

Malacañang also released the text of Memorandum Circular No. 340 signed by the Executive Secretary, Alejandro Melchor, Jr. prescribing new work hours for the summer season, covering the period April 1 to June 15, 1970. (See p. 3481 for full text of Memorandum Circular No. 340.)

April 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS made a flying trip to Tuguegarao, Cagayan, where he conferred with local officials on projects, problems, and particularly on the initiatives for elevating the standards of tobacco growing and processing so that local tobacco may compete successfully in the world market.

Leaving Malacañang early in the morning, the President arrived in Tuguegarao to a warm welcome, and then spoke at a huge rally in the public plaza. He received pledges of confidence and support from the region's leaders, and from various citizens in the province.

After a series of conferences with local officials, the President flew back to Manila, arriving early in the afternoon.

Resuming his schedule, the President first worked on state papers, then took time off to sign into law Senate Bill No. 194 (H. No. 938), otherwise known as the Price Control Bill, which fixes the maximum selling price of essential articles or commodities, and creates a Price Control Council which will carry out the aims and purposes of the law.

Present at the signing ceremony were Senators Dominador Aytona, Wenceslao Lagumbay and Alejandro Almendras, Rep. Constantino Navarro, Secretary of Commerce and Industry Ernesto M. Maceda and Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr.

He worked in his study for the rest of the afternoon, and through evening.

Earlier, the President directed that immediate studies be made towards streamlining present procedures in the processing and issuance of land titles.

Towards this end, he ordered the creation of a Management Audit Committee to undertake this task, giving it up to May 30, this year to submit its report and recommendations.

The committee will be composed of a representative each from the PES-DND Computer Center (Camp Aguinaldo), the Management Services of the Budget Commission, and the Bureau of Lands, which issues land titles.

The President also created a committee to take charge of preparations for the inauguration of the *Dambana ng Kagitingan*, a shrine to Filipino heroes, built on Mt. Samat in Bataan, on April 9.

With Defense Undersecretary Manuel Q. Salientes as chairman and Commissioner Gregorio Araneta of the Board of Travel and Tourist Industry as vice-chairman, the committee members are:

Rizalino P. Lacuna of the Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor; Public Works Undersecretary Mariano Dy Reyes; General Manuel Yan, AFP chief of staff; Director Jose Viado of the Parks and Wildlife Office; and Col. Manuel A. Acosta, secretary.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: April 3-9, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

April 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS followed up the organization of the Price Control Council with a meeting with the members, as he directed the setting up of the machinery of the Council so that it can function as soon as possible.

Headed by Vice President Fernando Lopez, the Council members discussed with the President various steps for making the group an effective agency. Also present at the meeting was RCA Chairman Alfredo Montelibano, who explained the policies of the cereal agency as they relate to prices. Others at the meeting were Secretary of Commerce and Industry Ernesto Maceda, action officer; Secretary of Health Amadeo Cruz and NEC Chairman Plaeido Mapa, Jr., members.

In the morning, the President received the letters of credence of the new ambassadors to the Philippines of Lebanon and Indonesia.

In separate ceremonies which were attended by members of the Cabinet and officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs and the diplomatic missions of the two countries, the President received the credentials of Ambassador Toufic Aouad of Lebanon and Maj. Gen. Kusno Utomo of Indonesia.

Ambassador Aouad will be the first ambassador of Lebanon to the Philippines while General Kusno Utomo succeeds former Ambassador Moersjid who was recalled to Jakarta last year after completing his tour of duty in the Philippines.

Other callers during the day included Rep. James Chiongbian, PANAMIN Secretary Manuel Elizalde, Jr., Gen. James McNitt, president of the ITT, and other executives of the firm; and Msgr. Oscar L. Calvo, who called to invite the President to the consecration of Msgr. Felixberto Camacho Flores, a Guamanian of a Filipino mother.

Msgr. Flores, the President was informed by Msgr. Calvo, is a descendant of one of the three Filipinos exiled along with Apolinario Mabini in Guam. He married in Guam and remained.

In-between callers, the President as usual worked at his desk, and continued to do so through late afternoon and evening.

The President directed the Department of Labor, the Social Security System and the National Bureau of Investigation to work jointly in enforcing labor laws, particularly in the Greater Manila area.

The President's directive was issued in Pilipino through Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., pursuant to Memorandum Circular No. 339, which enjoined all government entities to use Pilipino as far as practicable in all official communications.

Joint action by the Department of Labor, SSS and NBI was deemed necessary by the President in order to ferret out violators of labor laws, especially those who operate so-called "sweat shops," where working conditions jeopardize workers' health.

Investigations have shown that some employers violate the Social Security Act, by evading payment of premiums on the social security coverage of their workers.

April 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS caught up with his paper work aboard *RPS 777*, enroute to Iligan City after a MI day of unabated activity.

Before flying from Manila at mid-morning for Zamboanga del Norte, the President along with the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, honored at breakfast the delegate to the 32nd Southeast Asia Treaty Organization military advisers conference, held in Baguio City, and their wives.

Among the honorees were Air Chief Marshal Dawee Chullasapya of Thailand, dean of the military advisers group; Admiral John S. McCain, Jr. of the United States, Admiral Peter Hill-Norton of the United Kingdom, Lt. Gen. Leonard Thorton of New Zealand, Lt. Gen. Thomas Daly of Australia, Maj. Gen. Autrey Maroun, chief of the SEATO military planning office; General Manuel T. Yan, General Jesus Vargas (ret.), SEATO secretary-general; Mrs. McCain, Lady Hill-Norton, and Mrs. Chullasapya.

Also present were Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, Ambassador and Mrs. Henry Byroade, and Ambassador and Mrs. Amayatakul.

Then he received officials of Pepsi Cola, namely: Donald M. Kendall, president of Pepsi Inc., and Peter Warren, president of Pepsi Cola International, who called to pay their respects. They were accompanied by Theodore Michel, William L. Moran, Jr. and former Senator Pedro Sabido.

Arriving in a light plane at Ozamis City shortly after high noon, the President immediately addressed the crowd which had gathered for the inauguration of the Salug Irrigation System in Mahayag, Zamboanga del Sur.

From that point, the President helicoptered to Molave where he addressed another big crowd.

In both speeches, the President touched on the present agitation for reform, and admitting that the point has been made by activists, he called for national unity in order to do better the tasks of development and of transformation of the country.

He pledged full commitment to the effort to rid the body politic of graft and corruption, and to move the nation forward.

After these engagements, the President boarded this ship, to fulfill other engagements, including conferences with local officials and church leaders and to make a personal assessment of development projects in this region.

In a speech delivered for him by Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata, at the closing ceremonies of the First National Credit Congress, held at the Hotel Intercontinental, the President again sounded a call for unity, saying that all the creative forces of the nation must work together in these difficult times, and that dissension and conflict at this stage of development will “only make us vulnerable to our real enemies.” The President asked the nation to “return to reason” and stop the internicine strife and violence which “ultimately create physical and psychological havoc” among the people.

“These are times that call for cool-headed thinking, reasoned discourse, and humane consideration of the manifold problems of our land, a good number of which as you know date back to our colonial past,” the President emphasized, adding that the country “cannot achieve much if our efforts at nation-building and our vision of the future are hampered by those who would resort to violence and anarchy.”

The nation is committed to the elimination of “all vestiges of imperialism, and oppression in our land, but let us do so in an orderly way, in a democratic manner that respects the rights of all our citizens and all those who have chosen to make the Philippines their home.” he declared. (*See pp. 3724 and 3725 for full text of the President’s speech.*)

PRESIDENT MARCOS urged early development of the Surigao nickel deposits which constitute one of the bright hopes for the country's export earnings.

At a briefing at the Research and Development Center in Surigao, capital town of Surigao del Norte, and at the inauguration of the local airport, the President said Surigao has one of the world's biggest nickel deposits which has not been tapped.

He said Mindanao, except Surigao, will be the center of investments in the next few decades because it is below the typhoon belt.

The President said that corollary infrastructure support is being provided in the form of cement roads, wharves and airports, because it is ridiculous to talk of development without adequate transportation and communications facilities.

He said he plans to build at least one cemented airport at every province, and one wharf at every coastal province.

The President expressed satisfaction over the assurances of loyalty presented him last night in Iligan City by officials, political and religious leaders of the two Lanao provinces, and the cities of Marawi and of Iligan.

The President and the First Lady arrived in Surigao aboard the *RPS 777*, at 9 a.m., and were met by a large crowd including delegates to the Public Schools Interscholastic Athletic Association, headed by Governor Jose Sering and Rep. Constantino Navarro.

After inaugurating the wharf extension, they proceeded to the local parish church to hear Mass, then to the provincial capitol for a briefing.

From the capitol, the President's party proceeded to the airport for the inaugural ceremonies of the newly modernized airfield.

From there, the President motored to the Pacific Cement Company compound where his party had lunch.

Later in the afternoon, the President formally opened the Public Schools Interscholastic Athletic Association Meet.

In his address, the President said he had started the regionalization of Malacañang with his trip to the different provinces of Mindanao.

"This is the beginning of a regionalization of Malacañang. It is my intention to transfer my office regionally and periodically so that the President will stay in the barrios from now on."

The President said it is a fact that people sometimes do not see the President and other national officials except during political campaigns.

"From now on, the First Lady and I will be available in various regions," the President said.

The President also wished the students success, pointing out that although he had been advised to-stop athletic meets in order to economize, he decided to continue with them, subject to certain conditions, because it is the best way of building-character and physical fitness among the people.

After the Meet opening, the President and his party boarded the *RPS 777* for an overnight voyage to Cagayan de Oro City.

Among the congressmen who saw the President were Reps. Teodulo Natividad, Nicanor Yniguez, Vicente Cerilles, Jose de Venecia, Democrito Plaza, Floro Crisologo, Ali Dimaporo, Eduardo Cojuangco, Jose G. Puyat, Ramon Durano, Artemio Loyola, and Pablo Malasarte.

April 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered the immediate release of 5,000 hectares of public land in Sitio Kematu to T'boli and Ubos tribesmen in the PANAMIN settlement there.

The President directed the Bureau of Forestry and the district lands officer to coordinate with PANAMIN Secretary Manuel Elizalde, Jr. to effect the release without prejudice to private rights that may exist.

The President issued the instruction on request of the resettled tribes who gave the President and the First Lady a very rousing welcome.

The President had brought along with him national officials concerned with the minority problems.

The President and his party arrived at Cagayan de Oro City aboard the *RPS 777* 9:30 a.m. and was met by delegations of officials, students, laborers and townspeople.

After the inauguration of the newly constructed airport in Cagayan de Oro City, he flew to Surallah where another big delegation awaited him.

From there, the President and the First Lady helicoptered to Sitio Kematu, a PANAMIN project, and then to Lake Sebu where he also looked into the peace and order problems.

From there, the President went to Dole Philippines in Polomolok, South Cotabato, for the night.

April 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS mobilized all national relief agencies including the Armed Forces, in the aftermath of the strong earthquake which rocked Southern Luzon and other parts of the country.

The President also ordered a survey of damages.

The Chief Executive was informed of the quakes in a radiophone conversation with Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr.

Secretary Melchor informed the President that the earthquake which occurred at about 1:35 p.m. was recorded as Intensity VII in Manila and Quezon City.

The President thanked the broadcast media for helping the city residents and preventing panic among the people.

Upon the President's instruction, Secretary Melchor made an ocular inspection of some areas in Manila, especially the collapsed P. Guevarra Elementary School on San Fernando Street, Binondo, Manila.

The President also told Secretary Melchor to start an investigation into the construction of the building to determine the culpability of the contractors for substandard work.

Following his inspection, Secretary Melchor:

1. Organized a task force headed by Col. Amado Santiago of the 52nd Engineer Brigade to excavate the ruined schoolbuilding to rescue any possible victim.
2. Instructed Brig. Gen. Mariano Ordonez, Metrocom commander, to secure the disaster area, to facilitate the relief work.
3. Instructed the 51st Engineer Brigade to assist the 52nd brigade in the rescue operations. In this regard, Secretary Melchor directed Col. Santiago to organize a shifting of the rescue work for continuity of operations.
4. In a telephone conversation with Mayor Antonio Villegas of Manila, asked the city executive to investigate the cause of the building's collapse.
5. Instructed Cabinet Secretary Aguinaldo Maaba to coordinate the activities of all government agencies concerned to facilitate relief operations in other areas of the country where disasters may have occurred.

Secretary Melchor also told the President that the provincial PC commands were required to send their respective reports immediately.

Other matters reported by Secretary Melchor to the President included:

1. As a result of the earthquake, he had authorized all government employees to be dismissed from work so that they could be with their families. Only those engaged in relief work were required to be on standby duty.
2. Some public utility operators continued their services and did not join the nationwide stoppage of work, and therefore public transportation services in the Greater Manila Area did not get to be as difficult as expected.
3. The Price Control Council was meeting at 3 p.m. to continue studies on realistic scale of prices for commodities, as well as the floor wages demanded by the country's labor sector.
4. Upon the recommendation of Mayor Villegas, the Department of Education was directed to suspend classes in Manila as well as in the suburban areas, and to survey the fitness of school-buildings for further use.

On another front, Malacañang said that residents of the western lake-shore areas in the vicinity of Taal Volcano could be allowed to return to their homes.

However, Volcano island itself would remain off limits.

The Commission on Volcanology reported to the President that the activity of Taal Volcano had subsided and evacuees may be allowed to return to their homes in the lakeshore barrios along the western side of lake Taal.

April 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS arrived early in the afternoon after five days in the provinces, where he conferred with officials and assessed for himself conditions there. His focus was Mindanao, where he officiated at public functions, inaugurated two irrigation systems, and addressed rallies.

The President inaugurated four infrastructure projects, namely: the Salug Irrigation System in Mahayag, Zamboanga del Sur; the concrete airport in Surigao, Surigao del Norte; another concrete airport and a concrete wharf at Cagayan de Oro City.

The Chief Executive also visited the PANAMIN settlement at Sitio Kematu, Surallah, where there is reportedly a peace and order problem, and released 5,000 hectares of the public domain to the T'boli, Ubos and Bilaan settlers.

He officiated at the closing ceremonies of the 16th PRISAA meet in Ozamis City, and formally opened the PSIAA '70 meet in Surigao del Norte.

Cutting short his trip, the President, accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, rushed back to Manila following the strong quake which damaged a number of buildings, took 14 lives, and toppled an annex of the P. Guevarra Elementary School in Binondo, which was completed only this year.

From Nichols Air Base, the President and the First Lady drove straight to the sprawled elementary school where rescue workers-were hard at work trying to reach, the classrooms buried under the rubble.

The President spent some 45 minutes at the site, peering into the debris, examining the parts of the building, talking with the rescue workers, and getting a full briefing from officials overseeing the rescue work.

He authorized school officials to use the nearby Namarco building as a school site pending a thorough inspection of the P. Guevarra school buildings.

The President thanked all those who assisted in emergency operations to rescue possible victims of yesterday's earthquakes.

"The work they have done and the spirit they have demonstrated speak so much for, the courage and the compassion that continue to bind our people during critical emergencies such as this," he said.

"I have no doubt that as this emergency passes, it shall leave us stronger and more united by richer humane bonds."

Returning to Malacañang, the President sat down almost immediately with Congress leaders to discuss pending legislative measures, such as the proposed increase minimum wage,, the export tax and the national budget for the next fiscal year.

Present at the conference, which began at 2:30 p.m. and finished at 3:30 p.m., were Senate President Gil J. Puyat, Senate President Protempore Jose Roy, Speaker Protempore Jose Aldeguer, Senate Majority Floorleader Arturo M. Tolentino, House Majority Floorleader Marcelino Veloso, Senator Wenceslao Lagumbay and Reps. Jose Alberto, Natalio P. Castillo and Pablo Ocampo.

Also present were Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, Secretary of Labor Blas F. Ople, Labor Undersecretary Raoul Inocentes, PES Deputy Director General Apolinario Orosa and Director Tito Mijares of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.

The President also conferred with Secretary of General Services Constancio E. Castañeda on the reported loss of valuable records and documents in the archives division of the Bureau of Records Management.

Secretary Castañeda who investigated the report with assistance of the National Bureau of Investigation and the Metropolitan Command, reported to the President that only xerox copies of certain documents were found missing and that measures had been taken to secure all valuable records.

The President also conferred with Director Jose Viado of the Parks and Wildlife Office.

He directed Director Viado, who is concurrently director of forestry, to look into complaints that forest concessions are encroaching on parks and settlement reservations. The President received these complaints during his five-day visit to Mindanao.

The President also ordered Director Viado to go after kaingeros, saying that he had seen a number of forest fires ranging in some of the areas he visited in Mindanao.

April 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS expressed confidence that the nation's problems can be successfully solved and progress attained if the people remained united.

In a speech highlighting the ceremonies marking the fall of Bataan held at the *Dambana ng Kagitingan* shrine on Mt. Samat in Bataan, the President said that if the nation can set aside internal conflict, the people shall overcome every difficulty.

Emphasizing the timeless values which forged the spirit of Bataan, the President said that on his visits to the provinces, he has found the same spirit arising from cherished Filipino values still alive among the people.

"These values," he said, "are those which give a man dignity, freedom, the right of self-determination, the sense of national community."

The veterans of Bataan are "still united today in faith and loyalty to the same ideals which carried them to battle," he said, and Filipinos follow gratefully in the path of the soldiers of Bataan.

"For men who cherish freedom, these values indeed are timeless," the President said, adding that they "cannot disintegrate or change even against the onslaught of alien ideologies, nor could these values be destroyed by self-interest, greed, the lust for power." (See pp. 3726 to 3729 for full text of the President's speech.)

The President led the observance of Bataan Day at Mt. Samat, scene of the last organized resistance to the enemy hordes.

Accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, and all three of their children, the President left Manila shortly after welcoming UN Secretary General U Thant, who arrived early in the morning, and will be a state guest during his stay here.

Crossing to Bataan by boat, the President and party then motored up the slope of Mt. Samat to its peak, where the *Dambana ng Kagitingan*, the national shrine to the heroes of Bataan, has been built.

In a speech highlighting the rites at the shrine, the President called for firm national unity in order to move development forward, saying that every obstacle may be overcome by concerted and dedicated effort by the people in the spirit of the men of Bataan who turned defeat to victory.

Returning to Manila early in the afternoon, the President went straight to a conference with labor leaders and government officials concerned, to continue the talks on the proposed minimum wage and thresh out other problems affecting workers.

Present at the conference were Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Secretary of Labor Blas F. Ople, Labor Undersecretary Raoul Inocentes, Labor Relations Director Amado Inciong, PES Deputy Director General Apolinario Orosa, Director Tito Mijares of Census and Statistics;

Roberto Oca of the Pinagbuklod ng Manggagawang Pilipino, Juan Tan of FFW, Eulogio Lerum of NLU, Jose H. Hernandez of PTUC, Antonio Diaz of ULO, Fortunato Biangco of PALEA, Israel Bocobo of PAFLU, Henry Santos of PCWF, Amorito Cañete of ALU, Clemencio Leaño of PLUM, Vicente Arniogo of PTUC, Temostecles Dizon of UOEF, and Pelagio Villegas, Jr. of FDW.

After the drawn-out conference which lasted well past 8 p.m., the President rested briefly, then worked on the state matters at his study.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: April 10-17, 1970

President's Week in Review: April 18-23, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

PRESIDENT MARCOS underscored the administration policy of training bright young men in technology and science, two areas which could help accelerate the country's economic development.

Addressing the Fourth Annual Inventors Week at the Alta Vista restaurant, the President emphasized that the very salvation of the Filipino people lies in the hands of productive bright young men who work quietly in laboratories and schools and not in the hands of those who only make speeches.

The President delivered his address after presenting the Presidential Merit Award to Col. Francisco Baula and Oscar B. Varona, first prize winners in chemical and electrical experimentation, respectively.

Baula won first prize with his fuel economizer and anti-air pollution device while Varona won with his electric burglar and fire alarm.

In the afternoon the President swore in former Undersecretary of Finance Roman Cruz, Jr., as general manager of the Government Service Insurance System.

The President then received a delegation of mayors from Marinduque, who consulted him on problems of their constituents, and discussed public works projects such as highways and waterworks systems.

The Marinduque mayors were Wilfredo S. Pe of Buenavista, Dominador Llonida of Boac, Policarpio Retardo of Sta. Cruz, and Vicente del Prado of Mogpoc.

For most of the day, the President was free to tackle state papers, having cleared his schedule of other callers except for government officials with urgent matters to take up with him including Undersecretary of Public Works Manuel Syquiao, who reported on the status of on-going public works projects, and Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco.

The President directed national police agencies to extend all possible assistance to Rey Pablo Ocampo who in a privileged speech had denounced the alleged existence of vice dens in Manila.

The President issued the directive in response to the appeal of the Manila solon for police assistance in his campaign against vice in the city.

He also asked Mayor Antonio J. Villegas to extend the full cooperation of the Manila Police Department in clearing the city of all kinds of vice.

April 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS concentrated on his desk work, in the process also acting on a number of official matters coming to his attention.

Upon receipt of reports on the successful return of Apollo 13's crewmen aboard their crippled spacecraft early in the morning, the President sent the following cablegram to President Richard Nixon:

"We share with you the deepest feeling of all mankind upon the safe return of the Apollo 13 and the brave men who manned it stop It was with one heart that the world prayed for their safe return and it is with one heart that it welcomes them back to earth stop The Apollo voyage has demonstrated not only a new heroism in space by those brave men who kept their courage and composure in a situation which not much of the world understood but also a

unity on earth among those who watched that voyage with nothing but the best hopes that its triumph would once more be a triumph for man stop My family and I and the Filipino nation are one with you in spirit stop”

The President did not receive callers.

Among others, the Chief Executive:

1. Regulated the representation of the country in various international official gatherings by directing that whenever possible Philippine diplomatic missions abroad should make up the representation;
2. Approved the designation by the National Irrigation Administration board of Alfredo Juinio, as administrator of the NIA.
3. Reiterated his order to the Public Service Commission to stop giving permits to new jeepney operators in the Greater Manila area, in the face of the saturation of all possible jeepney routes in the area by present operators.
4. Submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation the nominations of Gaudioso R. Zerrudo and Jesus C. Demorito as municipal judges of Mina and Bingawan, Iloilo, respectively.

Zerrudo has actively practiced law since 1955 when he was admitted to the bar, while Demorito is an assistant provincial fiscal of Iloilo.

The President remained at his desk through the afternoon and evening, except for a lunch break and a brief rest during the early afternoon hours.

April 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS concentrated on urgent matters of state, going over reports from a number of government agencies, and acted on official papers.

The pressure of desk work, forced the President to ask Secretary of Justice Felix V. Makasiar, to deliver for him his speech at a conference of judges of courts of first instance.

In his speech, the President underscored the importance of fair and efficient administration of justice as a means of insuring peace and order which, he said, were so necessary to the growth and survival of a democratic society.

“It is only when the citizens are assured that justice within their concent of government is unassailable that peace and order will reign unbroken,” he said.

The President said that the success of a democracy rests on the ability of its citizens to obey the laws. Without an orderly society, no democratic nation can flourish, he said.

“When a free society comes to the point where order no longer holds, then we can be sure that the very system will collapse,” he said.

“Then the forces of disorder will take over, and this usually means the employment of the instruments of repression, of force, such as we see employed in police states.”

April 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS confined himself to desk work, breaking off only to attend the ceremonies at Assumption Convent marking the end of the school year, because daughter Imee was among those of her class receiving academic honors.

Accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, the President proudly stood by as Imee received honors for finishing her first year high school at the top of her class.

The rest of the day the President worked at his desk on state papers, from time to time calling in aides for consultations.

Among other actions, the President:

1) Directed the government agencies concerned to work out the resettling of victims of the fire yesterday in Malate which rendered some 700 families homeless.

Towards implementation, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. called a meeting in the afternoon of representatives of government agencies, civic and religious organizations and relief services to plan the resettlement of the homeless.

2) Ordered the immediate deportation of seven foreign nationals whose continued presence in the Philippines is considered a menace to the peace and safety of the community.

Ordered deported were: Eduard Rudolph Johnson, a Canadian; Dolores Ong Chua, Ramon Cua, Johnny Uy, Tan Hiong *alias* Fidel Nandiego *alias* Fidel Tan *alias* Tan Ona, Elho Che Cham, Tan Hinalias Tan King *alias* Alberto Tan.

3) Received a pledge of faith in his leadership from the citizens of Libagon, Southern Leyte stressing confidence in the President's ability to "lead this country to peace and prosperity and enhance the faith of the people towards our government if given the full cooperation by his constituents."

The letter was signed by, among others, members of the municipal council, barrio councils, and parents-teachers association, and school and church officials.

He worked undisturbed through the afternoon and evening.

April 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS left Malacañang after a few hours of desk work, to officiate at the turnover of three planes which will be used in the crash program aimed at developing a local capability for inducing artificial rain and moderating the weather.

The ceremony, held at the Nichols Air Base, included a brief speech from the President, outlining the program and acknowledging the primary roles to be played by the Philippine Sugar Institute and the Philippine Air Force. The President also cited the assistance provided by the U.S. government, particularly technical men, and USAF pilots in an earlier rainmaking project.

After the ceremonies the President returned to Malacañang where he received callers, notably a delegation representing the principal Mangyan tribes in Mindoro Oriental, which made representations for the proclamation of certain public lands in that province as reservations for the Mangyans.

The President forthwith directed the bureaus concerned to make a study of the lands pinpointed, making sure that they were all in the public domain and defining clearly the borders.

The President also reactivated the Special Presidential Mission on Dollar Reparation, to determine the effect of Central Bank Circular No. 289 on the dollar remittance program.

The reactivation of the dollar remittance mission was made to determine the effects of the increased inflow of dollars to the country, which was estimated at \$70 million in the latter part of last November from dollar repatriation by Filipino workers abroad.

As reactivated, the mission will be again headed by Labor Undersecretary Raoul M. Inocentes. He headed the previous special mission.

Other callers included Secretary of Commerce and Industry Ernesto Maceda, BTTI Commissioner Gregorio Araneta II, Rep. Roque Ablan, Jr., Salvador Peña, and A. Fonacier. The group discussed with the President the problems and plans of the tourist industry and the government program seeking to develop fully the country's potentials for tourism.

The rest of the day President devoted to his homework. He huddled with state papers in his study through the afternoon, and well into evening.

April 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had occasion to discuss a wide range of problems, notably legislative proposals pending in Congress, with members of the House of Representatives, who came calling on Congressmen's Day, regularly set on Wednesday.

Among others, the President urged speedy action on the export tax bill. Earlier, he was briefed by other officials on the details of the bill, during which he asked that a better system of classification be devised for export products eyed for levies, to make taxation more equitable.

Those who briefed the President were NEC Chairman Placido Mapa, Jr., and Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata.

Taking time off from his meetings with congressmen, the President inducted Dr. Josefina R. Navarro as Manila's assistant superintendent for elementary education, vice Mrs. Virginia M. Buenaflor, retired.

Among the congressmen who saw the President were Speaker Pro-tempore Jose Aldeguer, House Majority Floorleader Marcelino Veloso, Natalio P. Castillo of Bohol, James Chiongbian of South Cotabato, Lamberto Macias of Negros Oriental, Felipe Azcuña of Zamboanga del Norte, Justiniano S. Montano of Cavite, Amando Cope of Albay, Manuel Zosa of Cebu, Artemio Mate of Leyte.

Corazon Primicias of Pangasinan, Democrito O. Plaza of Agusan del Sur, Jose Neri of Camiguin, Fernando Veloso of Western Samar, Guillermo Sanchez of Agusan del Norte, Andres Cosalan of Benguet, Vicente Cerilles of Zamboanga del Sur, Ali Dimaporo of Lanao del Sur, Rodolfo Albano of Isabela, Romulo Lumauig of Ifugao, Nicanor Yñiguez of Southern Leyte;

Pablo Malasarte of Bohol, Constantino Navarro of Surigao del Norte, Felipe Almazan of Kalinga-Apayao, Felipe Abrigo of Eastern Samar, Floro Crisologo of Uocos Sur, Felix Fuentesbella of Camarines Sur, Leopoldo Diaz of Nueva Ecija, Jose Puyat of Surigao del Sur, Indanan Anni of Sulu, Emerito Calderon of Cebu, Alfredor Lamen of Mountain Province, and Rafael Aquino of Sorsogon.

For the rest of the day, the President concentrated on his desk work. Except for brief rests, he continued to work at his desk through the afternoon and evening.

The President certified to Congress Senate Bill No. 153, seeking to institute a Coconut Investment Fund and creating the Coconut Investment Company to administer it.

Introduced by Senators Dominador Aytona, Emmanuel Pelaez and Lorenzo Tañada, the bill proposes a tax on copra and other coconut products, out of which a special fund will be set up, to be known as the Coconut Investment Fund.

The bill aims at accelerating the development of the coconut industry by providing adequate medium and long term financing for capital investment, precisely through the special fund to be administered by the Coconut Investment Company.

The President also asked the Police Commission to “give the country the best policemen it can train,” by stepping up its police training program to increase its output to 2,400 trained policemen per quarter, from the present rate of 1,200.

The Chief Executive’s instruction to the Polcom was in line with the government’s accelerated program to modernize and improve police services.

The President immediately authorized the release of 18 units of prefabricated school buildings for the police academies, and ordered the establishment of new ones.

April 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spelled out the qualities of leadership which he commended to the youth of the country, saying that the ’70s need leaders because of the aggressive society that is developing.

In a speech as guest of honor at the commencement exercises of De La Salle College’s elementary school, held at the college auditorium in Greenhills, Mandaluyong, Rizal, the President said that the student leaders of this decade must be “homegrown nationalists, preachers of a Philippine ideology, and inspired by Philippine revolutionary and intellectual leaders.”

The qualities of leadership which the President singled out are scholarship, rectitude, self-discipline, a sense of humor, and involvement with the nation’s history, traditions, and aspirations.

He also underlined the need for the young, including those who would be leaders, to undergo intensive preparation for youth’s central role in the affairs of the country. (See pp. 4273 to 4277 for full text of the President’s speech.)

The pleasant journey to the De La Salle College capped the President’s day. He was both a proud parent watching his son Ferdinand, Jr. graduate, and an ebullient guest speaker at the exercise.

Other than this excursion to Greenhills, he worked at his desk in Malacañang through the day, disposing of urgent state papers. He resumed his work shortly after arriving from the De La Salle graduation ceremonies.

The President filled a number of vacancies in the Department of Education with the designation of two new bureau directors, four assistant directors, one assistant city superintendent of schools and one member of the Board of National Education. I

Those designated were:

1. Assistant Director Liceria B. Soriano as acting director of public schools, vice Juan L. Manuel who was promoted to undersecretary of education;
2. Dr. Lorenzo G. Cesar as assistant director of public schools, vice Jose Enriquez, retired;

3. Ponciano B. Pineda, assistant director, Institute of National Language, as director of the institute, vice Jose Villa Panganiban, retired.
4. Fe Aldaba Yap, a division chief in the Institute of National Language, as assistant director of the institute, vice Pineda;
5. Andres R. Asistin as assistant director of the Bureau of Vocational Education, a newly-created position under the current general appropriations act;
6. Godofredo L. Alcasid as assistant director of the National Museum, which position has been vacant for years;
7. Dr. Josefina H. Navarro as assistant superintendent of schools for elementary education in Manila; and
8. Arturo M. Guerrero as member of the Board of National Education, representing the Association of Christian Schools and Colleges.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: April 24-30, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

April 24—

ONE OF THE FIRST callers on President Marcos was Gen. Charles Lindbergh, who has become in recent months a regular visitor to the Philippines.

The famed Lone Eagle, a devoted advocate of conservation of natural life, is once again here to promote ways and means of preserving native flora and fauna. Calling at Malacañang at 9 a.m. to pay his respects, the first man to fly the Atlantic solo and nonstop, was accompanied by his son John, and Dr. Taylor Pryor and his son Ted, the elder Pryor being the president of the Sea Life Park in Hawaii. With the visitors were Sixto Roxas and Jose Alvarez, chief of the Parks and Wildlife Office.

President Marcos approved the plan for setting up marine parks in various parts of the country, to serve both as sanctuaries for Philippine marine life, and as a tourist attraction.

The President endorsed to the bureau of fisheries and the Parks and Wildlife Office a list of probable marine park sites asking these offices to determine the sites' boundaries as a prerequisite to the proclamation of these sites as reservations.

The President presented General Lindbergh with a plaque of appreciation for his deep concern for the preservation of the country's flora and fauna, particularly the monkey-eating eagle and the tamaraw.

The President also received two delegations, one representing the major taxi operators in Greater Manila, headed by Felipe Monserrat; the other representing the War Widows Association.

The first delegation sought presidential assistance on the cabmen's petition with the Public Service Commission asking for authority to raise fares. The President suggested that the operators submit a fact sheet on the state of the taxicab business, showing why cab fares deserve to be upped,

In the meeting with the war widows, the President endorsed the group's request to import allowable commodities, through the Reparations Commission, to the commissioners for the Repacom's study and recommendations.

Later in the day, the President received other callers, among them SSS Commissioner Adrian Cristobal and Mayor Germanico Carreon of Dapitan City.

The President also created a national committee to take charge of the preparations for the celebration of Philippine Independence Day on June 12.

Secretary of Education Onofre D. Corpuz and Secretary of Labor Blas F. Ople were named chairman and vice chairman, respectively, of the committee.

The committee may create such sub-committees as may be necessary for the purpose of discharging its functions.

For most of the day, however, the President focused on his desk work.

April 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, as is his wont on weekends, concentrated on his desk work. However, he received a few callers with urgent business at Malacañang, including Thomas Niblock, USAID director here, who presented the

first shipment of surgical instruments, which the aid agency donated to the Philippine General Hospital, and Dr. Zahir Ahmed, UN land reform expert, who discussed with the President the land reform program and offered to make a study of the land reform effort here.

At around noon, the President met privately with Senate and House leaders, including Senate Majority Floorleader Arturo Tolentino, Senator Wenceslao Lagumbay, Speaker Protempore Jose Aldeguer, House Majority Floorleader Marcelino Veloso and Rep. James Chiongbian of South Cotabato.

In the evening, he addressed the Confederation of Quezon City Barrio Councils, at the induction of the officers of the group at the D & E restaurant in Quezon City.

The President stressed the need in the country's urban communities for organized action, pointing out that the problem that must be solved is that of apathy and the loss of a sense of community.

The sense of community that small towns have, he said, may be restored among city folk "without sacrificing any of the attributes of progress and bigness, without doing away with any of the advantages of city life."

"The division of the city into districts or barrios permits the city resident to relate with his neighbor," he said, and allows him to work with others "in pursuit of specific objectives for the betterment of his community."

Finally, he asserted, it allows him "to participate in the conduct of local governments, because he has recourse to organized action with his immediate neighbors."

Earlier, the President designated Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata and NEC Chairman Placido Mapa, Jr. as members of the Joint Legislative-Executive Tax Commission.

The two Cabinet members will represent the executive department in the commission.

The Chief Executive also named four others to various government boards. They are:

- 1) Arturo D. Tolentino, Jr., as chairman of the Board of Examiners for Medical Technology;
- 2) Felix E. Asprer, as member of the Board of Examiners for Medical Technology.
- 3) Adrian Cristobal, as member of the board of administrators of the Philippine Coconut Administration.
- 4) Florencio Moreno, Sr., as member of the Board of Technical Surveys and Maps. He will represent the civil engineering profession in the board.

April 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS directed the National Bureau of Investigation to intensify its hunt for the remaining suspects in the kidnapping and rape of a 24-year-old coed last April 3.

The Chief Executive also appealed to other victims of the sex gang to assist the NBI in identifying and effecting the arrest of the suspects.

Informed that relatives of one of the suspects had offered to surrender in exchange for lenient treatment, the President told the NBI to reject such compromises, and instead deal sternly with known suspects no matter who may be protecting them.

The President also directed the NBI to effect the immediate arrest of four men accused in the killing of actor Jess Lapid on the strength of a court order for their re-arrest.

The President ordered the NBI to determine why the warrant, issued last April 18, had not been served on the suspects.

The Chief Executive also proclaimed May 3 to 9 this year as Mindanao Week, to fill the need to accelerate the social and political integration of the inhabitants of Mindanao into the national mainstream.

During the week, there will be cultural presentations reflective of the ways of life in the southern region which will in effect boost tourism and promote awareness of our cultural heritage from that region.

April 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS met anew with the leaders of both houses of Congress to further consider the means of speeding up passage of the minimum wage bill and the export levy bill.

The President renewed his appeal to the Congress leaders for the early passage of the bill raising the minimum wage for industrial and agricultural workers, as a lever for minimizing the effects of rising prices.

Present at the conference were Senate President Gil J. Puyat, Senate President Protempore Jose J. Roy, Senate Majority Floorleader Arturo M. Tolentino, Senators Lorenzo M. Tanada, Dominador R. Aytona, Wenceslao R. Lagumbay and Jose W. Diokno; House Majority Floor-leader Marcelino Veloso, Reps. Jose Alberto, Natalio P. Castillo and James Chiongbian.

Also present were Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, "jr., Chairman Leonides S. Virata of the Development Bank of the Philippines, Chairman Placido Mapa, Jr., of the National Economic Council, Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, Deputy Director General Apolinario Orosa of the Presidential Economic Staff, and Eusebio Villatuya, president of the Philippine National Bank,

After the meeting, which started at breakfast and ended more than three hours later, an agreement was reached on several specifics to help iron out controversies over portions of the export levy bill.

Towards noon, the President motored to Quezon City where he addressed the opening session of the annual convention of the League of Provincial Governors and City Mayors.

The President called on provincial and city executives to take the initiative in solving local problems and assured them of the full support of the national government.

The President particularly emphasized to the provincial and city executives that they should be wary about those who would impose a "national democracy," which he said, is just another term for "people's democracy which the communists have coined.

Touching on the current agitation for change, the President reminded the governors and city mayors that "we are the ones who should bring about change," pointing out that they were chosen by the people to lead in changing the nation.

"I appeal to you to utilize this power given by the people to bring about that change required by them," the President stated.

Noting that certain elements in the protest movement have proposed new systems of government, he said that the present democracy is "still much better than the systems" eyed by other factions.

The President stressed that some “dissenters are trying to rise to power by fomenting disorders.”

Enlarging on the tactics of communism, he said that communists “ride on any vehicle and if capitalism will advance communist interests.” the supporters of communism will align themselves with capitalism for as long as it will suit their purposes,

The President was fetched from Malacañang by Governor Isidro Rodriguez of Rizal, chairman of the League of Provincial Governors and City Mayors.

Except for these two activities, the President largely worked on state papers in his study. He did not receive callers for the rest of the day.

The President ordered a study of government requirements in motor vehicles, with a 5-year projection.

In this connection, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. sent separate memorandums to the secretaries of national defense and of general services, asking them to coordinate on the possible standards to be followed in procurement.

The President said that the projection should cover all offices and agencies of the government, including the armed forces, and should distinguish between vehicles to be secured by purchase and those through foreign assistance programs.

He also asked that inquiry be made into the possibility of car manufacture in the country, utilizing local components as far as practicable.

April 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS certified to Congress a number of urgent bills, among other matters he Look up during a long stint at his desk, which extended through almost all of his working day; from 8:00 in the morning to well over 8:00 in the evening.

The certified bills are:

- 1) House Bill No. 491, which seeks to propose that governing bodies or heads of offices concerned should be jointly liable with the collecting agent for the non-remittance of premiums.
- 2) Senate Bill No. 253, which seeks to amend the GSIS charter.
- 3) Senate Bill No. 28, which seeks to prohibit and penalize shipments of explosives and flammable corrosives or poisonous materials in passenger aircraft, and regulating the shipment of the same materials in cargo aircraft.
- 4) House Bill No. 1537, a consolidation of House Bills which seeks to create a Peace and Order Fund, to be constituted from the proceeds of the tax on travel and the tax on securities transactions, and for which purpose would amend Republic Act No. 1478, as amended, and the National Internal Revenue Code.
- 5) House Bill No. 679, and Senate Bill No. 74, both of which seek to accelerate national community development, converting for the purpose the Office of the Presidential Ann on Community Development into a regular department.
- 6) A proposed bill authored by Senator Alejandro Almendras which seeks to amend Section 3 of Republic Act No. 6124, also known as the Price Control Law.

Occasional breaks occurred during the day, such as the courtesy call of T. P. Wu, a Taiwanese who has been here studying local pulp production well qualified for the task, Wu is a manufacturer himself, and is involved with several companies in Taiwan concentrating on this medium. He promised to make a report on his observations here.

The President at some time in the morning had two interviewers from overseas papers, one with Kenneth Gotti of Business Asia; the other with Robert Novak of the Washington Post.

Conferences made up the rest of his day, with Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata coming in with economic matters to discuss; Customs Commissioner Rolando Geotina with a report on customs collections; and Dr. Manuel Lim, chairman of the Price Control Council, with recommendations for the amendment of the price control law.

As usual, the President rounded out his day late in the night, with certain matters to study further.

He ordered the immediate reactivation of the task force which spearheaded the anti-carnapping campaign in the past, with orders to nip the resurgence of widespread carnapping.

The task force was placed under the supervision and control of the chief of constabulary.

April 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a big group of callers—a delegation of governors and city mayors—who came upon the close of the annual convention of the League of Provincial Governors and City Mayors.

In a talk with them, the President outlined the priorities for the release of previously frozen public works funds. He also discussed with them various problems in the provinces.

The President advised the local executives to prepare their programs and requests for fund releases according to the priorities set, so that these funds, whenever available, can be included in the overall program.

The main priorities are:

- 1) Portworks, particularly those which will boost export trade.
- 2) Schoolhouses, which will be allotted first to areas which suffered the total destruction or damage of such buildings.
- 3) Waterworks, which had been started but were stopped for one reason or another.

The President also directed the Budget Commissioner and the Public works Director to determine which provinces up to now have no capitol funding, and to give top priority to the construction of the same.

Through Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., the President also asked Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco to release initially P50,000 each for provinces which need to build capitol buildings.

The total allocation authorized by the President for each provincial capitol was P400,000.

It being congressmen's day in Malacañang, the President also received all' comers from Congress. Among those who saw him for consultations on various problems of their constituencies were Reps. Roque Ablan, Jr. of Ilocos Norte, Lorenzo Sarmiento of Davao del Norte, James Chiongbian of South Cotabato, William Chiongbian of Misamis Occidental, and Felipe Azcuria of Zamboanga del Norte.

Apart from these callers, the President attended mostly to state papers. Among others, he certified a new batch of bills to Congress for early action. He also approved new appointments, most of them to the public schools system.

Aside from the four bills, the President also certified Senate Joint Resolution No. 1 which would establish basic policies for social and economic development through environmental planning.

The bills certified were:

- 1) House Bill No. 1056, which seeks to increase the rates of import duties on certain articles.
- 2) House Bill No. 537, which seeks to regulate the practice of agricultural technology in the Philippines.
- 3) Senate Bill No. 1, which seeks to ordain and institute a National Building Code of the Philippines.
- 4) House Bill No. 1674, which would recognize the juridical personality of, and exempt from taxation, the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture.

Appointed by the President were:

- 1) Dr. Clodualdo H. Leocadio as assistant director of the bureau of public schools.
- 2) Maria Clara Lorenzo-Lobregat as member of the Board of Administrators of the Philippine Coconut Administration;
- 3) Abraham R. Foronda as municipal judge of Kabugao, Kalinga-Apayao; and
- 4) Dr. Estefania Aldaba Lim (re-appointment) member, Board of Textbooks.

The President also created an executive committee which will take charge of the arrangements for holding the 21st Colombo Plan Consultative Committee meeting scheduled in the Philippines next November.

Named to compose the executive committee were Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Manuel Collantes, chairman; and Commerce Undersecretary Johnny Araneta, Defense Undersecretary Manuel Q. Salientes, Education Undersecretary Juan Manuel, Presidential Executive Assistant Jacobo C. Clave, Assistant Executive Secretary Ponciano Mathay, NEC Executive Director Rizalino R. Pablo, PES Deputy Director-General Apolina-río Orosa, Mayor Antonio Villegas, and Chief Budget Analyst Antonio de la Torre of the Budget Commission, members.

He continued to study government reports and act on official papers through the afternoon, and into evening.

April 30—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent most of the day out of Malacañang, as he visited Magalang, Pampanga where he participated in the rites breaking ground for the model farm community project in that town, inspected the Home Defense Force at San Isidro, a barrio of that town, and finally attended as guest of honor the anniversary celebration of the Tabak Division in Fort Magsaysay, Laur, Nueva Ecija, as well as the graduation exercises of the 20-year-old military trainees.

In Magalang, the President said the success of the -pilot project will determine the future policy of the administration in pressing the land reform program.

At San Isidro, the President announced that he had ordered the Armed Forces to organize home defense forces in every barrio where there is need for it, notably in Tarlac and Pampanga, as well as in other provinces.

The President congratulated the organizers of the barrio home defense force and expressed the hope that it will be able to provide the necessary protection against lawless elements.

Barrio San Isidro is vital to the maintenance of peace and order in Central Luzon because it lies at the very heart of Huklandia. It used to be a Huk sanctuary.

The President, the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, their children, imee, Irene and Bongbong, left Malacañang at about 8:30 and flew to Magalang where they were met by a large delegation headed by Magalang Mayor Daniel Lacson, Filipinas Foundation Chairman Enrique Zobel, Rep. Jose B. Lingad and Gov. Francisco Nepomuceno of Pampanga.

After the ground-breaking ceremony, the President proceeded to Barrio San Isidro where he inspected the home Defense Force, before flying on to Fort Magsaysay.

Upon arrival at Fort Magsaysay, the President and his party proceeded to the post chapel for the Te Deum., and then to the parade ground where military honors and a review were rendered.

After addressing the armed forces and the graduate trainees, the President witnessed a demonstration of an infantry battalion attack stage by elements of the Tabak Division with the support of helicopter units.

After the demonstration and lunch at the officers Rest House, the President and his family returned to Manila, arriving at Malacañang about 2 p. m.

Among those present at the Fort Magsaysay ceremonies were government officials led by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Reps. Leopoldo Diaz and Angel D. Concepcion, and Governor Eduardo Joson; and the Armed Forces led by Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, General Manuel Yan. AFP chief of staff. Brig. Gen. Rafael Iletto, commanding general of the Philippine Army, Brig. Gen. Jesus Singson, chief of the Philippine Air Force, and Brig. Gen. Eduardo Garcia, chief of the PC and former commanding general of the Tabak Division.

In the afternoon, the President nominated Angel Limjoco, Jr. and Vicente Paterno as members of the Board of Investments.

The President submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation the names of 14 successful candidates for the post of Foreign Affairs Officer, Class IV, and as Vice Consul, who passed the prescribed examination given last year.

Nominated were Maxie S. Aguillon, Bernarditas de Castro, Romeo A. Arguelles, Eloy Bello III, Jose U. Fernandez, Juanito P. Jarasa, Fortunate D. Ablena, Alfredo L. Almendrala, Clemencio F. Montesa, Ernesto C. Tullid, Edmundo B. Libid, Fructuoso D. Calagui, Erlinda D. Fadera, and Oscar G. Valenzuela.

The President also issued an executive order naming additional members to the National Social Action Council.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: May 1-7, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

May 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS followed a full schedule of official activities.

It being Labor Day, the President's schedule was highlighted by a luncheon at Malacañang with labor leaders. Addressing the labor leaders the President said his administration will continue to exert great effort so that the common workingman will live in comparative health, efficiency and well-being.

May 1 also has a special significance for the First Couple—it was their 16th wedding anniversary.

Early in the morning, the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, heard Mass at the Malacanang Chapel. With them were their children Imee, Bongbong and Irene, the President's mother, Mrs. Josefa Edralin Marcos, and other close relatives and friends. Following the Mass, the First Family repaired to the Palace dining room where they had breakfast with well-wishers. Then the President proceeded to his study and the First Lady to the music room, to attend to their respective schedules.

Among the President's callers was a delegation of United Nations officials led by Francisco Aquino, executive director of the FAO World Food Programme; and General Mashudi, vice chairman of the Indonesian Consultative Council who called at Malacañang to pay his respects. At noon, the President signed into law H. No. 1105, imposing a stabilization tax on exports for a four-year period, as a means of accelerating economic development.

The Act imposes a 10 per cent levy on the gross F.O.B. peso proceeds of exports on logs, copra, centrifugal sugar, and copper ore and concentrates, and eight per cent on other export products, both levies to be phased out by two per cent annually up to June 30, 1974. Then the President and the First Lady went to the state dining hall where they had lunch with labor leaders and their ladies. Among other actions, the President forwarded to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation his 61 nominees to various posts. The nominees were previously given interim appointments and are now occupying their posts. (See pp. 4757 to 4758 for list of nominees.)

May 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS affirmed the ability of the "moral and physical strength of freedom" to prevail over those who may seek to destroy democracy.

In a speech at the ceremonies celebrating the 35th anniversary of the Philippine Air Force, held at Nichols Air Base, the President said that the Republic "represents a society of free men deriving their strength and faith from God and freedom," and knowledge of this gives the government the confidence of allowing the fullest freedom for all, including those who subscribe to "unpopular ideas."

The PAF, he said, in helping put down disorder expressed its loyalty "to our traditions of freedom and democracy" without resorting to repression.

Stating that "we believe in social justice," and seek to narrow the gap between the rich and poor through orderly change and democratic processes, he stressed that this needed change will be achieved through democratic action.

He reiterated that the government will not tolerate violence and destruction as a means of bringing about social change. Reason must prevail, he added. (See pp. 4758-A to 4758-C for full text of the President's speech.)

After attending the ceremonies marking the PAF's 35th anniversary, the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, sailed for Palawan on the first leg of a tour of southern Philippines.

In another speech read by Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile at the closing session of the Lions State Convention in Naga City, the President urged all citizens to “build up and not destroy,” in keeping with the code of ethics of Lionism, saying that “our nation is worth preserving, our democratic institutions are worth nurturing, and our economic foundations worth strengthening”.

The Filipino citizen more than ever should always bear in mind his obligations to the nation and community, to which he should give his unswerving loyalty in word, act and deed, he said, both strictures culled from the Lions’ code of ethics.

“The spirit of creation and fidelity to the community that is in the Lions Code of Ethics should be imbibed by all our citizens,” the President said, pointing out that “this spirit is coupled by a commitment to compassion, as when member Lions are enjoined to aid (his) fellowmen by giving (his) sympathy to those in distress, . . . aid to the weak, and . . . substance to the needy.’ And in the pursuit of his vocation for service to the community, the Lion is expected to exercise those qualities of fairness, self-respect, friendship, and generosity that we wish are exercised by all of the more fortunate and successful Filipinos” (See pp. 4758-D to 4758-F for full text of the President’s speech.)

May 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, arrived in Puerto Princesa, Palawan at 3 p.m. on board the Presidential yacht, the RPS 777, on the first leg of his visiting tour of the Mindanao-Sulu-Palawan area.

Upon arrival, the President’s party which included his children Imee, Bongbong and Irene, was met by a big crowd of Palaweños headed by Rep. Ramon Mitra, Jr., Gov. Salvador Socrates and Puerto Princesa Mayor Felixberto Oliveros, Jr.

The President had a meeting with the local officials wherein he inquired into their problems.

Addressing a public rally at the Mendoza Park, the President described the great potentials of Palawan, particularly as source of national income and as a tourist attraction.

At an interview with Manila newsmen covering his trip, the President said he would convoke meetings of the National Security Council and the Foreign Policy Council upon his return to Manila.

He would discuss with councils the request for arms by the government of Cambodia. He pointed out that the Cambodian government did not ask for troops, but indicated that if the Philippines were to help at all, it would be a token help, which he would discuss with the councils.

May 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS asked Gov. Salvador Socrates of Palawan and Mayor Felixberto Oliveros, Jr. of Puerto Princesa to organize provincial and municipal development committees as oil exploration in the province intensifies.

During a meeting, with local officials in Puerto Princesa and at a public rally at Plaza Mendoza, the President predicted that Palawan will become one of the most prosperous, if not the most prosperous, regions in the country.

The President revealed that all initial surveys point to the possibility of oil deposits in Palawan, probably because of its proximity to Borneo.

The President met with the local officials of the province to discuss such problems as the water supply, electrification, portworks, and the transfer of the Iwahig Penal Colony to Agusan.

Earlier, at Plaza Mendoza, the President took up the individual problems submitted to him by the people with local and national government officials.

The Chief Executive issued directives on the processing of teachers appointments, land classification, schoolhouses and allotments, which were among the problems raised by some 200 provincial, municipal and barrio officials of Palawan in conference with the President.

The local officials travelled on short notice to Palawan to bring before the President urgent problems.

On the proposed transfer of Iwahig, the President asked the Palawan officials to discuss the matter with the officials of Agusan so that the smooth transfer of the economy could be arranged.

The President also announced his plan to convert Puerto Princesa into a free port, so that ships from foreign countries could readily pick local products for delivery to ports abroad. He said that this port would be most convenient for vessels from such countries as Indonesia and Australia, and others in South Asia.

After conferring with local officials, the President and his party boarded the RPS 777 for the next stop on the week-long presidential inspection trip of the southern Philippines.

Enroute to Taganak Island, the President wired instructions to Chairman Gregorio- Abad of the Reparations Commission to expedite the shipment of irrigation pumps from Japan, following the court order lifting the restraints on the said equipment.

There were 1,100 pump units acquired by the ISU through Reparations, earmarked for farmers in Central and Southern Luzon. However, shipment of the pumps was held due to a restraining order of the court.

Through Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., the President directed Abad to ship the pumps immediately.

In a speech read for him by Vice President Fernando Lopez, the President told the opening session of the First World Medical Congress of Military Surgeons that the Philippines gives equal concern to the “building of a more humane society within the framework of democratic government,” as it does to economic development which logically should be given more importance by a developing country.

The President said that the “monumental challenge” of accelerating national development and bringing about overall change has “created certain tensions” among the people.

But he stressed that despite the tensions and the excesses of certain activist groups, “none of the Filipinos who value freedom, doubt that the nation will hold together, and that it will prevail.” (See pp. 4758-G to 4758-J for full text of the President’s speech.)

May 5—

PRESIDENT MARCOS surveyed conditions in Sibutu Island, and consulted with local officials on the problems in the locality.

The President found this remote island in southernmost Philippines a tranquil place, and the islanders hardworking.

Apart from inquiring into island conditions, the President also took note of official matters which needed his attention, as relayed to him from Manila.

Among others, the President:

In a speech read for him by Secretary of Health Amadeo Cruz, at the opening of the 63rd annual convention of the Philippine Medical Association in Cebu City, the President urged wider and sustained public support for a comprehensive health care program the government has initiated and is committed to implement.

The President said that though the overall health situation in the country is good, there are still serious pockets of concern, due to the prevalence of residual diseases and uneven sanitation.

The need to uproot these problems, he said, “offers opportunities for action in both the government and private medical sectors of the nation.”

He asked the members of the PMA to consider the government program in this area and to give it its support. He noted that the PMA can be very effective, in the light of its past achievements in the same area, including the initiation of such projects as Medicare, rural health seminars and clinics, and health training programs.

May 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that contrary to some reports, the Muslim Filipinos “are not thinking of participating in any secessionist movement out are very loyal to the Republic.”

In an interview at the clubhouse of the Dole (Philippines) plantation m Polomolok, the President said:

“I am glad that the Muslims are not thinking of participating in any secessionist movement but, on the contrary, are very loyal to the Republic of the Philippines. I have received pledges from Muslim leaders of southwestern Mindanao to this effect.”

“I have received messages from the alleged secession leaders denying the supposed movement and vowing to fight on the side of the Republic against anyone who wants to wreck it,” he said.

The President said he made the trip in connection with Mindanao Week and in order to learn of the people’s problems without, their having to go to Malacañang.

Among these problems, the President said, were:

- 1) Reports of infiltration from the south;
- 2) Unsolved killings in Sulu and Cotabato;
- 3) Reported secession movement.

The President said he would send medical teams to Sitangkai and Sibutu where there are no rural health officers.

The President also ordered that both the military and the Bureau of Telecommunications set up radio stations at Taganak Island.

The President flew to the Dole plantation where he met with Gov. Sergio Morales and Rep. James Chiongbian of South Cotabato, Secretary Manuel Elizalde, Jr. of PANAMIN, Lt. Col. Cirilo Bueno, PC provincial commander and Surallah Mayor Jose Sison.

The President told the conferees to settle the dispute between the PANAMIN and Christian settlers and the Muslims led by Datu Plang and Datu Ma Dusa.

After the conference, the President flew back to General Santos and boarded the presidential plane for Manila.

Immediately upon arrival the President received in private audience a personal emissary of Indonesian President General Suharto to receive a message from the Indonesian President and to listen to Indonesia’s proposal for a meeting in Djakarta of Asian countries to discuss the Cambodian situation this month.

The emissary, Dr. Anwar Sani, director-general of political affairs at the Indonesian foreign ministry, outlined to the President Indonesia's views on the proposed meeting, emphasizing its urgency in the light of current development.

The President expressed the view that it seems most desirable that a new Asian initiative be launched to produce such a "constructive formula" for the troubled area.

Dr. Sani was accompanied to Malacanang by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo and the resident Indonesian ambassador here, Kusno Utomo. The audience lasted 15 minutes.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: May 8-14, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

May 8—

PRESIDENT Marcos had a series of conferences as he caught up with the pace of official business after returning to Manila from an inspection trip to the southern region, while also formally receiving the credentials of two new ambassadors.

Early in the morning, the President received briefings on current official concerns from close aides and ranking officials, notably Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo and Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile.

After these conferences, he settled down to study reports and act on urgent papers brought up to his desk. Then he received Representative Antonio Diaz and Governor Vicente Magsaysay of Zambales and Olongapo City Mayor Amelia Gordon, to discuss problems of the province and of Olongapo City.

The President then disengaged from callers, to preside at the ceremonies where Malaysian Ambassador Hashim bin Sultan and British Ambassador John Noel Ormiston Curie presented their credentials.

At lunchtime, the President had Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata and Central Bank Governor Gregorio S. Licaros for guests, during which they discussed financial matters.

The President relaxed briefly after this conference, and afterward continued to work on official papers.

May 9—

PRESIDENT Marcos worked uninterrupted through most of the morning, with his schedule of visitors all clear.

At about noon, he conferred with Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, and Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., who came to submit the report of the executive committee of the National Security Council, which met earlier in the morning.

The President went back to the study of state papers till about 12:30 p.m. when he motored to the Manila International Airport to greet Australian Prime Minister John Gorton and Mrs. Gorton, who were making a brief stopover in Manila enroute home to Sydney from Osaka.

In the 30 minutes the Gortons spent at the MIA, the President and Prime Minister Gorton has only time for casual conversation. As soon as the Australian Air Force plane, took off with the Gortons, the President motored back to Malacañang.

He went back to his study to work further on state papers at mid-afternoon. He remained at work through the rest of the day.

Among other actions, the President:

1. Designated Alfredo Pio de Roda as acting Undersecretary of Finance vice Undersecretary Roman Cruz, who was named acting GSIS general manager.
2. Directed the Philippine Navy to ferry to their home province the remains of the 13 persons who were killed in a house in Fort Bonifacio when a plane crashed there last Thursday.

The President made available the services of the Navy on the representations of Representative Cornelio T. Villareal, who sought to help the families of the unfortunate victims bring back to Sapián, Capiz the remains for burial.

3. Directed the foreign office to lend every possible assistance to the families of deported Chinese nationals, Quintín and Rizal Yuyitung, to gain free access to Taipei in order to visit the two deported nationals.

May 10—

PRESIDENT Marcos ordered the immediate relief of a watchdog team on log exports found guilty of extortion activities while on official assignment in Mindanao.

Ordered relieved on recommendation of Lt. Gen. Pelagio Cruz (retired), chairman of the Anti-Smuggling Action Center (ASAC), were Conrado Unlayao of the Bureau of Customs and Antonio Lizardo of the Bureau of Forestry, team leader and member, respectively, of a composite team operating in Davao.

The team was specifically assigned in the Davao area to prevent dollar hoarding through undervaluation of log exports.

In another move, the President laid down the policy favoring the carrying of firearms.

At the same time, the president ordered Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile to effect a simplified program for the registration of all firearms in the country.

The President issued this directive following his recent trip to Mindanao where he received numerous complaints concerning the difficulties encountered by possessors of firearms who wanted to register the same.

While this machinery is still under preparation, the President authorized owners or assignees of motor vehicles used for personal or official business, to carry firearms while travelling in their respective motor vehicles.

This authority applies to those with permits to possess firearms, “but without specific permits to carry the same outside of residence.”

The new order in effect makes a person’s motor vehicle an extension of his residence.

May 11—

PRESIDENT Marcos again held a round of conferences with both public and private officials, while also receiving a number of callers.

In-between, he worked on state papers in his study. In addition, he attended the organizational meeting of the League of City Mayors as guest speaker, held at the Manila Hotel.

The President’s first conference was with officials of the Philippine Air Lines, attended by PAL President Benigno Toda, Jr., Buenaventura Velos and Rafael Igoa, both of PAL; and Secretary of Commerce and Industry Ernesto Maceda and MIA Manager Luis Tabuena.

After this conference, the President met with representatives of the Philippine Public School teachers Association (PPSTA) with Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., GSIS Chairman Benjamin del Rosario and Fernando Santico, GSIS board member, also present.

The PPSTA delegation sought representation of public school teachers in the GSIS board of trustees. Those who spoke for the organization were Andres M. Fonacier, PPSTA president; Arturo U. Armas, vice president; Santos P. Pascual, general manager; Leonido V. Razo, Manuel B. Adivoso, Cayetano Tejano, Melanio L. Mallari, Gregorio Baguioro, Prisco F. Castro, Pacifico A. Lota and Esmeraldo R. Acorda, president for Zamboanga del Norte, Camarines Norte, Bohol, Davao City, San Carlos City, Masbate, and Enlisted Personnel of the Philippines, respectively; Board Members Celta P. Reyes, Fictoriano A. Pasillao, Francisco P. Orillos, Trinidad R. Estrada, Matilde F. Padernal, Johnny A. Santos. Paciano T. Simbajon and several others.

The third conference of the day was with Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, Representative Jose Alberto and Senator Dominador Aytona. The President took up the government's fiscal concern with the three officials.

He also received Ted Tyderligh, Australian business executive, who made a courtesy call. The visitor was accompanied by Senator Helena Benitez and local business executive Rey Navarro.

In the afternoon, the President motored to the Manila Hotel to attend the founding ceremonies of the League of City Mayors, where he gave the keynote speech and inducted the League officers.

"In government, I can see no group of officialdom more qualified to take the vanguard in generating and managing change than local executives, particularly those in our cities," he said. "In many ways, they will be the leaders in this decade and the next most deeply engaged because the cities are the political economic and social centers of the country." he added.

The President urged the city mayors to begin participating more actively in the planning and implementation of programs that will enhance the growth of their communities.

He appealed to the city executive to initiate plans for the development of industries, creation of more job opportunities for the steadily increasing metropolitan population, to upgrade the maintenance of peace and order, to promote the effort against air and water pollution and to press slum clearance, beautification and other urban improvement programs.

The President pledged the assistance of the Presidential Economic Staff, the National planning Commission and other national government agencies in the formulation and implementation of these development program.

Returning to Malacañang, he relaxed briefly, then resumed his work in his study.

The President directed the National Economic council to prepare a formal request for a pilot housing project under the United Nations Development Program with the Asian Development Bank providing the financing.

The President also directed the presidential Economic Staff and the Presidential Assistant on Housing and Resettlement to coordinate with the NEC in pushing through this project.

May 12—

PRESIDENT Marcos met with the Foreign Policy Council to discuss a request for assistance from the Cambodian government of Premier Lon Nol.

The Council met for one and a half hours.

The Council agreed that the government should await the results of the Asian conference scheduled in Jakarta, Indonesia on May 16 to 18 and wait for the Cambodian situation to clear up before any decision is taken on what aid, other than military, might be sent by the Philippines, if it becomes absolutely necessary for aid to be sent.

The Council unanimously agreed that the Philippines attend the Jakarta conference with the Secretary of Foreign Affairs as chairman of the delegation, and the chairmen of the foreign relations and foreign affairs committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives, respectively, as members; and with the following guidelines:

1. The government does not support the idea of military aid to Cambodia.
2. The government supports the idea of a civilian observers team being dispatched to Cambodia to assess the situation and to report its observations to the member-nations of the conference.
3. The government supports the maintenance of Cambodia's neutrality.
4. The government is interested that the principles of the first Afro-Asian conference in Bandung be upheld at the Jakarta meeting.

It was further agreed that should the question of Laos come up at the Jakarta meeting, the same position vis-a-vis Cambodia should apply.

The Liberal Party president, Senator Gerardo M. Roxas, was invited to designate a minority representative in the Jakarta delegation. The Senator however said he would hold judgment on that invitation until after consultation with party leaders.

Present at the conference were Vice President Fernando Lopez, former President Carlos P. Garcia, Senate President Gil J. Puyat, Senate President Protempore Jose J. Roy, Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., Speaker Protempore Jose Aldeguer, Secretaries. Carlos P. Romulo of Foreign Affairs, Juan Ponce Enrile of Defense, Felix Makasiar of Justice and Cesar E. A. Virata of Finance, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr.;

Senate Majority Floor Leader Arturo M. Tolentino, House Majority Floor Leader Marcelino Veloso, former Secretary of Foreign Affairs Narciso Ramos, Senators Lorenzo M. Tañada, Gerardo M. Roxas, Helena Z. Benitez and Wenceslao R. Lagumbay; Representatives Nicanor Yñiguez, Carmelo Barbero and Aguedo Agbayani;

Joaquin P. Roces of the *The Manila Times Publishing Co.*, Sebastian Ugarte of the *Philippines Herald*, Hans Menzi of the *Bulletin*, Manolo Elizalde of the *Evening News*, Andres Velasco-Go of the *Daily Star* Rodolfo Reyes of the *Manila Chronicle*, D. H. Soriano of the *Republic* and Raul Locsin of *Business Day*.

Baguio City Mayor Luis Lardizabal of the Rotary international, Leticia de Guzman of the Civic Assembly of the Women of the Philippines, Doroteo Martinez of the Manila Lions, Firmo Liwanag of the Philippine. Jaycees and Oscar Arellano of Operations Brotherhood.

The President spent the afternoon working on official papers, in the course of which he signed the designation papers of Juan S. Agcaoili as deputy commissioner of the Budget Commission.

Agcaoili takes over the post of Fernando Dizon, who retired last February.

His nomination was submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation.

May 13—

PRESIDENT Marcos received a number of delegations, notably a group of farmers from Central Luzon, the officers of the Jose P. Laurel Foundation, and this day being Congressmen's Day in Malacañang, several congressmen.

The President also received a group of visitors from the United Arab Republic, including M. Kanem, president of the El Nasr Export-Import Company of Cairo, who suggested that a wider export trade relationship be explored

between the Philippines and the UAR Others in the group were M. Sheta, M. Rashdi and Imam Abdul Rhenan. The group was accompanied to Malacafiang by UAR Ambassador Abdel Abdel-hamid Fadel, Representative Ali Dimaporo of Lanao del gur, BOI Chairman Antonio Ayala and UP Professor Gerardo Sicat.

Also calling on the President was a group of Spanish visitors. In the group were Coronel Seijas of the Institute Nacional Industria de España, who was accompanied by the Spanish embassy's charge d'affaires, Jose Maria Otero de Leon; Antonio Llord, Tabacalera general manager; Enrique Sta. Maria, commercial attache; Vicente Quesada, Defense Undersecretary Manuel Salientes and Col. Salvador Villa.

The Spanish delegation presented the President with two C-2 Caliber 9 mm sub-machineguns manufactured in Spain.

Otherwise, the President spent most of his working hours at his desk, studying reports and acting on papers. Among others, he signed the papers granting to the Jose P. Laurel Foundation a parcel of land on which the Foundation building will be built. Present at the signing were Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., Senator Salvador Laurel, Dr. Sotero Laurel, former Senator Pedro Subido and Sixto Y. Orosa, Sr., officials of the Foundation.

The President reiterated his plan to promote cooperative farming as a new approach to the land reform program.

The President told some 110 officers of the Federation of Land Reform Farmers of Central and Southern Luzon, led by Mac Fabian, that he was determined to extend land reform such that the entire country will be covered before his term expires in 1973.

Later, the President created a presidential advisory committee on civil aviation, naming as its ex-officio members CAA Administrator Federico Ablan, Jr., Brig. Gen. Jesus Singson, PAF chief; and the heads of existing pilot associations.

The President at the same time certified to Congress H. B. 2159, entitled the National Aviation Omnibus Bill, which, among others aims at improving the overall domestic civil aviation facilities, and seeks the creation of an aeronautical special fund.

May 14—

EXCEPT for a meeting at about mid-afternoon with a delegation of local airline pilots, President Marcos has a comparatively quiet day devoted mostly to his paper work, including the signing of new appointments, issuance of directives, and the study of official reports.

In the meeting with airline pilots, the President threshed out the problems brought up by the delegation and asked for the group's recommendations on the improvement of domestic civil aviation facilities, as well as the qualifications of a CAA administrator and of CAA personnel.

With Capt. Felix Gaston, president of the Pilots Association of the Philippines, as spokesman, the group included Clem Mijares, Rex Reyes, Manuel Collantes, Mike Campos, Eddie Limjap, Manuel Alvares, Roberto Javalera, Roberto Arnaiz and Jesus Nievera.

After this meeting, the President returned to his desk work, breaking off only at shortly before 7 p.m. to attend as guest of honor at the awards ceremonies of the 4-H Club, sponsored by the national advisory council of the club and by the Agricultural Productivity Commission at the Manila Hotel.

In his speech, the President lauded the members of the 4-H clubs, saying that the awards given to achievers were not only to honor individual achievement but the "ideal of excellence."

He urged the youth to “find its power and its place in society” by using its energies for “production and community work.”

Noting the activism of today’s youth, he said that the “democracy in the streets” movement serves a good purpose and gained a measure of positive results, although he disapproved of the violence to person and property.

The newly self-realized power of the youth, he said, could also be used through another kind of activism, which has less fanfare, no politics, but is as effective in achieving “desirable ends.”

This activism he described as the “4-H way,” adding that “the young man or woman who chooses this path has every opportunity to work for reforms and help bring about needed changes in our society.”

Earlier, the President certified to Congress House Bill No. 876 which seeks to amend Republic Act No. 4864 otherwise known as the Police Act of 1966, with a view to hastening the professionalization of the nation’s police agencies.

The proposed amendments seek to improve coordination and supervision of local police forces by the Police Commission, to make them more responsive and effective in the performance of their duties.

The amendments also seek to strengthen the powers of the local chiefs of police, so they may be more effective in exercising discipline; and to transfer to the Police Commission the powers to conduct police examinations and to approve the appointments of police personnel. These powers are currently being exercised by the Civil Service Commission.

The President also submitted to the Commission on Appointments the nominations of 13 municipal judges and seven clerks of courts of first instance. (See page 4967 for list of nominees.)

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: May 15-21, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

May 15—

PRESIDENT Marcos motored to the Manila International Airport where he conferred with Civil Aeronautics Administration officials on the improvement and expansion of civil air transportation facilities.

The President also made a visit to Camp Crame where he checked on the progress of the carnapping campaign at the Philippine Constabulary headquarters in Quezon City.

Earlier in the morning, the President held conferences with a number of key officials, at Malacañang.

Secretary of Public Works and Communications Manuel Syquio, chairman of the study committee on the improvement of mass transportation in the Greater Manila area, called to submit his report and recommendations. With him was Public Service Commissioner Enrique Medina, one of the members of the committee.

A delegation from the Elks Cerebral Palsy Project, Inc. called to thank the President for having proclaimed the period from May 1 to June 30 this year for the project's national educational and fund campaign.

The group included DBP Chairman Leonides S. Virata, the project's campaign chairman for 1970; John L. Manning, Sr., chairman of the board of directors; Dr Deogracias Tablan, medical director of the main clinic; Mrs. Priscila Dayao, a Tarlac school teacher, and her daughter Ditas, 13 who had been afflicted with cerebral palsy since birth.

Among others who conferred with the President at noon were Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile and Representative Ali Dimaporo of Lanao del Sur.

In the afternoon, the President went to Camp Crame where Col. Jaime Catral, chief of Trafcon, showed him recovered carnapped vehicles which have not been claimed by their owners and informed him that 42 out of 48 stolen vehicles had been recovered since the anti-carnapping drive was launched last April-27.

Then the President proceeded to the MIA where CAA officials briefed him on the progress of projects designed to improve civil aviation facilities.

In a move to ensure harmony and consistency in the objectives of the annual budget and long-range development plans, the President created the Presidential Development Budget Committee, establishing the level of annual government expenditures.

In a related order, the President created another committee to study the computerization of budgetary and financial reports.

In his executive order creating the Presidential Development Budget Committee, the President underscored the need for involving more fully in basic budgetary decision-making all development planning agencies and other principal fiscal agencies of the government.

The committee will be headed by the Budget Commissioner, with the chairman of the National Economic Council, Director-General of the Presidential Economic Staff, Secretary of Finance and Governor of the Central Bank as members.

The President also certified to Congress the bill creating a Philippine News Agency.

The bill seeks an accurate and effective voice of Filipino viewpoints in the international scene while serving as an effective and continuous medium to promote the country's export and tourism trades.

Authored by Rep. Artemio Al. Loyola of Davao del Sur the bill proposes to declare as the policy of the state the provision of "an indigenous means of obtaining information on events occurring in foreign countries upon which an informed public opinion on foreign affairs may be formalized, and of disseminating accurate information concerning the country abroad that will project its rightful image in the international community."

In the pursuit of these objectives, the bill's author said that the basic tenets of a free press shall be fully guaranteed and maintained.

May 16—

President Marcos had a series of speaking engagements which kept him out of Malacañang most of the day.

In the morning the President left for Fernando Air Base in Lipa City, where he was guest of honor and speaker at the graduation exercises of the Philippine Air Force Flying School.

He was afforded full military honors, including a 21-gun salute and a parade and review on his arrival at the airbase at past 9 a.m.

After trooping the line, the President delivered his address, presented the Presidential King Award to Cadet Diogenes J. Galindo for the highest overall rating in academic and flying training, and distributed the diplomas and wings to the graduates.

Speaking at the graduation exercises, the President called for a national renaissance of "social conscience" and "good manners" in the fulfillment of what he described as the true Filipino character, and in the making of a strong and proud Filipino nation.

The President also paid tribute to the "long and noble tradition" of the Philippine Air Force of serving the distressed by the daily mercy flights carried out in the name of the sick and the injured, the rural and community work of airmen, and the exemplary conduct shown by the airmen during the recent civil disturbances.

"All these," the President said, "demonstrate the strength of social conscience in the air force," a virtue which "forms a high integral part in the development of officers and gentlemen."

From Lipa City, the President, motored direct to the PNB building on the Escolta to address another gathering, the 15th National Rice and Corn Convention.

In his speech, he appealed to the agricultural sector to convert its products in export commodities, for increased dollar earnings.

The President also urged the conventionists to remove rice and corn, and the agricultural industry as a whole, from politics and to organize producer cooperatives.

The President said that the reason for the failure of government programs in the past was that too often solutions to problems are nothing but political solutions which are never intended to last more than a few years.

He assured the rice and corn producers that the solutions he is undertaking are lasting and permanent, and that he would continue his policy of supporting the rice and corn production program, which he initiated himself.

It was 1:30 p.m. when the President left the convention hall for Malacañang.

Proceeding direct to his study, the President conferred with CAA Administrator Federico Ablan, Jr., who informed him that the government's two-year program for the modernization of navigational aids for civil aviation is being implemented on schedule.

With the aid of charts, Ablan reported on the progress of the program which the President ordered started in 1969 following technical studies made by experts of the U.S. Federal Aviation Agency and the U.S. Civil Aeronautics Board.

Following his meeting with Ablan, the President again left the Palace at about 2:25 p.m. for Quezon City, this time to inaugurate multimillion dollar rice processing plant of the Mindanao Progress Corporation (MPC), the first in Southeast Asia.

The vertical integral rice processing plant will not only process export rice but also will extract rice oil from rice bran.

Roberto Tullo, MPC president, said that it would have been impossible to set up the plant without help from the government.

Before delivering his address, the President, assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Tullo, unveiled the marker inaugurating the processing plant.

The President had a brief rest at Malacañang late in the afternoon, and then tackled official papers in his private study till evening, in the course of which he:

1. Issued a memorandum circular creating a committee which will review and restudy all pending petitions from public agencies or private organizations for the grant or segregation of government lands. Numerous petitions had been received by the President for the grant of lands of the public or private domain of the government for certain public purposes, or for their disposition and alienation through sale or lease.
2. Signed the rules and regulations of the Price Control Council setting the maximum percentage limit for the prices of essential commodities and thereby launching into full operation the newly-created all-important Council.

The Council, which is empowered by law, under Republic Act No. 6124, to fix the maximum selling price of essential commodities, rules that essential commodities mentioned in R.A. 6124 are allowed the following maximum price limit:

- (a) Production costs plus a mark-up of 10 percent to the manufacturer or producer, five percent to the wholesaler and 10 percent to the retailer if the articles or commodities are locally manufactured, or
- (b) Landed cost plus a mark-up of five percent to the importer or indenter, five percent to the wholesaler and 10 percent to the retailer, if the articles or commodities are imported.

May 17—

In Baguio City, President Marcos held a series of conferences with local officials who briefed him on pressing problems in their respective jurisdictions.

Accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, the President arrived in Baguio City shortly before 1 p.m. from Poro Point, San Fernando, La Union where he landed aboard the *RPS 777* after an overnight voyage from Manila,

At Poro Point, the President was met by a delegation of La Union officials headed by Governor Juvenal Guerrero, Representatives Jose D. Aspiras and Joaquin Ortega, and San Fernando Mayor Lorenzo Dacanay.

After hearing Mass aboard the ship, the President and the First Lady disembarked and motored up to Baguio via the Naguilian road.

At the Baguio City boundary they were met by another delegation of officials headed by Mayor Luis Lardizabal of Baguio City.

The President held conferences with La Union officials and Baguio City officials upon arrival at the Mansion House.

Focusing on paper work later on, the President issued an executive order reviving the total ban on the slaughter of carabaos and buffaloes as a means of discouraging carabao rustling, helping conserve work animals and boosting food production.

The new order revokes Executive Order No. 100 dated November 2, 1967 authorizing the slaughter of carabaos and buffaloes under certain conditions.

The President also issued another executive order creating the Commission on Population to “formulate program recommendations on population as it relates to economic and social development.”

The new order, which revoked Executive Order No. 171 issued on February 19, 1969 creating the original Commission on Population, revised the membership of the commission and vested it with additional duties and functions.

The President, in his order, reasserted the generally accepted principle that “the population problem must be recognized as a principal element in long-range national planning if governments are to achieve their economic goals and fulfill the aspirations of their people.

May 18—

PRESIDENT Marcos ordered that an operational cash budget be instituted, to supplement the present budgeting system based on obligation. The move was aimed at ensuring the availability of cash resources for priority development projects and at the same time at establishing a better rationale for recommending the level, type and timing of public borrowing.

Earlier, the President created the Presidential Development Budget Committee, which committee he also ordered to study the computerization of budgetary and financial reports.

All these are directed at ensuring harmony and consistency in the objectives of the annual budget and the long-range development plans, and at establishing the level of annual government expenditures.

In this regard, the President underscored the need for involving more fully all development planning agencies and other principal fiscal agencies of the government in basic budgetary decision-making.

In order to ensure success in instituting the operational cash budget, the President promulgated the following rules and regulations:

1. The Treasurer of the Philippines shall prepare a monthly estimate of cash inflow into the Treasury indicating probable sources and funds to which they accrue and shall submit such estimates at least 20 days before the beginning of each quarter to the Budget Commission;
2. In submitting the financial work plan and request for allotment to the Budget Commission, every agency shall indicate therein the cash requirements of the agency during the corresponding quarter, broken down into weekly schedule of required cash disbursements;

3. The Budget Commission shall carefully review the monthly and weekly cash disbursement requirements of the agencies to properly relate such total cash disbursement requirements with the estimated total cash inflow in the Treasury. In the same manner and in the same document that the Budget Commission releases the advice of allotment to any agency for the purpose of establishing the obligational authority of the agency, the Budget Commission shall release to the same agency its authorized cash disbursement ceiling for the corresponding quarter, broken down into weekly basis, furnishing the resident representative of the Auditor General a copy of the advice of allotment which it has release to any agency to the Treasury. Cash disbursements of agencies shall be limited as to amount and shall be timed as prescribed in the cash disbursement ceiling authorized by the Budget Commission;

4. The representative of the Auditor General shall not countersign any treasury warrant, check of expense voucher if the disbursement contemplated therein will exceed the cash disbursement ceiling authorized and outside the time schedule for such disbursement ;

5. The Budget Commissioner shall submit to the Presidential Development Budget Committee the Cash Budget to enable the Committee to make adjustments therein if necessary and to recommend borrowings to cover projected cash deficiencies if such eventualities are expected to occur.

May 19—

PRESIDENT Marcos devoted a quiet day working on official papers. He also received a number of local and national officials who came to consult him on state problems and discussed official matters with close aides.

The President created a 17-man Citizen's Committee on Order and Justice, to act as the action arm of the Peace and Order Coordinating Council in the Greater Manila Area.

Creation of the committee was recommended by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. who underlined the need to maintain a civilian or private group in the peace and order campaign.

The President also issued a new order revising Administrative Order No. 182 of October 31, 1969, which created the Presidential Coordinating Committee for Social Justice and Agrarian Reforms.

May 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS held a press conference to clarify various points pertaining to the deportation of Yuyitung brothers, the Jakarta conference on Cambodia, and the national security and intelligence fund.

Meeting the press at around 12:30 p.m., the President first made extemporaneous remarks, then answered questions from the floor. Sitting with him were Press Secretary Francisco S. Tatad, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, and Immigration Commissioner Edmundo Reyes.

The rest of the President's working day was devoted to state papers, mostly reports from various government offices, and official documents which needed action or his perusal.

After a brief rest in the afternoon, the President returned to his study to work well into evening.

The President directed Secretary of Health Amadeo H. Cruz to proceed to Cebu on the first available air transportation, in the wake of reported outbreak of typhoid epidemic in Tabuelan town.

The President ordered the departments of health and of social welfare to send special teams and work closely in the areas in Cebu province reported to have an outbreak of the epidemic.

May 21—

PRESIDENT Marcos reasserted the supremacy of civilian over the military authority, pointing out that his administration has emphasized to the country's soldiers that "they are servants of the people, and therefore subservient to the people's will as represented by civilian authority."

This is in keeping, he said, with the principle of popular government where the people make the broad decisions, thus the constituted government and its leaders "must always act in partnership with the people."

In a speech as guest of honor at the joint commencement exercises of the National Defense College of the Philippines and the Command and General Staff College of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, held at Camp Aguinaldo, the President asserted that the military, "being a part of government must therefore adhere unfailingly to this policy, and in every way possible extend and deepen this partnership." (See pp. 5192-29 to 5192-34 for full text of the President's speech.)

Back at Malacañang, the President resumed his paperwork, but once again interrupted himself to receive several groups of students who came to present a number of petitions. He granted most of the petitions on the spot, including the certification of certain bills, many of which he had earlier certified already.

The rest of the day more or less followed his schedule, with consultations with aides and visiting officials, and receiving callers.

In the evening, the President received Admiral John S. McCain, Jr., commander-in-chief of the U.S. Pacific Forces and U.S. military adviser to SEATO, who paid a courtesy call.

Accompanied to Malacañang by U.S. Ambassador Henry Byroad and Rear Admiral Draper Kauffman, commander of the U.S. naval forces in the Philippines, Admiral McCain was on a brief stop-over in Manila enroute back to his headquarters in Honolulu after visits to Tokyo and Taipei.

Among other actions, the President reappointed officials of the government whose nominations were by-passed by the Commission on Appointments, except members of certain government boards whose qualifications the President would like to review.

Under the law, officials whose nominations were not confirmed by the Commission on Appointments cease to hold office upon the adjournment of Congress.

The President made the reappointments to avoid possible disruption in the service.

In another speech the President affirmed the youth's right to demand change, but urged that change should be pursued in the "libertarian tradition of Rizal and the reformers of his time."

Speaking through Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. who read his speech, at the opening of the National Youth Congress sponsored by the YMCA of the Philippines, the President asked the gathering to "strengthen the case for reason and restraint in the revolution for reforms."

Contrasting the militants' adherence to the Maoist dictum that "power grows out of the barrel of gun," to Rizal's advice to the young that "our hope lies in the education of our people, in their liberation from illiteracy, hunger and injustice," the President said that Rizal is more relevant to our times.

Saying that the YMCA of the Philippines is identified with the peaceful approach to change, he expressed confidence that one of the valuable contributions of the youth congress to the student movement is "to strengthen the case for reason and restraint in the revolution for reforms."

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: May 22-28, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

May 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS highlighted his working day with a meeting with the Foreign Policy Council to hear the report of the Philippine delegation to the Jakarta talks on Cambodia, headed by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo.

The Council agreed with the observation of the Philippine delegation that the Jakarta meeting had been useful in gathering the views of 11 foreign ministers representing 350 million people, concerning a situation of immediate concern to the region.

The Council confirmed the support expressed earlier by the Philippine delegation in Jakarta to the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to organize a bigger conference on Indochina.

The Council confirmed its earlier decision of May 12, that the government is against the sending of military aid to Cambodia.

The Council favored the sending of humanitarian aid within the framework of a people to people aid program, through the facilities of the Red Cross.

In this regard, the council recalled the well-known humanitarian work of "Operations Pakikisama," which was instrumental in collecting private donations of clothing, food and medicines in the Philippines for distribution among the displaced population of South Vietnam. It was proposed that humanitarian aid to Cambodia be undertaken along a similar line, under the immediate auspices of civic entities.

Present at the meeting were Vice President. Fernando Lopez, Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Secretary of Justice Felix Makasiar, Press Secretary Francisco S. Tatad, Senate President Protempore Jose J. Roy, Speaker Pro-tempore Jose Aldeguer, Senator Gerardo M. Roxas, Senator Lorenzo M. Tañada;

House Majority Floor Leader Marcelino Veloso, Representative Nicanor Yñiguez, Representative Justiniano S. Montano, former Secretaries of foreign Affairs Narciso Ramos and Salvador P. Lopez, Hans Menzi of the *Bulletin*, Joaquin Roces of the *Times* Publications, Leon O. Ty of the *Examiner* and Melchor Aquino of the *Evening News*.

The rest of the President's day was divided between desk work, receiving visitors, and ceremonies wherein he conferred honors on two military men who have rendered valuable services to the country.

The President also inducted six new officials, namely, Juan D. Manuel, as undersecretary of education; Mrs. Liceria Soriano, director of Public Schools Clodoaldo Leocadio, assistant director of Public Schools; Federico Ablan, Jr., administrator, Civil Aeronautics Administration; Mario R. Reyes administrator, National Cottage Industries Development Authority; and Pompeyo Gregorio, executive secretary, State Scholarships Council.

He conferred the Legion of Honor on South Korean General Mun Hyong Tae, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the armed forces of Korea, at a ceremony held at Malacañang in the morning; and in the evening conferred the same award on Admiral Draper Kauffman, commander of U.S. Naval Forces in the Philippines.

Among his callers today was a group of newsmen composing the Department of National Defense press corps, who petitioned him to retain Brigadier General Eduardo Garcia as PC chief. In the group were Alex Allan of

the *Chronicle*, Rod Villa of the *Times*, J. Panesa of the *PNS*, C. Vega of the *Taliba*, Teddy Africa of the *Herald*, Tony Sicat of the *Daily Star*, and Joe de Vera of the *Bulletin*.

May 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS emphasized the importance of individual responsibility in attaining the objectives of social justice, which he pointed out is a program of action long ago initiated by the government.

Apart from the collective or organized response of various entities to the problems of social justice, he said, the individual has also a real and continuing commitment to social justice.

In a speech delivered at the opening of the 17th national convention of the manufacturers and producers of the Philippine Chamber of Industries, held at the Manila Hotel in the evening, the President took note of the “many searching questions now being raised about the society we live in, its nature and direction.”

Social concern, he said, is not new to the nation, having been the concern of the Philippine Revolution and given new impetus by President Manuel L. Quezon, whose regime was marked by social unrest arising from agrarian problems.

By the end of World War II, he continued, “it became necessary to take serious steps towards formulating and implementing a land reform program.” (See pages 5392 to 5405 for full text of the President’s speech.)

The President, as is his wont on weekends, devoted his working day mostly to studying and acting on state papers.

Among others, he directed the *ad hoc* committee working with the Financial Policy Council to study how aid to rice and corn farmers, as proposed by the committee, may be funded from new sources of revenue. The President also created a special committee to make the homecoming of Aurora M. Pijuan, the new Miss International, memorable, in appreciation of her triumph in the prestigious global beauty tilt, which had built-in dividends for Philippine tourism, and the nation in general.

In the evening, the President motored to the Manila Hotel where he was guest of honor at the Philippine Chamber of Industries convention.

May 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS confined himself to paper work the whole day. He signed the designations of 34 national officials, to insure the continuity of government operations, following the adjournment of the first regular session of the Seventh Congress.

At 11 a.m., the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, heard Mass at the Malacañang chapel.

The President did not receive callers, and worked only on state papers until evening.

May 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS rounded out his morning’s activities with an appearance as guest of honor and speaker at the opening of the plenary session of the 4th Asia-Pacific Regional Marketing Conference, held at the Hotel Inter-Continental.

In his speech, the President underlined the need for Asian unity if progress and continuing growth are to be achieved and maintained.

He asked Asian nations to unify and “heal the physical and moral schisms and establish harmony.”

The need for cooperation in Asia, he said, is crucial for it is the only way to full development.

Earlier in the morning, the President worked at his desk on state papers. Back to Malacañang at about 11:30 a.m., the President received a number of callers, among whom were Secretary Manuel Elizalde, Jr. of PANAMIN, Mrs. Adelina Rodriguez, Representatives Jose de Venecia and Aguedo Agbayani of Pangasinan, and Pablo Ocampo of Manila, and the Philippine delegation to the Second Asian Judo Championship Tournament, scheduled in Taiwan from May 28 to May 31.

The group was composed of Florencio C. Catanghal, head of delegation; Major Dominador M. Estanislao, coach; Jess L. Ledesma, representative to the Judo Union of Asia Congress, also to be held in Taiwan: Rogelio Andres, lightweight; Geronimo Dyogi, light middleweight; Narzal Garcia, middleweight; Fernando Garcia, light heavyweight; and Oscar Bautista, open weight.

At 12:30 p.m., the President’s last caller left and he had lunch followed by a brief rest.

In the afternoon, and through the rest of his working day, the President was closeted in his study, acting on official papers.

Among others, the President filled the top posts of the National Electrification Administration, created under Republic Act No. 6038, making the agency operational.

Designated chairman of the NEA Board of Administrators was Geronimo Velasco, the president, of Dole Philippines; and named members were Brigadier General Ceferino Carreon (retired), former Public Works Secretary Antonio Raquiza, and Felix Limcaoco.

The fifth member of the board, as specified in the law, should be the administrator of the Electrification Administration, created under Republic Act No. 2717, which is automatically dissolved with the organization of the NEA, and absorbed into the new agency.

May 26—

President Marcos consulted his Financial Policy Council on the financing requirements of priority projects during a meeting held at about 10:30 a.m. at Malacañang.

Present during the meeting were Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Secretary of Commerce and Industry Ernesto Maceda, Acting Secretary of Finance Pedro Almanzor, Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, Chairman Antonio Ayala of the Board of Investments, Deputy Governor Amado Briñas of the Central Bank, President Eusebio Villatuya of the Philippine National Bank, Chairman Leonides S. Virata of the Development Bank of the Philippines, and Administrator Gilberto Teodoro of the Social Security System.

Earlier, the President worked on official papers, then set them aside for the important conference.

At 11:15 a.m., he once more disengaged from his usual routine to address the graduates of the first seminar held in Malacañang for middle-management employees of the Office of the President.

In his remarks, the President called on the country’s civil servants to work towards “a strong, dedicated, incorruptible and competent” civil service that moves on its own momentum, independent of partisan considerations and unaffected by the periodic constitutional changes in leadership.

Because of the new energy that has been unleashed in the bureaucracy for government workers to upgrade themselves by constant training programs, seminars and self-study, the President expressed hope that the government will soon

be run by a competent civil service that does not have to rely on the initiatives from the upper echelons of leadership in order for it to move.

Among those who attended the seminar graduation rites were the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Press Secretary Francisco S. Tatad, Secretary of Labor Blas F. Ople, Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, and Assistant Executive Secretaries Ponciano Mathay, Gilberto Duavit, Flores Bayot and Roberto Reyes.

Back to his study, the President received scheduled callers, notably Secretary Ople and Gov. Tito Primicias of Pangasinan.

In the afternoon, the President worked mostly at his desk. He saw only close aides and officials who came for consultations. He continued to work uninterrupted through early evening.

Among others, the President:

1. Ordered the total ban on the importation of luxury vehicles by all government offices and entities, as a means of conserving foreign exchange.
2. Ordered the immediate mobilization of the government's various relief agencies to come to the assistance of the victims whose houses were reportedly burned down in Friday's incident in Bantay, Ilocos Sur.

The President also declared that all possible efforts are being undertaken by the military and the constabulary to bring to justice the parties responsible for the reported sacking of the two barrios in Bantay, and that the whole severity of the law shall be applied to all those who took part in that incident.

May 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS devoted most of the morning up to nearly noon to state papers. Then he interrupted himself to begin receiving congressmen, Wednesday being Congressmen's Day at Malacañang.

Among the solons who called were Representatives Eduardo Cojuangco of Tarlac, Lamberto Macias of Negros Oriental, Vicente Cerilles of Zamboanga del Sur, Constantino Navarro of Surigao del Norte, Felipe Azcuna of Zamboanga del Norte, Godofredo Tan of Quezon, Felipe Abvigo of Samar, Rodolfo Albano of Isabela, Jose Neri of Camiguin, Romulo Lumauig of Ifugao, Eduardo Gullas of Cebu, D. O. Plaza of Agusan, Pablo Malasarte of Bohol, Joaquin Ortega of La Union, Jose Puyat, Jr. of Surigao del Sur, Joaquin Chipeco of Laguna, Ali Dimaporo of Lanao del Sur, and Artemio Loyola of Davao del Sur, who was accompanied; by Governor Ramon de los Cientos and several town mayors.

The President discussed with the Davao group, among other things, the needs of the burgeoning sugar industry in the province.

In-between receiving congressmen, the President inducted Dr. Lorenzo Ga. Cesar, the newly appointed Assistant Director of Public Schools.

Among those witnessing the ceremony was the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos.

In the afternoon, the President resumed working on state papers.

Earlier, the President summoned the top provincial government and party officials of Ilocos Sur to Malacañang to discuss "urgent business," in the wake of the Bantay incident.

High ranking officials of the Philippine Constabulary were also summoned to the conference.

The President also took a direct hand in the recent fatal shooting of Domingo Miranda, owner of a nightclub in Reina Mercedes, Isabela by directing the Department of Justice to give the case urgent priority.

The President issued the directive in reply to an appeal from the brother of the deceased, Mayor Raymundo C. Miranda of Santiago, Isabela, who informed the President that he had tried in vain to get information on the incident.

May 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS devoted almost all of his working day to state papers, and to problems brought to his attention.

Except for a single break in the afternoon from office work, occasioned by his appearance at the ceremonies celebrating the 32nd anniversary of the Presidential Guards Battalion, he remained at his desk.

About 4 p.m., the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, crossed the Pasig River to Malacañang Park, where the PGB honored the First Couple as the special guests at the guardmen's anniversary rites.

The President trooped the line, then joined the other guests as the PGB a composite honor guard passed in review.

In his speech, the President exhorted the guards to improve the quality of their performance and of the unit itself, while continuing to serve flag, country and people.

Returning to Malacañang about 5 p.m., he resumed his desk work, continuing through evening.

Earlier, the President designated Assistant Director Pedro G. Refuerzo as acting director of Animal Industry, vice Dr. Anacleto Coronel who retired from the service last month.

Dr. Refuerzo's designation follows the President's policy of strengthening the career service, by entrusting key government posts to deserving officials who have risen from the ranks.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: May 29 - June 4, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

May 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS delved into the Bantay incident in a conference with Ilocos Sur officials, PC and AFP brass, and others concerned with the problem in that province, during which he issued directives on follow-up action. He sternly ordered the arrest and prosecution of the parties responsible for the terroristic acts in the barrio.

Present at the meeting, which started around 10 a.m. were Governor Carmeling P. Crisologo, Representative Floro S. Crisologo, Mayor Maria Asuncion Porte, Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, Secretary of Justice Felix V. Makasiar, NBI Director Jolly Bugarin, Chief Prosecutor Emilio Gancayco, General Manuel T. Yan, AFP chief of staff; Brigadier General Eduardo Garcia, PC chief; Brigadier General Felizardo Tanabe, 1st PC Zone commander, and Colonel Florentino Dumpit, Ilocos Sur provincial commander; and 24 barrio captains of Bantay.

During the day, the President also received a number of callers, including a large delegation representing the Hospital Association of the Philippines, who called after closing its 21st annual convention.

The President assured the group that he will implement immediately the medicare program once funds are available. The group was headed by Dr. Eliodoro Congco, HAP President.

Notable among the other callers were Senator Rene Espina and Representative Emerito S. Calderon.

In the afternoon, the President devoted his time to official papers and other state business. He worked at his desk through evening.

May 30—

PRESIDENT MARCOS mostly attended to state papers, with no visitors scheduled to call at Malacañang, and with only one break, his appearance as special guest at the rites commemorating Memorial Day or American soldiers who died in the World War II battle here.

In his speech, the President said that the defense of freedom continues to be a challenge to freemen everywhere, and to Americans and Filipinos—but today rather than make war, both peoples must fight to establish a just and peaceful society in the world.

The President worked at his desk all morning, relaxed briefly after lunch, then, at around 4 p.m., went off to Fort Bonifacio for the Memorial Day services.

Among other actions, the President:

1. Designated Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto Reyes chairman of the national government division, in the educational and fund campaign of the Community Chest.
2. Pulled out PARGO agents from RICOB, when that agency complained about unnecessary investigations of the agents, which were described as merely harassment.
3. Released ₱14.3 million as financing for vital economic development projects which include the Pantabangan Dam, the Cotabato Irrigation System, the improvement of the Port of Manila and several other ports in the country.

Returning to Malacañang, he worked at his desk the rest of the afternoon continuing till evening.

May 31—

PRESIDENT MARCOS directed Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile to personally bring the victims of the Bantay incident to Manila so that they could give Malacañang a firsthand account of the burning and looting of Barrios Ora East and Ora Center in Bantay, Ilocos Sur last week.

The President directed the defense secretary to make available as many aircraft as are available to transport the victims to Manila.

At the same time, the President ordered the release of ₱20,000 through the Department of Social Welfare to help the Victims rebuild their houses.

The President also directed Secretary of Social Welfare Gregorio Feliciano to go with Secretary Enrile so that he would be able to see for himself how relief is being dispensed to the displaced residents of the two barrios.

He likewise asked Gen. Manuel T. Yan the AFP Chief of Staff, to see how military engineers could be of assistance in rebuilding the houses that had been burned down in the two barrios, as well as to report on the progress of civic action work being under taken by units of the civic action team sent by the AFP from Laoag to Bantay.

Earlier, the President created a Presidential Advisory Committee on Civil Aviation charged with updating civil aviation policies and upgrading and modernizing air services and facilities “to make air travel one of the safest and most speedy and efficient means of transportation.”

The committee will be composed of the chairman of the Civil Aeronautics Board, the director of Civil Aviation, the commanding general of the Philippine Air Force, and the heads of all pilots’ associations.

June 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS received a Malaysian dignitary of the country’s royal house, the Yan Di-Pertuan Besar Tengku Ja-Afar of Negari

Sambilan and his wife, Madame Tengku Ampuan Najiba, both of whom will stay for a brief visit in the country. The royal couple are enroute home to Kuala Lumpur from a visit to Expo ’70 in Osaka.

The President also received a number of provincial governors, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo and a group of sugar industry leaders, along with SQA Administrator Jose A. Unson.

The President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, were on hand to receive the Malaysian royal couple, and during the brief visit exchanged views on a broad range of topics. The President advised the couple on some interesting places to visit in the Philippines during their sightseeing trip here.

In his meeting with Secretary Romulo, the President was briefed by the foreign secretary on the highlights of the UN conference on human survival, from which Romulo recently returned.

The sugar leaders who saw the President were, besides Unson, SQA Directors Carlos Ledesma and Manolo Elizalde. They informed the President of the additional quota from the United States adducing to the Philippines, from the deficits of other sugar producers, including U. S. sugarmen, which will bring to the country some \$16 million in foreign exchange earnings.

The provincial governors who called on the President to discuss local problems and requirements were Tito Primicias Jr. of Pangasinan, Teresa Dupaya of Cagayan, Irene Balite of Northern Samar and Jose B. Legaspi of Aklan.

An additional presidential chore was the induction of Judge Fernando Santiago, who has been appointed judge of the court of first instance, with jurisdiction over Quezon province and Lucena City.

In-between all these activities, the President worked on state papers, and continued to do so till evening.

In connection with the Bantay incident, the President ordered Secretary of Justice Felix Y. Makasiar to institute formal charges of arson against Vincent Crisologo, son of Representative Floro S. Crisologo and Governor Carmeling P. Crisologo of Ilocos Sur.

The President also ordered the Justice Secretary to file appropriate charges against Luis “Chavit” Singson, also of Ilocos Sur, in connection with the killing of the Ilocos Sur provincial jail warden, Quirino de la Cruz, inside a bowling alley near the archbishop’s palace, in Vigan, in the afternoon of May 21, one day before the burning of 44 houses in Barrios Ora East and Ora Center in Bantay.

At the same time, the President ordered the filing of charges of illegal Possession of firearms against, a sergeant found to be in illegal possession of a garand, and such other persons found to be in possession of firearms without authority.

The President issued the above orders after receiving the report of Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile who had earlier made a flying trip to Ilocos Sur to provide airlift service to the victims of the Bantay incident. The victims had expressed the desire to be given transport facilities so that they could see the President and give a personal account of the Bantay incident.

June 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS stayed close to Malacañang all morning and afternoon in anticipation of the call of the Bantay victims or their representatives, so that he may be able to hear firsthand their side of the Bantay incident, and act on all feasible petitions speedily.

While waiting, he cancelled his schedule of visitors so that he may be free to attend to the Bantay folk, and worked on state papers.

Among others, he ordered the audit of all public utility firms throughout the country, studied reports, and conferred with close aides.

The President activated the National Manpower and Youth Council, created under Republic Act No. 5462, by designating the key members of the Council.

Named by the President to represent industry, as specified in the law, were Victor Lim and Rogelio Manalo, and to represent labor, Juan C. Tan and Cipriano Cid.

The President also designated Perpetuo L. B. Alonzo as acting director of the Office of Manpower Planning and Development; and Antonio M. Nuesa as acting director of the Office of Out-of-School Youth Development.

Secretary of Labor Blas F. Ople is the ex-officio chairman of the Council, and Secretary of Education Onofre D. Corpuz is ex-officio vice-chairman, Secretary Ople is also the acting director-general of the Council secretariat.

June 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS presided at two important conference in Malacañang, one on the appropriations bill, and the other on other urgent bills which are still pending in Congress.

Both conferences were held in the morning, thus cancelling any scheduled calls on the President.

In-between conferences, the President inducted Troadio T. Quiazon, Jr., the new Undersecretary of Industry.

At the first conference, the President discussed with Budget Commissioner Faustino SyChangco, Senator Dominador Aytona and Representative Jose Alberto, chairmen of their respective appropriations committees in Congress, the problems and differences in the budget bill.

In the second conference, the President discussed the essentiality of passing the bills he certified to Congress, which cover a wide range of national requirements, including development, financing, peace and order, social needs.

Present at this conference were Senate President Protempore Jose J. Roy, Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., Senate Majority Floorleader Arturo Tolentino, House Majority Floorleader Marcelino Veloso, Senators Helena Z. Benitez and Dominador Aytona, and Representatives Fernando Pajarillo of Camarines Norte and Pablo Roman of Bataan.

After these conferences, the only other important event of the day was the President's meeting with a delegation from Ilocos Sur which spoke up for the provincial administration. The group presented the side of the Crisologo faction in the Bantay incident. About 1,000 provincial officials and citizens made up the delegation.

The President also called into the meeting national officials concerned, including Secretary of Justice Felix V. Makasiar, Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, Chief State Prosecutor Emilio Gancayco, General Manuel T. Yan, AFP chief of staff; and Brigadier General Eduardo Garcia, PC chief.

The Ilocos Sur leaders at the meeting were Representatives Floro S. Crisologo and Lucas Cauton, and the mayors and barrio captains of the province.

For the rest of the day, the President concentrated on state papers.

June 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS finally met with the families in the Bantay (Ilocos Sur) incident in the morning at Malacañang's Maharlika Hall. During the meeting he heard the victims tell their stories and afterward mapped out the rehabilitation of the barrio.

Before the meeting, the President attended to state business as usual, and in-between received callers, notably the representatives of the Philippine Lumber Producers Association whom he asked to use part of their vast profits in helping the government conserve the forests.

The President suggested, and the lumbermen agreed, that the latter group band themselves together and set aside a common fund for the formation of a vigilante group, which will actively assist government in going after violators of forest laws. The President said he is willing to deputize such group, if necessary.

At the same time, the President asked the group to help government put stop to corruption in the forestry service by reporting to the government all cases of extortion, bribery, and other irregularities involving lumbermen and forestry men.

The officials and directors of the PLPA called on the President to pledge support to the forest resources conservation program and the "lotion and development of local wood industries.

Among those in the group were Antonio de las Alas, honorary president; Renato Arevalo, president; P. M. Picornell and J. J. Becker, vice presidents; Pacifico de Ocampo, secretary-treasurer; and Nicolas Capistrano, Jr., Carlos P. Fernandez, Florencio Tamesis, Aurelio Lagman, Guillermo Ponce, Deogracias San Pedro, Walter McAloney,

Mamerto Sanvictores, C. F. Roxas, III, Francisco J. Nicolas, Jorge Tirador, Dan F. Estes and Conrado Alcantara, directors.

One of the President's first visitors was Stan Swinton, director of world services of the Associated Press. Swinton was accompanied by John Nance, chief of the AP Manila bureau.

There were no other callers for the rest of the day, giving the President ample time to devote to his paper work. At about 4 p.m., he left Malacañang to attend the inauguration of the Don Bosco Boys Center at Barrio Magsaysay in Tondo, as guest of honor and principal speaker.

In his speech, the President asked for greater citizenship participation in social amelioration programs, particularly from among those who can contribute significantly to the advancement of the program.

Back in Malacañang, he resumed working on state papers in his study.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: June 5-11, 1970

June 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, speaking on Independence Day, declared that this nation “will not bargain this freedom for wealth, comfort or ease.”

The President reminded the nation that the freedom Filipinos enjoy today was achieved “through the sweat and blood of our fathers. . .and we cannot lose this freedom now.”

The President's speech was delivered at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, where seven citizens, who have distinguished themselves in various fields were given the Republic Cultural Heritage Awards.

“In the fields of art and culture and in political life,” the President said, “we have made great strides.” These achievements, he said, are made more meaningful because they were attained in an atmosphere of freedom “which is truly our precious heritage.” (See pages 6023-A to 6023-D for full text of the President’s speech.)

Earlier in the morning, the President led in the nationwide recitation of the pledge to the Flag and the Republic which was one of the highlights of today's celebration of Independence Day.

The recitation of the pledge followed the simultaneous hoisting of the Philippine flag throughout the country at 7 a.m., with the President officiating at the Luneta rites, and Vice President Fernando Lopez at ceremonies held at the Aguinaldo Shrine in Kawit, Cavite.

Notwithstanding a heavy drizzle, a big crowd which included Senate President Gil J. Puyat, members of the Cabinet, representatives of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, war veterans, boy and girl scouts, and representatives of the Cultural Minorities attended the Luneta rites.

The President, together with the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, arrived at the Rizal Park shortly before 7 a.m. He was accorded military honors, including a 21-gun salute by a composite battalion of the AFP.

He then hoisted the Philippine flag as the National Anthem was played:

The flag ceremony was followed by the recitation of the pledge, “Ipinagmamalaki Ko Ang Aking Pagiging Malaya” (I Am Proud To Be Free). The text of the pledge follows:

IPINAGMAMALAKI PAGIGING MALAYA	KO	ANG	AKING
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(Isang Panunumpa)

Ipinagmamalaki ko ang aking pagiging malaya,
Ang kalayaan ay naging mabuti at maamo
Sa lahat ng aking pangangailangan.
Ipinagmamalaki ko ang aking minana
Isinilang sa pawis at dugo ng aking mga ninuno
At nagkaloob ng kaliwanagan at kaluwalhatian sa aking lahi.
Ipinagmamalaki ko any bandilang nangangalaya
sa aking mga pangarap
At tinatalibaang may dangal ang lahat na taglay ko.
Ako'y nananalig na:

Sa bawa't karapatang naisin ko,
 may katungkulang dapat kony gampanan;
 Sa, bawa't pag-asang pasibulin ko,
 may gawaing dapat tuparin.
 Upang ang bansang ito'y
 Manatiling nakapagmamalaki at matatag,
 Sa pundasyon ng kalayaan, katarungan, pagkakapatiran at pagunlud,
 At any mga kalahi ko'y
 Lumaging nakapangyayari sa lupang ito, at
 Nagkakaisa kailan man,
 Sumusumpa akong maninindigan sa Republika
 Na taglay ang katatagan at kabutihang-loob,
 Na sa ilalim ng liwanag ng Bathala,
 Mapaglingkuran ko ang layuning panlahat
 At lunggatiin ng laliat,
 Kahit man maipagpakasakit ang kaalwanan,
 Kapalaran o ang buhay man.

I AM PROUD TO BE FREE (A-Pledge)

/ am proud to be free,
 Freedom has been good and kind
 To my every need.
 I am proud of my heritage
 Born of the sweat and blood of my fathers
 And giving light and glory to my race.
 I am proud of the flag that nurtures my aspirations
 And, guards with honor everything that I possess.
 I believe that:
 For every right I cherish, I have a duty to meet,
 For every hope I nourish, I have a task to keep.
 So that this nation may endure, proud and strong, on
 The rock of freedom, justice, brotherhood and progress
 And my people abide, sovereign in this land, and
 Forever united,
 I pledge to stand by the Republic with courage
 And goodwill,
 That under God's light, I may serve the common goal
 And the common effort, even at the cost of ease,
 Fortune or life itself.

Shortly thereafter, the President and the First Lady made floral offering at the foot of the Rizal monument.

In consonance with the policy of fiscal restraint, the traditional civic-military parade was omitted.

After the Luneta rites, the President and the First Lady, motored back to Malacañang for the Thanksgiving Mass. Auxiliary Bishop of Manila Amado Paulino officiated at the Mass. He was assisted by Fr. Juan Bautista, PGB chaplain.

After the Mass, the President and the First Lady received Independence Day well-wishers, among whom were members of the diplomatic corps led by the Papal Nuncio, ranking officials of the executive, legislative and judiciary branches of the government, civic, religious and veterans organizations.

In offering a toast with the members of the diplomatic corps, the President expressed faith that ultimately men would discover that they are brothers and that they shall live in peace.

After the reception, the President attended the award ceremonies of the Civic Assembly of Women of the Philippines in which he was guest of honor and speaker.

The President devoted part of the afternoon to desk work in his study.

In the evening, the President, together with the First Lady, motored to the Cultural Center of the Philippines on Roxas Boulevard where he was principal guest of honor at the presentation of the Republic Cultural Heritage Awards to seven citizens, all prominent in the fields of science, arts and letters.

Meanwhile, the President continued receiving messages from heads of state all over the world felicitating the Filipino people on the 72nd anniversary of Philippine Independence.

Among those who have wired their messages wishing the Philippines continued prosperity and progress were Sabah Alsalem Alsabah Amir of Kuwait, Chairman Ne Win of the Revolutionary Council of the Union of Burma, Emperor Hirohito of Japan, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi Shahanshah of Iran, President Cevdet Sunay of the Republic of Turkey;

Queen Juliana of the Netherlands, President Georges Pompidou of France, King Mahendra of Nepal, President Chiang Kai-Shek of the Republic of China, President Hans Peter Tschudi of Switzerland, President Gamal Abdel Nasser of the United Arab Republic, President Gustavo Diaz of Mexico;

President Zalman Shazar of Israel, Queen Elizabeth of England, Crown Prince Regent Harald of Norway, King Savang Vatthana of Laos, Major General Yakubu Gowon, head of the military government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; President Urho Kekkonen of the Republic of Finland, King Constantine of Greece, King Bhumibol of Thailand;

Archbishop Makarios, president of the Republic of Cyprus; President Fidel Sanchez Hernandez of El Salvador, President Joaquin Balaguer of the Dominican Republic, President J. M. Velasco Ibarra of Ecuador, President Americo Thomas of Portugal, President Rafael Caldera of Venezuela, King Gustaf Adolf of Sweden and King Mohammad Zaher of Afghanistan.

Felicitations were also received from Capt. Emilio E. Massera the commander of the Argentine frigate *La Libertad*, which made a goodwill visit in the country recently; and from Consul General Fortunato Gerardo in Denmark.

June 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS directed the Philippine National Bank to facilitate the opening of all required letters of credit for the importation of materials needed to complete as early as possible the Asian Development Bank-United Nations Center building complex.

The President also approved a suggestion of Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. that the Presidential Coordinating Committee for the ADB propose to all contractors of the building complex that they submit to an arbitrator who is mutually acceptable in order to resolve expeditiously all issues that may arise during the construction.

The President made these moves to prevent the delay in the construction of the ADB-UNC Building Complex, which is now 18 months late.

The President worked mostly at his desk throughout the day, with only two callers, both delegations of citizens, to break his concentration on state papers.

Those who called were:

1. About 600 citizens from the medical profession and other professions, to petition for the appointment of Dr. Pacifico Marcos, the President's brother, as chairman of the Medicare Commission. Among those who led the group were Dr. Reginaldo Pascual, PGH director; and Tomas G. Mapa.
2. A delegation of labor leaders, accompanied by Undersecretary of Labor Raoul Inocentes, who requested presidential certification of a bill authorizing a public housing program for workers and other low-income groups, which the Workers Bank would administer.

Those in the group were Romeo Roy and Vicente Arniego (NLUC), Laureano Sayas, Pedro Usaro and Roberto Paras of FOITAF, Domingo Sta. Ana (PLUM), Ricardo Manalad, Gerry Quadra (PMP), Fort Biangco, Bert Espinelli, Edgar Lubiano, Doming Obillo and Nick Gustilo of the PALEA.

In a speech in Pilipino, read for him by Undersecretary of Industry Troadio T. Quiazon, Jr., at the opening of the San Antonio Commercial Center in Valenzuela, Bulacan this afternoon, the President pledged to continue upholding the priority rights of Filipinos in the development of the country's trade and commerce.

The President, however, assured foreign investors that they are welcome to assist in such development.

The President stressed that Filipino control of the country's economy remains a basic policy of his administration.

"Filipinos should be given all the opportunities in the development of the national economy," he said.

Foreigners, the President said, may participate in this economic development effort under certain conditions. Their assistance is welcome, he stressed, when freely and reasonably given.

June 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Fort Bonifacio to mark the 25th anniversary of the Battle of Bessang Pass.

Arriving at 8 a.m. with Commodore Santiago Nuval (retired), who fetched him at Malacañang, the President was accorded military honors by the Philippine Army composite battalion, including a 21-gun salute.

After the floral offering the President proceeded to the PA Officers' Club where he had breakfast with the officers of the USAFIP-NL and their guests.

The President motored back to Malacañang to receive Japanese and Indonesian Ambassadors Toshio Urabe and Kusno Utomo who paid a courtesy call.

Then, the President proceeded to the Maharlika Hall to attend the convention and election of officers of the USAFIP-NL, during which he was reelected national commander. A luncheon with his comrades during the Battle of Bessang Pass followed the convention.

Other officers elected at the USAFIP-NL were: Commodore Santiago Nuval, 1st vice commander; Gov. Juvenal Guerrero, 2nd vice commander; Robert Arnold, 3rd vice commander; Ambrosio Peña, national adjutant; Jose Lizardo, finance officer; Dominador Prudencio, national auditor; Paulino Rivera, national chaplain; COMELEC Commissioner Lino Patajo, judge advocate; Dominador Lapuz, national inspector, and General Segundo Velasco, Fernando Reyes, Tancred Guray, Antonio Sanz, Generoso Salazar, Zosimo Paredes, Honrado Tensico, Juan Valeros, Carlos Lardizabal, Alejandro Dario and Eficio Acosta, directors.

At the same occasion, the President signed the appointment of Generoso Salazar as member of the Board of Directors of the Philippine Veterans Bank.

After his reunion with his comrades, the President had a brief rest and later on worked on official papers until early evening.

Shortly before 7 p.m., the President, accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, left Malacañang for the Manila Hotel where he was guest of honor and speaker at the opening of the Project Tulungan Training Seminar and the induction of the council members of the National Social Action Council.

In his remarks, the President called Project Tulungan “a project of love,” involving private citizens who have volunteered their services under the National Social Action Council, headed by Bishop Mariano Gaviola.

The President said the awakening of private citizens, civic organizations and churches of all sects to the social and economic problems of the country is a heartening sign. The spirit must be strengthened, he said, so that apathy and indifference, which have widened the gap between the rich and the poor, may be banished from the country.

The President said that the spirit of volunteerism, as exemplified in Project Tulungan, is a trait Filipinos can be proud of because it is in our nature to be of help to the less fortunate. The idea of *Bayanihan* or of giving without expecting any reward is basically a Filipino trait, the President said.

June 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS worked into his schedule, which concentrated on paper work, a number of conferences, notably with barrio officials and ranking executive officials, as well as at least a couple of legislators.

Early in the morning, the President attended to official papers, among them a request from the Price Control Council for authority to draw from other government offices assistance in the form of personnel, among others; and the request for approval of the appointment of Director Jaime C. Dacanay as manager of the PHILSUGIN, in a concurrent capacity. Both requests were approved by the President.

During the day, the President conferred with:

1. Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile and Polcom Chairman Crispino de Castro on the peace and order situation;
2. A delegation representing the National Federation of Associations of Barrio Councils, who discussed with the President various problems in their localities: and a group of barrio councilmen from Quezon City.
3. Cebu Reps. Ramon Durano and Emerito Calderon, who consulted with the President on matters affecting their constituencies.

Among other actions, the President:

1. Directed the Armed Forces to finish as soon as possible the construction of various resettlement projects in Carmona, Cavite by making the effort part of the AFP civic action program.
2. Proclaimed Tuesday, June 16, as air safety day in the Philippines.

It was in line with the celebration of International Air Safety Day by the International Civic Aviation Organization (ICAO) Council, of which the Philippines is a member.

The rest of his working day was devoted by the President to state papers brought to him for study or action.

In a speech read for him by Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata, at the ceremonies launching the Government Employees Fund Investments Corporation, held at the SSS building in Quezon City, the President called for the rise of a new middle class, where the people are involved in the mainstream of economic development.

The President said that the GEFIC is the lever needed to “involve a wide segment of our people in economic development on a more direct and personal basis.”

The thrift and savings drive launched by the government last year, the President said, was not so much aimed at educating the people in these virtues but more importantly at enlisting them in economic development as investors.

Capital or the lack of it, he said, is a key factor retarding economic growth. “We need money to harness our vast natural resources” and put up industries to process raw materials, he’ pointed out.

June 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS tended mostly to his homework, with no outside visitors on his official schedule. He only saw close aides and other government officials on consultation relating to various problems and concerns elevated to his desk.

Among others, the President studied official reports and acted on a number of state matters, including the appointment of the third member of the provincial board of Marinduque, which was recently reclassified as a third class province, thus entailing the appointment of a new board member (Mauro J. Corral), to make three; and the creation of the National Council for Small and Medium Industries, which will give special assistance to these industries in the way of upgrading management and operations and solving financial difficulties.

The President stayed close to his office desk through the morning, afternoon and early evening.

June 17—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said the enactment of the Industrial Peace Act of 1953, otherwise known as the Magna Carta of Labor, marked “the end of an oppressive” era of compulsory arbitration and the beginning of a new age of freedom in labor-management relations.”

The President made this observation in a speech before the nation’s labor leaders at a luncheon held at the Manila Hotel this noon commemorating the 17th anniversary of the Magna Carta of Labor.

“We celebrate today the freedom of Philippine Labor,” the President said. “It is this freedom, above all, that makes the Industrial Peace Act of 1953 a vital document, no less than a magna carta of organized labor.”

The President stated that in a democratic society, “we find it abhorrent to impose peace by fiat.” He said that peace obtained by compulsion “is bound to be fragile” and that the kind of industrial peace that endures is that which is established by mutual agreement and mutual consent.

“It is for this reason that the Magna Carta of Labor gives labor and management the widest possible latitude of freedom in settling their own differences without government intervention,” he said.

He began the day as usual with a long session with official papers in his study, among which was the enrolled new minimum wage bill, which he signed. Later he reenacted the signing of the bill at the luncheon given by labor leaders at the Manila Hotel to mark the passage of the Magna Carta of Labor.

The minimum wage bill which increases the daily wage from ₱6 to ₱8 for industrial workers, and ₱3.50 to ₱4.75 for agricultural workers, was one of the two bills certified by the President to Congress during the current special session, the other being the General Appropriations Bill.

The new law which takes effect upon approval, fixes the minimum basic daily wage for each type of workers as follows:

- 1) ₱8 in all enterprises other than agricultural, including” the national government and all government-owned and/or controlled corporations.
- 2) ₱6 in retail or service enterprises employing regularly not more than five employees.
- 3) ₱4.75 in all farming enterprises.
- 5) ₱5 or the minimum wage being paid at the time of approval of the Act, whichever is higher, in city, provincial and municipal governments.

Exempted from these rates are farm tenants, workers doing household services, persons working in their respective houses in “needlework or in any cottage industry registered under the provisions of Republic Act No. 3470.

The law also provides for the creation of a five-man Wage Commission under the Department of Labor, and appropriates ₱500,000 for the initial expenses of the Commission.

His visitors, today included:

- 1) The delegates to the Asian Development Center conference, held recently in Manila. The ADC is a creation of the Asian Parliamentary Union and has China, Japan, Korea, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines as members.

Those who called on the President were ADC Chairman Niehwen Ya and Wuta Yu, Charles Z. Woo and Tuyang Chun of China; Uichi Noda and Hideo Nakajima of Japan; Kimchang Keum of Korea; Pheng Sananikone and Sisouphanh Dhounpradit of Laos; Panit Sampawakoo and Tavich Klinpratoom of Thailand; Tran-Ngoc Canh and Nguyen Hoang of Vietnam; and Rep. Rogaciano Mercado of Bulacan and ADC Secretary General Emmanuel Yap, representing Sen. Dominador Aytona mid Rep. Lorenzo Sarmiento of Davao del Norte.

- 2) Capt. Odom Bannawel of Panupdupan, Kiangnan-Ifugao, supply officer of the President’s guerilla unit during the war. Capt. Bannawel had come to Manila to attend the USAFIP-NL convention. The President expressed appreciation for the captain’s call and reminisced with him on their experiences in the resistance.

- 3) Mrs. Ester Sinsuat who was accompanied by Mayor Michael Sinsuat. The visitors took up with the President local problems, particularly those relating to peace and order.

- 4) Carmen Basa, retired librarian of the Dinalupihan Elementary School in Bataan, who presented the President with three scrap books of clippings on the President’s public life (1962 to 1967).

- 5) Reps Lamberto Macias of Negros Oriental. Joaquin Ortega of La Union, Vicente Cerilles of Zamboanga del Snr; Amado D. Cope of Albay and Gov. Juvenal Guerrero of La Union, all of whom discussed problems of their constituencies.

The President asked for a re-examination of curricula in existing state vocational schools, emphasizing the priority given to the establishment, maintenance and upgrading of vocational schools.

In a memorandum to Secretary of Education Onofre D. Corpuz, the President also ordered that a survey be immediately conducted to determine where more vocational schools can be set up as soon as possible, with national and local needs and capabilities as the primary criteria.

The reexamination of curricula in state vocational schools is aimed at effecting a more vigorous implementation of the government's program of accelerating employment, developing out-of-school youths, and relating vocational education to national development.

The President devoted the rest of his working day to state papers.

In his speech read for him by Education Undersecretary Juan Manuel at the opening of the mid-year seminar commemorating the 109th birth anniversary of Dr. Jose Rizal, held at the Girl Scouts of the Philippines building on Padre Faura street, the President reiterated his given pledge that "the right of any citizen of this Republic to criticize or disagree shall never be suppressed or stifled." The President said that "every citizen shall enjoy every opportunity to express his views."

He declared that the "government will accommodate every political action except the attempt to overthrow the government."

The President stated, "I shall not hesitate to defend and lend support to any individual whose right to freedom of speech has been curtailed by a government official."

The right to disagree is "one of the bulwarks of our society," he asserted, adding that "that right cannot be diminished without impairing the strength of our system."

He stressed, however, that "we shall draw the line between right and license, between the exercise of freedom and abuse of liberties."

There is a line that "divides reform and subversion, and that line is called the national interest," he pointed out.

June 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a brisk workday with conferences and callers adding to his usual schedule, which however leaned heavily toward desk work.

One of his more important sessions was with the Food and Agriculture Council, during which he was briefed on the progress of the food production program, and new initiatives to widen the program were discussed.

The President also spent some time with the delegation representing the Muslim Association of the Philippines, which sought presidential assurances for broader and more rapid development of Mindanao and Sulu. The President stressed that there is a program of development for that region, based on priorities, and that it will indeed be implemented and accelerated.

The delegation included newly elected national officers of the association, namely, Rep. Salipada Pendatun, president; former Gov. Benjamin Abubakar, executive vice president; former Commissioner Abraham Rasul, vice president for Sulu and Palawan; Linipasan Idjirani, PRO; Mohammad Edris, director for Basilan City; Abdugani Andohol, director for Zamboanga del Sur and Pagadian City; Asbi Edding, director for Zamboanga del Norte and Mrs. Saphia Mustapha Al-Rashid, director for Women's Groups.

Other callers included foreign visitors, businessmen, and officials who consulted with the President on specific problems. In-between, the President steadily worked on state papers.

On the eve of the 109th birth anniversary of Dr. Jose Rizal, the President issued the following message:

"We celebrate the birth anniversary of a man long gone from us, but whose thoughts and ideals are more than ever before relevant to our times.

“Dr. Jose Rizal tirelessly preached unity and the idea of national community. He called for individual commitment to the great causes of his day—reform for the person and for the body politic—but he rejected extremism in winning social and political goals, and consequent events proved him right as the gradual and progressive evolution of our country ripened to nationhood and the liberal democracy which informs our life.

“We can best honor his memory, we can best celebrate his coming among us, by taking him to heart; by listening to his admonitions about commitment and sacrifice, so that we may not only deserve our freedom, but enlarge it, deepen its meaning, and use it to make an enduring, prosperous and respected nation.”

The President, also signed a proclamation declaring Friday, June 19, as a special public holiday in the province of Laguna and San Pablo City.

In the course of the day, the President received more messages from heads of state felicitating the Philippines and the Filipino people on the 72nd anniversary of Philippine Independence.

Among the new messages received were those of the government and people of Chile, sent through Ambassador Luis Melo Lecaros; President Charles Helou of Lebanon, and Salem Robya AH, chairman of the Presidential Council of the Peoples Republic of Southern Yemen.

Chairman Salem Robya Ali, in his message, said:

“It gives me great pleasure to express to your Excellency on behalf of the people and government of the Peoples Republic of Southern Yemen our sincerest felicitations on the Independence Day of the Philippines, wishing your Excellency happiness and good health and the friendly people of the Philippines every success in their life.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: June 19-25, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

June 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS was up early for a special purpose—to see the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, off for Osaka, where she will represent the President at Expo 70's observance of Philippine Day.

By 7:15 a.m., the President and the First Lady were on the way to the MIA, arriving about 30 minutes later. The large and warm spirited crowd made the departure a festive occasion.

The PAL jet which took Mrs. Marcos and her party *iv* Tokyo left at 8:15 a.m., and the President shortly returned to Malacañang after a brief press interview and conversation with officials and dignitaries who also saw the First Lady off.

Back at Malacañang, the President waded immediately into the paper work at hand. In-between he received visitors, and sat down for conferences with officials.

He conferred with Central Bank Gov. Gregorio Licaros and Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata. Licaros reported to the President on the results of his mission abroad.

Next the President met with Secretary Virata, Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco and Rep. Jose Alberto on the budget bill.

Later in the day, he received Denmark's Minister of Trade Knud Thomsen, who paid his respects. The President then received SQA Administrator Jose A. Unson who submitted a report on the 50,000 ton deficit reallocation of U.S. sugar, which would increase the country's dollar earnings from sugar exports.

Among other visitors the President received during the day was Sen. Wenceslao R. Lagumbay who consulted him on official matters.

Earlier, the President signed Senate Bill No. 208 (H. B. 853) prohibiting the increase of rentals of residential buildings and lots for a period of one year, beginning March 1970.

Under the law, no lessor of a building unit or land on which a residential dwelling is located shall:

- 1) Increase the monthly rental agreed upon prior to the approval of this Act, when it does not exceed f-300 beginning March 1970;
- 2) Demand any deposit in advance for any purpose in excess of 2 months rental for a period of one year from the date of the effectivity of this Act.

The President also designated Assistant Executive Secretary Ponciano G. A. Mathay as acting executive secretary "upon the departure, and for the duration of the absence" of Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., who left for the United States to attend the 25th anniversary observance on June 26 of the signing of the United Nations Charter.

While in the United States, Secretary Melchor will also confer with electrification experts, in connection with the administration's electrification program.

June 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS conferred at length with members of Congress and other ranking officials on the urgent bills that must be passed when the recessed special session is resumed next week.

In the morning, however, he was unable to meet two engagements—a golf tournament with newsmen and a speech before the Veterans Federation because of developing sore throat. On advice of doctors he stayed indoors until he felt rested enough.

At 12:30 he met with Congress leaders to discuss, among others the national budget and other bills to be included in the special session. The conference lasted through lunch and long afterward.

Present at the meeting were Senate President Gil J. Puyat, Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., Senate President Protempore Jose J. Roy, House Majority Floorleader Marcelino Veloso; Senators Dominador Aytona and Lorenzo Teves, chairman and member, respectively, of the Senate committee on finance; Reps. Jose Alberto and Nicanor Yñiguez, chairman and member, respectively, of the House appropriations committee; Reps. Pablo Ocampo of Manila and Pablo Roman of Bataan.

Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata and Commissioner of the Budget Faustino Sy-Changco also attended the meeting.

In the afternoon, the President had a clear schedule and thus was able to concentrate on his desk work.

Earlier, the President ordered a study and review of present policies embodied in land laws as well as administrative rules and regulations in the same area, with an eye to relating them to the need for land of peasants and farmers, small settlers, and the agro-industrial sector.

The President's order also created a committee to study, evolve, and recommend policies which would swiftly and equitably settle land disputes and assign priorities in the granting of titles to public lands.

The primary aim of the order was to "relieve the 'small man' of the complexities of existing laws, rules and regulations relative to land disputes and the award of land titles."

In the speech read for him by Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata at the opening of the 10th annual convention of Philippine lumbermen, held at the Hotel Inter-Continental, the President squarely set before lumbermen the responsibility of policing their own rank in order to apprehend despoilers of forestlands, saying that many loggers are culpable for the denudation of the nation's forests.

In default of such responsibility, he said, he would be forced to close valuable logging concessions to lumber firms, particularly those in watershed areas.

The President vigorously urged greater collective effort in conserving forestlands and other natural resources, including wildlife, emphasizing that the diminution to a critical degree of any of these elements will make life for the nation virtually untenable.

He particularly said that "the time is now" to escalate conservation efforts, and that it is "our duty not only to country and to our children but to life itself."

Among the lumber industry groups participating in the convention are: off Philippine Chamber of Wood Industries (PCWI), the Philippine Lumber Producers' Association (PLPA), the Plywood Manufacturer's Association of the Philippines (PMAF), the Permanent Forests Association of the Philippines (PERMAFOR), and the Society of Filipino Foresters (SFF).

June 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS directed the Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile to immediately investigate reports appearing in a morning newspaper to the effect that some PC men are engaged in racket involving the surrender of fake Huks in order to collect monetary rewards.

The President directed Enrile to look into the veracity of the report with a view to prosecuting guilty parties in a court martial.

Earlier in the morning, the President issued the following message in connection with the celebration of Philippine Day at Expo '70, in Osaka, Japan:

“We have all reason to be proud and jubilant on this special day for our country at the world exposition in Japan.

“The celebration of Philippine Day at this international fair recounts to us all the lofty and self-won position which our country now holds in the family of nations.

“The recent years have been specially kind to us, and we have emerged from anonymity to become a people more familiar to the other peoples of the world. Today, we maintain good and strong ties with other nations, not alone in the field of diplomacy, but in trade, in education, and in culture.

“This occasion offers us the opportunity to strengthen these ties, to elevate our exchange with other lands, and to enhance our place among the nations.

“I ask you all to join me in wishing our delegation to the exposition every success in the celebration of this day.”

Among other actions, the President proclaimed Wednesday, June 24, this year as a special public holiday in the City of Manila marking the 399th anniversary of the city.

In a message of condolence on the death of former President Sukarno of Indonesia, the President said:

“President Sukarno was a leader who will be long remembered as the founder of the Indonesian Republic. It was he who welded Indonesia together in its most difficult years. Recent events have not diminished that role. We mourn the depth of one of Asia’s great leaders.”

The President also sent congratulations to Prime Minister Edward Heath on his election as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

June 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that the presidency throughout his administration shall be used to weld together the entire people of the Philippines, including the cultural minorities, into one nation and one Republic.

Speaking at the 13th anniversary celebration of the Commission on National Integration, held at the Philamlife auditorium, the President pledged “it shall be my purpose to see to it that there should be no cultural minorities and that in lieu thereof everybody should be called Filipino, for that is the” very purpose of the Commission on National Integration.”

The President also said that every Filipino, rich or poor, must work for the cultural minorities out of “love and affection and not for reward or recognition.”

At midmorning, he watched the proceedings at the opening of the Philippine Pavilion in Osaka’s Expo ’70, made possible by satellite telecast; then was interviewed by a CBN staffer; then came the long distance call from the First Lady.

Towards noon, the President received the officers of the gasoline dealers association, whom he inducted into office during the call. Among those in the group were Col. Emiliano Ozaeta, president; Eufemio Domingo, vice president; Antonio Talao, secretary; Adelaida Sta. Teresa, treasurer; and Hilario Lopez, auditor. They were accompanied by Secretary of Commerce and Industry Ernesto Maceda.

Ambassador Yacob Aaron of Israel called to bid goodbye to the President. The Israeli envoy will be away for six weeks on home leave.

Other callers included:

1) Bella Bañez, daughter of the radio commentator slain in Isabel a, who was accompanied by Atty. Antonio Villanueva.

2) Miss Deirdre Bruton (1970 Queen of the Pacific) and Miss Sarah Dowlen (Miss Pearl of the Orient), the latter accompanied by her parents and PTTA Executive Director Salvador Peña.

Miss Bruton is the first New Zealander to win the title held by the Philippines' Miss Baby Santiago in 1968. She is travelling through the Pacific Area countries as part her prize.

Miss Dowlen was chosen in a contest held in San Francisco, California. She will be in the Philippines for 35 days. Her mother is a Filipina from Davao City.

3) Rev. Richard Dunne who headed some 40 New York tourists. Fr. Dunne has a brother in the Ateneo now assigned in San Pablo City.

Fr. Dunne had written the President about the trip and asked permission for the group to call on him. The President swiftly obliged and sent word he would receive them.

The President was informed that church-inspired service to foreign students is the hospitality program in New York, among whose beneficiaries were Filipinos. With the group was Miss Irene Brawl, who was chosen Miss St. Ephrem (St. Ephrem's Parish in New York).

In a speech read for him by Agriculture Undersecretary Arturo Tanco, Jr., at the opening of the seminar on economic development and rural communication sponsored by the RBC, held at the Philippine National Bank building on the Escolta, the President asked other citizens, professionals and activists to follow in the path of the Rural Broadcasters Council and other entities committed to the "liberation of the barrio" from poverty, stagnancy and ignorance.

The President said that- despite the great strides already made in improving the lot of the barrio folks, there remains much to be done.

"It is axiomatic that a country's progress depends on the energy and dedication of its own people," the President said, and in that context "because the mass of our people live in the barrio, we must therefore concentrate on harnessing the strength and the talents of the majority of our people to the attainment of progress."

June 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had several conferences with ranking officials, taped an interview for television, and received a number of callers.

The rest of his working day was devoted to state papers.

Shortly after working in his study early in the morning, the President taped a program of the “Business Today” television show, with Business Editors Jess Bustamante of the *Herald*, Ray Naval of the *Chronicle*, and Arthur Sales of the *Bulletin*.

Among- those he conferred with were Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile and Col. James Barbers, deputy chief of the Manila Police; Customs Commissioner Rolando Geotina, who reported on the current collections of the customs bureau; Rep. Fermin Cavara of Iloilo, who discussed problems of his constituency; and Mrs. Adelina Rodriguez, wife of Gov. Isidro Rodriguez of Rizal.

The President whittled down his schedule of callers to give him more time for paper work. He remained in his study through the afternoon and evening-.

In taking action on urgent matters of state, the President, among others:

- 1) Created a study and coordinating committee to expedite and systematize construction of the Manila Bay Project. Public Works and Communications Secretary Manuel B. Syquiao was named chairman of the committee with Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata and NEC Chairman Placido L. Mapa, Jr. as members.
- 2) Directed PANAMIN Secretary Manda Elizalde to take measures to prevent the outbreak of violence in the T’boli settlement in Surala, South Cotabato.
- 3) Asked the fire victims of Barrios Ora East and Ora Center, Bantay, Ilocos Sur, to consider the offer of Senator Mamintal Tamano to relocate them in the Wao settlement in Lanao del Sur.
- 4) Directed the National Bureau of Investigation to enter the investigation of the killing of Eddie Dasmariñas and Benilda Macalde, alleged members of the Kabataang Makabayan.

June 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS stated the “Asian Dream” as the aspiration towards “peace and stability,” and underscored good management as “the key to the achievement” of these objectives.

“This would require of every executive in every organization, private or public, including the Chief Executive of every nation, new managerial perspectives and resources,” he said.

Appealing as keynote speaker at the ceremonies opening the Philippine Management Congress, held at the Asian Institute” of Management building, on Paseo de Roxas, Makati, Rizal, the President said that the congress “could be most profitably spent” in searching for solutions to the unfolding problems of the ’70s.

“We should have no misconceptions about the enormity of economic problems” in this decade, he said, which if unresolved “could generate through a series of chain reactions increasing social and even political problems.”

The decade of the 70s, he stressed, “will be a crucial one” for the Asian Pacific countries, and may well mark the take-off to real economic growth and social and political stability for the region.

To succeed in this undertaking, he said, experienced and capable leaders of men are needed, with all executive positions manned by “men with a sincere love for people and the ability to make correct and timely management decisions.” (See pages 6207-A to 6207-D for full text of the President’s speech.)

Early in the day, Ambassador Henry Byroade, U. S. envoy to the Philippines, called at Malacañang to discuss with the President matters affecting the two countries. They met in private.

Senator Arturo M. Tolentino later in the morning called to request certification of the bill he will file in the Senate authorizing the secretary of education to assess and act on any proposal from private schools to increase tuition fees. The bill is the Senate version of the measure filed by Rep. Aguedo Agbayani in the House of Representatives.

Towards noon, the President sat down with Paul Tabori. Hungarian-British writer, who is enroute back from the U.S. London. The interview lasted half an hour.

In the afternoon, the President motored to Makati, Rizal where he was keynote speaker at the opening ceremonies of the Philippine Management Congress.

Returning to Malacañang immediately after the speech, the President spent the rest of the day working at his desk.

The President directed the National Library to design an economical but effective system for the organization and maintenance of barrio libraries and reading centers.

The Chief Executive took this step after receiving the report that so far only 40 barrio libraries have been organized under the supervision of the National Library.

The President instructed the NL to distribute more government publications through the National Library's extension branches.

June 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS attended mostly to his desk' work, with very few visitors on his schedule.

The few who saw him included:

- 1) Col. Ruben A. Jose, commanding officer of the former Philcag, now deployed in Central Luzon for civic action and community development missions, who reported on the progress of its work, stressing that the unit is eagerly sought by barrio communities and warmly welcome everywhere it has sent work teams.
- 2) Charge d'affaires Antonio Pinto Machado of the Portuguese embassy here, who presented the President with color maps *circa* 16th century, when he called to say goodbye after a brief assignment as interim head of his embassy when Ambassador Julio Salcedas went on a four-month leave. The maps were similar to those used by Portuguese sailors, including Ferdinand Magellan, when they blazed ocean trails.
- 3) Brig. Gen. Romeo Espino, acting AFP vice chief of staff, who briefed the President on the proposed sale of military reservations in the Greater Manila area, as a way of generating funds to support the land reform program and other projects.
- 4) New officers of the U.P. Vanguard, a fraternity composed of alumni of the U.F. ROTC course, whom the President inducted.

Those sworn in were Juanito T. Ventura, national commander; Col. Santiago Garcia (ret.), 1st vice commander; Jesus Fuentes, 3rd vice commander; Teodoro B. Javier, adjutant general; Ernesto Lolarga, national treasurer; Lt. Col. Benjamin Divinagracia, auditor; Teodoro Kalaw, Fred "Montilla" Francisco, Col. Apolinar Fajardo (ret.) and Lt. Col. Rodolfo Villarica, governors, Lt. Col. Ridao, JAG; Maj. Reynaldo San Gabriel, PRO; and Donato Pangilinan of the fund-raising committee.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: June 26 - July 2, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

June 26—

President Marcos again focused on his desk work, among others preparing the message calling for a second special session of Congress to consider urgent bills, and issuing a circular enjoining all local government officials to stay at their posts in the face of problems to be solved, notably those involving the peace and order drive.

Receiving only a few visitors, the President was able to concentrate on state papers brought to his attention. Among the few callers who saw him were:

1. Former Lanao del Sur Gov. Madki Alonto who discussed with the President the reports on alleged disintegration of civil authority in that province. The ex-governor was accompanied by Marawi City Engineer Boway Ramos, Provincial Engineer Baliawin Mamainte, NAWASA District Engineer Mamintal Adiong and Omar Mitmeg.
2. Chairman Faustino Tobia of Cebu Portland Cement Co., who consulted with the President on matters pertaining to the firm.
3. Rep. Rodolfo B. Albano, Jr. and Gov. Samuel F. Reyes, both of Isabela, who discussed official concerns in their constituency with the President.

The President remained in his study poring over state papers through the afternoon, and well into evening.

June 27—

President Marcos received no visitors to concentrate on official papers.

The only break came when he left Malacañang for the Manila International Airport to welcome the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, and their three children, Imee, Irene and Bong-bong, who returned from Japan.

The President arrived unannounced at the Manila International Airport at 3:15 p.m. and was met by welcomers led by Vice President Fernando Lopez, other high officials, members of the diplomatic corps, and plain citizens.

As soon as he entered the VIP kiosk, he was surrounded by a group of press, radio and television representatives who started firing questions at him and kept at it for about 12 minutes.

As soon as the PAL jetliner, PI-C827, bearing the First Lady and her party, taxied to the MIA apron, the President climbed the ramp and entered the plane to greet his family.

A few minutes later, Mrs. Josefa Edralin Marcos, mother of the President, also entered up the plane to greet the First Lady and her grandchildren.

The President and the First Lady shortly emerged from the plane, accompanied by their children, and followed by the other members of the First Lady's party, including BTTI Commissioner Gregorio Araneta, Jaime Zobel president of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, and Architect Leandro Locsin.

A delegation from Marinduque, led by retired Col. Arturo Sevilla, wore "moriones" masks and sang a welcome song, while thousands of others consisting of government workers, veterans, students and the general public waved welcoming placards at the First Lady.

The First Lady, escorted by President Marcos, proceeded to the VIP kiosk for a brief press conference, after which they boarded a car for Malacañang.

Enroute to Malacañang, the First Couple stopped at the entrance to the Nayong Pilipino to shake hands with another delegation, then motored on, arriving there at about 4:30 p.m.

The President ordered the immediate arrest and deportation of a Chinese national “whose presence in the country is considered a menace to the peace and safety of the community.”

Ordered arrested and deported by the first available transportation to China or Taiwan was Gregorio Lam Kuan, now residing at 1544 Lope de Vega, Sta. Cruz, Manila. The Chinese was convicted as a passer of counterfeit 20-centavo paper bills, at the time when the paper bills were still legal tender.

The President also named Ernesto J. Battad as member of the Board of Examiners for Master Plumbers, vice Dominador Apalisok whose term had expired.

Battad was a topnotcher in the board examinations for master plumber and a Colombo Plan Fellow.

June 28—

President Marcos went over state papers in his private study.

At about 1:20 p.m., the President met with some town and barrio officials of Tarlac and Pampanga, who consulted him on problems of their constituencies, and reported on activities of dissidents in their localities.

The municipal officials present at the conference were La Paz Mayor Venustiano G. Martinez, Concepcion Mayor Rafael Suarez, Magalang Mayor Daniel Lacson, San Simon Mayor Lamberto Punzalan; and Barrio Captains Adriano Bato, Juan Alfaro, Loreto Manuel, Oscar Torres, Cerilo Juanatas, Jose Montoya, Felipe Angala, Eduardo Reyes, Pablo Cunanan and Eficinto Cuthon.

Also present were Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, General Manuel T. Yan, AFP chief of staff; Brig. Gen. Eduardo Garcia, PC chief; and Brig. Gen. Felizardo Tanabe, IPC zone commander.

The President continued his paper work later in the afternoon.

June 29—

President Marcos stressed the importance of the legislative measures which he had certified to the second special session of Congress, as he received the joint Senate-House committee who formally informed him of the opening of the session.

The President called Congress to a second special session for not more than 80 days starting 10 a.m. today, earlier certifying 30 vital legislative measures for congressional action.

During the call of the joint Senate-House committee, the President expressed the hope that the bills on export incentives, housing, and withholding and quarterly payment of the corporate income tax be given priority. He appealed for positive action on all other vital bills by Congress.

The joint committee which called on the President at 10:45 a.m. was composed of Senators Lorenzo Teves, Mamintal Tamano and Genaro Magsaysay, representing the Senate; and Reps. Felix Fuentesbella of Camarines Sur, Moises Escueta of Quezon and Macacuna Dimaporo of Lanao del Sur.

The Filipinescas dancers called to pay their respects after completing a world-girdling tour during which the dance company garnered laurels, led by Mrs. Leonor Orosa Goquingco, the founder and choreographer of the dance group. Also with the dancers was Dr. Sixto Orosa, former head of the Philippine Historical Commission, father of Mrs. Goquingco, and a vigorous supporter of Filipinescas.

The President congratulated the dancers for their distinguished performances, and noted that the group's appearance at the Osaka Fair's celebration of Philippine Day was "wonderful."

For the rest of the day, the President worked almost uninterruptedly in his study.

The President sent the following cablegram to the executive committee of the 37th International PEN Congress held in Seoul, Korea, in connection with its adoption of a resolution on the conservation of the ancient temples of Angkor Wat in Cambodia:

The Philippine government extends its wholehearted support to the resolution adopted by the executive committee of the 37th International PEN Congress calling on all participating countries to exert efforts consistent with their national policies on Cambodia to safeguard and preserve the temples of Angkor Wat from destruction in view of the current conflict in Siem Reap.

The Philippine government is prepared to join any concerted effort to voice concern for every activity which may lead to the destruction of cultural treasures.

It is our view that priceless cultural treasures belong to all mankind.

The President also congratulated the Philippine delegation headed by Press Secretary Francisco S. Tatad for sponsoring the resolution, which was unanimously approved.

June 30—

President Marcos devoted himself to the study of official reports, other official papers and otherwise worked quietly in his study. His schedule precluded any callers.

Among others, he acted on several problems brought to his attention while ordering deeper study of other concerns of the government.

At least two directives were made known by his office, namely:

1. An order creating an inter-agency committee to resolve jurisdictional conflicts which have stymied the speedy settlement of land disputes in some barrios of Tanay, Rizal.
2. An order to the Presidential Assistant on Housing and Resettlement Agency to expedite the relocation of squatters on Constitution Hill and the Government Center in Quezon City.

The new directives were aimed at unraveling the matted regulations governing land acquisition by settlers and combatting landgrabbing.

The President was set to reclassify all lands occupied by settlers and to release and transfer to the Land Authority the administration of land settlements, now held by the Bureau of Forestry.

Other steps the President has taken include:

1. Directing the Land Authority and the Solicitor General's Office to oppose petitions for land registration of private lands under the claim of Spanish titles since the areas are still part of the forest zone; and
2. Directing the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources to investigate all cases of corruption against forestry bureau personnel with those found guilty to be prosecuted immediately.

July 1—

President Marcos announced the centralization of all civic action activities and all matters involving the welfare of the civilian population, including the utilization of engineering battalions for road construction and the development of a citizen army.

The President said he will appoint presently an undersecretary of defense for home defense affairs to take charge of this enlarged program. The new defense undersecretary will also exercise supervision over the organization of home defense forces which will continue to be formed on a voluntary basis.

The President stressed that the overall civilian- supervision over the BSDUs is necessary so that these units will not commit the same errors or abuses attributed to the defunct civilian guards, and other such organizations whose excesses brought discredit to them.

In pursuing this new policy, the President assured the release of more funds for the socio-economic development program in Central Luzon.

The President made the announcement at the conclusion of a flying-visit to several barrios in Pampanga and Tarlac to inspect the civic-action projects of the armed forces and to assess the problems of the people in Central Luzon at close range.

Flying out of Manila early in the morning, the President first touched down at San Simon, Pampanga, to inaugurate a bridge in Barrio San Miguel and to confer with provincial and municipal and barrio officials of the province then he hopped to Candaba where he visited the fresh water fish project. From there he went to Barrio Parua, Concepcion, Tarlac to look over the 175-meter steel bridge being built by PACAG units.

He was back in Manila at around 1:30 p.m. Accompanying him on the trip were Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, AFP chief of staff General Manuel T. Yan and other military officials.

In the evening, the President received courtesy calls from US Secretary State William Rogers; British Parliament Member Anthony Royle, who is also UK undersecretary for external and commonwealth affairs' and Australian Minister of External Affairs William McMahon; all of whom arrived in Manila to attend the Council of Ministers meeting of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization.

Earlier, the President asked Governor Linang Mandangan of Lanao del Sur to exercise closer supervision over the municipal mayors of his province.

The President issued the instructions after receiving the initial report of Undersecretary of Justice Ramon Fernandez, who went on an official inspection tour of the south to determine the extent of administration problems of local governments there.

The rest of the President's working day was devoted to state papers.

July 2—

President Marcos called for a transformation of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization from "a council of war for defense to a council of peace for progress."

Asserting that there is a new strength in the Southeast Asian region, emanating from the people themselves, and a consensus of a growing-community interest, the President stressed that SEATO must now play a new role “in the light of the new forces at work in this region.”

In the keynote speech at the opening in the morning of the 15th Council of Ministers meeting of SEATO, held at the Inter-Continental Hotel in Makati, Rizal, the President said that the organization must “recognize the growing spirit of nationalism and independence in the region, and make certain adjustments in its mission in order to take changed circumstances into account.”

SEATO must move in the direction “of making itself relevant to the rising needs of Southeast Asia,” the President stated, “otherwise it loses its reason for being.”

He pointed out that the ultimate purpose of SEATO is “not war but peace, not strife but brotherhood.”(See pages 6365 to 6370 for full text of the President’s speech.)

At breakfast, the President played host to Sir Keith J. Holyoake and Lady Holyoake, along with the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos. Sir Keith is Prime Minister of New Zealand.

At midmorning, the President motored to Inter-Continental Hotel, along with the First Lady, to address the opening session of the SEATO ministerial conference.

Returning to Malacañang, the President worked as usual on state papers.

In the afternoon, he resumed his paper work, then broke off to sit down with Spencer Davies, AP correspondent in Washington, D.C., for an interview. Davies planed in for the SEATO meeting.

Later in the afternoon, the President conferred briefly with Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata and CB Gov. Gregorio Licaros.

At about 5 p.m., the President left his desk to attend a Mass with the First Lady and their children, which was offered in connection with Mrs. Marcos’ birthday. The Mass was held at the ceremonial hall before an improvised altar. Msgr. Carmine Rocco, papal nuncio, officiated.

A rare feature at the Mass was the singing of the famed Vienna Boys Choir, who happened to be here enroute to Osaka’s Expo ’70.

Also at the Mass was the President’s mother, Mrs. Josefa Edralin Marcos, and top officials of the government,

While at work on official papers, the President approved a proposal to create an inter-departmental task force for petroleum exploration, and to survey other minerals and geothermal resources.

Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. recommended the creation of a task force which would pool available government and private resources for petroleum and minerals exploration.

Through this joint force, Melchor explained, the cost of exploration and prospecting will be reduced, notably risk capital for actual drilling and exploitation.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: July 3-9, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

July 3—

Starting his day with an early morning session with state papers in his study, President Marcos steadily worked uninterrupted until about noon when he set aside his work to receive Thai Foreign Minister Thanat Khoman, who came on a courtesy call.

After the brief call, the President resumed his work until 12 noon when he had Dr. Savkar of the IMF as luncheon guest. Also present at the lunch were Senate President Gil J. Puyat, Rep. Joaquin Roces who represented Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr.; Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata, and Central Bank Gov. Gregorio S. Licaros.

Briefly relaxing after the meeting, the President returned to his desk work about 3 p.m., then at 4 p.m. interrupted himself to swear in the new undersecretary of defense for home defense affairs, Jose M. Crisol.

Also inducted in separate ceremonies were Dr. Mauyag Tamano as president of the Mindanao State University, and Angel Limjoco, Jr. as governor of the Board of Investments, and Judge Moises Dalisay as district judge.

The President followed this stint with a conference on the problems of Lanao del Sur, attended by officials of that province.

At 5 p.m., the President was again deep in conference, this time with the Fiscal Policy Council. The meeting was called to take up the points raised by Dr. Savkar in the earlier meeting at lunch, and other fiscal problems as well.

In another area of concern, the President ordered the preparation of a realistic and workable national program on crime prevention and treatment.

The President's directive was embodied in Administrative Order No. 225 which also created a Committee on Crime Prevention and Treatment as an arm of the Peace and Order Coordinating Council (POCC).

The President emphasized to the Committee the need for community awareness by the hazards of criminality and for getting the citizens involved in the prevention and treatment of crime.

In the evening the President played host along with the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, at a reception for the delegates to the ministerial meeting of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization.

July 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS started his day with breakfast with the distinguished Malacañang house guests for the past two days, New Zealand Prime Minister Keith Holyoake and Mrs. Holyoake. The First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, shared the role of host with the President.

The Prime Minister and his wife later bade their hosts goodbye as they departed for home Via Saigon. They left Malacañang at about 9 a.m.

On the occasion of Republic Day, the President issued the following message:

Twenty four years ago today, we emerged as a modern republic from the rubble of war to grow into one of the most stable governments of Asia and in the world.

July 4, 1946 marks the culmination of our long years of relentless struggle to preserve our freedom and independence as a people.

It should not be lost on us that on that day, too, we forged a strong and enduring partnership with the American people in the pursuit of equality and harmony among nations.

Later in the morning, the President officiated at the ceremony conferring on US Army Maj. Gen. Autrey J. Maroun the Philippine Legion of Honor, rank of commander, for his services to the Philippines as chief of the Military Planning Office of SEATO.

The First Lady and Mrs. Maroun along with other prominent guests from Philippine officialdom and the US embassy here attended the ceremony.

The rest of the day was devoted by the President to paper work in his study and conferences with officials on various problems of the country.

While working on state papers, the President:

1. Created an executive committee to act as the advisory body of the FAO Seminar on Measures to Accelerate Benefits from Water Use at the Farm Level, set for October this year in Quezon City.
2. Amended Executive Order No. 233, issued last May 15, creating the "Commission on Population," by making the director of the National Media Production Center (NMPC) a member of the commission.
3. Constituted a three-man committee to look into the feasibility of the government acquiring interests in an oil firm in the country.

July 5—

PRESIDENT MARCOS asked the Monetary Board to authorize, according to law, the opening of dollar accounts by individual depositors in private banks, as an added measure to conserve foreign exchange and keep dollar earnings of Filipinos and other entities in the Philippines within the country.

The President told the Monetary Board that these dollar accounts should be given the same treatment as private deposits made in local currency.

This means, the President explained, that such deposits cannot be touched by the government, but can only be spent by the depositors themselves. To encourage such deposits, the President made clear that as far as the government is concerned, no questions will be asked as to the source of such deposits.

July 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS started the day with his usual state papers to study and act on, but toward noon, he left Malacañang for Camp Crame where he inspected newly-armored vehicles of the Philippine Constabulary.

The rest of his day was filled with conferences, mostly private, with various officials, and callers. In-between, he concentrated on the pile of papers on his desk.

Leaving Malacañang shortly after 11 a.m., the President motored to Camp Crame, in Quezon City, where he looked over the small fleet of PC armored cars. After the inspection, he asked the AFP to design and implement plans for armoring more military jeeps which are usually used by patrol teams in Central Luzon. He said armored cars are needed to reduce the risk of patrols who have to contend with the modern weapons of dissidents.

Returning to Malacañang at 12 noon, the President shortly received Australian Ambassador Francis Hamilton Stuart and Norwegian Ambassador Axel Ivar Lucien Moltke-Hansen, both of whom have completed their tours of duty here as their countries' envoys and are due for reassignment. The ambassadors paid a farewell call on the President.

Among those the President conferred with in private were GSIS General Manager Roman Cruz, Jr., former GSIS General Manager Benjamin del Rosario and Rep. Pablo Roman of Bataan.

Others who called on official business included House Majority Floor-leader Marcelino Veloso, Pangasinan Gov. Tito Primicias, Rep. Jose Puyat and Gov. Recaredo Castillo of Surigao del Sur, and Gov. Salvacion Yñiguez of Southern Leyte.

The President later designated Luis V. Balili as acting chairman of the Board of Examiners for Mechanical Engineering, to fill the post vacated by Tobias P. Marcelo whose term of office had expired; Jose G. Caburian, as acting member of the Mechanical Engineering board, to succeed Clodeveo Soriano whose term had expired; and Mrs. Ligaya D. Perez as acting member of the Board of Examiners in Optometry, to fill the vacancy caused by the termination of the term of Tomas Abesamis. The President also ordered a thorough inquiry into the root causes of disputes over land areas in Mindanao, with a view to finding the means for permanently solving the problem.

Upon the President's instructions, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. flew to Cotabato on a fact-finding trip.

July 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had ample time to devote to state papers with only a limited number of callers on his schedule and with no major conferences with officials.

Among the early callers were William Harding, the incoming United Nations Development Program resident representative here, who paid his respects. He was accompanied by the UNDP deputy resident representative, Gamil Hamby.

Next to see the President were two Filipina beauties from Guam—Florita Ramos who was chosen "Queen of the Marianas;" and Joanne Tai-tano whom the Filipino community in Guam selected as "Miss Sampaguita." They were accompanied by Salvador Peña, executive director of the Philippine Tourist and Travel Association, and a group of Guam Filipinos.

Later in the morning, the President received a mission from the International Secretariat of Entertainment Trade Unions (ISETU), headed by Director General Allan Forest. The group paid a courtesy call on the President following arrival here to organize a regional union affiliated with the ISETU.

Among the group who saw the President were J. D. Thomson, secretary general of the Professional Musicians Union of Australia; Harry Bluck, federal vice president of the same organization; and Colin MacDonald, assistant manager of the Australian Broadcasting Commission.

The group was accompanied by Exequiel Pacis, president of the Philippine Musicians Guild; Alfredo Robles, chairman of the Council of Band Leaders, PMG; and V. J. Buhain.

The President also certified 13 more urgent legislative measures for considerations during the second special session of Congress.

Raoul Beloso, who heads the Small Settlers Commission, also saw the President to discuss matters pertaining to the work of the commission.

In the afternoon and through evening, the President almost exclusively worked on official papers and other state matters requiring his attention and action.

July 8—

President Marcos said that the crash program to establish at least one cooperative in every municipality could spell either failure or success for the economic development of the country.

In extemporaneous remarks before some 150 employees of the Presidential Arm on Community Development (PACD) and the Cooperative Administration Office (CAO), who came to Malacañang from Los Baños where they are taking a course in cooperatives, the President said that cooperatives “are possibly the only salvation of many retarded areas of the economy.”

The President spent a normal day of desk work, receiving callers and holding conferences with officials and other parties.

In the morning, one of the first groups to see the President was that composed of officers of the Agricultural Cooperative League of the Philippines, who came accompanied by Agriculture Undersecretary Arturo Tanco. The group discussed the cooperatives in the agricultural areas of the country.

Later in the day, the President had occasion to pursue this subject further when the PACD and CAO trainees called on the Chief Executive. The group was accompanied by Secretary of Commerce and Industry Ernesto Maceda and CAO Director Virgilio Pagulayan.

Other callers during the day included a delegation of employees of the Rizal Park, who petitioned for a permanent fund to underwrite the payroll and operation expenses of the Park; and Mr. and Mrs. Noble Randolph Woodward of San Diego, California, who paid a courtesy call.

Dean Cesar Concio also saw the President on official business.

The rest of the President’s workday was spent in studying official reports and scanning other state papers.

He signed Executive Order No. 243, which created a National Committee for Mineral Explorations and Survey Operations.

The creation of the new body firmed up further the President’s approval last July 2 of the proposal to create an inter-departmental task force for oil exploration, as well as for a survey of other minerals and geothermal resources.

On the occasion of Republic Day, the President issued the following-message:

Twenty four years ago today, we emerged as a modern republic from the rubble of war to grow into one of the most stable governments of Asia and in the world.

July 4, 1946 marks the culmination of our long years of relentless struggle to preserve our freedom and independence as a people.

It should not be lost on us that on that day, too, we forged a strong and enduring partnership with the American people in the pursuit of equality and harmony among nations.

Later in the morning, the President officiated at the ceremony conferring on US Army Maj. Gen. Autrey J. Maroun the Philippine Legion of Honor, rank of commander, for his services to the Philippines as chief of the Military Planning Office of SEATO.

The First Lady and Mrs. Maroun along with other prominent guests from Philippine officialdom and the US embassy here attended the ceremony.

The rest of the day was devoted by the President to paper work in his study and conferences with officials on various problems of the country.

While working on state papers, the President:

1. Created an executive committee to act as the advisory body of the FAO Seminar on Measures to Accelerate Benefits from Water Use at the Farm Level, set for October this year in Quezon City.
2. Amended Executive Order No. 238, issued last May 15, creating the "Commission on Population," by making the director of the National Media Production Center (NMPC) a member of the commission.
3. Constituted a three-man committee to look into the feasibility of the government acquiring interests in an oil firm in the country.

July 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS discussed the current bank strikes with Secretary of Labor Blas F. Ople in the one conference he had the whole day; had a brief session with a European television reporter; and for a change of pace showed up as co-host at the luncheon given by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, honoring senators and representatives and their ladies.

The rest of his regular day was spent on state papers, among which was the list of appointments he finalized and submitted to the Commission or. Appointments, mostly filling vacancies in the judiciary.

The conference with Secretary Ople was also attended by Labor Relations Director Amado Inciong, Bankers Association President Chester Babst, and Philippine Bank of Commerce President Ramon Cojuangco.

Ople said that the drawn-out strikes in two Manila banks could be sooner settled if management and labor of the said establishments would only sit down and discuss their differences. The President asked him to expedite this conciliation talks.

A little after high noon, the President joined the First Lady and her-guests, composed of senators and representatives and their wives. Also at the luncheon were former President Carlos P. Garcia and Mrs. Garcia.

Early in the afternoon, the President received Dieter Seelman of Monitor Film-UND Fernsehproduktion, based in Humburg, Germany, who asked for an interview to be telecast on the program "Turning Point" The President acceded and submitted to a 30-minute taped session.

The rest of the day was devoted by the President to urgent state business, in the course of which he vested the Commission on National Integration with the sole authority to administer the 1,012 hectares of land reserved for the Higaonon tribes of Agusan, Bukidnon and Misamis Oriental.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: July 10-16, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

July 10—

After working on state papers early in the morning, President Marcos received John Hohenberg, a Columbia University professor. The professor interviewed the President.

At mid-morning the President presided at the ceremony awarding outgoing Norwegian Ambassador Axel Ivar Lucien Moltke-Hansen the Order of Sikatuna, rank of *Lakan*, for services strengthening the ties between Norway and the Philippines.

Present at the rite were ranking Philippine officials led by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo and members of the diplomatic corps.

Towards noon, Datu Ma Falen arrived with his entourage, accompanied by Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile. The Datu, who had earlier surrendered to government authorities, expressly asked to see the President.

During the meeting, the President summoned to a conference on Monday those concerned with the Surallah dispute to thresh out their differences and return conditions in the area to normal.

The President also moved to redress the grievances of the Manobo tribe headed by Datu Ma Falen, assure their security and provide them with a place all their own to live in. He also ordered the officials concerned to bring to justice all those who have violated the laws as an offshoot of the quarrel in the area.

Just before noon, the President inducted Dr. Gerardo Sikat as acting-chairman of the National Economic Council, vice Placido Mapa, Jr., who is director general of the Presidential Economic Staff. Sikat has impressive credentials as an economic scholar and expert.

Shortly after 12 noon, the President sat down to a working luncheon with his financial advisers, including Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata, DBP Chairman Leonides S. Virata, PES Director General Placido Mapa, Jr., CB Gov. Gregorio S. Licaros and Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr.

The President prescribed the procedure in prospecting for and exploiting minerals found in government reservations, other than mining reservations, in an executive order he issued earlier in the morning.

In prescribing the procedure, the President observed that:

1. The economic development programs require the progressive and orderly exploitation of mineral resources wherever these may be found.
2. Surveys conducted by the Bureau of Mines and other government and private entities have revealed the existence of promising mineral deposits in various forest, military and national park reservations.
3. It is possible to exploit the mineral wealth in these reservations without deflecting the purpose for which said reservations were originally created.

The President resumed his desk work in the afternoon and remained at his desk till early evening when he motored to the Cultural Center where he formally opened the exhibit sponsored by the Philippine Institute of Architects.

July 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS adhered strictly to his usual norm of weekend concentration on state papers and other official business requiring study and early action.

Conferring only with officials on urgent matters, the President spent a bigger part of his time alone working at his desk. He did not receive any visitors.

Among others, he issued directives pertaining to the resettlement and rehabilitation of the victims of arson in two barrios of Bantay, Ilocos Sur.

The President also received and scanned reports, notably that of the PES which informed him of the publication of handbook for businessmen interested in investing in Philippine economic development.

The *Investment Handbook* provides facts and figures on Philippine economic, political and social conditions, the direction of government infrastructure expansion, the investment incentives available, as well as the possibilities of government financial assistance.

July 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS continued focusing on paper work, and disposed of other urgent official papers as well as studied reports from various agencies of the government.

He did not receive callers, but made himself available to government officials who consulted him on matters affecting their departments.

One of the reports scanned by the President dealt on land and other disputes in South Cotabato.

He was scheduled to meet with officials of the province on these problems. Also summoned to attend the conference were PANAMIN Secretary Manuel Elizalde, Jr., Secretary of Justice Felix V. Makasiar, Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, and Brig. Gen. Eduardo Garcia, PC chief.

July 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS met with all parties involved in the continuing land and other problems in Surallah, South Cotabato, to thresh out their differences and map out the measures that could be taken to insure peace and order and harmony in the region.

Before the lengthy meeting, the President conferred with Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, Secretary of Justice Felix V. Makasiar and PANAMIN Secretary Manuel Elizalde, Jr.

Those who attended the main conference were Secretary Makasiar, Secretary Enrile, Secretary Elizalde, Rep. James Chiongbian, General Manuel T. Yan, AFP chief of staff; Brig. Gen. Eduardo Garcia, PC chief; South Cotabato Gov. Sergio Morales and provincial commander Lt. Col Cirilo Bueno; Surallah Mayor Jose Sison and Police Chief Melecio Tapispisan, and Datu Manudal Godwino.

Except for a brief interview with newsman Carl Mydans, after the meeting, the President had nothing else on his agenda except paper work, to which he devoted the rest of his work day.

July 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that while the primary mission of today's armies still the defense of their countries, they "must also be productive elements in the enhancement of peaceful pursuits and the betterment of life."

The President was the guest speaker at the closing ceremonies of the air ground gunnery competition between the 405th Fighter Wing of the U.S. 13th Air Force, at the Clark Air Base in Angeles City.

In his speech, the President disclosed that the Philippines, has “successfully experimented with the soldier as a builder.” “Our aim,” he said, “is to make the soldier as much a part of our society as the civilian is, shouldering not a rifle alone but the same burdens that the plain citizen bears—the burdens of nation-building.”

Continuing, the President said of the military: “They must be knowledgeable about so many scholarly disciplines, including politics, economics and technology, not to mention psychology and human relations. Soldiers must be fighters as well as technicians.”

To be able to fulfill their primary defense mission, he stated the armed forces “must constantly hone their skills, constantly seek to elevate the standards of professionalism, constantly upgrade their readiness for field duty.”

“Only those who can wear the badge of excellence may be called true soldiers,” the President concluded.

The President arrived at Clark Air Base at about 9:40 a.m., with his son, Ferdinand (Bongbong) Jr., coming along as an interested observer.

The President was originally scheduled to fly to the base but was forced to go by car because of inclement weather.

The President proceeded direct to the base airfield where U.S. embassy and military officials headed by Ambassador Henry Byroade and Lt. Gen. McNickle, the Air Base commander, awaited him.

After acknowledging the ruffles and flourishes offered by an honor guard, the President was escorted to Kelly Theatre where the ceremonies were held.

At the four-day gunnery competition, the Philippine Air Force contingent won four out of six trophies, including the coveted President Marcos trophy for over-all group championship.

After refreshments at the base officers club, the President and his party motored back to Manila. He arrived at the Palace shortly after 1 p.m.

After a late lunch, the President had a brief rest.

At about 3:30 p.m., the President started working in his private study, in the course of which he directed the National Water and Air Pollution Control Commission (NWAPCC) to submit immediately a pollution control program, as well as guidelines for its implementation.

He broke off at 5:30 p.m. to receive representatives of the striking jeepney drivers, who were accompanied to Malacañang by Secretary of Labor Blas F. Ople and their legal counsel, Lupino Lazaro.

The President succeeded in prevailing on the drivers to call off their strike, and assured them, that he would actively seek a reduction in the price of gasoline, the main issue of the strike.

He also ordered a study of the proposal of the jeepney drivers for the establishment of cooperative gasoline stations, to be owned and run by jeepney drivers.

July 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS held three conferences which he fitted into his day’s schedule, while also coping with his usual heavy paper work.

Topped by a three-hour caucus with NP members of Congress, the other meetings had to do with the move by the gasoline dealers to close shop as protest against the oil companies' high prices; and with the petitions of a new group of government employees seeking greater representation in governmental activities.

In the NP caucus, the President discussed the legislative program of the administration, urging specially a more 'aggressive NP effort to pass pending urgent bills.

Also present at this meeting were members of the Cabinet. Among the prominent NPs attending were Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., Speaker Protempore Jose Aldeguer and House Majority Floorleader Marcelino Veloso.

Earlier the President received a delegation representing gasoline dealers in Greater Manila, led by Col. Emiliano Ozaeta. The President prevailed upon the dealers to continue operations while he threshed out their differences with the oil companies. Secretary of Commerce and Industry Ernesto Maceda accompanied the group.

The employees' group was led by Romeo Roy, president of the newly organized Philippine Alliance of Government Employees. The delegation sought representation in the GSIS and the SSS boards, while also proposing a 35 percent across-the-board pay increase for civil servants. The President said that he will study their proposals.

After the caucus with the NP congressmen, which ended at about 3 p.m., the President rested briefly, then went back to his study to work on state papers. He remained at his desk through the afternoon and evening.

July 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS conferred with executives of local oil companies and representatives of cement manufacturers.

The President also received provincial delegations who apprised him of problems in their respective localities.

In response to his appeal for assistance to dealers of gasoline and other oil products, as well as to drivers of buses and jeepneys, the oil executives assured the President that they will meet their dealers and find out their needs and problems, and extend help.

The President also discussed with the gasoline executives a plan to put up a trust fund to which the oil companies will contribute some ₱5 million. The fund will provide hospitalization and other benefits for drivers of public conveyances.

In his meeting with cement manufacturers, the President was briefed on the problems of the industry, particularly the problems related to exportation.

The cement men are eyeing export deals in view of the inability of the domestic market to absorb local production.

The President directed Chairman Leonides S. Virata of the Development Bank of the Philippines and Governor Gregorio S. Licaros of the Central Bank to sit down with the cement manufacturers and work out solutions to the problems of the industry, including over-production.

Rep. Ali Dimaporo of Lanao del Norte led a delegation of mayors from his province to see the President. The mayors sought assistance for their respective municipalities.

The President received callers until 1:30 p.m., with the delegations headed by Gov. Henry Regalado of Misamis Occidental and Gov. Virgil Lacaya of Zamboanga del Norte among the last batch to see him.

The group of gasoline executives which met with the President in the morning was composed of S. O. Abellera of Getty, J. J. Wolahan and Francis Ablan of Caltex, Lucio Mazzei of Shell, Ramon del Rosario and Jose Chuidian of Filoil. William Potts of Esso and Robert Wales of Mobil.

The group of cement manufacturers included Jesus Cabarrus of Island Cement, Ramon del Rosario of Bacnotan, Eduardo Escobar of Filipinas, Aurelio Montinola, Jr. of Republic and Vicente Ponce of Mindanao Cement.

Among other actions, the President forwarded to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation 69 nominations to posts in the judiciary and the Land Registration Commission, mostly to fill existing vacancies in the two agencies.

Of the nominees, four are slated for municipal judgeship, three are clerks of court; 55 as chairman or members of provincial and city boards of assessment appeals, and seven as Registers of Deeds. (See pages for list of Nominees.)

The President also approved the 88 appointments to the regular force of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Of those appointed, one is as captain in the corps of professors; 10 are first lieutenants in the judge advocate general's service, medical corps, dental service, and chaplain service; 64 are second lieutenants in the Philippine Army, Philippine Constabulary, Philippine Air Force, Nurse Corps, and Medical Corps; and eight are ensigns in the Philippine Navy.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: July 17-23, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

July 17—

PRESIDENT MARCOS worked most of the day on state papers with only-one important meeting, that with members of the House ways and means committee headed by Rep. Natalio P. Castillo.

The committee called on him in the morning to discuss the Corporate Income Tax bill, to which an alternate measure was proposed by Internal Revenue Commissioner Misael Vera, which would embody the provision that business corporations be grouped into specific categories for the purpose of systematizing the payment of taxes.

The conference also took up other pending administration measures in Congress, with an eye to speeding up congressional action on them.

Among those at the meeting were Reps. Artemio Loyola of Davao del Sur, Roberto Montelibano of Negros Occidental, Felipe Almazan of Kalinga-Apayao, Pablo Roman of Bataan, Lorenzo Sarmiento of Davao del Norte, Andres Cosalan of Benguet, Mariano Pefiaflorida of Iloilo, Roberto Diokno of Batangas, Herminio Teves of Negros Oriental, Gaudencio Beduya of Cebu, Roberto Sabido of Albay, Jose M. Alberto of Catanduanes, Marcelino Veloso of Leyte and Jose Neri of Camiguin.

The rest of his working day was devoted to official capers, the volume of which necessitated a proxy for a speech the President had earlier set at the blessing and unveiling rites in Muntinlupa prisons, in connection with the commemoration of political prisoners who died at the national penitentiary during World War II. Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile read the President's speech which called on Filipinos who value their freedom to stand fast against the encroachment of an alien ideology.

The President remained at his desk through the evening. He had no other visitors on his schedule.

July 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS called on the private sector to assume a bigger share of the necessary task of informing the public of important issues and events, adding, however, that this duty must be performed "honestly and truthfully."

The President underscored the importance of information in a speech delivered at the annual convention of the Radio-TV Federation of the Philippines this morning, at the opening ceremonies held at the DBP auditorium, in Makati, Rizal.

He pointed out the need for constant communication with the people, particularly on the aims of government, "if we are to expect a high quality and degree of mass support, which alone can make possible democratic growth."

The President stressed that the underlying element needed to fulfill the people's aspirations is unity; first, a unity of purpose, then a unity of effort.

However, he said, to discover the purpose there must be a consensus which only a full understanding of the problems and the resources of the nation can bring about.

On returning to Malacañang near noon, the President resumed his paperwork. Among others, he ordered the NBI to probe new reports of violence in Ilocos Sur, in connection with the Bantay case; and dashed off a letter to Manila Mayor Antonio J. Villegas, in response to a published request by Villegas for the turnover of the city's esteros to city hall. In his letter, the President said that only Congress can authorize such turnover.

The President worked through the afternoon and evening at his desk, except for a brief moment of rest. He did not receive any visitors.

July 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that the primary target of the administration now is the development of a well-balanced agro-industrial economy.

The President told a visiting political science professor that the country is now engaged in the task of increasing and diversifying exports and decreasing imports.

The President said that with the stoppage of car imports the government expects to encourage local car assemblers to put up local plants to use local materials wherever possible in the assembly of cars.

Later, the President held the first conference of the air with student leaders and local government officials to discuss national and local problems.

The conference which was conducted through the facilities of the ABS-CBN radio was participated in by, among others, Manila Mayor Antonio Villegas, Mayors Angel Tiongco of Sta. Rosa, Laguna and Floro Roxas of Limay, Bataan, and Edgar Jopson of the National Union of Students of the Philippines, with Johnny de Leon as moderator.

During the conference, the President discussed with the conferees the improvement of the quality of education and the school problems in general, the flood control plans for Manila, and the release of funds for public works.

July 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had ample time to whittle down the pile of state papers on his desk, with his schedule, totally clear of visitors.

He concentrated on studying reports from various officials and agencies, assessing various recommendations on appointments to vacant posts, and otherwise coping with state document and concerns.

Among other reports, he received one from Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. on the proposal for an extended survey of geothermal resources in Tiwi, Albay, and ordered a wider survey to include other areas where the same sources may be found and harnessed to development programs.

The President designated Jesus L. Reyna as acting chairman of the Board of Examiners for Master Plumbers, thus completing the composition of the board in time for the examinations scheduled by the board for plumber's.

Through the day, the President remained at his desk, seeing only close aides and officials for consultation.

July 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS underscored the need for cooperation and understanding among Asian nations, in a speech delivered at the ceremonies laying the cornerstone of the Asian Reinsurance Building in Makati, Rizal.

"We must increasingly break down barriers of communication, fear and mistrust," he told the audience which included representatives of 12 Asian insurance firms and governments, counting the Philippines, adding that the "tension that have convulsed our continent should be healed and understanding should be made to flow throughout the region."

Regional cooperation, he said, is the concern not only of Asian governments but of the Asian peoples, and should be the goal of both the state and private business.

Starting the day with his usual session with official papers, the President at about mid-morning hied himself to the ceremonial room to receive the papers of the new Australian envoy to the Philippines, Ambassador James Charles Ingram.

In his remarks, the President noted the remarkable rapport between Australia and the Philippines, in the pursuit of common objectives designed to strengthen regional defense and cooperation. He also thanked Australia for the training it has given Filipinos in various industrial skills under the Colombo Plan.

After the formalities, the President relaxed with the Little League Baseball Team of the Philippines, who called to pay its respects before leaving to participate in a series of games to pick the Pacific Area representative to the world championship series in the US.

The team members, accompanied by Felipe Monserrat, ranged in age 9-to-12, and included Salvador Salacup, Jimmy Bunaga, Armando Bunye, Elpidio Calinagan, Ramiro Carlos, Napoleon Esteban, Alejandro Prudo, Hermogenes Geli, Rolando Pacujan, Luisito Tolentino, Jr., Jesus de Mesa, Ramon Estipular, Fernando Dalmacio and Ramon Altaveros.

The President asked the baseball sprites to be as topflight goodwill ambassadors for their country as they should be first-rate baseballers.

Aside from receiving an array of callers, notably Gov. Anacleto Alcala of Quezon province, the President inducted Vice Gov. Ramon Villalon, Jr. as acting governor of La Union while Gov. Juvenal Guerrero is abroad for about three months.

Among those who witnessed the ceremony were Sen. Magnolia Antonino, Reps. Jose D. Aspiras and Joaquin Ortega, Mrs. Villalon, and close friends and relatives of the Villalons.

In the afternoon, the President interrupted his desk work to be guest of honor at the laying of the cornerstone of the Asian Reinsurance Building in Makati, Rizal.

In the evening, the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, honored Asian insurance commissioners and local insurance executives at a simple reception.

July 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS followed more or less his usual daily schedule, which begins with a protracted early morning stint at his desk, to scan the papers piled up for the day and act on them. Then he begins receiving the callers listed on his schedule.

First among those to see the President in the morning was US Ambassador Henry Byroade who discussed matters of mutual interest to the US and the Philippines. The hour-long meeting was held behind close doors.

The President later received the special mission of the Department of Labor scheduled to depart for countries in Asia and the Pacific, and as far afield as the US West Coast and two cities in Canada, to contact Filipino workers and explain the advantages of the dollar remittance plan of the government as well as the dollar deposits in major RP banks, recently approved for adoption.

The mission members who saw the President were Labor Undersecretary Raoul Inocentes, mission chairman; Alfredo V. Antiporda of the Central Bank, Isidoro M. Villanos of the Philippine National Bank and Cresencio M. Siddayao of the Department of Labor.

Then the President inducted J. B. Tagorda as deputy commissioner of public highways, filling a long vacant post.

The President also designated Secretary of Education Onofre D. Corpuz chairman of the Commission on Population. The commission was created by the President last May to formulate program recommendations relating to the economic and social development of the country.

Other callers received by the President were Reps. Artemio Loyola of Davao del Sur, Eduardo Gullas of Cebu and Pablo Malasarte of Bohol who came with Gov. Lino Chacto of the same province.

The officials consulted with the President on their respective local problems.

The rest of the President's working day was spent at his desk.

He directed the National Library officials to assist in the organization or strengthening of libraries maintained by offices of the executive department.

In his directive, the President pointed out the need for the maximum use and maintenance of libraries serving offices under the executive department.

He particularly instructed the National Library officials to look into the proper acquisitioning, accessioning, circulation, and preservation of books, periodicals, and other publications purchased with government funds.

Later in the afternoon, the President approved the commissions given to 14 individuals in the reserve force of the Philippine Navy, as well as the promotions for 238 inactive reserve officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The commissioned navy officers are graduates of the Naval Officer's Qualifications Course.

Of the AFP reserve officers promoted, six are to the rank of lieutenant colonel, 91 to major, 68 to captain and 73 to first lieutenant.

July 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS gave more than a little of his time to the consideration of such high priority concerns as the establishment of a free trade zone, meeting Free Trade Zone Authority officials for the purpose; and the still pending administration measures in Congress, all of which are deemed essential to development and better government, and for which purpose he met with Congress leaders.

Apart from these meetings, and the ceremonies this morning at which Minister James Wilson of the US embassy here was conferred an award, the President as usual was engaged mostly by his desk work.

At simple rites in Malacañang, the President conferred on Minister Wilson the Order of Sikatuna, rank of *Maginoo*, for distinctive services in the field of international relations, and for personal achievements in furthering the; interests of both the Filipino and American peoples in the course of discharging his duties.

Witnessing the award presentation were the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, and members of Minister Wilson's family, ranking diplomatic and foreign office officials.

At the meeting to discuss the pending bills in Congress, the President decided to call a caucus of leaders of both chambers tomorrow in Malacañang.

In the meeting with the FTZA officials, headed by Chairman Rolando Geotina, the President suggested that private landowners be persuaded to sell their lands to industrial establishments, and that the FTZA should explore coordinated activities with other government economic agencies.

The President told Geotina and Commissioner Teodoro Peña to confer with officials of the National Economic Council, the Presidential Economic Staff and the Board of Investments on the formulation of rules and regulations and the zonification of the area, taking into account:

- 1) The four-year economic development program;
- 2) The availability of funds; and
- 3) The priorities approved by the Board of Investments.

The rest of the President's working day was taken up by state papers, among them new appointments to vacant posts which he approved; and a number of directives to various offices.

The Chief Executive forwarded to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation the nominations of appointees to municipal judgeship and clerks of court.

The nominees include 12 for municipal judges, one auxiliary judge and three clerks of court. (*See p. 6987 for list of nominees.*)

The President directed officials concerned to lay down the mechanics for possible acquisition by the government of landed estates in exchange for shares of stocks in state corporations, a means eyed for hastening implementation of the land reform program.

Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. informed the President that he has been sounded out by certain big landowners in Tarlac, who said they were willing to swap their lands for shares in government corporations.

Some state corporations which could swap shares of lands include Manila Gas Corporation, the National Development Company, the National Power Corporation, and the National Waterworks and Sewerage Authority.

The President also directed the banning of all firearms in the premises of the Manila International Airport.

He also ordered that tourists be allowed to visit Nayong Pilipino even if they are in transit.

The Chief Executive issued the twin directives to Customs Commissioner Rolando Geotina and to the heads of government agencies with offices at the MIA, including the Bureau of Quarantine, Civil Aeronautics Administration, Bureau of Immigration, Office of the Airport Manager, and to all police units.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: July 24-30, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

July 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS devoted most of his morning working hours to a conference on legislative matters with leaders of both chambers of Congress. The meeting considered how urgent bills still pending in Congress could be more speedily acted on before the session is adjourned.

Present at the caucus, which lasted three hours, were Senate President Gil J. Puyat, Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., Senate President Protempore Jose J. Roy, Speaker Protempore Jose Aldeguer, Senate Majority Floor-leader Arturo M. Tolentino, House Majority Floorleader Marcelino Veloso;

Senators Emmanuel Pelaez, Wenceslao R. Lagumbay and Helena Z. Benitez: Reps. Jose M. Alberto, Carlos Imperial, Tito Dupaya, Joaquin Rocas, Rogaciano Mercado, Natalio P. Castillo, Artemio Al. Loyola and Frisco San Juan.

Also present were Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchcr, Jr., Central Bank Gov. Gregorio S. Licaros, Undersecretary of Finance Pio de Roda, and Angel Yoinco, executive director of the Joint Legislative-Executive Tax Commission.

In the afternoon, the President devoted most of his time to paper work. He received no visitors.

He remained at his desk through evening studying reports and disposing of urgent state business brought to his attention.

Among other actions, the President:

1. Directed Brig. Gen. Eduardo Garcia, PC chief, to identify and arrest the gunmen who ambushed Ifugao Gov. Gualberto B. Lumauig and his party last night, while on their way back to Lagawe.
2. Wired PANAMIN Secretary Manuel Elizalde, Jr., to "bring to Malacañang as soon as possible" the Manobo chief, Datu Manpatilan, who has signified willingness to surrender to the authorities.

Manpatilan is facing murder charges for the alleged massacre of 14 lumberjacks in Esperanza Agusau del Sur, on August 21, 1968. He has been in hiding since.

3. Submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation the nominations of 39 national, provincial and city officials. (*See pp. 7153-7155 for list of nominees.*)

July 25—

After going through a sheaf of state papers on his desk early in the morning, President Marcos received a group of lawyers representing various legal aid organizations.

The lawyers took up with the President the problems of counsel encountered by poor citizens, and during the discussion of the question, the President suggested that all existing legal aid groups be integrated into a single organization so that as such it can better serve the poor and the ignorant who go to court for redress or to protect their rights.

Present at the meeting were Sen. Salvador II. Laurel, Juan T. David, Gonzalo Gonzales, Crispin Baisas and Juan L. Luna of the Philippine Bar Association and the CLASP, Teresita Sison of WILOCI, Rodolfo Palattao of the Capitol Jaycees, Cresencio Magbag of the Knights of Columbus, Roger Garcia of San Beda, and Raul Roque, Rodolfo Jimenez, Roger Cortez, Romy Vicente, Jose Cardona, Cesar Uy and Francisco Reyes of the Ateneo Legal Aid Center.

The rest of the day was spent by the President on state papers, except for a long break in mid-afternoon when he presided at a meeting of AFP brass at the GHQ building in Camp Aguinaldo.

One of the directives which the President issued from his desk was the order to the AFP to build parks within military reservations, both to preserve vanishing Philippine flora and to provide people with recreation areas which emphasize the natural beauty of the country.

July 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS concentrated on measures aimed at firming up certain developmental programs, notably those on Central Luzon and on trade and industry. He did not receive visitors the whole day.

He also asked Vice President Fernando Lopez, concurrent secretary of agricultural and natural resources, to take a direct hand in the settling of disputes particularly those involving rights on lands and other natural resources of the country.

The President likewise asked the Vice President to involve deeply all the appropriate agencies inside and outside of his department, simultaneous with the consolidation of all legal aid clinics.

To make more effective the implementation of programs in Central Luzon, the President reconstituted the executive committee of the Central Luzon Development Program (CLDP), as he appointed the three members of the committee.

To stress the government's policy to accelerate the development of trade and industry as a vital factor in the growth of the country's economy, the President issued a proclamation declaring the period from 1970 to 1980 as "Buy Filipino Decade."

The President said the government is intensifying efforts to industrialize and expand trade, especially the exportation of locally finished products.

"Made-in-the-Philippines" products, the President pointed out, have acquired appreciable quality comparable to imported goods.

At this stage of the nation's development, the President stressed, "it is important to stimulate greater patriotism among our industrialists, manufacturers, institutions and people to take pride in our own products."

The proclamation of "Buy Filipino Decade" was requested by the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines which has initiated the nationwide movement for the patronization of locally made goods.

July 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS took time out from his voluminous paper work to meet at length with workers' unions of the Philippine Air Lines and the Manila South Harbor, at a time when the workers of the said unions were on the verge of calling a strike because of unresolved disputes with management.

Accompanied by Secretary of Labor Blas F. Ople and Labor Relations Director Amado Inciong, the representatives of the embattled workers sat clown with the President to thresh out the alternatives to a strike.

Happily, the President succeeded in putting off the projected strikes, after appealing to the workers' civic-spiritedness, and promising to intercede in their behalf with their respective management.

Involved in the disputes were the employees and pilots, associations of PAL, and the members of the Association of Pier Checkers and Workers.

Among those at the conference were Capt. Felix Gaston, president of the PAL Pilots Association; Fortunate Biangco, president of the PAL Employees Association and other PALEA officials including Roberto Espinelli, Edgar Lubiano, Socorro Remulla, Eddie Miranda, Dominador Obillo, Genaro Gonzalez, Leoncio Saranilla, Amando Regala, Hernando Guevara, Agustin Sarto, Nicanor Gustilo, Felix Garlitos, Leonardo R. arang, Andres Datinguinoo, Domingo Solomon and Arternio Lopez; and Ricardo Manalad and Ramon Oliveros, president and secretary, respectively, of the Association of Fort Checkers and Workers at South Harbor.

With his paper work getting priority, the President pared down his schedule of callers to only a few, notably Gen. Jesus Vargas (ret.), secretary general of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization, who paid a farewell call prior to his departure for his post in Bangkok tomorrow. The SEATO official was here for the Council of Ministers meeting of the organization.

The only other caller was Alden Whitman, *New York Times* correspondent, who spent two weeks travelling in the country with Gen. Charles Lindbergh (ret.), visiting settlements and communities of the nation's cultural minorities. The *Times* man interviewed the President.

The rest of the President's working day was devoted to his desk work, from which, among others, issued two proclamations:

1. Declaring Wednesday, August 19 this year, as a special public holiday in Quezon Province and in the cities of Lucena and Quezon, on the occasion of the 92nd birth anniversary of the late President Manuel L. Quezon. The 19th of August of every year is as Citizenship Day, under proclamation No. 331 dated August 4, 1952.

2. Declaring the period from August 2 to 8 this year, and every year thereafter, as Land Reform Week. It was on August 8, 1953 that the present Agricultural Land Reform Code became law, which the President described as a "great stride in breaking the inequitable system of landholding in the Philippines."

He also issued an order adding three new members to the executive committee taking charge of the Colombo Plan meeting here, as well as forwarded to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation four new nominations to judicial positions.

July 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS received several callers and held conferences with various officials, while also doing a lot of paper work, all in all chalking up a rather unusually active day.

Early in the morning, he received Japanese Ambassador Toshio Urabe who discussed matters of mutual interest to the Philippines and Japan.

After this meeting and a spell of desk work, the President received Rev. and Mrs. Richard Wurmbrand, who came with radio reporter Hann Browne and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Magbanua of Radio DZFE. The Rumanian pastor recounted to the President his experiences as a victim of communism and outlined his present mission of enlightening people on communism's danger.

Much later in the morning, the President held a closed door conference with Placido Mapa, Jr., PES director-general; Central Bank Gov. Gregorio S. Licaros, DBP Chairman Leonides S. Virata, Sixto K. Roxas, and Cesar Zalamea. Financial and economic matters were taken up.

Notable among the President's callers were Mrs. Ester Sinsuat, wife of Blah Sinsuat of Cotabato, who discussed the peace and order situation in that region; and Gov. Francisco Nepomuceno of Pampanga who consulted the President on problems of that province.

The rest of the President's work day was devoted to official papers, among which were new nominees to key posts which he sent on to the Commission on Appointments; proclamations, executive orders and memoranda.

Of the nominees four were for provincial fiscal, 49 for assistant provincial fiscal, four for city fiscal, 32 for assistant city fiscal and one for district state prosecutor. (*See* pp. 7153-7155 for list of nominees.

The proclamations and directives issued were:

1. Proclamation No. 722, declaring the period from July 27 to August 2 as "Filipino Businessmen's Week."
2. Proclamation No. 720, which extends up to August 31 this year the period within which the Philippine Cancer Society, Inc., may conduct a national educational, membership and fund campaign.
3. Executive Order No. 244, amending Executive Order No. 168 of February 5, 1969, entitled, "Creating a Small Farmers Commission.
4. Memorandum Circular No. 371, issued by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., on the President's authority, enjoining all government agencies to submit reports and/or position papers on problem areas and important issues.
5. Ordered the Philippine Virginia Tobacco Administration to see to it that all tobacco produce of the North this year—estimated at 30 million. kilos—should be marketed to private buyers and that no quantity of such produce should be allowed to go to

waste.

The President specified that the purchase period of this produce should continue until September 15 without any single centavo spent by the government for any purchase.

July 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS received a group of Datus from Agusan and Davao, notably Datu Manpatilan of Agusan, who has been in the news allegedly as the man behind the killing of some lumberjacks. The Datu denied this.

After this meeting, the President's next visitor was Dr. Melquiades Gamboa, who took up specific matters.

The President as usual carried on his paper work, and in the afternoon he again sat down for a conference on land problems, particularly those affecting national minorities and small settlers, with Vice President Fernando Lopez and other officials.

It was decided that Vice President Lopez will have direct control and administration of the agencies involved with the resolution of land disputes and other problems affecting- settlers, minorities and small farmers.

Others at the conference were Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Undersecretaries Isosceles Pascual of natural resources, Arturo Tarico, Jr. of agriculture, Guillermo Santos of justice and Efen Plana of national defense; Directors Jose Viado of forestry and Fernando Busuego of mines; CNI Commissioner Mama Sinsuat; Land Authority Gov. Conrado Estrella, Brig. Gen. Eduardo Garcia and Datu Manpatilan.

In an effort to coordinate government operations against unfair trade practices the President reorganized the Fair Trade Board, vesting it with greater powers and authority “in consonance with the demands of the times.”

The board’s reorganization was prompted by the serious increase in cases of imitation products, alteration and substitution of lawful trademarks and trade names, misbranding, mislabelling, fraudulent designation of origin, false description, adulteration, fraudulent refilling of empty containers and other methods of unfair business competition and. unethical trade practices.

Also noted were increased violations of laws against “monopolies and combinations in restraint of trade,” such as collusion in price fixing, conspiracies to prevent by artificial means free competition in the market, and transactions prejudicial to lawful commerce.

As constituted, the new Fair Trade Board will be composed of the Secretary of Commerce and Industry as chairman; the Undersecretary of Justice as vice chairman; and the chairman of the Price Control Council, commissioner of customs, commissioner of internal revenue, the food and drug administrator, the chief of the Philippine Constabulary, and the presidents of the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Consumers Union of the Philippines, and the Chamber of Filipino Retailers as members.

The director of commerce will be the secretary and executive officer of the board.

Among other actions, the President directed the Philippine Virginia Tobacco Administration to start paying this year its indebtedness of ₱300 million to the Agricultural Credit Administration and the Central Bank.

The President said payment of this indebtedness should be completed within three years with at least ₱50 million to be paid immediately this year.

July 30—

PRESIDENT MARCOS held conferences with the Price Control Council and provincial delegations which called at Malacañang.

Between conferences, he worked on papers during which he signed the nominations of new officials, for confirmation by the Commission on Appointments; issued an executive order creating the Development Management Staff in his office and designated Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., as acting chairman of the Power Development Council.

The mission of the Development Management Staff (DMS) is primarily to upgrade functions that are connected with national development and to meet crisis-situations. As created, the DMS is headed by the executive secretary, who has immediate and direct supervision and control over it.

Nominated by the President were Ernesto Bello Cachola as municipal judge of Lugalit, Misamis Oriental and Angel Babiera as provincial fiscal of Zamboanga del Sur.

The President also issued an administrative order exonerating former Register of Deeds Timoteo D. Agustin of Tarlac of an administrative charge and created a committee to determine priorities in the settlement of claims against the armed forces.

At his conference with the Price Control Council, Dr. Manuel Lim, Council chairman, reported on the progress made on the fixing of maximum selling prices of essential commodities. Dr. Lim assured the President that prices of books and school supplies had not risen more than 100 per cent.

The President received visitors until 3:30 p.m.

A delegation from Cotabato apprised the President of problems in their province. Accompanied by Commissioner Mama Sinsuat of National Integration, the group included Gov. Simeon Datumanong and Board Members Doroteo Palencia, Madpantao Dilangalen and Ishak Ampatuan.

Among other delegations at Malacañang were those from Surigao del Norte headed by Rep. Constantino Navarro, from Albay led by Rep. Roberto Sabido and from Masbate led by Rep. Emilio Espinosa, Jr., and Gov. Moises Espinosa.

The President asked Congress to pass before the end of the current special session a bill appropriating ₱30 million for the implementation of the increase of the minimum wage or salary of national government employees, as provided for under Republic Act No. 6129 otherwise known as the Minimum Wage Law.

Approval of the bill will make possible the new salary rates for government employees effective July 1, 1970.

Certifying the bill to Congress, the President said that the funds for this purpose are expected to come from the additional revenue that will be realized under the tariff classification “Others,” upon approval of House Bill No. 1056.

Some ₱90 million in revenue was expected to come from this source.

The new minimum wage law, which was approved by Congress during’ the last special session, was approved by the President last June 17.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: July 31 – August 6, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

July 31—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered the Department of Labor and the Anti-Smuggling Action Center to make separate inquiries into the number of workers that may be displaced when the Paper Industries Corporation of the Philippines (PICOP) takes over the disputed area claimed by the Calo logging interests in Agusan.

The President also directed the two offices to ascertain whether any party is instigating trouble in the area.

The President had a number of callers in the morning.

Among those he received were:

1. Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata who reported on his mission abroad. Virata arrived earlier in the morning after two weeks abroad.
2. Australian Parliament Member Neil Brown, who is here on a fact-finding tour. The Aussie solon paid a courtesy call.
3. Rep. Nicanor Yñiguez, who discussed problems of his constituency.
4. John Reuther, son of the American labor leader Victor Reuther, who was passing through from Moscow, where he studied for two years. He also paid a courtesy call, accompanied by Secretary of Labor Blas F. Ople and Robert Kinney.

The President also submitted to the Commission on Appointments more nominees to various posts, including foreign service positions, judgeships and other posts in the judiciary. (*See* p. 7344-0 for list of nominees.)

Later in the afternoon, he asked Chairman Vicente Paterno of the Board of Investments to coordinate with the National Water and Air Pollution Control Commission in processing applications for the establishment of new industries.

The President directed Paterno to clear all BOI applicants with the NWAPCC so as “to determine whether they have anti-pollution devices.”

August 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent most of the morning in conference with leaders of Congress, as the current special session looked forward to adjournment at midnight.

The President urged the leaders to expedite passage of all important bills he had certified, pointing out the importance of the proposed Measures to the various programs of government.

Present at the conference were Senate President Gil J. Puyat, Spaker Jose P. Laurel, Jr., Senate President Protempore Jose J. Roy, Speaker Protempore Jose Aldeguer, Senate Majority Floorleader Arturo M. Tolentino,

House Majority Floorleader Marcelino Veloso, Sen. Wenceslao R. Lagumbay, Reps. Jose Alberto and Natalio P. Castillo, Secretary of Justice Felix V. Makasiar, Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile and Press Secretary Francisco S. Tatad.

In the afternoon, the President presided at the ceremony launching Land Reform Week, which was featured by the signing of an agreement putting up a pilot project in Nueva Ecija which will lead the way toward wider land reform and increased productivity for farmers under the land reform program.

Present at the rites were Nueva Ecija Governor Eduardo Joson; Reps. Leopoldo Diaz and Angel Concepcion, Jr., both of that province; Agriculture Undersecretary Isosceles Pascual, former Sen. Manuel P. Manahan, president of the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement; Dean Jeremias Montemayor, president of the Federation of Free Farmers of the Philippines; LA Deputy Governor Ernesto Valdez and Hector Moreno of the Rice and Corn Administration, all participating in the project as advisors; US-AID Director Thomas Niblock, whose agency is providing \$500,000 to meet the project's foreign exchange needs.

Aside from these two activities, the President confined himself to desk work. Among others, he approved the deportation of three foreign nationals considered undesirable; and submitted the nomination of Secretary of Justice Felix V. Makasiar as associate justice of the Supreme Court to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation.

The President worked at his desk through the afternoon and a good part of the evening.

August 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, in keeping with an agreement reached with congressional leaders earlier, called Congress to a third special session starting 10 a.m., September 7.

The President agreed with leaders of Congress to give priority to 12 "must bills" among which are those:

- 1) Giving the President authority to borrow from foreign sources.
- 2) Providing for a peace and order fund.
- 3) Authorizing the sale of certain military camps.
- 4) Amending the tariff and customs code.
- 5) Providing for a system of developing cooperatives.
- 6) Increasing the capitalization of the Philippine National Bank.
- 7) Consolidating and revising the charter of the National Power Corporation.
- 8) Abolishing the National Waterworks and Sewerage Authority.

The President and Congress leaders have also agreed that the congressional recess will be devoted to exhaustive studies of the must bills, and that there will be periodic caucuses to discuss the measures.

Except for former Secretary of Justice Felix V. Makasiar and Dean Vicente Abad Santos whom he inducted as associate justice of the Supreme Court and secretary of justice, respectively, the President did not receive any other callers.

The appointment of Justice Makasiar has been confirmed by the Commission on Appointments. The incoming justice secretary was extended an *ad interim* appointment by the President.

The oath-taking ceremonies, held at the Malacañang reception hall, were witnessed by, among others, congressional leaders headed by Senate President Gil J. Puyat, justices of the Supreme Court led by Chief Justice Roberto

Concepcion, other officials of the judiciary, members of the Cabinet, close kin and relatives of the inductees and prominent members of the Philippine bar.

Among other actions, the President ordered that studies be made on the feasibility of relocating all squatters and illegal occupants along esteros and river banks, especially along the Pasig River, as a means of meeting the pollution problems.

At the same time, the President asked Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco to provide the necessary funds for the dredging of the Pasig River, from its mouth on Manila Bay to the San Juan River junction, as a necessary measure to control pollution of the said river.

In relation to this, the President also directed Public Works Director Alejandro Deleña to prepare a program of priorities for the dredging of the Pasig River.

The President also created a committee to study, formulate and implement plans for flood control in the Greater Manila area.

He gave the committee headed by Secretary of Public Works and Communications Manul B. Syquiao, the responsibility of finding ways and means of solving the recurrent problems of flood control.

August 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS met with local and national officials, as well as other parties concerned, to discuss peace and order conditions in several areas of Mindanao and Sulu.

At the meeting, the President issued directives to reconcile political partisans in Sulu; and to protect the rights and insure freedom from harassment of national minorities in Agusan del Sur and Cotabato.

Present at the meeting were Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, Justice Undersecretary Guillermo Santos, PANAMIN Secretary Manda Elizalde, Agriculture Undersecretary Arturo Tanco, Jr., Rep. Democrito O. Plaza, Sen. Jose W. Diokno who is counsel for Manpatilan, Gov. Rufino Otero, Provincial Fiscal Antonio Apale, PC Provincial Commander Col. Jose Castillo, Datu Manpatilan, and representatives of Tirador Lumber, P. B. de Jesus Timber, and Republic Lumber Company.

In the evening, the President was guest of honor at the kick-off ceremonies launching the Presidential Cup series which is aimed at raising funds to support the Filipino teams at the forthcoming Asian Game in South Korea. In his speech, the President underlined the administration program to upgrade sports in the country.

The President also welcomed a contingent of basketball players from Czechoslovakia participating in the current Presidential Cup series.

In welcoming the Czechs, the President announced that his decision to allow the entry and participation of the Czech team, the first from any Socialist country in Eastern Europe, was intended to promote better relations between the Philippines and these countries, especially Czechoslovakia.

The rest of his workday was devoted to state, papers and other government problems.

Among others, the President:

1. Issued Administrative Order No. 230, creating the Philippine National Committee for the Freedom From Hunger Campaign.

The committee was created in consonance with the worldwide campaign against hunger, launched by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations on July 1, 1960.

2. Proclaimed Sunday, August 9, as “Melchor Day” in Ibaday Aldan.

The day marks the anniversary of the birth of the late Col. Alejandro Melchor, Sr., whom the President described in his proclamation as “an outstanding inventor and man of science and technology.”

August 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS received a number of callers, including those who came to pay a courtesy call, while also doing a full measure of desk work.

Among those who called in the morning were:

1. Rep. Salipada Pendatun of Cotabato who discussed with the President the peace and order conditions in that province.
2. Andres Soriano Jr., and Jose Mari Soriano of the Paper Industries Corporation of the Philippines, who took up land problems in Agusan del Norte.
3. O. M. Partain, managing director of Chrysler Philippines, who paid a courtesy call. He was accompanied by Ricardo Silverio of Delta Motors and one other. The auto industry in the country was discussed during the call.

In the afternoon, the President received:

1. Mayor Luis Lardizabal of Baguio City and Rudy Cuenca of the Pacific Area Travel Association (PATA), who consulted the President on the preparations for the PATA workshop in the Philippines.
2. Mayors Balakat Sangki of Ampatuan and Odon Ampatuan of Bagumbayan, both municipalities in Cotabato. The mayors were asked to return Friday for a more thorough conference on the peace and order problems in their constituencies.

The rest of the President’s working day was devoted to paper work.

August 5—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a meeting with two diplomats, one presented her credentials the other took up official matters; as well as conferred with local officials and received a number of congressmen.

All in all, the President had a brisker day than usual, which included a visit to the AFP supply center at Camp Aguinaldo. He also went over various state papers, including a list of foreign service officials who were not confirmed in their new designations.

At mid-morning, the President presided at the ceremonies wherein the credentials of the first Brazilian ambassador to the Philippines were presented. The new envoy is Madame Zilah Mafra Peixoto, who is also the first woman ambassador assigned to the Philippines.

After this rite, the President received Msgr. Carmini Rocco, the Vatican envoy here, who discussed the preparations for the forthcoming visit in Manila of Pope Paul VI. Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo sat in on the talks.

In quick order, the President received Data Tuwasil of Jolo, who had personal matters to take up; Secretary of Labor Blas F. Ople and Roberto Oca, who also had a private talk with the President and defense and AFP top brass.

The conference was attended by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, AFP Chief of Staff Manuel T. Yan and Brig. Gen. Rafael Ilete, PA commander.

After the meeting, the President sat down for a brief interview with Rudy Tupas, editor of the *Sunday Times* magazine.

He then received Reps. Jose D. Aspiras, Eddie Gullas, Felipe Almazan, Vicente Cerilles, Jose Puyat Jr., and Pablo Malasarte. Also coming in for consultations with the President were Sen. Mamintal Tamano and NEC Chairman Gerardo Sikat.

In the afternoon, the President confined himself to his desk work, after a mid-afternoon visit to the AFP supply center at Camp Aguinaldo.

The President renewed the designations of 50 ranking officials in the foreign service, whose appointments were not acted upon by the Commission on Appointments during the second special session of Congress.

Of the foreign service officials designated, 10 are career ministers, 14 foreign affairs officers, class I and consul general; 13 foreign affairs officers, class II and consul; and 13 foreign affairs officers, class III.

August 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ended an active day with an appearance at the convention of the Filipino businessmen as guest of honor, at the Savoy Philippines Hotel in the evening, where he delivered the keynote speech.

Earlier, the President's day was marked by many callers, notably that of a group of PC officers taking advance training in a special field, and that of the incumbent president of Jaycee International, again an Asian.

The President also devoted a good part of his day to the, usual state papers and ether official business referred to him for decision and action.

In the morning, the, President received Hiroshi Maeda, world president of the Junior Chamber International, who called at Malacañang to pay his respects, following his arrival in Manila in the course of a tour of Jaycee organizations in 82 countries all over the world.

During his call, Maeda thanked the President for the support and encouragement his administration has extended to the Jaycee movement in the Philippines.

Firmo Liwanag, vice president of the Philippine Jaycees, along with a delegation of local Jaycees accompanied Maeda on his call. Liwanag formed the President that Maeda, a Japanese, is the first Asian elected president of the world organization since two Filipinos, Ramon del Rosario and Roberto Villanueva, held the post some 13 years ago.

During the call, the President signed a proclamation declaring the period December 7 to 13, this year as "Philippine Jaycee Week," in recognition of the role of the Jaycees in nation-building.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: August 7-13, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

August 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS., aside from attending to the regular order of state business, also settled a feud between two brothers which threatened to disrupt peace and order in Cotabato; received Japanese media men; a local labor group; and was guest of honor at the ceremonies launching the fund drive of the Citizens Legal Aid Society of the Philippines (CLASP).

After working for a time in his study early in the morning, the President received, the officers of the National Labor Unity Committee, who gave him a plaque for his concern and interest in the uplift of the working man. The labor group also addressed several petitions to the President, in behalf of labor.

Later in the morning, the President brought together Datu Abdullah Sangki and Mayor Balakat Sangki, brothers, and both of Cotabato, so that they can thresh out their differences and bury their feud. At the meeting, the President heard the sides of the two brothers, then appealed to them to reconcile in the public interest. The brothers shook hands and pledged to keep the peace.

Toward mid-day, the President was interviewed by a group of Japanese TV and newspapermen representing *Sangkie*, a newspaper; the Fuji and Nippon TV, and the Institute of Asian Economic Research. In the group were Takeichi Yamane, Kosaku Nomura, Mokoti Oshikawa and Kadasu Otake of *Sangkie*; Jiro Asano and Akira Enjoji of Fuji and Nippon TV; and Yukio Asano of the Institute.

In the afternoon, the President was guest of honor at the launching of the CLASP fund drive. In his brief remarks, the President urged all those who can contribute to the fund to give unstintingly saying that it is a small sacrifice to bear compared to the need of many Filipinos for assistance in getting justice from the courts.

The President resumed his desk work late in the afternoon.

To prevent the possible closure of public schools in Manila in view of the inability of the city government to meet the salaries of school teachers, the President directed Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco to pay said salaries without delay.

At the same time, the President asked Secretary of Justice Vicente Abaci Santos to submit an opinion as to which—the national or the city government—should pay the salaries of these teachers.

The President told Commissioner Sy-Changco that should the opinion be in favor of the city government, whatever sum that had been advanced by the national government would be reimbursable by the city of Manila.

In another front, the President modified his order banning the slaughter of carabaos, so as to allow the slaughter of carabaos and buffaloes under certain conditions.

The conditional lifting of the carabaos slaughter ban is embodied in a new order amending Executive Order No. 234 dated May 15, 1970, which bans the slaughter of carabaos and buffaloes.

Under the new order, carabaos and buffaloes three years of age or over may be slaughtered upon issuance of a slaughter permit by the municipal treasurer or city treasurer concerned.

August 8—

President Marcos fulfilled two speaking engagements, one in the morning, at the rites marking the 69th anniversary of the Philippine Constabulary, and the other in the afternoon, at the closing ceremonies of the executive seminar on land reform, held at the Magsaysay Hall, SSS building.

Between engagements, the President spent time on paper work. Among other official concerns he acted on was that of the development problems of ports and arrastre services, toward meeting which he created a Port Labor Study Commission. He also directed that the government policy recognizing the rights of the previous occupants of lands licensed to lumbermen must be re-emphasized so that concessionaires would honor these rights.

The President left Malacañang at about 9 a.m. for Camp Crame, where he was guest of honor at the PC anniversary celebrations. In his speech, he urged the PC to strive to improve not only its image but also its standards and its overall capabilities. He returned to Malacañang about 11 a.m.

In the afternoon, the President left Malacañang about 4 p.m. for the SSS Magsaysay Hall. In his speech before the members of the land reform seminar, the President launched an intensified land reform program as he set new government endeavors toward a “new regime” of “land justice” for all.

As a start, he directed the National Land Reform Council to proclaim immediately for leasehold the remaining towns of Nueva Ecija not yet so proclaimed, as well as the 4th congressional district of Pangasinan, and the entire province of Camarines Sur and towns of Iloilo, Quezon and, Isabela given land reform priority.

In other directives embodied in his speech, the President:

1. Instructed the National Food and Agriculture Council to give full cooperation and support to the National Land Reform Council in expediting land reform coverage, to embrace rice and corn farmers; and
2. Ordered all government banking and financial institutions to revise their rules and regulations governing financial assistance to small farmers, with the aim of giving direct aid to beneficiaries regardless of their present tenure.

On his return to Malacañang, he relaxed briefly, then resumed his desk work. He had no callers during the day.

August 9—

President Marcos had another quite but busy weekend, disposing of urgent official papers in his private study.

The President started his paper work at about 10 a.m., breaking off from his desk at well past noon for lunch.

In resuming his work later in the afternoon, the President went over official reports from government agencies and special groups, one of which was on the dollar repatriation plan submitted by Labor Undersecretary Raoul Inocentes, chairman of the Special Presidential Mission on Dollar Repatriation.

Inocentes informed the President that vast dollar earnings of Filipino national overseas are joining into the Philippines via the Marcos dollar repatriation scheme and the new dollar account plan which guarantees the inviolability of dollar deposits in the Philippines.

During its mission overseas, the special presidential team, according to its initial report, was able to sign up several dollar accounts with Filipino businessmen with earnings abroad representing considerable sums.

At the same time, the Mission reported successful conferences with American base representatives and: representatives of American firms employing Filipino personnel which, would ultimately guarantee the massive, influx of dollar earnings into the Philippines.

The Mission reported that the Marcos dollar scheme has found active support in the American bases, particularly with the issuance of a U.S. Defense Department procurement circular and a military directive providing for mandatory dollar remittance by third country nationals, including Filipinos, to their countries of citizenship or permanent residence.

August 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS devoted the major part of his working day to state papers and other state business requiring his study and action.

For this reason, he had all but a blank schedule of callers, with-only one group of visitors seeing him, the members of the Philippine team participating in the First Asian Youth Basketball Championship games in Seoul, South Korea, headed by Ignacio “Ning” Ramos, coach.

The President also took time out to induct Victor Nituda as associate immigration commission.

Accompanying the cage team were Manila Councilor Lito Puyat, who heads the Basketball Association of the Philippines, and Philip Monserrat, president of the Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation.

The President worked at his desk through the afternoon, and a good part of the evening.

August 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS worked mostly on state papers, with his schedule clear of visitors.

Among other papers, he studied reports from various agencies involved with development programs, and signed a proclamation, setting the first Monday of December as the start of Aviation Week. The proclamation rescinds a former proclamation setting the second week of March as Aviation Week.

The President worked at his desk through the day, receiving only close aides for consultation, and a few officials who had problems to clear with him.

August 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a fuller day than usual, with a formal ceremony, important, conferences, and a television interview on his schedule, apart from the usual desk work.

Early in the morning, he had a closed-door conference with Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, Secretary of Justice Vicente Abaci Santos, Secretary of Public Works and, Communications Manuel B. Syquiao, Undersecretary of National Defense Efren Plana, and Postmaster General Enrico Palomar.

At mid-morning, he met Congress leaders to chart the agenda of the third special session of Congress.

Following this meeting, he received at a formal ceremony the credentials of Don Jose Maria Soriano, the new envoy to the Philippines of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta.

After working at his desk for a while, he video-taped an interview with a panel of business writers for “Business Today.”

The panel included Jesus Bustamante of the *Herald*, Rey Naval of the *Chronicle*, Satur C. Ocampo of the *Manila Times*, Leo P. Gonzaga of the *Finance Journal-Daily Mirror*, Arthur Sales of the *Bulletin*, and Angelesio Tugado of the *Times*.

Also present were Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata and Central Bank Gov. Gregorio S. Licaros.

In the afternoon and through the evening the President worked at his desk.

August 13—

President Marcos was guest of honor at the ceremonies launching National Language Week, held at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, on Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

Before and after that engagement, the President worked on state papers at his study in Malacañang, although frequently interrupted by visitors on his schedule of callers.

Among those he received was the group headed by Vice President Fernando Lopez, which will represent the Philippines at the Asian Productivity Congress, set to open in Tokyo on August 18. The group came for final instructions.

With the Vice President were Chairman Gerardo Sicat of the National Economic Council, Director Jose Pardo of the Productivity Development Center, Director-General Placido Mapa, Jr. of the Presidential Economic Staff and, for the private sector, Julio Francia, president of the Philippine Chamber of Industries.

The next delegation to call was that composed of representatives of the NAWASA, WHO and the UNDP. The group called to submit to the President the master plan evolved by the three entities on the proper disposal of waste water in Manila and the neighboring areas.

A joint project of the three agencies, the project calls for massive financing and organization. But it is a “must” undertaking.

Those who called were Filemon Zablan and Brig. Gen. Sergio Isada (ret.), board chairman and general manager, respectively, of NAWASA; Dr. Francisco Dee, WHO regional director; Dr. Frank Go and Dr. William Harding of the UNDP.

Later in the morning, the President received Joseph Blatchford and John Shlaes of the US Peace Corps. Blatchford, who is the national director of the corps, was accompanied to Malacañang by US Ambassador Henry Byroade.

The President went to the cultural center at about 9 a.m., and in his speech, which was in Pilipino, he expressed the hope that a National Language Week will in the near future be no longer necessary as a way of promoting Pilipino, with the language already actively in use all over the country. The attainment of this goal,” he said, is the responsibility of all Filipinos, and the move toward that objectives should begin now.

Noting that the Constitution called for the development of a common language, he recalled that the Charter declared that such “a language is most necessary and crucial for forging national unity and a common consciousness.”

In pursuance with, this policy, the administration, he said, has made several moves forward.

Among them:

1. Executive Order No. 96 directing the use of Pilipino in oath-taking ceremonies and in official stationery.
2. Memorandum Circular No. 277, which requires government officials and employees to participate in regional seminars conducted by the Institute of National Language.
3. Memorandum Circular No. 172, directing the translation into Pilipino of the names of government offices.

4. Executive Order No. 187 which directs the employment of Pilipino official correspondence whenever possible.

5. Memorandum Circular No. 386 which directs national and local governments to observe National Language Week with appropriate programs.

He himself, the President said, has always welcomed diplomatic envoys in Pilipino, as do the members of the Philippine foreign service.

He was back in Malacañang at about 11 a.m., and resumed his desk work, while also receiving visitors. One of the directives that he issued from his desk was for the release of the confiscated books, "Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse Tung," but made clear that the decision will not be a precedent for similar cases in the future.

The Postmaster General had earlier confiscated 49 copies of the book on the ground that they were communist propaganda materials.

The President noted that the importation of written or printed matter through the mails is a free man's right to information. The government, he said, fully supports this freedom.

However, the President pointed out that this freedom is not without qualification, citing Section 1954 (b) of the Revised Administrative Code, which provides, among others, that no "written or printed matter in any form containing scurrilous libels against the government of the Republic of the Philippines, or containing any statement which tends to disturb or obstruct any lawful officer in executing his office or in performing his duty, or which tends to instigate others to cabal or meet together for unlawful purposes, or which suggests or incites rebellious conspiracies or tends to disturb the peace of the community or to stir-up the people against the lawful authorities . . . shall be imported into the Philippines through the mails, or be deposited in or carried by the mails of the Philippines, or be delivered to its addressees by any officer or employee of the Bureau of Posts."

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: August 14-20, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

August 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS received a number of callers, most of them official calls, and in-between did a full measure of paper work and, as usual, attended to other pressing state business.

Two of the earliest callers were Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata and BIR Commissioner Misael Vera. The conference focused on revenue and other financial matters.

Next to see the President was the Philippine women's Softball team, which will compete abroad for the Asian Women's Softball Championship. The group was headed by Prof. Agustin Cailao of the Philippine Amateur Softball Association, who represented Gov. Isidro Rodriguez of Rizal, president of the association.

In the afternoon, the President discussed with US Ambassador Henry Byroade at a closed-door conference matters of mutual interest to the Philippines and the United States.

Following the US envoy were the members of the Presidential Dollar repatriation mission, headed by Undersecretary of Labor Raoul Inocentes. The group will leave Tuesday for points where Filipinos are working, as far as the United States and Canada. The mission members called on the President for final instructions.

The members of the group include Alfredo Antiporda of the Central Bank, Isidro Villanos of the Philippine National Bank, Sergio Barrera of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Cresencio Siddayao of the Department of Labor.

One of the President's late visitors was Ambassador Alberto Katigbak, newly designated envoy to the Vatican. He called to make his farewells before leaving for his post.

The rest of the President's working day was devoted to his desk work.

The commission of 61 officer-aspirants in the reserve force of the Armed Forces of the Philippines was one of the official recommendations approved by the President.

Their commission was recommended by General Manuel T. Yan, AFP chief of staff, and Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile.

Of those approved as commissioned officers, eight are first lieutenants in the Medical Corps, one captain and one first lieutenant in the Judge Advocate General's Service, one first lieutenant in the Dental Service, one first lieutenant and 39 second lieutenants in the Philippine Army, one major and three second lieutenants in the Philippine Constabulary, one second lieutenant in the Philippine Air Force, one ensign in the Philippine Navy, one second lieutenant in the Women's Auxiliary Corps, and five second lieutenants in the Nurse Corps.

August 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent all of the morning at his desk working on official papers. He had no visitors on his schedule in the morning.

At mid-afternoon, he received the Korean ambassador and members of his staff, including his wife, in connection with the anniversary of the founding of the Republic of Korea.

A unique feature of the visit was an exhibition of the Korean karate called Taekwondo, which two Korean blackbelts performed. Bongbong, the President's son, who was initiated earlier into this sport, also did a small exhibition, by breaking two 1-inch boards, the first with a hand strike and the second with a sidekick.

The President expressed appreciation for the exhibition, and moved to have AFP, PC and Metrocom troops trained in the sport. For this purpose, he requested Ambassador Se Ryun Kim to loan out to the AFP the two Korean experts. The request was immediately granted.

The rest of the afternoon was spent by the President back at his desk, in the course of which he issued a proclamation declaring Monday, August 17, a special public holiday in the City of Pasay to give residents the opportunity to celebrate with appropriate ceremonies the City's charter anniversary, which falls on Sunday, August 16.

August 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS took a breather from his weekend session with state papers to receive in the afternoon the officers of the Philippine Air Lines Supervisors Association (PALSA) who had planned to stage a strike.

He asked the PALSA not to pursue its projected strike because of the adverse effects it will have on the public and the economy.

The President, instead, asked Cesar Legayada, PALSA president, to submit data to support the union's claim that the airline will not suffer losses if it granted their demands for a pay increase of 28 percent.

The PALSA scheduled a strike after PAL management rejected their demands for a pay increase, an additional half-month retirement pay, and a counter-offer on the demand for job evaluation review for 15C personnel on the supervisory level.

Legayada said that their demands had been submitted to the Bureau of Labor Relations for conciliation but that the talks had bogged down.

The delegation was accompanied to Malacañang by Secretary of Labor Blas F. Ople, and included Casiano Laquihon, legal counsel; Leonardo Agting, president of the Federation of Unions of Rizal; and Gaudioso Pomento and Rodante Maala of the same federation.

August 17—

AFTER WORKING for a while in his study early in the morning, President Marcos left Malacañang for the NSDB auditorium where he addressed the opening session of the seminar on children and youth in national development.

In his speech, the President said there exists a wide gap between the old and the young generations, because the older generation has not systematically utilized its talents and resources, capacities and capabilities "to determine how the young conceive of the future and what it can do for the young."

The President added that the older generation should not force the young to conform to beliefs and practices which are no longer relevant to them or to the times. (See pp. 7798-A to 7798-K for full text of the President's speech.)

Returning to Malacañang at about 10 a.m., the President almost immediately sat down for a conference with Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata, DBP Chairman Leonides S. Virata and PES Director-General Placido Mapa, Jr.

On the heels of this meeting came the call of the officials of the PALSA and PALEA, both unions of the Philippine Air Lines, with Secretary of Commerce and industry Ernesto Maceda and Labor Relations Director Amado Inciong accompanying them.

At this meeting, the Chief Executive urged the union bosses not to continue with their planned strike against PAL, while he talked with PAL officials on the demands of the unions for higher pay and transportation allowances. The union leaders agreed.

Next came the meeting with the members of the committee which studied the flood problems in the Greater Manila area, led by Secretary of Public Works and Communications Manuel B. Syquiao. The President received the report of the committee, including its recommendations on the construction of a flood control system in Manila and its environs.

In the afternoon, the President met with Rafael Igoa and Leonardo Siguion-Reyna, executive vice president and general counsel, respectively, of the Philippine Air Lines. The PAL officers agreed to submit to the President complete figures on the airline's finances.

Also calling on the President were Gov. Jose Sering of Surigao del Norte and the mayor and members of the municipal board of Surigao town; and later Ambassador Rogelio dela Rosa, who discussed official matters relating to his post in Cambodia.

In-between all these activities, the President worked on state papers.

August 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS motored out of Malacañang to address the participants in the conference of customs collectors, at the Foreign Trade Zone Authority building in Manila's port area.

Earlier, the President concentrated on his paper work, during which he did not receive any visitor. At about 11 a.m., he left his office for the port area. In his speech he exhorted anew the officials and employees of the customs and internal revenue services to upgrade efficiency and morality.

Returning to Malacañang, he picked up from where he left off. He worked steadily at his desk, cancelling in the process a scheduled appearance at the launching of the Philippine Tuberculosis Society's fund drive. As proxy, Secretary of Social Welfare Gregorio Feliciano delivered the President's prepared speech.

The President, however, received in the afternoon the group representing labor unions of the Baguio City mining firms and representatives of the PAL Supervisors Association. The President listened to the problems of the two unions with an eye to resolving them.

The groups were led by Fortunate Biangco and Cesar Legayada, presidents of the PALSA and PALEA, respectively; and Eliseo Flora, president of the Benguet Workers' Union.

Among other actions, the President:

1. Directed all government offices and agencies to assign personnel with the special duty of taking charge of official correspondence in Filipino.

The new presidential order was embodied in Memorandum Circular No. 384, issued by Malacañang, with Executive Order No. 187 signed by the President last August 6 as a follow-through in connection with this year's observance of National Language Week.

The order required, as much as possible, the use of Pilipino in all official communications and transactions in the government.

2. Asked the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources to consider the request of the Presidential Assistant on Housing and Resettlement Agency for more public lands on which to resettle squatters from the Greater Manila Area.

PHHC General Manager Sebastian Santiago, PAHRA officer-in-charge, has made representations to obtain some 1,500 hectares of alienable public land, preferably in Montalban, Rizal, where it could resettle squatters from the city esteros and along river banks in the metropolitan area.

3. Named Undersecretary Arturo R. Tanco, Jr. as acting Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources in the absence of Vice President Fernando Lopez, who heads the Philippine delegation to the Asian Productivity Congress in Tokyo.

Secretary Tanco took his oath of office before Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. in Malacañang.

August 19—

THE POLICY of social justice and the effort to deepen nationalism, keystones of the Commonwealth period, make Manuel L. Quezon still relevant today, President Marcos stated in a speech in Pilipino delivered for him by Sen. Jose J. Roy at the main rites in Lucena City commemorating the birthday of Quezon.

Today, the President said, "we do not just pay lip service to social justice," as attested to by his administration which has been "geared to social justice as the fulcrum of our national development program."

As in Quezon's time, he pointed out, "we have had to reckon with the forces of reaction, conscienceless landlords, bureaucratic corruption and apathy, anarchistic elements, abusive agents of the law" But, there is definitely "a need for restructuring this society that breeds social justice," he stressed. (See pp. 7798-L to 7798-N for full text of the President's speech.)

The President, bothered by a cold, kept himself at Malacañang the whole day.

He requested the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, to proceed to Lucena without him, for their scheduled visit there. The President was to have delivered the main speech at the ceremonies. Instead, Sen. Roy appeared on his behalf.

During the day, the President went over official papers that needed his immediate personal attention in his study.

A report on the government anti-smuggling campaign was received by the President from Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata.

Virata listed the measures which his department has recently adopted to strengthen his drive against smuggling, especially of "blue-seal" cigarettes. The measures are:

1. The confiscation of all airplanes, ships and trucks used in transporting smuggled cigarettes and other contraband.
2. The burning of all blue seal cigarettes apprehended by law enforcement agencies instead of selling the same at public auctions, to deprive the smugglers of the profit motive.

Secretary Virata said he had requested the assignment of additional armed troops particularly in areas where smuggling is still practiced.

The Finance Secretary also said that the Bureau of Internal Revenue has made representations with Congress for the passage of a bill requiring the quarterly payment of corporate income tax.

August 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS worked for most of the morning on state papers, receiving only two visitors, former Secretary of Foreign Affairs Narciso Ramos and Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos.

At about 11 a.m., the President left Malacañang for the South Harbor where he was ferried to the *USS America*, one of the United States' most modern attack carriers, where he was the guest of the officers and crew of the aircraft carrier.

The President was given full honors on bearding the ship, then was conducted on a tour of the vessel.

Returning to Malacañang early in the afternoon, the President resumed his desk work.

Among the papers signed by the President was the appointment of Associate Justice Felix V. Makasiar of the Supreme Court as his personal representative to the forthcoming Conference of Ministers of Justice of the Spanish, Latin-American countries and the Philippines, which will be held in Madrid, Spain.

The conference is being held from September 16 to 19, this year, in connection with the observance of the "Centenario de la Ley Organica del Poder Judicial."

He disengaged at about 7 p.m. to attend as one of the principal sponsors, the other being the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, the wedding ceremony of Press Secretary Francisco S. Tatad and Fenny Cantero, held at the Santuario de San Jose, in Mandaluyong, Rizal.

Later, the President and the First Lady attended the wedding reception at the Hotel Inter-Continental. The First Couple returned to Malacañang direct from the hotel.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: August 21-27, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

August 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a heavy schedule of callers as well as a round of conferences and the usual desk work.

Among the first to call on the President was Brig. Gen. Joseph Capucci, director of the Office of Special Investigation of the United States Air Force, who came to pay his respects. Accompanied to the Palace by Col. Philip Sears, OSI commander at Clark Air Force Base, Gen. Capucci arrived here recently in the course of an inspection tour of OSI branches in Southeast Asia.

Earlier in the morning, the President accepted the credentials of Ambassador Nicolas Martin Alonzo, the new Spanish envoy to the Philippines. The members of the Cabinet led by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo were present at the presentation rites, which was held at the Palace ceremonial hall at 10:30 a.m.

After the ceremonies, the President conferred informally with his Cabinet secretaries who consulted him on pressing problems in their departments.

Then he repaired to his study where he received Jack Anderson, Washington columnist, who interviewed him on international affairs. Anderson was accompanied to Malacañang by Teodoro F. Valencia.

The President continued to receive callers through early afternoon, and discussed with acting Speaker Jose Aldeguer and Rep. Roberto Sabido of Albay a number of legislative measures which Congress will consider in the third special session set early next month.

Later, he received Chairman Manuel Lim of the Price Control Council who called to bid the President good-bye prior to his departure for Tokyo where he will attend a conference of international lawyers.

At about 12:30 p.m., the President, upon the request of the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, went to the Music Room where some 20 Asian beauties, all participants in the Miss Asia quest, were gathered to pay their respects.

Back at his study, the President received Gov. Gualberto Lumaig of Ifugao who informed him of his scheduled trip to the United States for extended therapeutic treatments to avoid possible paralyzation of a left arm. Gov. Lumaig was seriously hurt in an ambush last July 23.

Later in the afternoon, the President resumed receiving callers. In-between, he worked on state papers and conferred with officials.

He directed acting Secretary of Finance Alfredo Pio de Roda, Jr. and Customs Commissioner Rolando Geotina to expedite the resolution of cases filed against Customs officials and employees.

The President issued the directive upon receipt, of a list of 67 customs officials and men who had been administratively charged for various offenses, ranging from violations of office regulations to dishonesty.

August 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS flew to PAF Basa Air Base in Floridablanca, Pampanga, to speak as guest of honor at the ceremonies marking the 23rd anniversary of the base.

He left Manila at mid-morning and arrived at the base at about 11 a.m. He was received with full military honors, including a 21-gun salute, and trooped the line after the parade and review.

In his speech, he asked the air force to maintain its standards of excellence as well as pursue other activities aimed at directly helping the poor and dispossessed in addition to keeping its defense responsibility.

After the ceremonies, the President had lunch at the base with the guests and officers of the 5th Fighter Wing, then flew back to Manila to keep another engagement.

Upon arrival at the Nichols Air Base, the President motored straight for the Philippine Navy headquarters on Roxas boulevard, where he was also guest of honor at the rites celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Naval Operating Forces.

Again, the Chief Executive asked the navy to fulfill all its missions, keep its units in sharp trim, while also contributing to the civic action program which seeks to enhance the improvement of socio-economic conditions, especially in the rural areas.

Returning to Malacañang, the President rested briefly then attended to his desk work.

August 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS concentrated on desk work. In a memorandum circular to all heads of departments, bureaus, agencies and other instrumentalities of the government, the President warned government officials and employees that he would impose severe penalty, including dismissal from office, on those who would violate his orders against the use of smuggled products.

The President said in his circular that government men, especially those at the top, must set the example in the continuing drive against the use of smuggled goods.

Enjoining the cooperation of private citizens in the drive against the use of smuggled goods, the President emphasized that “traffic in smuggled goods cannot endure if our citizenry voluntarily desisted from buying, possessing or using smuggled products.”

August 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS signed the Constitutional Convention Bill at high noon, with Congress leaders present, thus ending the speculation on whether he would or would not give due course to the law.

Earlier, the President threshed out the pending urgent bills in Congress with the same legislative leaders, during which he urged that a caucus of legislators determine the order of priorities for acting on measures which will be placed before a third special session of Congress.

Present at the meeting and at the signing of the charter bill were Senate President Gil J. Puyat, acting Speaker Jose M. Aldeguer, Senate President Protempore Jose J. Roy, Senators Arturo M. Tolentino, Dominador Aytona, Wenceslao R. Lagumbay and Lorenzo Teves; Reps. Natalio P. Castillo of Bohol and Aguedo Agbayani of Pangasinan.

In a day heavy with callers, the President received:

1. The Philippine Swimming team which participated in the Pesta Sukaa (first anniversary fete of Singapore) program, who paid a courtesy call. The team came home with 53 medals—16 gold, 24 silver and 13 bronze, winning an overall second place in the swimming events.

Those who called were Edwin Borja, Doe Mlari, Mazir Mikara, Mustan Radji, Paulo Pabalan, Noel Lozada, Carlos Brosas, Edgar Borja, Grace Luna, Susan Pajar, Luz Arzaga, Christine Velarte, and Greg Colmenares. They were accompanied by Jes Borja, coach; Norma Villarete, Lorenzo Guarin and Philip Monserrat.

2. Officers of the Fulbright Scholars Association, whom the President inducted. The group pledged to help bring to the people salient issues involved in the charter convention. Those who called were Dr. Gabriel Carreon, president; Antonio Arizabal, Jr., vice president; Minda Luz Loreda, secretary; Edna Montano de la Cruz, treasurer; Prof. Redentor Romero, Paulo Campos, Eva R. Gonzales, Dolores F. Hernandez, Serafin Quiazon, Silvestre Sarmiento, Raul de Guzman and Artemio D. Dolor.

3. C. J. Leedham, Far East representative of Leigh Instruments, who presented the President with a downed plane location indicator. He was accompanied by Canadian Consul General J. L. Mutter, Consul B. A. Gagosz and Mike Campos, president of the Liberty Aviation Corporation.

In the afternoon, the President worked mostly on state papers. He also received Mrs. Gerry Coffey, women's editor of the *Bangkok World*, who interview him; and the Crispa-Floro team which won the Presidential Cup basketball tournament.

Before receiving the Crispa-Floro team, the President received a group of 27 American students who had been living with foster parents all over the Philippines in the last two months and a half.

On the young high school students, Debi Wise, surprised the President when she greeted him in fluent Ilocano and carried on the conversation in the President's tongue for some time.

Debi, who is from Laurel, Maryland, had lived in Laoag City and had visited Batac, the President's hometown, and the neighboring town of Sarrat. Another, Joel Lees, played the nose flute before the President, while others spoke to him in the dialect of the region he or she had stayed.

The American students said they were leaving with regrets because they had learned to appreciate and like the Filipino way of life, their educational system and culture.

Filipino students, on the other hand, go to the United States and live with American foster parents for one year at a time.

August 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS concentrated on his paper work, with his schedule of visitors in the morning confined only to three callers, Sen. Arturo M. Tolentino, who took up legislative matters; and Chairman Ramon Gaviola of the Social Security Commission and Central Bank Gov. Gregono S. Licaros, who discussed official business relating to the operation of these institutions.

The President acted on several matters of governmental concern, including the reconstitution of a number of state special bodies.

In several executive and administrative orders, the President amended parts of previous similar orders to:

1. Name Bartolome Espino to the Cooperative Coordinating Committee;
2. Include the Central Bank Governor in the Foreign Trade Council;
3. Revise the Provincial Appraisal Committee by putting the provincial engineer in the place of the district engineer in the committee.

Through the afternoon and much of the evening, the President worked at his desk.

To speed up the rehabilitation of the Philippine General Hospital, the President directed Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco to release the full amount authorized for the PGH in the current appropriations act.

The ₱9,591,631 appropriated for the said hospital in the 1970-1971 budget will be fully programmed, the President told the budget chief, and that the hospital outlay for the first quarter be released before the end of this month.

The action taken by the President was the result of a series of meetings Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. and Commissioner Sy-Changco have had with PGH staff and students, as well as the institutional workers of the hospital. The talks were held to find the means of solving once and for all the long standing PGH problems.

August 26—

WITH only one scheduled visitor and one important conference, the President again concentrated on paper work.

Later in the morning, he taped with other participants the initial presentation of the new television program, "Confrontation," under the auspices of the Department of National Defense press corps, as the first guest.

The President was interviewed by a panel consisting of Tesoro de Guzman of the *Daily Mirror*, who was the moderator; Filemon V. Tutay of the *Free Press*; Jose V. de Vera of the *Bulletin*; and Alex Allan of the *Chronicle*.

Earlier, the President received outgoing Swiss Ambassador Marcel Grossenbacher, who paid a farewell call prior to reporting to his home office for reassignment. The President also met behind closed doors Undersecretaries Arturo Tanco Jr. and Isosceles Pascual and Policarpio Cruz of the Bureau of Mines.

The rest of the morning and through early afternoon, the President was focused on his desk.

Later, the President briefly disengaged from his chores to view with other enthusiasts the karate exhibition staged by Korean black-belter Bok Man Kim and members of the Presidential Security Agency.

The President then issued a directive to the Department of Justice to verify and investigate press reports that an Intelligence unit inside Clark Air Force Base, known as "Red Patch," has committed atrocities against Filipinos in and outside the base and to report on its results immediately so that proper measures may be taken should the matter be found to have any basis.

The President also asked Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., in his capacity as chairman of the Power Development Council, to speed up the development and utilization of known deposits of natural gas in the country, as part of the social and economic development.

The order was issued after Secretary Melchor reported on his inspection of gas fields, which are believed to have deposits in sufficient quantities to be of sufficient industrial use.

The executive secretary few early in the morning to Isabela where he saw for himself the extent of explorations made thus far, and future expansion programs to be undertaken.

In the company of Chairman Geronimo Velasco of the National Electrification Administration, NEA Officer-In-Charge Pedro Dumol, Demetrio Paz of the National Power Corporation, Director Fernando Busuego of the Bureau of Mines, Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes and Gov. Samuel Reyes of Isabela, Secretary Melchor visited the gas well in San Antonio, Echague, Isabela.

August 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered a study toward the evolvement of an integrated plan to implement the provisions of law on the grant of cost-of-living allowances to school teachers.

The five-man committee created by the President, headed by Undersecretary of Education Juan Manuel, was required to submit its recommendation within 15 days.

Cost-of-living allowance for public school teachers are authorized under

Section 18 of Republic Act No. 4670, otherwise known as the Magna Carta for Public School Teachers.

Payment of these allowances, however, would take effect starting fiscal year 1974-1975, according to the implementing rules of Republic Act No. 5447.

The President mostly worked at his desk. He did not receive any visitors.

He broke off from paper work only once, to administer the oath to Brig. Gen. Romeo Espino, vice chief of staff of the armed forces, as major general, in a ceremony held at Malacañang.

The President also inducted Nereo Andolong, former general manager of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, as major in the Philippine Constabulary, on duty with the Office of the President.

Present at the induction were Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, Undersecretary Jose Crisol, Commodore Hilario Ruiz, deputy chief of staff; ranking officers of the major commands, including Brig. Generals Rafael Ilete, Philippine Army; Eduardo Garcia, Philippine Constabulary; Jesus Singson, PAF; and Commodore Dioscoro Papa, Philippine Navy.

General Espino has been in the service for more than 20 years. He was vice commander, Philippine Army; superintendent of the Philippine Military Academy; and commanding general, Philippine Defense Forces, a position he still holds in a concurrent capacity.

After the induction ceremonies, the President continued to work on official papers during which he issued two proclamations, one declaring Monday, August 31, a special public holiday in the province of Zambales and in the city of Olongapo, and the other declaring September 19 this year as Law Day.

August 31 marks the 63rd birth anniversary of the late President Ramon Magsaysay, whom the President described as “an earnest defender of the common man,” who dedicated himself to the improvement of the public service and “did everything for the advancement of the Republic.”

The President, in his other proclamation, said that Law Day would bring to the attention of the people the “vital role of lawyers in the life and well-being of the nation.”

He stressed that the administration of justice is indispensable to a sound and vigorous democracy, and that lawyers play an important role in this respect as well as in “enhancing the rule of law in our democratic society.”

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: August 28 - September 3, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

August 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS issued a memorandum circular enjoining all government officials and employees to strictly observe the provisions of Republic Act No. 6132, to insure the successful holding of the Constitutional Convention in 1971.

In his memorandum, the President called special attention to the specific provisions pertaining to, and prohibitions against, certain acts, of government officials under the new law.

Issuance of the memorandum was one of the first official acts of the President in the morning, before he attended to his scheduled callers. First to be received by the President later was a delegation of Filipino and American high school students who are leaving for the United States under the Youth for Understanding Teenage Exchange Program.

During the call the President was presented, with the state flag of Michigan, sent to him by the governor of the state.

The President, in turn, presented through the group a Filipino flag to the state of Michigan, where most of the 169 Filipino students will go, staying with American families.

The President also gladly obliged when requested to autograph the Barong Tagalog and jusi dresses of the young American boys and girls, who spent the two-month summer vacation, in different parts of the Philippines under the program.

The President also received members of a mission from the Economic Commission for Asia' and the Far East (ECAFE), who arrived in Manila recently in the course of a tour of ECAFE countries in the region. The 4-man group was headed by Prof. Robert Triffin, an economic and monetary expert of the UN.

The missionaries informed the President that they are leaving on Sunday after fruitful conferences with local economic and monetary officials.

They said that the tour was for the purpose of promoting regional cooperation among the member-nations, especially in the economic and monetary fields.

Other members of the mission are Cristopher Eckenstein, a Swiss national; Prok Amranand, a Thai; and Dr. Erich Supper, an Austrian.

The President later in the evening conferred with Senate and House leaders on the projected third special session, which is scheduled to start September 7.

Present at the conference, which concentrated on the proposed agenda of the forthcoming special session, were Senate President Gil J. Puyat Acting, Speaker Jose Aldeguer, Senate President Protempore Jose J. Roy, and Reps, Rogaciano Mercado, Natalio P. Castillo and Joaquin Rocas.

Also attending were Central Bank Gov. Gregorio S. Licaros, Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco and PES Director-General Placido Mapa, Jr.

The President, aside from these engagements, worked on state papers through the day.

August 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS expressed optimism over the growth of Philippine aviation, the development of which, he said, has priority rating in the country's overall development program.

The Chief Executive made the declaration at the inauguration of the CAA/PAF Management and Information Center, where he was the guest speaker.

"We are committed to the fullest development of aviation because we acknowledge its role in nation building," the President said.

The new facility, he added, is another forward step in the effort to build a progressive aeronautics system. He recalled that less than a year ago, another modern facility, the CAA's communication switching center, was also established.

Emphasizing on the more important role of Philippine aviation in the rapid movement of goods and people, the President pointed out that aviation is "vital in the transmission of ideas and in the unification of our geographically fragmented country."

Moreover, he said, aviation "enables us to keep in step with the world and to join the space-oriented international aviation community."

The President spent most of his time at his study, working on state papers, during which he took the opportunity to write to Pope Paul VI a thank you note for accepting the Philippines' invitation to visit here.

The President's note will be personally brought to the Pope in Rome by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, who is enroute to London where she will enroll Ferdinand, Jr. in a boys' school there.

The only break from his desk work came in the afternoon when the President drove to the CAA offices for the CAA/PAF Management and Information Center, inaugural ceremonies.

Returning to Malacañang, the President worked for a time at his desk, then left with the First Lady to fulfill a private engagement.

August 30—

PRESIDENT MARCOS led the nation in paying homage to its heroes and martyrs in a quiet but solemn observance of National Heroes Day.

Act No. 3827 of the Philippine Legislature sets the last Sunday of August as National Heroes Day to afford the people an opportunity to remember and pay homage to the country's heroes and martyrs.

The President motored to Fort Bonifacio in the morning and laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in the *Libingan ng mga Bayani*.

Also present at the wreath-laying ceremony were Secretaries Carlos P Romulo of Foreign Affairs, Onofre D. Corpuz of Education and Amadeo H. Cruz of Health; Undersecretaries Efren Plana of Defense and Manuel Collantes of Foreign Affairs; National Historical Commission Chairman

Carmen Guerrero Nakpil; Philippine Army commander Brig. Gen. Rafael Ileta, Col. Simeon Medalla, and other armed forces brass, veterans and government officials.

In a speech read for him by Acting Secretary of Public Works and Communications Manuel B. Syquiao, at the induction of the officers of the Quezon City Board of Realtors, held at Camp Aguinaldo the President again underscored the need for partnership between the government and the people in solving national problems, saying that the success of government programs depends “to a great extent on the citizens themselves.”

The President declared that the “citizens will have to ask themselves whether it is the duty alone of the government to provide all the solutions to persistent problems.”

He deplored the “tendency on the part of the populace to rely solely on the government for initiative and leadership.”

The government, he pointed out, wherever possible provides the impetus, to “blaze the trail as it were, but in the long haul it will have to be the citizens themselves who must carry the burden” of nation-building.

“This is the way a democracy works” the President stated, “both the public and the private sectors collaborating and cooperating toward national goals.” (*See* pp. 8317-A to 8317-D for full text of the President’s speech).

August 31—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent most of his working day, going over reports and other state papers.

One of the important matters which engaged him was the problem of the implementation of the minimum wage for government workers, and during the day he finalized and issued a policy order which required all salary hikes in the five big government corporations to be frozen till the minimum wage for rank-and-file employees had been implemented.

The President directed Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco to find the means for the immediate implementation of the minimum wage and the five per cent increase under the WAPCO plan.

In the afternoon, the President was felicitated by a large group of Ilocos Norte folk, led by provincial officials, who staged a potpourri of songs, dances and skits, in honor of the President’s birthday, which still has to come on Sept. 11.

At about 9 p.m., the President was again regaled when a group of Malacañang employees serenaded him and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, also in connection with his birthday.

The President was still at work when the *harana*, came, and he broke off to greet the well wishers and invite them into the Palace.

Earlier, the President issued the following statement on the retirement of Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman:

“I have read with regret that my good and respected friend, Tunku Abdul Rahman, is retiring as Prime Minister of Malaysia, a position which he had held for 13 years, with credit to himself and honor to his people. He is one of Asia’s great statesmen.

“Having led his country through the crucial years of its fight for freedom, and having laid the foundation of the new independent government, he has carved a permanent place for himself in his nation’s history.

“He will also be remembered by us for his advocacy and support of the; ASEAN, which, in its consistency has been effective in uniting our nations, in this area into a constructive regional group,

“I am glad’ to know that he will be succeeded by Deputy Prime Minister Tun Abdul Razak, a seasoned diplomat, whose statesman ship is acknowledged by his people and admired by all those who have watched his career through the difficult years of Malaysian rise to independence.”

September 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS mobilized all government agencies involved in, relief operations for the extension of; relief; aid to victims of floods caused by the heavy downpour the whole night and throughout the day.

Ordered to undertake emergency relief operations were the Department of Social Welfare, the National Civil Defense; Administration, the Philippine National Red Cross, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Department of Public Works and Communications, and the Department of Health.

Flooded areas were reported in España Extension, Caloocan City, Pasay City and San Juan, among others.

In another directive, the President ordered Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-changco to release the amount needed to implement the increase in pay of the AFP enlisted men.

The hiked salaries for the Filipino soldiers, amounting to ₱54.5 million, was authorized under Republic Act No. 6104. The amount would be released monthly or gradually, effective as of last July.

Earlier in the day, at 11 a.m., Mass was held at Malacañang in observance of the birth anniversary of the President which falls on September 11, with Rufino Cardinal Santos officiating.

At mass with the First Family were Mrs. Josef a Edralin Marcos, mother of the President, members of the Cabinet, senators and representatives, justices of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, officers of the AFP, representatives from business and civic organizations and relatives of the President.

September 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS proclaimed a state of public calamity and emergency in some parts of the country in view of the continuous heavy rains resulting in floods. (*See pp. 8291 to 8297 for- text of the proclamation*)

Earlier in the morning, the President left Malacañang in a helicopter to personally direct rescue and relief operations and to view for himself the extent of damage caused by the heavy rains.

Even as the President proclaimed a state of public calamity and emergency, the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, visited ravaged areas stopping at relief centers and coordinating rescue and relief assistance from various agencies.

Mrs. Marcos, riding in a military truck, went around the affected areas with son Bongbong, Secretary of Public Works and Communications Manuel B. Syquiao, Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce. Enrile, PN Flag Officer in Command Commodore Dioscoro Papa, and Leyte Gov. Benjamin Romualdez.

Also early in the morning, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. made an aerial survey to determine the extent of damage caused by the heavy monsoon rains and immediately reported to the President.

September 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS issued a stern warning against the hoarding of consumer goods and the manipulation of prices.in the wake of the typhoon and floods which hit many parts of the country.

The President issued the warning from the Relief Operations Center at Camp Aguinaldo in the morning, even as he announced the shift of operations from relief and rescue to rehabilitation and resettlement.

The President said that the Natural Disaster and Calamity Plan has become effective and that hoarding of essential consumer goods and the manipulation of prices become immediately a crime under the law.

The President said that the primary objective of the plan is to save lives and property, and minimize damage during disasters and calamities. The plan was prepared and updated last March 10 to meet the natural disasters and calamities, since the country is within the typhoon belt.

During the preliminary briefing given by the heads or representatives of participating government and civic agencies, the President:

- 1) Ordered the immediate release by the Budget Commission of ₱100,000 more to the Department of Social Welfare for continuing operations. The President has already ordered the release of ₱200,000;
- 2) Decided to call a conference on flood control for the Greater Manila area in the immediate future with the view to recommending the necessary legislation to the next special session of Congress.
- 3) Declared a moratorium on amortizations and interests on agricultural loans granted by government financing institutions in the areas affected by the flood and typhoon.
- 4) Directed the Budget Commission to submit recommendations for the release of funds to enable farmers to replant crops washed away by the floods.
- 5) Directed the Budget Commission to release funds for fencing the 1,800 hectares intended for an agro-industrial urban settlement for some 400 to 500 squatter families rendered homeless by the flood.
- 6) Issued an order enjoining all local governments to prohibit the construction of shanties, barong-barong and other buildings along estero and river banks, to prevent the return of former residents in these danger spots.
- 7) Directed Land Authority Governor Conrado Estrella to submit plans for the establishment of another resettlement project in Tanay, Rizal.

Present at the briefing were Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, Jr., Secretary of Public Works and Communications Manuel B. Syquio, Secretary of Social Welfare Gregorio Feliciano, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Assistant Executive Secretaries Roberto Reyes and Flores Bayot, Acting Press Secretary Lorenzo J. Cruz, Agriculture Undersecretary Arturo Tanco, Jr., Land Authority Governor Conrado Estrella, DSW Undersecretary Estela Primicias-Sindico, NAWASA General Manager Sergio Isada, Highways Commissioner Baltazar Aquino, Gen. Manuel T. Yan, AFP chief of staff; Brig. Gen. Mariano Ordoñez of the METROCOM; Defense Undersecretary Efren Plana, Brig. Gen. Eduardo Garcia, chief of the PC; Loreto Paras-Sulit of the PNRC; Gaudencio Tobias of the National Housing Corporation, PHHC General Manager Sebastian Santiago, and others.

While at Camp Aguinaldo, the President ordered the computerization of as many government activities as possible in an effort to modernize operations.

The President expressed particular interest in the computerized budget planning and cash management. Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., who heads the PES-DND Computer Operations Center, informed the President that the adoption of a computerized budget planning and cash management would be to move from the petty cash to the cash management system.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: September 4-10, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

September 4

PRESIDENT MARCOS issued a proclamation calling Congress to a third special session beginning Monday, Sept. 7, at 10 a.m., to consider certain urgent legislative measures.

The President issued the call for a third special session of not more than 30 days after a series of meetings with leaders of the Senate and the House of Representatives, during which he was assured that both chambers will act on the most urgent measures.

The President asked Congress to consider, among others, the following:

1. An Act to provide for the financing of an integrated flood control and drainage system for the Greater Manila area, and for other purposes.
2. H. B. No. 433—To amend certain sections of R. A. No. 4860, regarding the foreign borrowing authority of the President.
3. H. B. No. 1056—An Act increasing the rates of import duties on certain articles under Section 104 of R. A. No. 1937, otherwise known as the Tariff and Customs. Code of the Philippines.
4. H. B. No. 1537—Creating the Special Peace and Order Fund from the taxes on travel and securities transactions by amending R. A. No. 1475, otherwise known as the National Internal Revenue Code.
5. K. B. No. 2463—An Act amending Sections 38, 41, 42, 46 and 51 of C, A. No. 466, otherwise known as the National Revenue Code.
6. H. B. No. 475 (S. B. No. 1821)—Amending certain provisions of R. A. No. 3089, as amended, providing assistance to the gold mining industry.

Although the President had originally planned to certify only five bills which had been certified to the previous special sessions, he found it urgently necessary to certify a bill providing for an integrated flood control and drainage system for the Greater Manila area because of the recent destructive flood.

Earlier, the President ordered that a study be made on the management of the Radio Control Office, to find ways and means of streamlining the said office and its procedures geared toward the attainment of its objectives.

For this reason, he created a management audit committee headed by a representative of the PES-DND Computer Center, with the RCO chief and a representative of the secretary of public works and communications as members.

The committee was given until October 15, 1970 'within which to submit its report and recommendation.

September 5

PRESIDENT MARCOS convened the Flood Control Committee with Secretary of Public Works and Communications Manuel B. Syquiao as chairman, to thresh out details in the proposed funding of an integrated flood control program for the Greater Manila area.

At a meeting held at the National Disaster Control Center at Fort Aguinaldo, the Chief Executive emphasized that although he had consulted the leaders of Congress who had assured him passage of five urgent measures, he had placed the bill for funding a flood control program at the top of the list of bills he had certified to the third special session of Congress, which opens on September 7.

The committee which submitted their recommendations about two months ago, is composed of the Secretary of Public Works and Communications, as chairman; and the Director of Public Works, the chairman of the Laguna Development Authority, the city mayors of Manila, Quezon, Pasay and Caloocan; and the municipal mayors of Makati, Paranaque, San Juan and Mandaluyong, Rizal, as members.

The President directed the committee to prepare a similar program for Central Luzon, possibly tied with the plan for the Greater Manila area.. The plan should be submitted to Congress as soon as possible, he said.

Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata, on the other hand, sought for the revitalization of the National Waterworks and Sewerage Authority and the National Power Corporation so as to insure the success of the program.

The President directed the' technical committee, to study the suggestions and to submit to him its recommendations.

Present during the two-hour conference were Secretaries Syquiao and Virata, Gov. Isidro Rodriguez of Rizal, City Mayors Antonio Villegas of Manila and Macario Asistio of Caloocan, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes. Public Works Director Alejandro Deleña, Mayor Florencio Bernabe of Parañaque and Vice Mayor Pablo Angeles of San Juan, Rizal.

September 6

PRESIDENT MARCOS invited members of Congress, provincial governors, city mayors, provincial and city chairmen of the Nacionalista Party to a meeting at Malacañang during which he reminded them of the provisions of the law governing the Constitutional Convention and enjoined them to comply strictly with such provisions.

He also signed a memorandum circular to officials and employees of the government, including government-owned or controlled corporations, requiring them to observe prohibitions in the Constitutional Convention Act.

At the meeting, the President reiterated the policy of the party that with or without a legal prohibition against party involvement in the convention, the Nacionalista Party will not field, support or finance any candidate as delegate to the Constitutional Convention.

“The law is clear on the prohibition,” he pointed out, “and any question as regards the constitutionality of certain provisions of the law will be left for the Supreme Court to decide.”

As some members of the party sought to raise questions on certain provisions of the law, the President as titular head of the party, and acting party President Jose J. Roy said the luncheon-meeting was not the proper forum for such discussions and that it was called mainly to project the attention of party leaders to the provisions of the law and to restate the policy of the party that it adheres to the principles and provisions of the law.

At the outset, the President talked to the leaders of Congress present and impressed on them the urgency of enacting the flood control bill, which he has included in the agenda of the third special session.

The Congress leaders, headed by Senate President Gil J. Puyat and Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr. agreed that the flood control bill must be given top priority.

Present at the conference aside from Senate President Puyat and Speaker Laurel, were Senate President Protempore Roy, Speaker Protempore Jose Aldeguer, other NP senators and representatives; NP provincial governors and city

mayors, and chairmen of NP chapters in provinces and cities where the incumbent governors and city mayors are not Nacionalistas.

September 7

PRESIDENT MARCOS stated that while Filipinos should consider the forthcoming Constitutional Convention as an important milestone in their nation's history, they should not expect that it would suddenly change the dangers and the perils they face in their development.

"Let us reform the Constitution," he added, "but let us not seek to solve all our problems by merely amending it." Let us reform the Constitution, he pointed out, by "reforming ourselves . . . because that is the beginning of reformation."

The President made these statements in a speech before the annual convention of district and city engineers.

The President started his busy day with a conference with members of the Board of Investments, including Ting Paterno, chairman; Edgardo Tordesillas, vice chairman; Cesar Lanuza, Angel Limjuco and Antonio Ayala, governors; which was followed by a meeting with Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo and Undersecretary Manuel Collantes; and had separate talks with Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile and PANAMIN Secretary Manuel Elizalde, Jr.

At mid-morning, the President received the joint committee from Congress, which notified him that the third special session had already been convened. In the group were Senators Wenceslao R. Lagumbay and Dominador R. Aytona, and Reps. Fernando V. Pajarillo of Camarines Norte and Macacuna Dimaporo of Lanao del Sur.

Later in the morning, the President received a courtesy call from the members of local anti-communist groups, who are leaving for Japan to attend a conference of anti-communist organizations.

Headed by Rep. Cornelio T. Villareal, the other members of the Philippine delegation are Reps. Ramon D. Bagatsing of Manila and Fermin Z. Caram, Jr. of Iloilo, Col. Ernesto P. Golez, Social Security Commissioner Inocencio Ferrer, Leon O. Ty, Pao Shin Tien. Miss Michaela A. Montemayor, Arnulfo L. Tamayo, Councilor Jose G. Guevarra, Arnold Segundo, Prudencio S. Atengco and Leon Ty, Jr.

Others who called on the President were local officials and several provincial governors who sought fund releases and prefabricated schoolhouses.

Those who called were Governors Carlos Fortich of Bukidnon, Rufino Otero of Agusan del Sur, Jose Legaspi of Aklan, Julian Pacificador of Antique, Guillermo Arcenas of Bataan, Jose Evangelista of Ilocos Norte, Samuel F. Reyes of Isabela, Amado Almazan of Kalinga-Apayao, Linang Mandangan of Lanao del Sur, Irene Balite of Northern Samar, Salvador P. Socrates of Palawan, Jovencio Q. Mayor of Romblon and Salvacion Yñiguez of Southern Leyte.

At about 4 p.m., the President left Malacañang to speak as guest of honor at the opening of the convention of the District and City Engineers League, held at the SSS building in Quezon City.

On returning to Malacañang, the President resumed working on state papers, during which he issued a proclamation declaring Wednesday, September 9, a special public holiday in the province of Cebu and the cities; of Cebu, Danao, Lapu-Lapu, Mandaue and Toledo.

September 9 marks the birth anniversary of the late President Sergio Osmeña, Sr.

He also designated Jose P. Fernandez, a leader of the shipping industry, as Presidential Special Trade Representative.

As the President's special representative, with the rank of ambassador, Fernandez's task will be to promote trade, explore investment possibilities, and make other studies essential to the economic growth of the country.

During the day, the President thanked the government of Australia for its offer to donate "in any kind" \$10,000 worth of assistance to flood victims in the Philippines.

The offer of assistance was made for his government by Australian Ambassador James Ingram, who intimated his government's wish to determine the kind of assistance most needed by the flood victims.

In accepting the Australian government's offer of aid the President directed Secretary of Social Welfare Gregorio Feliciano to determine the immediate needs of the victims and communicate these to the Australian ambassador.

September 8

PRESIDENT MARCOS was kept busy by state business and callers during most of the morning in Malacañang, as well as outside when later he drove out to attend a caucus of leaders called by Senate President' Gil J. Puyat, president of the Nacionalista Party.

Leading the callers at Malacañang in the morning was Vice President Fernando Lopez, who has just returned from a conference on Asian productivity in Japan. Vice President Lopez was accompanied by members of the Philippine delegation to the conference. A chairman, he submitted his report on the meeting to the President.

Accompanying Lopez were Director-General Placido Mapa, Jr. of the Presidential Economic Staff and Jose T. Pardo.

During the call, the President asked Vice President Lopez to make a survey of the toll the floods took in Central Luzon and determine how the government could speedily help those who suffered heavy losses.

Also just back from abroad were Reps. Carmelo Barbero and Nicanor Yñiguez, who called on the President to report on their trip. The two representatives visited Soviet Russia and Czechoslovakia where they looked into the business climate and the possibility of trade ties with the Philippines.

Except for the meeting of NP leaders, the President spent the rest of his working day close to his desk, studying reports and acting on other official business.

Among other actions, the President:

1. Directed Secretary of Health Amadeo H. Cruz to set aside that portion of the Tala Estate needed for a hospital and housing site for Hansenites.

The President further directed the health secretary to turn over to the National Housing Corporation and the People's HomeSite and Housing Corporation the remaining area of the estate for development as a low-cost housing area.

2. Instructed Secretary of Social Welfare Gregorio Feliciano to prepare a legislative proposal which would require business entities employing 1,000 or more workers to include in their work force handicapped individuals who possess special skills.

3. Directed Gen. Gaudencio Tobias (ret.), NHC chairman, and PHHC General Manager Sebastian Santiago to integrate in their development of the Tala area the combined requests for housing of the blind and the handicapped.

September 9

PRESIDENT MARCOS was engaged by conferences, callers and the usual paper work, but found time to make a quick visit at mid-morning to Santa Ana, in Manila, to look over the working model for the proposed Central Luzon flood control project.

Accompanied by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., the President was an interested listener as Director of Public Works Alejandro Deleña explained the project to him.

Back in Malacañang at about 11 a.m., the President started receiving visitors. Among the first to call on him was Argentine Ambassador Marco Aurelio Lino Benitez, who called to say goodbye, preparatory to his departure for his home office after completing his tour of duty here. The first envoy of his country assigned to Manila the ambassador came with his daughter. He gave the President a book, "Martin Fierro," as a memento.

Another envoy, Ambassador B. Deva Rao of India, also called to consult the President on matters of mutual interest to the Philippines and India.

Later in the day, the President conferred with leaders of the Bicol region. In the group were Reps. Amando Cope, Carlos Imperial and Roberto Sabido of Albay; Fernando Pajarillo of Camarines Norte, Felix Fuentebella of Camarines Sur, and Rafael Aquino of Sorsogon; Governors Jose Estevez of Albay, Nicolas Pardo of Camarines Norte, Armando Cladera of Camarines Sur, and Vicente Alberto of Catanduanes; and City Mayors Jose Villanueva of Iriga and Gregorio Imperial of Legaspi.

In the afternoon, the President had a get-together with members of the Class of 1933, U.P. High School, who were his classmates.

Headed by Mrs. Erlinda Rigor, the group presented the President with century old literary and historical books. Dr. Jose Añonuevo, the President's former history professor, made the presentation.

Later, the President was among those who enjoyed the program of Ibanag folk dances, songs and other cultural presentations indigenous to the region. The troupe brought the show to the Palace, as its offering in connection with the President's birthday.

The Chief Executive also received some 109 graduating cadets of the Philippine Military Academy, who called at Malacañang to pay their respects in connection with his birthday.

He told the group to have pride in the "glorious past and uphold the fine traditions" of the country.

During the day, the President announced the amicable settlement of the ten-year boundary dispute between the Paper Industries Corporation of the Philippines (PICOP) and the Consuelo V. Calo Lumber Industries in Mindanao.

Counsel of both parties signed an agreement during a meeting today at the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources conference room. The accord ended the claims of the CVC and PICOP on a 14,000-hectare forest area in Agusan del Sur.

The agreement called for recognition by CVC of the boundary lines established by Presidential warranties, and was arrived at to "uphold the commitments made by the government of the Philippines arising from the Presidential warranties" in favor of PICOP and its fully-owned affiliate, the Bislig Bay Lumber Company, Inc.

September 10

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent a good part of the day outside of Malacañang, first when he attended the Loyalty Day ceremonies at Camp Aguinaldo and second when he flew to the resettlement area for squatters and refugees from the flood in Carmona, Cavite.

The President was the center of the traditional pledge of loyalty of the armed forces to their commander-in-chief. Usually held on the eve of the President's birthday, the ceremonies went off with precision, and included a parade and review by composite crack troops of the armed services, and a flyby by the air force. After the rites, he immediately took off for Carmona to inspect the site for the resettled, refugees from the flood and squatters moved from the Greater Manila area.

The President brought with him to Carmona the food prepared for guests at the AFP rites, and shared a snack with the inhabitants of the place. He asked that any other food meant to celebrate his birthday be sent on to the Carmona resettlement area for the residents there.

He inspected the facilities already put up at the site, including schoolrooms, dwellings, and a power plant. He was briefed on other plans, such as the deep wells which will give the area potable water supply.

Other government officials with the President were Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, Secretary of Public Works and Communications Manuel B. Syquiao, Secretary of Social Welfare Gregorio Feliciano, PHHC General Manager Sebastian Santiago, Cavite Governor Delfin N. Montaña, Carmona Mayor Cesar Casal and representatives of several government and private organizations connected with the relocation program.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: September 11-17, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

September 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS celebrated his 53rd birth anniversary quietly in Malacañang with relatives, close friends and colleagues in the government.

Early in the morning, the President received an overseas call from the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, and Bongbong, who are both in London.

The First Lady conveyed her greetings to the President on his birthday and inquired into the health of the President and daughters Imee and Irene.

Later in the morning, the President, together with daughters Imee and Irene, his mother Mrs. Josefa Edralin Marcos, and his sisters Elizabeth and Fortuna, heard mass at the Malacañang Reception Hall.

The Mass was officiated by Rev. James Donelan, S. J. He was assisted by Rev. Juan Bautista, chaplain of the Presidential Guard Battalion.

After the Mass, the President gave a luncheon for his guests.

In an interview with the radio-press, the President said, "On my birthday I usually do an assessment of the past year, of what has happened to me and what I have done, where I have committed mistakes and how I can rectify them, and what I plan for the following year.

"The past year has been an eventful one, both for myself and for our country. I am quite happy with the way things have turned out. I look to the future with confidence that we will continue to survive the trials before us and to pave the way for our advance as a nation."

Among those present at the luncheon given by the President were: Vice President Fernando Lopez, Senators Jose J. Roy and Helena Z. Benitez, Secretaries Juan Ponce Enrile of National Defense, Blas F. Ople of Labor, Ernesto Maceda of Commerce and Industry, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs Manuel Collantes, PANAMIN Secretary Manuel Elizalde, Jr., Reps. Jose D. Aspiras, Roque Ablan and Pablo Roman, and Mayors Luis Lardizabal of Baguio City and Hilarion Ramiro of Ozamis City.

Before having lunch with his guest's, the Presidents conferred the Presidential Medal of Merit on the late Oscar M. Alcaraz, a young explorer scout who drowned while saving the life of a drowning comrade.

Alcaraz died last August 30, National Heroes Day, at the La Mesa Dam reservoir.

Giving the posthumous award to the honoree's mother, Mrs. Regina M. Alcaraz, at a simple ceremony in Malacañang, the President extolled the young hero saying that the young Alcaraz "died as a true Filipino who should not only have physical courage but compassion and concern for others."

September 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent most of the day at his desk.

Apart from studying official reports on a wide range of government business, he also issued directives, among which was a sterner policy against those who violate conditions of the contract to operate concessions geared to the

exploitation of natural resources on public lands; and the organization of electric cooperatives teams, in every province to help the National Electrification Administration speed up its work.

The President also attended to the screening of prospective candidates for vacant posts in the government, including those recently vacated by officials who have opted to run for seats in the Constitutional Convention.

The President approved the promotion of Antonio Ruiz from first-assistant provincial fiscal to acting provincial fiscal of Pangasinan, vice Emeterio Castañeda, retired.

In another action, the President accepted with regret the resignation of Felipe Ysmal, special envoy to Southeast Asia and Australia.

September 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS continued concentrating on desk work, and disposed of official papers brought to him by aides, as well as acted on reports, both from private and government entities.

Among the directives issued from his desk was for Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata to look into the reported importation into the country of a sizable quantity of remnants, in violation of Central Bank regulations.

The entry of the remnants, said to be consisting of 757 bales and worth \$571,713.40, was brought to the President's attention by Julio B. Francia, Jr., president of the Philippine Chamber of Industries.

Steps considered include the outright seizure and destruction of the goods.

In his directive to Secretary Virata, the President asked the finance secretary to take appropriate action on the case to protect the Philippine textile industry.

September 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS stressed the importance of social welfare to development efforts, and recognizing the lack of manpower in this field offered Manila as the site of the Asian regional social welfare research and training center.

The President made the offer upon declaring open the First, Asian Ministers Conference on Social Welfare, held at the WHO Conference Hall on United Nations Avenue.

Later in the afternoon, the President tendered a reception in Malacañang in honor of the delegates to the conference.

The President started the day's work early in the morning with an order to Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., to head a survey party to hard hit Quezon province, to assess its losses from the big typhoon that swept through its northern portion.

After working at his desk through midmorning, the President left Malacañang to formally open the First Asian Regional Conference on Social Welfare.

In his speech, the President welcomed the initiatives to tighten and widen regional cooperation on social welfare, and offered Manila as site for the first regional research and training center for this field of service.

Returning to Malacañang, the President worked for a time at his desk, then received the delegation of the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines which formally invited him to be guest of honor and inducting officer when the new set of CCP officers are installed at ceremonies to be held at the Manila Hotel.

The CCP group included Simeon C. Medalla, president; Miguel S. Arambulo, Jr., vice president; Wigberto Clavecilla, vice president; Benito L. Medina, secretary-treasurer; and Ceferino L. Benedicto, director.

In the afternoon, the President was back at his desk working on state papers. He received the report on the typhoon toll submitted by Secretary Melchor, and promptly fired off orders on the rehabilitation of damaged or destroyed buildings, and on assistance to farmers who lost their crops or livestock.

While at work in his private study, the President received definite word from Vatican that His Holiness, Pope Paul VI, will arrive in the Philippines on November 27 for a three-day visit.

September 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent virtually the whole morning at Nichols Air Base, where he waited in vain for clearance to fly to Baler, Quezon with the intention of surveying for himself conditions in the disaster area.

But hazardous weather conditions over the vicinity of Baler ruled out a flight for the President to the scene of the disaster. He set another flight the next day, weather permitting.

During his stay at the base, he observed the movement of medical teams and relief goods and other supplies which government aircraft will ferry to the stricken province. Later, when he returned to Malacañang at about 11 a.m., the President issued; directives to facilitate the movement of relief goods and other assistance.

Through the afternoon, the President worked at his desk as he kept in constant touch with the operations in Quezon, and studied other aspects of the situation requiring immediate action.

The Chief Executive:

1. Issued a proclamation declaring November 1970 to November 1971 as Constitutional Reform Year.

In his proclamation, he called attention to the election of delegates to the Constitutional Convention in November and the amendment of the organic law which, he said, “should be the concern of every citizen of this country.”

2. Created national and local committees to take charge of a nationwide beautification and cleanliness campaign.

The creation of the committees was embodied in Executive Order No. 257, issued by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., in recognition of the idea that “beauty and cleanliness are the basic ideals of all homes, communities and nations.”

3. Approved the composition of the Philippine delegation to the ECAFE/UNIDO Asian Investment Promotion Meeting which will take place in Manila from September 23 to 30.

As recommended by PES Director-General Placido Mapa, Jr., who is chairman of the Philippine committee on UNIDO matters, the Philippine delegation will be headed by Chairman Vicente Paterno of the Board of Investments.

Still on international affairs, the President set the guidelines for Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, who heads the Philippine delegation at the 25th annual session of the United Nations, on various outstanding world questions.

The President specified that the Philippines will take a stand:

1. Against pollution of the environment, especially by nuclear tests in the Pacific and contiguous areas;

2. For family planning and population control; and

3. For greater involvement and participation of youth in international affairs.

The President also indicated the current mediation efforts of Ambassador Gunnar Jarring also deserve “our encouragement, having in mind the grave dangers that presently cloud the Middle East.”

On this point, the President instructed Romulo to maintain the stance of neutrality, pointing out that neutrality has always characterized Philippine policy on this question.

The President also directed the Philippine delegation to support UN activities in the economic and social fields, which “certainly will be the most relevant undertaking in the lives of millions of peoples, but, more important, prove to be the most beneficial and lasting, of all UN projects.”

UN action to alleviate poverty and to eliminate problems of nutrition, housing, education and freer trade deserve unstinted backing, the President also said.

He observed as well that the rambling debates that consumes much of the General Assembly’s time should be modified in such a way as to expedite assembly proceedings.

As to other specific items in the agenda of the current UN session, the President told the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, “You shall adhere, with reasonable and judicious discretion, to the policy guidelines set forth” by the Philippine Government.

In the evening, he had a working dinner with members of Congress to discuss various urgent governmental matters.

September 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS restated the government policy toward dissidence, saying that economic development and social amelioration are still the best weapons against Huk subversion in Central Luzon.

In an informal meeting with newsmen following his conversations with captured Huk Commanders Sumulong, Zaragosa and Legaspi who were brought to Malacañang at noon, the President said that with the recent capture or surrender of more Huks and arms, he looked forward to the early stabilization of peace and order in Central Luzon.

The President stated that the recent capture of Huk chieftains, including top dissident leaders, shows the determination of the armed forces in restoring normalcy to the region.

Devoting most of his working hours on official papers and other state business brought to him as he worked in his study, the President broke from this routine only three times.

The first was when he conferred an award on departing Argentine Ambassador Marco Aurelio Benitez the Order of Sikatuna, rank of *Lakan*.

The award was conferred on Ambassador Benitez for his contributions to the strengthening of international relations, particularly between the Philippines and Argentina.

Specifically, the President pointed to Ambassador Benitez’s efforts to win his government’s support for Philippine proposals in the United Nations and other international conferences, thus rendering this country a great service.

Following the award ceremonies, the President received a group of mayors and other local officials of Davao del Norte, during which he enjoined local executives to listen to valid grievances from the people but cautioned them against abdicating their authorities, particularly to radical elements.

His last break from his desk work came when he interrogated three ranking Huks captured by the army, including No. 2 Huk Commander Sumulong.

From there and all through the day, the President continued to work on state papers.

He issued a proclamation declaring all watersheds and lakes within water reservations as game refuge and bird sanctuaries.

Consistent with the proclamation, the hunting, taking or killing of wildlife within said watersheds, lakes and inland waters, specified in Republic Act, 2590, as amended, are prohibited.

The President also submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation of 52 nominations to posts in the foreign service. (*See* p. 8738 for list of nominees.)

September 17—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent the whole morning at the stricken areas in Quezon, which bore the brunt of Typhoon Pitang, to survey the relief operations going on and further look into the needs of the victims.

Flying from Manila in a small plane, the President took along with him his Cabinet, so that any requirements which the Cabinet could meet would be immediately understood and coordinated with the other members of his official family.

Arriving at Casiguran at mid-morning, the President first attended a Thanksgiving Mass at the town church, the only building still standing, then toured the town. He issued several directives during the public meeting which occurred spontaneously in the town.

The President and his party left Casiguran at nearly high noon, flying back to Manila in about two hours.

With the President on the trip to Quezon were Gov. Anacleto Alcala of Quezon, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, Secretary of Social Welfare Gregorio M. Feliciano, Acting Press Secretary Lorenzo J. Cruz, Secretary of Public Works and Communications Manuel B. Syquiao, Acting Budget Commissioner Juan Agcaoile, Agriculture Undersecretary Arturo R. Tanco, Jr., PACD Administrator Rosendo Marquez, Highways Commissioner Baltazar Aquino, and Gen. Manuel T. Yan, AFP Chief of staff.

Receiving no callers, the President worked at his desk the rest of the day.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: September 18-24, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

September 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS further tightened the anti-smuggling drive by creating the National Action Committee on Anti-Smuggling Affairs (NACASA), which will coordinate the functions of the different agencies of the government engaged in anti-smuggling activities.

The President formed the committee after it was noted that gaps and inadequacies have hampered the anti-smuggling efforts of the government. Particularly noted was the weakness in intelligence, operations, apprehensions, prosecution and disposition of smuggling cases.

The executive order specified that the committee will be composed of the Commissioner of Customs, the chairman of the Anti-Smuggling Action Center, a representative each of the Secretary of Justice, Commissioner of Internal Revenue, AFP chief of staff, and such other government entities that the committee may call, and the commandant of the Coast Guard.

The committee will elect from among its members the chairman, who will have a term of three months. Then a new chairman will be elected with the same tenure.

The committee is charged with the planning, programming, implementation, direction and supervision of the combined government agencies involved in the anti-smuggling drive.

It will also conduct joint investigation and prosecution of all cases involving violations of existing laws, rules and regulations on smuggling throughout the country.

The committee will have a permanent secretariat at the ASAC office to be composed of a secretary and two assistants provided by the ASAC. The secretariat's functions are to:

1. Maintain liaison among the members of the committee;
2. Attend to the implementation and follow-up of the decisions of the committee;
3. Maintain the records and files of the committee; and
4. Prepare and submit such reports as the action committee may direct.

The President had only one caller in the morning, Rufino Cardinal Santos, with whom he had a brief talk on the forthcoming papal visit.

The rest of the day was devoted by the President to his desk work, in the course of which he signed the executive order creating the National Action Committee on Anti-Smuggling Affairs.

The President also concerned himself with the relief operations in Quezon province, and studied reports of other state agencies on various matters.

In the evening, he had a working dinner once more, this time with finance officials, including Senator Dominador Aytona, chairman of the Senate finance committee. Others at the dinner were Board of Investments Chairman Vicente Paterno and PES Director-General Placido Mapa, Jr.

September 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a quiet day of work in his study, with no visitors on his schedule, and no engagements outside of Malacañang.

He utilized the whole day to study official papers and to act on urgent state matters.

The President named four officials to various city and provincial posts, namely:

1. Dr. Rufmo Ynzon, as acting city health officer of Puerto Princesa City.
2. Dr. Adelina Mil, as acting city superintendent of schools of San Carlos City (Pangasinan).
3. Roldan Alba, as acting provincial treasurer of Abra, and
4. Vicente Lopez, as acting city engineer of San Jose City.

The President also issued a proclamation authorizing the Knights of Rizal to conduct a national educational and fund campaign during the period November 30, 1970 through May 30, 1971.

The Order of the Knights of Rizal has for its primary objective the training and molding of Filipino youth, with Emphasis on character building, dynamic citizenship, civic consciousness, dedicated and democratic leadership, and enlightened nationalism.

September 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS declared that as the Philippines modernizes her armed forces, “we shall strive just as hard to make the soldier a warm human being and part of the heart and Soul of our country.”

The President made this remark before the Enlisted Personnel Association of the Philippines (EPAP), at its 11th anniversary celebration at the SSS social hall.

“We are teaching our soldiers to learn the arts of peace, rather than uphold merely the science of war,” the President declared.

The Chief Executive recalled that in recent years, his administration has succeeded in bringing the soldiers from the barracks to the farms, the barrios, the towns, to do the tasks of development.

“We have trained our soldiers to heal the sick, to aid the unfortunate to teach the ignorant, to build roads and bridges, put up schoolhouses, and keep, the peace,” he emphasized.

He also expressed the wish to see more and more of the soldiers responding efficiently and effectively to the needs of the community in times of peace, “when those needs could not be fulfilled by other agencies.”

The President regretted, however, the curious paradox that “while we are exerting special efforts to humanize the military man, to purge our country of militarism, there should be sectors of the nation who would rant against so-called militarism.”

What discomfits certain critics, he said, was perhaps the fact that the military can be seen everywhere doing useful things, sometimes taking the place of civilians in doing civilian duties.

Except for the speaking engagement which took him out of Malacañang, the President was at his desk most of the morning and afternoon going-over official reports and disposing of official papers needing immediate action.

The reports included those from the National Disaster Control Center (NDCC) and from Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs Manuel Collantes.

The NDCC informed the President of the progress of relief and rehabilitation work in the typhoon ravaged municipalities of Disalag, Dinalongan and Casiguran, in Quezon province.

Secretary Collantes reported that Madame Girl of India has accepted membership in the governing body of the association for Asian culture, which was proposed by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda E. Marcos,, in a speech at the Philippine Day celebrations at Expo '70 in Osaka, Japan.

September 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS turned his attention to such current problems as sky hijacking, the new labor-management dispute at the Philippine Air Lines, and such development projects as are being assisted by the

The President had opportunity to focus on these problems when he conferred with officials equally concerned about them.

The problem of sky pirates was examined by the President with Knut Hammarsjold, director general of the IATA. He paid a courtesy call on the President in the morning, accompanied by Benigno Toda, Jr., president of the PAL.

Hammarsjold informed the President that the problem posed by hijacking in the air which was taken up at the IATA conference should not only be dealt with by the United Nations but individual countries should initiate internal legislation to prevent it.

The visiting IATA official submitted to the President his recommendations and proposals on the matter and the President endorsed them for study and evaluation to a technical committee.

The President also informed Hammarsjold that in addition to the administrative measures he had taken to prevent plane hijacking, he would seriously consider certification to Congress of the bill sponsored by Sen. Magnolia Antonino imposing stiff penalty for robberies committed in flying vehicles, amending for the purpose Sec. 294 of the Revised Penal Code.

The bill would impose *reclusion perpetua* to death when the crime is accompanied with homicide, *reclusion temporal* to *reclusion perpetua* if followed with rape, intentions mutilation, etc., and *prision mayor* and *prision correctional*.

The PAL labor dispute was also discussed when officials of the PAL Employees Association saw the President to press for the early resolution of the workers demands. The group was accompanied by Director of Labor Relations Bureau Amado Inciong. The President asked for time to thresh out the issues with the PAL president.

Those in the PALEA delegation were Fortunato Biangco, president; Eulogio Lerum and Antonio Policarpio, counsel; Egdar A. Lubiano, secretary; and Armando Regala, Eddie Miranda, Isabela Espiritu, Agustin Sarto, Pedro Calderon, Artemio Lopez, Felix Carlitos, Hernando Guevarra and Arthur Tan, directors.

Toward noon, John Hannah, US AID administrator, called on the President to pay his respects. The visitor was the President's guest at luncheon, during which AID-assisted projects here were discussed. Also at the luncheon were local US AID Administrator Thomas Niblock, Ambassador Henry Byroade, Secretary of Education Onofre D. Corpuz, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Chairman Gerardo Sicat of the National Economic Council, Agriculture Undersecretary Arturo Tanco, Jr., Deputy Director-General Apolinario Orosa of the Presidential

Economic Staff, Chairman Geronimo Velasco of the National Electrification Commission, Mrs. Estefania Aldaba Lim and Minister Richard Finn.

In the afternoon, the President concentrated on his desk work. He studied reports on the on-going relief work in the typhoon-devastated areas of Quezon province; and acted on urgent matters brought to his desk.

September 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS underscored the bright prospects for the nation, with the measures and austerity program of the government justified by the easing of the economic and financial problems of the country.

In a speech at the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines in the evening, the President pointed out that the difficulties experienced in the recent past were not new to a developing nation, that undue pessimism merely aggravated them, and that “our problems are not insurmountable, provided that we are willing to make temporary sacrifices that go with the solution of these problems.”

Toward the end of his speech, the “President was roundly cheered as he announced his signing, of House Bill No. 2175 (S. B. No. 143), otherwise known as the Export Incentives Bill. Before the officers and members of the CCP and their guests, the President reenacted the signing of the measure which became Republic Act No. 6135.

In his speech, the President said that the root problem was not the balance of payments, but the nature of the “development process of a country,” which usually incurs a certain amount of trade deficit.”

The basic problem was in the structure of the external debt, he said, which was financed by short-term loans after retiring previously contracted debts instead of contracting long-term obligations to finance development projects which have “a long gestation period.” (See pages 8963-8971 for the full text of the President’s speech.)

The President once more devoted himself to desk work, with no visitors on his schedule.

Except for consultations with aides and other officials, he worked uninterrupted, in his study.

He worked through the afternoon, breaking off at around 8 p.m. to attend as guest of honor and speaker at the induction ceremonies of the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines held at the Plaza in Makati.

While engaged in paper work, the President expanded further the composition of the National Council for Small and Medium Industries by including a representative of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce in the council.

As originally created the NCSMI is composed of the chairman of the National Economic Council, council chairman; the director of the UP Institute of Small Scale and Medium Industries, action officer and the secretary of commerce and industry, DBP chairman, PNB president GSIS general manager, SSS administrator, and a representative each of the Pilipino Chamber of Small Business and Industries, and the Philippine Chamber of Industries, members.

The NCSMI was created by the President last June in recognition of the vital role played by small and medium industries in the economic development of the country, and in line with the policy of the government to assist and protect the interests of these industries and to encourage and development their actual potentials.

September 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS joined ECAFE and the UNIDO in recognizing the limitations of foreign aid and the ever-increasing importance of private investment in assisting the economic growth in developing countries.

The President made the statement in his address at the opening ceremonies of the ECAFE/UNIDO meeting to promote specific projects in Asian countries. The week-long meeting started in the morning at the Manila Hilton Coral Ballroom.

Expanding on this statement, the President noted that both developed and developing countries are becoming gradually disenchanted over the efficacy and efficiency of foreign aid. This disenchantment has been clearly reflected on the flows of foreign aid in the past few years.

The President also proposed that investors from developed countries gear industrial enterprise to regional markets rather than to markets confined to one country.

Returning to Malacañang, the President settled down to his usual schedule of desk work, and in-between received visitors. One of the bigger groups to see him was that of the special committee named to take charge of the observance of Aviation Week.

Members of the committee who called were CAA Administrator Federico Ablan, chairman; J. J. Wolahan and Cesar A. Mijares, vice chairmen, Francis Ablan, secretary-general; Col. Henry Meider and Epifanio Reymundo, coordinators; and Enrique Davila, Miguel Campos, Enrique Zobel and Sebastian Ugarte, in charge of operations, finance, social affairs and publicity, respectively.

Among other callers at Malacañang were Sen. Dominador R. Aytona, Reps. Rodolfo Albano of Isabela, Felipe Almazan of Kalinga Apayao, Emerito Calderon of Cebu, Jose Puyat of Surigao del Sur, and Amando Cope of Albay. The President received these solons separately. They consulted him on problems affecting their constituencies.

The President also sent a message to Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, chief minister of the newly independent state of Fiji, welcoming the new state into the family of free nations.

Fiji, a British colony for many years, was set for proclamation as an independent state on October 10, 1970.

In extending recognition to the new state, President Marcos restated his country's policy of fostering friendly relations with its neighbors in Asia and the Pacific.

The full text of the President's message follows:

The Republic of the Philippines is happy to welcome into the family of free nations the newly independent state of Fiji. On behalf of the people and government of the Philippines I extend to your excellency my best wishes for the well-being, happiness and prosperity of your country and people, and express the hope that relations between our two countries will be characterized by the utmost cordiality and amity.

September 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, in a welcome break in presidential routine, met the young men and women who manned the Philippine pavilion at the Expo '70 in Osaka, Japan when they called at Malacañang.

Warmly congratulating the "young ambassadors of goodwill," the President said it was the unanimous observation of those who had gone to the international fair, Filipinos as well as foreigners, that although the Philippine pavilion was a modest affair, it was one of the best remembered.

Headed by Victor Lira, the personnel of the Philippine pavilion at the fair called on the President following their recent return to Manila after a seven-month stint at the Osaka fair.

They were accompanied by Secretary of Commerce and Industry Ernesto Maceda.

Earlier in the morning, the President received Ambassador Yaacob Avnon of Israel who presented him with a copy of the Old Testament in Hebrew and in English.

During the call, the Israeli envoy also discussed with the President certain aspects of the technical assistance being extended by his government to the Philippines in the implementation of the Land Reform Code.

After the diplomat's call, the President met a group of farmers, and signed a proclamation reserving 8,221 hectares of disposable public lands located in Barrio Laac, Asuncion, Davao del Norte for the settlement of landless farmers. Present at the signing were Sen. Alejandro Almendras, Rep. Lorenzo Sarmiento, Gov. Verulo C. Boiser and representatives of some 5,000 farmers who had petitioned for the release of the lands.

Later in the morning, the President administered the oath to Mayor Juanito Purisima of Maitum, South Cotabato as member of provincial board, filling the post vacated by Fidel Purisima who had filed his certificate of candidacy as delegate to the Constitutional Convention.

At the induction were Gov. Sergio B. Morales of South Cotabato, Mayors Honorio Cornejo of Tupi and Irineo Barroso of Tampacan, and other leaders of the province.

Then the President repaired to the state dining hall where he was briefed by the Presidential Action Committee on Land Problems composed of representatives of various government agencies. The committee is charged with formulating solutions to land disputes in different parts of the country.

The briefing was conducted by Undersecretary of Agriculture Arturo Tanco, Jr., action officer of the committee.

The President was kept busy by conferences and callers until 2:30 p.m.

Other callers included Shoul N. Eisenberg, president of the international engineering firm bearing his name with headquarters at Tel Aviv, Israel. Accompanying him were Michael N. Fleischmann, the firm's Far East regional manager and H. E. Gabriel, local representative. Eisenberg discussed with the President the problem of flood control in the Greater Manila area, as well as in other sections of the country.

The rest of the day was devoted by the President to his paper work. Among other actions, the President:

1. Authorized the National Power Corporation to increase its service rates by an average of 42 per cent over its present rates.

This would enable the National Power Corporation to initiate its power expansion program aimed at meeting ever-increasing energy demands in support of industrialization, contribute to the total electrification of the country, and maintain efficient and reliable services for its customers.

2. Directed Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco to immediately implement simultaneously the minimum wage law and the five per cent salary adjustment for governmental workers authorized under the 1971 budget.

3. Submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation the nomination of Secretary, of Justice Vicente Abad Santos, and four other judiciary officials.

The others nominated were Victor G. Nituda, as associate commissioner of the Immigration Commission; Roberto G. Cordenillo, as municipal judge of Panay town in Capiz; and Artemio F. Sanglay, as auxiliary municipal judge of San Fernando, La Union.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: September 25 - October 1, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

September 25—

PRESIDENT MARCO'S again focused on his desk work, but took time out to receive visitors, including members of the Rizal Society of Japan, and was the central figure in an award ceremony where he received a plaque of appreciation from the country's science community.

Most of the President's morning activities were centered on his paper work in the course of which he signed an order deporting two undesirable aliens, and sent a couple of nominations to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation.

Ordered deported were Lim Liang and Sulay Chua Lay. Lim and Chua were convicted for murder and robbery, respectively.

Submitted for confirmation were the nominations of:

- 1) Assistant Director Guillermo Batto as director of the Bureau of Research, Training and Special Projects of the Department of Social Welfare, vice Eugenio Jamias, resigned; and
- 2) Mrs. Sylvia P. Montes as acting director of the Bureau of Field Research, also of the Department of Social Welfare, vice Teofilo Asuncion, retired.

Both nominees were recommended to their posts by Secretary of Social Welfare Gregorio M. Feliciano.

The President also called up Rep. Salipada K. Pendatun, victim of an ambush, but miraculously escaped injury. He assured the Mindanao congressman that his office will press the hunt for the gunmen. He ordered the police agencies concerned to bring the culprits to justice, and asked for a progress report on the investigation.

The plaque of appreciation was conferred by former chairman of the National Science Development Board Juan Salcedo, on behalf of the local science community, for the President's abiding interest and concern in the promotion of science in the Philippines.

After the presentation, the President received the delegation composed of members of the Rizal Society of Japan, headed by Col. Nobuhiko Jimbo, the society president. The group thanked the President for the government's assistance in making possible for the delegation to conduct research on the life and times of the national hero.

Col. Jimbo informed the President that he and his party enjoyed their visit to Calamba, Laguna, the hero's birthplace; Dapitan, where the hero was exiled; Fort Santiago; where he was incarcerated, and the Paco cemetery, where Rizal was interred.

As chief of staff of the Japanese Forces in Mindanao, Col. Jimbo was credited with saving the life of former President Roxas. He defied the order from higher headquarters to execute the then Col. Roxas.

Others in the research delegation which called on the President in the evening were Mrs. Eiko Mura, Sohta Yamamoto, and Sadaichi Mariya, directors of the society. The group was accompanied by Professor Esteban de Ocampo, president of the Philippine Historical Association; Jorge Revilla and Justo L. Torres, secretary and chancellor, respectively, of the Knights of Rizal.

In the afternoon, the President received Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile and General Manuel T. Yan, AFP chief of staff.

Gen. Yan was given final instructions by the President preparatory to the AFP chief's departure for Seoul, Korea, where he will represent the Philippines in the celebration of the Korean Armed Forces Day.

Later in the evening, the President motored to the Cultural Center of the Philippines where he attended a performance of an Indonesian cultural troupe.

September 26—

IT WAS a day of delegations for President Marcos as no less than three sizable groups from as many provinces called at Malacañang to consult him on various problems.

The first group to see the President was the delegation from Sulu, led by Rep. Indanan Anni and Gov. Murphy Sangkula, and composed of Deputy Govs. Tuan Mohammed Ali Ligaddung, Usman Polahong, Hadji Adjid Talib, Hadji Nasser Muay, Maud din Senihay, Ibrahim Illid, Salombaton Igasan, Maandong Jailani and Hadji Asip Amilasan; Mayors Dugasan Daud, Pershing Tautali, Andan Indanan, Bening Ho, Asarab Magong, Utoh Sabuddin, Abdurahman Burohan, Abdel Asser Talbi, Ladjapehi Uto-Arani, Yap Tipail, Datu Amiral Kiram, Datu Ayidin Bahjin, Titina Anni, and Agga Abdulhem; Vice Mayors Asem Ibno and Felix Monteron, Jr., Councilor Ammah Lakbo and Kulayan Abian; former Gov. Hadji Hasan Tawasil, and former board member Jana Sangkula.

The group called in connection with the land dispute that some 100 settlers have with the family who claims prior rights to the property on which the former had built their homes. The President decided to refer the question to the courts, in accordance with the agreement reached by the contending parties.

The second delegation came from Nueva Vizcaya led by Rep. Benjamin Perez. The group sought the release of funds to rebuild or replace damaged public works and public buildings.

Composing the group were Mayor Dionisio A. Sarandi of Maddela, a municipality of the sub-province of Quirino, and Diffun Mayor Mariano Pimentel, Aglipay Mayor Nolasco Mandac and his vice mayor, Dominador Mabayo; Mayor William Giron of Dupax and Councilors Agbayani Larosa and Marcelino Periquet of the same town; as well as Mrs. Azucena Sarandi of the school district of Maddela; Municipal Treasurer Restitute Bueno and Vicente Galapon, Barrio Captains League president; all of Maddela.

The third delegation came from Camarines Norte, led by Rep. Fernando Pajarillo, and composed of Provincial Board Member B. V. Eco and Mayors Roy Padilla, Felix Tenorio and Claro Ebasco, and Division Superintendent of Schools A. Portellas. The group discussed with the President local problems.

The President later received Sebastian Ugarte of the RMN-IBC network, who presented a ₱5000 donation to the typhoon relief fund for Quezon province, which staffers of the network raised initially to fund a party celebrating the company's 10th anniversary, but which they later decided to give to the typhoon victims. Accompanying Ugarte were Ronnie Nathanielz and Ed Tipton, representing the network employees.

September 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS approved the rules and regulations on the exportation of corn which the Rice and Corn Export Committee drafted and was subsequently adopted by the National Food and Agriculture Council (NFAC).

A copy of the rules and regulations was submitted to the President in the morning by Agriculture Undersecretary Arturo R. Tanco, Jr., presidential action officer of the NFAC.

The NFAC, headed by Vice President Fernando Lopez, also Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources, has informed the President that the Philippines could export white corn up to a modest, maximum of 90,000 metric tons, worth some \$6.3 million.

The set of rules was designed to properly regulate such exportation.

Under the rules approved by the President, the exporter must be a Filipino citizen, or a partnership, corporation, cooperative, association, producer and/or miller, engaged in the corn trade and duly registered with the Rice and Corn Board. The exporter must be capable as well of meeting export obligations as determined by the availability and/or control of warehousing and milling facilities and the availability and/or control of corn stocks.

Piles of official papers kept the President at his desk most of the morning and afternoon, in the course of which he submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation the nominations of 10 municipal judges, two fiscals, a city judge and a bureau director.

September 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had occasion to discuss the problems of Sapang Palay, the resettlement site for urban squatters, when PHHC Manager Sebastian Santiago and Msgr. Mariano Gaviola, who represents the church's involvement in that project, called at Malacañang.

The PHHC manager also submitted his report on the immediate problems in Sapang Palay, as well as on the improvements and facilities already instituted.

The President was particularly concerned about the lack of water sources in the site, and asked Santiago to request the Comelec to exempt from the 45-day ban imposed during the current campaign for delegate seats in the Constitutional Convention, the public works initiatives needed to provide deep wells in the area.

Apart from these two callers, and a later call made by Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Jose Ingles, who took up foreign office matters. The President was free to concentrate on his paper work, which included the report made by a special committee created to study the integrated payment plan for the cost-of-living allowance to public schoolteachers all over the country; and the plans to put up a resettlement site in Montalban, Rizal for uprooted families in the metropolitan area, who lost their homes in the recent floods, complete with arrangements for establishing cooperative farming.

In between receiving callers, the President directed Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile and AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Manuel T. Yan to fly to Cotabato to take a close look at the peace and order situation of the province.

The President remained at his desk through the rest of his working day.

September 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS conferred with representatives of national and local law enforcement agencies operating in the Greater Manila area and received a number of callers which included provincial delegations.

In between his paper work, the President also met members of the Indonesian Dance Troupe who called at Malacañang at noon to say goodbye before enplaning to Jakarta after giving a series of performances at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Accompanied by Indonesian Ambassador Kusno Utomo and Director-General Suwandono of the Ministry of Education and Culture, the dancers performed in Manila following a five-month stint at the Expo '70 in Osaka, Japan.

In his meeting with police agency representatives, the President fired off a series of orders designed to coordinate the operations of national and local police forces in the wake of the recent ambush of Rep. Salipada K. Pendatun and the rash of robberies and hold-ups in and around the Manila area.

The President observed that lawless elements “are getting bolder and more daring” and exhibit virtual “contempt for the law.”

Acting upon the requests and recommendations of the conferees, the President ordered:

- 1) Activation of foot patrols.
- 2) Strict surveillance of known gangs and crime syndicates, ex-convicts and persons facing criminal charges, as well as renewed efforts to recapture escaped prisoners.
- 3) Assignment of local police officers to METROCOM teams, a practice, which had been discontinued, due to lack of METROCOM vehicles.
- 4) The loan of 25 jeeps, ten of which will be for the Manila police, and five each for the police departments of the cities Quezon, Caloocan and Pasay.
- 5) The immediate release by the Philippine Constabulary of ₱80,000 for the repair of 40 METROCOM cars sidelined because of engine or other defects.
- 6) The METROCOM to establish a civilian vehicle pool for police work, the operating expenses for which will be defrayed by the government.
- 7) Official requests from police chiefs and city mayors to import transportation and communications equipment so that the necessary foreign exchange can be worked out with the Central Bank.
- 8) The release to the METROCOM of ₱490,000 worth of communications equipment, acquired through reparations, by the defense department.
- 9) The detail of 300 PC recruits with METROCOM, as a reserve force, and thus raise its complement to 1,800 officers and men.

Present at the conference were:

Brig. Gen, Mariano Ordoñez, chief of METROCOM; Col. Pelagio Perez of the CIS, PC; acting NBI Director Ponciano Fernando; Assistant POLCOM Commissioner Sergio F. Go; Col. Luis Amor of the Peace and Order Council; Cols. Gerardo Tamayo and James Barbers, MPD chief and deputy chief, respectively; Col. Tomas Karingal, Quezon City chief of police; Col. Celestino Rosca, Caloocan City chief of police; Lt. Col/ Fernando P. Angara, Makati chief of police; and Maj. Delfin Francisco of the Pasay City police department.

Other callers at Malacañang included Secretary of Commerce and Industry Ernesto Maceda, former Secretary Alfredo Montelibano, and delegations from Pampanga headed by Gov. Francisco Nepomuceno and from Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte led by Mayor Constantino Benemerito.

The President commended the Reserve Airlift and Tactical Support Service Squadron (RATSS) commanded by Lt. Col. Enrique Zobel, which is also popularly known as the “Weekend Warriors” of the Philippine Air Force, for its effective participation in the transport of relief supplies and the mercy missions it undertook in the wake of the typhoon which devastated northern Quezon province early this month.

In his commendation, the President said that the response of the RATSS pilots, many of them flying their own planes, in airlifting food, medicines and volunteer relief workers amply demonstrated the unit's capabilities and its high state of readiness for any emergency.

While at work on state papers, the President submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation 40 nominees to various posts in the government. (*See* pp. 9187 and 9188 for list of nominees.)

The President also called the following message of condolence to Vice President Anwar El-sadat of the United Arab Republic on the death of President Gamal Abdel Nasser:

"I am saddened to hear of the untimely death of President Gamal Abdel. Nasser. With his passing, the United. Arab Republic lost a most distinguished son; the Arab world a respected leader; and the world an eminent statesman.

"On behalf of the Filipino people, may I request your Excellency to convey our sincere condolences to the Egyptian people who regarded him as a father, to his colleagues, and to the bereaved members of his family."

September 30—

PRESIDENT MARCOS received official advice from Pope Paul VI himself of the latter's arrival in Manila; accepted the donation of an entire village for indigents rendered homeless by the recent flood; and was apprised of the start of oil explorations by an all-Filipino oil firm.

These are some of the highlights of a checkered day for the President, which included attendance at the testimonial dinner for Vice President Fernando Lopez, and an interview with foreign newsmen.

Early in the morning the President received a delegation of Zamboanga del Sur mayors, with Rep. Vicente Cerilles and Gov. Bienvenido Ebarle of that province accompanying the group. Local problems were taken up.

Following the group was Msgr. Carmine Rocco, Papal Nuncio, who delivered a letter from the Pope to the President. The letter formally apprised the President of the arrival, on Nov. 27, of the Pope in Manila. The Nuncio also discussed aspects of the preparations for Pope Paul's visit.

After his meeting, the President shortly received prominent members of the local Chinese community, who made a formal turn-over of the initial check covering the construction of the Filipino-Chinese Friendship Village, which is being donated for the purpose of providing homes for squatters and other indigents whose homes were destroyed by the recent floods.

The group was headed by Antonio Roxas Chua, chairman of the board in charge of the project.

Next to call was the group representing the Philippine Oil Co., who informed the President that the firm is now completely Filipinized and is ready to start probing for oil deposits in waters just off Palawan. In the group were Jose Ma. Soriano, Earl Taylor, Joven Ibasetas, Mario Nieto and Sebastian Ugarte.

Other callers included Land Authority Gov. Conrado Estrella; and Reps. Rodolfo Albano of Isabela, Emerito Calderon of Cebu, Expedito Leviste of Batangas, Gaudencio Beduya of Cebu, Jose Puyat, Jr. of Surigao del Sur, Constantino Navarro of Surigao del Norte, and Sen. Rene Espina. The solons took up problems in their constituencies.

In the afternoon, the President sat down with foreign correspondents for an interview, after which he received Rep. William Chiongbian of Misamis Occidental.

The President also named Ambassador Yusup Abubakar and Reps. Mohammad Ali Dimaporo and Jose D. Aspiras as official representatives of the Philippines at the funeral of President Gamal Abdel Nasser of the United Arab Republic. President Nasser succumbed Monday to a heart attack.

Among other actions, the President submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation the names of nine nominees to various government posts (*See* pp. 9187 and 9188 for list of nominees) as well as ordered a speed-up of the dispersal program for prisoners so as to minimize problems from overcrowding at the national penitentiary in Muntinlupa, Rizal.

In a series of directives to Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos and Director of Prisons Alejo Santos, the President also, ordered the updating and revision of the classification of prisoners, the segregation of maximum risk prisoners from the minimum and medium risk inmates.

In the evening, he went to the Manila Hilton for the dinner honoring Vice President Fernando Lopez on his silver jubilee as a public servant, where he participated in the presentation of awards to the honoree.

October 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS defined the challenge of the seventies to the nation as a many-sized task to be met simultaneously, notably the development of the economy, the redress of society, and the enrichment of culture.

This challenge, he said, is “a challenge to intelligence and imagination” and that what may cripple the country is not the difficulties in resources or other areas, but “the way we view our difficulties.”

Speaking as guest of honor at the opening of the 22nd national convention of the Philippine Jaycees, held at the Rizal Theatre in Makati, Rizal in the morning, the President projected the problems and requirements of the seventies and the years beyond, and asked that the nation be prepared to meet a many-headed and simultaneous challenge which the times impose on this country as on other countries.

Returning to Malacañang about 12 noon, the President began receiving callers. Among, the first to see him was the UN Undersecretary C. V. Narasimhan, who made a stopover here enroute to Tokyo and New York.

Other callers were officials of the Flying Tiger Airline, who paid a courtesy call, during which they informed the President that the airline is specially interested in carrying local exports to markets abroad. In the group were Wayne Hoffman and George Zettler, chairman and vice president, respectively, of the FTA.

Finally, the President discussed with officials ‘of the Confederation of Union in the Sugar Industry the social amelioration fund established for workers by industry leaders. The unionists said that many planters and millers had, failed to abide by the agreement. The President then suggested that the fund be made to stick through legislation, and pledged to certify to the regular session of Congress next year a bill to that effect.

In the afternoon, the President once more emerged from Malacañang to address the graduation rites of the NACIDA. Technological and Development Training Center in Marikina, Rizal. He told the graduates that NACIDA enterprises are substantially helping the economy and should be further pursued, to expand and intensify its activities.

Exuding optimism over the bright future of the NACIDA projects in the country, the President said, “I direct this afternoon all government offices which need any of the things produced by the NACIDA to buy them directly from the NACIDA manufacturers.

He also pledged to utilize the powers of the presidency to help NACIDA, and to have government offices patronize directly, its products, as well as support NACIDA ventures so that these will continue to flourish and progress.

At the same time, the President conveyed to Japan through Ambassador Toshio Urabe, the gratitude of the Philippine government for the assistance extended by that government to the project in the form of machinery and equipment, as well as experts and specialists in various fields.

Returning to Malacañang, the President resumed his interrupted stint at his desk. He worked through early evening on state papers.

Informed of the strong earthquake that badly hit Batanes, the Chief Executive ordered the speedy delivery of relief aid.

He directed:

1. The dispatch of Philippine Air Force plane with rice and other relief goods to Basco, the province's capital.
2. That additional supplies be shipped aboard Philippine Navy ship.
3. The Department of Social Welfare to send through the PN ship, LSM-68, 1000 sacks of rice to the Batanes Red Cross for distribution to the earthquake victims.

The President, through Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., also requested the United States Coast Guard to fly to Basco the halasone tablets earlier requested by Gov. Silvino Agudd.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: October 2-8, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

October 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent most of the morning at his desk working on state papers, then at about half past noon he motored to the Manila International Airport, along with children Imee and Irene, to meet the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, who was scheduled to arrive from the United States at about 1:30 p.m.

The President went to the MIA early so that he could also be on hand to welcome back Salvador del Rosario, who won the gold medal in his weightlifting class. On meeting the first Filipino to win first place in an international weightlifting tilt, the President said that it was a feat which gave the country great prestige.

As soon as the PAL jet, *Sampaguita*, came to a halt at the MIA main apron, the President and his children, as well as his mother, Mrs. Josefa Edralin Marcos, boarded the plane. Shortly, they emerged with the First Lady.

From the MIA, the President accompanied Mrs. Marcos to the Nayong Pilipino, where she cut the ribbon opening the exhibit of ceramics at the Vigan House and presented the awards to the winners of the annual cleanliness and beautification contest.

Then, the President and the First Lady left together for the Palace, arriving there at about 3 p.m.

The rest of the President's working day was taken up by more paper work.

During the day, the President designated Eliseo V. Villamor as acting undersecretary of commerce, vice Fernando Campos, who resigned to run for a seat at the Constitutional Convention.

At the same time, the Chief Executive submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation the nomination of Prescilio G. Evangelista as municipal judge of Lingayen, Pangasinan.

October 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS expressed deep satisfaction over the findings of a consortium of banks which met on October 1-2, in Paris to consider the establishment of a consultative group in the Philippines. He said such findings confirmed his optimism about the country's accelerated economic growth.

The President took particular notice of the communique issued at the end of the meeting under the chairmanship of the World Bank which said that "given the difficult balance of payment situation (of the Philippines), it was noted that for the next few years, investment and growth targets indicated in the four-year economic plan were modest in relation to Philippine long-run capabilities."

He added that his optimism over the government's four-year plan has been confirmed by the consensus reached by the participants to the conference that "the present, financial difficulties (of the Philippines) could be overcome within a fairly short period and economic growth thereafter could be accelerated."

The President said "that findings of the Paris conference should now help us to renew and strengthen our support for the economic strategies and policies of the government since it cannot now be denied that there remains a strong confidence in those strategies and policies among those have been our creditors and who continue to stand ready to help us out."

The Chief Executive made these statements upon receiving the first report from Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata on the Paris meeting.

Receiving no callers, the President spent the day going over progress reports submitted by various departments, and other state papers needing Presidential action.

In the morning, the President, accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda E. Marcos, motored to the Santuario de San Jose at Greenhills, Mandaluyong, Rizal where he and Mrs. Marcos stood as sponsors at the wedding of Leonardo Perez, Jr., son of the senator.

He was back at Malacañang shortly before noon.

In the afternoon, the President issued a proclamation declaring the period from December 7 through 31, this year, as "Philippine Jaycee Week."

In proclaiming the Philippine Jaycee Week, the Chief Executive hailed the Philippine Jaycee as a voluntary organization of young men working together on organized civic projects and in creating a sound business milieu conducive to civic improvement, social amelioration and economic progress.

October 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent the day quietly at Malacañang with members of his family.

At noon, the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, heard Mass at the Palace Chapel.

With them at the Mass were their children, Imee and Irene.

In the afternoon, the President spent some time in his private study working on official papers.

October 5—

PRESIDENT MARCOS submitted to the Commission on Appointments the names of four nominees to various posts in the government.

Heading the list of new nominees is Jose M. Crisol, as undersecretary for home defense affairs.

The other nominees are Jose B. Rongo, Jr. as city treasurer ,of La Carlota City; Sergio Y. Nazareno as municipal judge of Tagbina, Surigao del Sur; and Milagros C. Martatez as clerk of court in the Court of First Instance of Davao del Norte, with official station at Tagum.

The President also designated Demetrio T. Wendam as acting assistant director of patents, Department of Commerce and Industry.

The President spent most of his working hours in his study, going over reports from various departments of the government, and attended to other matters of state, including the awarding of lots in Sapang Palay.

The President asked the Board of Directors of the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation to meet immediately to discuss pricing of lots in the Sapang Palay resettlement site.

Through Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., the President authorized a representative of the Sapang Palay residents to attend the board meeting, to inform the board of the residents' views on lot pricing.

Some residents of Sapang Palay headed by Bernardo Dimalanta were received at Malacañang by Secretary Melchor and Secretary of Public Works and Communications Manuel B. Syquiao.

October 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS worked mostly at his desk, being slightly indisposed, and under doctor's orders to confine himself to light exertions.

Among other official business, he followed up on the action taken to meet the requirements for improving conditions in Sapang Palay by reorganizing the PHHC board, naming technocrats to its membership, including PES Deputy Director-General Apolinario Orosa, Jr., Maj. Gen. Gaudencio Tobias (ret.) of the National Housing Corporation, Administrator Gilberto Teodoro of the Social Security System and Undersecretary of Labor Raoul M. Inocentes.

The President directed the new board to expedite the processing of applications for the purchase of home lots in the resettlement community, and to have the PHHC team working on these papers observe a seven-day week till all papers are approved.

During the day he also signed the nominations to three posts and submitted the papers to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation.

The nominees were Jose Catabagan, as branch clerk of court in Branch XIV (Caloocan City) of the Rizal Court of First Instance; Maximo D. Palma, as provincial treasurer of Misamis Oriental; Vicente Osorio, as city treasurer of Ozamis City; and Eleno Kabanlit, as provincial treasurer of Misamis Occidental.

The President continued to work at his desk through the day, but dealt only with the most urgent state business, during which he set the guidelines for filing complaints against public officials and employees by citizens who have observed or known of irregularities in official conduct and transactions.

The guidelines were contained in Executive Order No. 264, issued by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. (*See pp. 9394 and 9395 for text of Executive Order No. 264.*)

October 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS pledged the administration's full support to the program of the Safety Organization of the Philippines (SOPI) embracing safe practices in industry, as well as environmental and disaster control, saying that the government is prepared to provide available materials, resources, expertise and personnel.

In a speech read for him by Secretary of Commerce and Industry Ernesto Maceda at the opening of the 3rd National Industrial Safety Convention, sponsored by SOPI, held at the NSDB pavilion, the Chief Executive said that the organization has "an enthusiastic supporter in your President."

Acknowledging the deep involvement of SOPI in the important tasks of promoting safety consciousness and cleaning up the environment, the President said that "a lot of sacrifice on the part of each one of you" is required.

He emphasized, "I ask you to prepare for more sacrifice," pointing out that the "problems at hand are grave and the work ahead will be tedious."

The President asserted that his "own interest in safety as President of the Republic transcends even your own lofty dedication."

The President did not receive callers, being still indisposed. He limited his activities to some official papers, which include the assurance of a proclamation declaring October 12 (Monday) as a public holiday in Quezon City, in commemoration of the city's Foundation Day.

The holiday was requested by Quezon City officials to give the residents of that city full opportunity to celebrate this important milestone in the city's history.

October 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS continued to nurture his energies, in compliance with doctors' orders, even as he coped with state business which did not unduly tax him. Mostly, he attended to paper work, meeting officials only once during the day in connection with the demand of public schoolteachers to extend the cost-of-living allowance to their colleagues all over the country.

In the meeting were Secretary of Education Onofre D. Corpuz and Undersecretary Juan L. Manuel, Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, and Deputy Budget Commissioner Juan Agcaoili, and members of the committee which undertook a study of the nationwide implementation of the cost-of-living allowance to public school teachers. After the briefing given him by Secretary Corpuz on the teachers' petition, the President directed that the leaders of the teachers organizations involved be invited to Malacañang for a meeting on Saturday, Oct. 10.

The President worked alone in his study for most of the rest of the day. He did not receive any visitors.

The President issued the following statement in connection with U. S. President Nixon's Vietnam peace proposal:

President Nixon's ceasefire proposal and invitation to political negotiations in Vietnam is to be welcomed. It is a sound basis for negotiations and may just be the mayor breakthrough we have been hoping for in the protracted conflict in Indochina.

The Philippines has been consistently in favor of ending the war not only in Vietnam but in the whole of Indochina on just and honorable terms.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: October 9-15, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

October 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS started receiving official callers again, as he steadily recuperated from a throat ailment.

The President's callers were mostly congressmen who took up with him problems affecting their respective constituencies.

Among those who called on the Chief Executive were Senator Lorenzo Teves, House Majority Floor Leader Marcelino Veloso, Reps. Fernando Pajarillo of Camarines Norte, Democrito O. Plaza of Agusan del Sur, Natalio P. Castillo of Bohol, Herminio G. Teves of Negros Oriental, Jose Puyat, Jr. of Surigao del Sur, Simeon Valdez of Ilocos Norte, Rafael Legaspi of Aklan and Romulo Lumauig of Ifugao.

Rep. Lumauig accompanied a delegation headed by his brother, Gov. Gualberto Lumauig, and which included Vice Governor Carlos Luglug, Board Member Dominador Famosca and several municipal mayors of the province.

The President also rescheduled his meeting with the, chairman and members of the board of the Philippine Public School Teachers Association headed by Telesforo N. Boquiren, PPSTA. president, for tomorrow at 10:30 a.m., in Malacañang. Heads of the public school teachers' federations of Manila, Quezon, Pasay and Caloocan cities were also invited as observers on the President's bidding.

Aside from receiving callers, the President, now much improved, also took on a heavier load of paper work. He addressed a letter to Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile authorizing personnel of certain units of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to wear uniforms and bear arms outside their assigned posts, camps, garrisons or barracks 30 days before and after the November 10 election.

The President granted the authority on recommendation of the secretary of national defense and pursuant to the provisions of Section 8 (f) of Republic Act No. 6132, otherwise known as "The Constitutional Convention Act of 1971."

The President also congratulated the people of the Republic of China on the celebration of their National Day.

In his message to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek, President of the Republic of China, the President said:

"On behalf of the people and Government of the Philippines, I extend sincere greetings and best wishes on the National Day of the Republic of China. I am confident that the Republic will continue to enjoy peace and prosperity under your leadership and that the friendship of our two peoples will endure."

October 10—

RECOVERING from a throat ailment which had bothered him during the week, the President discussed the problems of public school teachers in a two-hour conference at Malacañang with officials of the Philippine Public School Teachers Association headed by its president, Telesforo N. Boquiren.

Accompanied by Secretary of Education Onofre D. Corpuz, the group which met with the President also included officials of the Federation of Public School Teachers Association of Manila, Quezon, Caloocan and Pasay cities.

After his meeting with the teachers, the President witnessed the formal exchange of notes between the Philippine and the United States governments, during which the latter turned over to the former the five long-range navigational aid stations (LORANS).

Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs Manuel Collantes and U.S. Ambassador Henry Byroade signed the turn-over documents in behalf of their respective governments during the formal diplomatic rites held at the President's study at the Palace.

Later on, the Chief Executive sent off the Philippine team which will participate in an international shooting meet abroad.

Led by C. C. Castro, the Philippine shooting team called on the President to say goodbye prior to their departure for the international championship competitions to be held in Phoenix, Arizona, U.S.A.

The President wished the team members good luck and exhorted them to "bring home the penant."

Accompanied by General Manuel T. Yan, AFP chief of staff, other members of the team included Col. Jaime Villafuerte, president of the Philippine Shooting Association; Lt. Col. Jose Agdamag, Lt. Cdr. Chito Feliciano, Lt. (s.g.) Horacio Miranda, Lt. (s.g.) Danilo Gamboa and T/Sgt Ludovico Espinosa.

October 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ended the state of public calamity proclaimed earlier covering the areas of Central Luzon, Greater Manila and Southern Luzon.

The state of public calamity in the said areas as declared under Proclamation No. 750, on September 2, 1970, clue to heavy floods resulting from Typhoon "Meding."

The President said the situation in these areas has returned to normal, and evacuated families and refugees have been returned to their homes and/or relocated.

Among other actions, the President ordered four government offices to deal as speedily as possible with a series of urgent problems presented to Malacañang in the morning by residents in the Tondo foreshore area.

On instruction of the President, Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes and Deputy Governor Ernesto Valdez of the Land Authority met with the Tondo residents to discuss their problems. They were led by Restitute de Leon.

The President ordered:

1. The Land Authority to restudy for possible amendment the Certificate of Occupancy being issued to the Tondo residents because of certain provisions objected to by the residents. The residents believe certain provisions are not in conformity with the letter and spirit of the Tondo Foreshore Land Act.
2. Undersecretary of Justice Guillermo Santos to convene a committee headed by him, created by the President under Administrative Order No. 212 of March 30, 1970 and which includes Gov. Valdez and Undersecretary of Social Welfare Petra de Joya as members, to resolve certain disputes arising from the occupancy of lots.
3. The National Shipyard and Steel Corporation to investigate the entry of occupants in an area being used by the NASSCO, and which the Tondo residents claim to be within the area covered by the Tondo Foreshore Land Act (RA 1592 and later amended by RA 2439).

4. Director Alejandro Deleña of Public Works to formulate recommendations on a petition that the areas of “Slip Zero,” which is now covered by land and beyond the 100 meter limit in the Pier Zone, the Luzviminda Village and the Isla-Puting-Bato, be awarded to bonafide occupants.

Another consideration being looked into is the construction of multi-storey tenement houses, under the Condominium Law, in order to accommodate as many families as possible within a limited area, and further providing spaces for vital community facilities such as schools, health centers and recreational sites.

The Condominium Law sanctions ownership in common of an apartment site and building, with tenants having title to their apartment units, properly registered with the Register of Deeds and transferable like any certificate of title.

October 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS confined himself to desk work as his doctors continued to pace his work schedule so as not to unnecessarily tax his energies. He had no visitors. The President still has a touch of temperature from a throat ailment which earlier had bothered him. The throat condition has improved in the last few days.

Among others, the President signed a new executive order paving the way for the opening of the Tondo foreshorelands to the construction of homes, after the earlier order to construct the rat-proof zone to the immediate customs area was amended.

The President, worked through the afternoon at his desk, but dealt only with the most urgent matters.

Among other actions, the President:

1. Ordered the departments of education and of justice to conduct a joint investigation of a feud between two factions of the faculty of the Sabani State College in Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija, which has reportedly undermined the functions of the school.

At the same time, he also directed the chief of constabulary to instruct the PC provincial command in Nueva Ecija to maintain peace and order at Sabani State College.

2. Ordered the deportation of four Chinese nationals whose continued presence in the country constitutes a menace to the peace and safety of the community.

Ordered deported were Tan Dy alias Chua Eng alias Jose Tan Dy, Sy Puat Seng *alias* Ong So, Thomas Ong *alias* Lau Tat, and Venancio Federico.

October 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS received visiting members of the Cambodian Parliament headed by Senate President Ong Sun and Senator Chhun Youhak who called at Malacañang to pay their respects.

Accompanied by Senate President Protempore Jose J. Roy and Cambodian Ambassador and Mrs. Ly Chinly, the delegation presented the President with an oil painting of a typical Cambodian landscape done by one of Cambodia's well-known artists.

The group arrived in Manila recently from Saigon for a few days stopover here, enroute to Australia and New Zealand.

Other members of the Parliament with the group were To Chhun, Kim Le, Nhek Phonn, Chhor Seng Hap, Sek Samun, Ly Tlieng Check, Tan Cheang Lim and Seeing Thay Kaing.

Also with the delegation were Mrs. Sun and Mrs. Youhak, wives of the Senate president and the senator, respectively, who presented a Cambodian brass vase for the collection of the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos.

The President received callers at his study up to 1:30 p.m.

Other visitors included Senator Leonardo Perez, Gov. Francisco Nepomuceno of Pampanga and former Senator and Mrs. Estanislao Fernandez.

In the afternoon, the President worked on state papers.

Among other actions, the President directed:

1. Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile to act swiftly on any sign of violence and to enforce strictly the ban on carrying of firearms in Cotabato.

The President, who has been informed that two warring political factions there are girding for a showdown, said the government will take all necessary measures to forstall any breach of peace.

2. Undersecretary of Agriculture Arturo Tanco, Jr. to look immediately into the reported land disputes involving the areas cultivated by the native Tirurays along the proposed national highways from Upi-Muro to the coastal town of Lebak.

3. Land Authority Governor Conrado Estrella to look into the possibility of segregating a reservation for the Tiruray tribe in Cotabato, who are allegedly bound to become extinct due to incessant murders by their own kind.

4. Chief Quirico Evangelista of the Complaints and Investigation Office to immediately investigate the reported exacting of contribution by certain parties in Cotabato.

The President also designated Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes as Acting Executive Secretary in the absence of Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. who left for India in the afternoon on invitation of the Indian Government,

Melchor will be an official guest of the Indian Government. He has been instructed by the President to explore areas of technical and economic collaboration between India and the Philippines.

October 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS summoned key government officials concerned to hear their reports on the extent, of the damage wrought by typhoon "Sening" which hit various parts of the country.

The President was informed that the typhoon, which left the Philippines in the afternoon, left a wide swath of destruction. The hardest hit areas were the Bicol region and parts of Southern Tagalog provinces. He immediately formed three task forces in the three constabulary zones, to be headed by the zone commanders, to coordinate the assistance work of provincial task forces in each of the affected areas.

The Chief Executive also directed Acting Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, Secretary of Public Works and Communications Manuel B. Syquio and Secretary of Health Amadeo H. Cruz to fly to the Bicol region to determine the extent of damage and recommend possible course of action.

The President said he was considering a plan to declare to state of emergency in the affected areas but added this decision will have to await the report of the survey teams.

Initially, he directed the Air Force to recall the aircraft which were flown to Zamboanga and Cebu as a safety measure, and prepare to ferry relief assistance to all affected areas in cooperation with the National Red Cross.

At the same time, the President warned all commercial establishments against taking advantage of the difficulties brought about by typhoon "Sening." He threatened to apply the punitive provisions of the Price Control Law on all those who would jack up prices of commodities in the wake of the typhoon.

The President directed the Price Control Council to field all its agents to keep close surveillance of all commercial establishments and retail outlets who may be selling their goods at exorbitant rates.

October 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS proclaimed a state of calamity throughout the Bicol region, except the province of Masbate, and the provinces of Quezon and Marinduque.

Press Secretary Francisco S. Tatad announced the proclamation following receipt of the report of the presidential survey team headed by Acting Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes and including Secretary of Public Works and Communications Manuel B. Syquiao and other national officials, which flew to the Bicol region in the morning.

The President mostly attended to paper work, concentrating on reports on relief activities in the areas seriously affected by typhoon "Sening."

He also studied reports on the price trends conducted by the Bureau of Commerce, which he had asked the bureau to submit to him after he ordered a close watch on profiteers who may take advantage of the recent typhoon.

He kept close pace with the movements of relief teams and repair-and-construction crews fielded to restore or rehabilitate public works and other much needed public services and facilities.

The President stayed close to his desk through the morning and afternoon. He rested briefly late in the afternoon but returned to his study in the evening.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: October 16-22, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

October 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a full measure of conferences, callers and usual desk work, which kept him busy throughout the day.

Highlighting the morning's activities was the presentation of credentials by the newly designated Norwegian ambassador, Lars Geelmuydan Onsager, at a ceremony held in Malacañang.

After the ceremony, the President had a closed door conference with Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata, who reported on his mission abroad.

Among the callers were airline executives representing various Asian aviation companies, who paid a courtesy call.

Others were the teams competing in the 5-nation basketball tournament marking the anniversary of the Asian Basketball Confederation: a group of mayors from the second district of Ilocos Norte, who consulted the President on their problems; and a few private callers.

In the evening, the President conferred the Distinguished Service Star on Lt. Col. Angel B. Macasil, commander of the 10th Infantry Battalion, which had been directly responsible for the death of Huk Supremo Pedro Taruc earlier in the day and the capture of Commander Sumulong a month ago. Taruc was fired at when he resisted arrest in Barrio Tibagin, Angeles City, Pampanga, resulting in the death of the country's highest ranking Huk leader.

The President also signed the promotions of Lt. Col. Macasil and the other officers who had been credited with the capture and killing of the No. 2 and No. 1 leaders, respectively, in the Huk hierarchy.

In presenting the commendation and awards, the Chief Executive repeated his offer of a selective amnesty to the Huks in the wake of the death of Huk Supremo Pedro Taruc in the hands of Philippine Army penetration elements.

The President said there will be "sympathy and understanding" for those who will want to return to the fold of law and rebuild their lives.

Following the ceremonies, the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, played host at dinner for General William Draper, Jr.

On other state business, the President directed the Price Control Council to implement faithfully Proclamation No. 761, signed and issued by him, which declared a state of calamity in seven provinces worst hit by the recent typhoon "Sening."

At the same time, he authorized the local chapters of the Department of Social Welfare and the Philippine National Red Cross to make joint purchases of foodstuff for distribution to typhoon victims in their respective areas of operation. He added that relief work will be done in coordination with the provincial governors concerned.

The President also ordered the Department of Foreign Affairs to take concrete and, positive steps to ensure the safety and well-being of Filipinos in South Vietnam.

PRESIDENT MARCOS flew to the Bicol region to assess for himself the effects of typhoon "Sening." Flying with him was the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos.

Accompanied by Acting Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, Press Secretary Francisco S. Tatad and U.S. AID Director Thomas Niblock, the President took off from Nichols Airbase at 6:45 a.m., arriving at Virac 55 minutes later.

Even from the air, the appalling destruction was clearly visible, causing the President to compare the sight to a bombed area. The typhoon was the worst in memory to hit the region, local, people said.

The President and the First Lady, who had followed in another plane, were met by Secretary of Public Works and Communications Manuel B. Syquiao, Rep. Jose Alberto and Gov. Vicente Alberto, and were taken to Barrio Kabugao in the town of Bato where not a single house was left standing.

The President and his party went among the typhoon victims to assure them that “all that can be done will be done.”

At a briefing in Virac, he was informed that in Catanduanes alone, 58 were killed, 5-50 wounded, and 104,182 rendered homeless by the typhoon. Gov. Alberto added that many of the roads were impassable because of fallen trees and landslides.

The President and the First Lady congratulated the people for taking the calamity in stride and working immediately to rebuild their houses. The Commission on Elections ban on the release of government funds had slowed down rehabilitation.

After the briefing, the President and his party motored to the airport where two planeloads of “nutri-buns” were being unloaded. The President formally turned over the shipment to Gov. Alberto.

From Virac, the presidential party flew to Legaspi City where they surveyed the damage up to Tabaco, Malinao and Tiwi.

At well past noon, the President and the rest of his party flew to Naga City where they found that the typhoon damage was not as extensive as in Albay and Catanduanes.

The presidential party was accompanied throughout the trip by Rep. Roberto Sabido of Albay and Rep. Felix Fuentebella of Camarines Sur and Gov. Armando S. Cledera of the same province.

The President and his party took off from Pili airport at 2:15 p.m., arriving in Manila at about 2:50 p.m.

After a brief rest from his Bicol trip, the President worked at his desk, during which he signed the promotions of 15 state prosecutors on the recommendation of the Department of Justice. Promoted to the next higher grade were Senior State Prosecutors Arsenio Raquel Santos and Artemio Asuncion; and State Prosecutors Tirso Velasco, Salvador Tolentino, Lilia Lopez, Tomas de Guzman, Rene Victoriano, Alfonso Jimenez, Jose Flaminiano, Roberto Lagman, Jose de la Fuente, Alberto S. Lim, Jr., Jesus de Vega, Corona Ibay Somera and Estanislao Granados.

The Chief Executive also designated Carlos Z. Ambrosio as state prosecutor and Manuel O. Berina as city engineer of Naga City.

Ambrosio was formerly assistant provincial fiscal of Rizal, while Berina was supervising civil engineer of the first highway engineering district of Albay.

October 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS instructed Acting Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes to convene a meeting of key government officials concerned with the relief operations in the typhoon ravaged provinces and representatives of the private sector to map out a coordinated system of relief work.

The President, who visited the Bicol region with the First Lady, said that the devastation he personally witnessed was so great all sectors of the country should pitch in to help rebuild the homes and rehabilitate the livelihood of the victims.

In compliance with the President's instructions, Secretary Reyes called to a meeting" at the national disaster coordinating center, at the Infrastructure Operations Center building at Camp Aguinaldo, the following officials:

Secretary of Public Works and Communications Manuel B. Syquiao, Secretary of Education Onofre D. Corpuz, Secretary of Social Welfare Gregorio Feliciano, Secretary of Health Amadeo H. Cruz, Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, Undersecretary of Agriculture Isosceles Pascual, Acting Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Romeo Espino;

Philippine National Red Cross Director Loreto Paras Sulit, General Manager Nicanor Jimenez of the Philippine National Railways, RCA General Manager Pedro Rodrigo, heads of the National Power Corporation Presidential Arm on Community Development, and the National Planning Commission; Director of Commerce Epifanio B. Castillejos, and CAA Administrator Federico Ablan, Jr.

Also invited were civic and business leaders, including Messrs. Joaquin Roces and Enrique Zobel, B. Praile of AID and representatives of the Catholic relief agencies.

Upon learning of the death of Rep. Floro Crisologo in the afternoon in the hands of assassins, the President ordered Justice Secretary Vicente Abad Santos and the NBI, Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile and the CIS to immediately proceed to Vigan to personally take charge of the investigation of the assassination. Rep. Crisologo was shot to death while attending Mass inside the Vigan Cathedral.

In a statement released to the press, the President also expressed his condolence to the congressman's family.

October 19—

THE PRESIDENT conferred with various officials, received others who came for consultations, and fulfilled a speaking engagement in Tanay, Rizal, where the PHILEC plant, a landmark in local electrical industry, was inaugurated. In between all these activities, he worked on state papers.

About 10 a.m., the President left his desk work to confer with Rep. Eduardo Cojuangco and a group of mayors of Tarlac to discuss development and other economic concerns to the province. Sitting in on the meeting were Board of Industry Chairman Vicente Paterno and Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata.

Later, towards noon, the President had a brief meeting with Senator Wenceslao R. Lagumbay who consulted him on problems of the senator's constituency; and immediately after this, the President conferred with the National Manpower Training Council. Among those at the latter meeting were Secretary of Labor Blas F. Ople, council chairman; Peter Ferguson, expert on trade test and analysis; Pastor Quaal, consultant on industrial training needs assessment; and Guy Loveridge, plant training apprenticeship expert of the ILO; and Rony Diaz, acting director-general of the Council.

In the afternoon, at about 4 p.m., the President left Malacañang for Barrio Dolores in Tanay, where he was guest of honor at the inauguration of the PHILEC plant, a subsidiary of the Philippine Electric Corporation.

In his speech, the President restated his administration's commitment to "a vigorous electrification program" as a key factor in transforming the pace of the cities, and the countryside.

"Electricity is a key element of progress," he stressed in a speech delivered at the inauguration of the distributor-transformer plant of the Philippine Electric Corporation at Barrio Dolores, Tanay, Rizal, where he was guest of honor.

It is national policy, the President said, to achieve total electrification on an area coverage basis, and for this reason both Congress and the executive branch have placed power development and electrification among the priority projects of development.

The program of total electrification, he pointed out, requires the coordinated efforts of both the government and the private sector. (See pp. 9830-C to 9830-H for full text of the President's speech.)

Back in Malacañang, he resumed his desk work, staying at his desk through the evening.

In between conferences the President attended to other important state business.

He asked government financing institutions, notably the GSIS and the SSS, to favorably consider granting loans, possibly as much as a year's salary, to their members, who suffered reverses from the typhoon that lashed the Bicol region.

He also asked the Development Bank of the Philippines to similarly consider the suspension of the payment of amortizations on crop and other types of loans incurred by victims of the recent typhoon.

The extension of loans by government financing institutions to residents in the typhoon devastated areas is aimed at enabling them to start anew with whatever was left of their homes and other property destroyed by "Typhoon Sening."

To speed-up the relief and rehabilitation operations being undertaken in the areas affected by the typhoon, the President named Major Gen. Gaudencio Tobias (ret.) as overall coordinator of the relief and rehabilitation work in the devastated areas in the Bicol region, Quezon and Marinduque.

The President also sent a message of congratulations to the newly confirmed President of the United Arab Republic, Anwar el Sadat. The President's message follows:

On behalf of the people and government of the Philippines I extend sincerest congratulations and felicitations on your overwhelming victory in referendum and in your Excellency's assumption of office as president of the United Arab Republic. I express the fervent hope that under your wise leadership the highest goals of peace and prosperity will be achieved by the Egyptian peoples. May I convey assurance of my cooperation to your Excellency in the effort to further strengthen friendly and close relations between our two peoples and governments.

October 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS along with the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, flew to Vigan, to pay his respects to the late Rep. Floro S. Crisologo.

Lifting off from Nichols Air Base at 7:55 a.m., with the First Lady taking another plane, the President had in his party Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, Rep. Roque Ablan, Jr. and CAA Administrator Federico Ablan.

He flew to Vigan in an effort to learn first-hand about the circumstances of the assassination, and to allay the anxiety of the people there by easing the tensions which grew in the wake of the murder. The President and the First Lady also wished to condole personally with the bereaved Crisologo family.

Meeting the President at the airport in Vigan were Brig. Gen. Felizardo Tanabe and Major Gen. Romeo Espino, along with Col. Tomas Diaz and the Uocos Sur provincial commander.

After condoling with Gov. Carmeling P. Crisologo, the President conferred with officials present, which included Reps. Jose D. Aspiras, Carmelo Barbero, Eduardo Cojuangco, Joaquin Ortega; military officials, and those who came with him from Manila.

After the meeting, the President issued directives aimed at speeding up the investigation of the case and strengthening the efforts to nab the killers, including the mastermind. He also issued orders on the intensification of the round-up of loose firearms in the region.

The presidential party took off for Manila at about 11:45 a.m., arriving at Nichols Air Base at about 1:10 p.m.

The President worked at his desk and received callers for the rest of the afternoon. Among those who called were Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata, Carlos Ledesma, Undersecretary of Industry Troadio Quiazon, and private persons including a visiting director of Mercedes-Benz, the German auto firm, who paid a courtesy call.

The Chief Executive, among others, directed Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Emile to ensure peace and order in the area by having law enforcement forces react swiftly to any sign of violence and to rigidly ban the carrying of firearms.

The President said that all necessary measures should be taken by the government to forestall any breach of the peace in the province.

Corollary to the preservation of peace and order in Cotabato, the President also directed:

- 1) The Undersecretary of Agriculture to immediately look into the reported land disputes involving areas cultivated by the native Tirurays with a view to resolving them;
- 2) the Governor of Land Authority to find a suitable reservation for the native Tirurays; and

The chief of the Complaints and Investigation Office to investigate the reported compulsory contributions being exacted from loggers, farmers, fishermen and kaingeros in Upi, Cotabato.

October 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS was kept busy by an unusual number of callers, many of them public officials, while also engaged by paper work and other state business.

The brisk pace of his activities was broken in the evening when he left Malacañang for the Plaza, where he was the special guest of the TV program, "Let's Talk Business," on its anniversary.

Among those who called on the President was Gen. Jesus V. Vargas, former AFP chief of staff and now retired, and for sometime now the secretary-general of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization, who paid his respects shortly before departing for Bangkok, the SEATO home base.

Gen. Vargas, who was accompanied by Col. Jose Reyna, arrived in Manila from Honolulu where he attended the SEATO Military Advisers' meeting, held October 14 to 16.

The President also received a big number of congressman, provincial governors and mayors who took up with him local problems, particularly the need for funds for relief and the reconstruction of public works projects destroyed by the series of typhoons and floods.

Reps. Ramon Durano of Cebu, Ali Dimaporo of Lanao del Norte and Constantino Navarro of Surigao del Norte called on the President to inform him of the arrival of the remains of the late Rep. Floro S. Crisologo in Manila.

The three congressmen said that the remains of the deceased congressman were brought by the PAF plane from Vigan to Manila. The remains will lie in state at the Crisologo home in Heroes Hill, Quezon City, and will later be transferred to Congress for the necrological services.

The President's other callers included Reps. Jose Alberto of Catanduanes, Roberto Sabido and Amando Cope of Albay, Goclofredo Tan of Quezon, Felipe Azcuna of Zamboanga del Norte, Natalio P. Castillo and Pablo Malasarte of Bohol, Tadanani Anni of Sulu, Vicente Cerilles of Zamboanga del Sur, Emerito Calderon of Cebu, Teodulo Natividad of Bulacan, Jose Puyat, Jr. of Surigao del Sur, Macacuna Dimaporo of Lanao del Sur, Nicanor Yinguez of Southern Leyte and Roque Ablan, Jr. of Ilocos Norte.

Governors Jose Evangelista of Ilocos Norte, Samuel F. Reyes of Isabela, Chatto of Bohol and Jose Roño of Western Leyte; and Olongapo City Mayor Amelia Gordon who was accompanied by former Gov. Manuel Barretto of Zambales.

Among other actions, the President directed the Philippine National Railways to extend free transportation to travelers and cargo for two weeks in the Bicol area, in order to facilitate relief work and help typhoon victims rehabilitate themselves.

The President also proclaimed two special public holidays in two separate localities.

October 22 was proclaimed a special public holiday in Tagbilaran City to mark the 28th anniversary of the Battle of Ubugan in that City.

October 23 was proclaimed a public holiday in Badoc, Ilocos Norte in observance of the 113th birthday of Juan Luna who was a native of that town.

The Battle of Ubugan is held in great significance because it was in that barrio of Tagbilaran City 28 years ago where a band of Filipino guerrillas under Captain Francisco Salazar dealt a heavy blow to the Japanese Imperial forces.

October 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS concentrated on his desk work, and for that reason limited his time to only a few callers.

Notable among those few who saw him were the scouting officials of the Asia-Pacific area, who paid their respects in connection with the gathering here of scouting executives to plan the Golden Jubilee of the Philippine scouting movement and the Asian Scout Jamboree in Japan.

The officials who called were Irving Feist, president of the scouting movement in the United States; C. Teng, chairman of the Far East Scout Committee and president of the scouting movement of China; Dr. H. Banai, youth adviser to the Shah of Iran and president of Iran's scouting movement; S. Matzukata, member of the World Committee and chairman of the Scout Jamboree in Japan in 1971; Yong Wo Kim, president of the Korean scouting movement and former ambassador to the Court of St. James; Antonio Delgado, vice chairman of the World Committee and chairman of the Golden Jubilee of the BSP.

The other notable group to see the President was composed of the members of the dollar repatriation mission, headed by Labor Undersecretary Raoul Inocentes. The group submitted its report on the second phase of its drive to channel dollar remittances of Filipinos abroad through the Philippine National Bank.

In the group who called on the President were Alfredo V. Antiporda of the Central Bank, vice chairman; Isidro M. Villanos of the Philippine National Bank, Sergio A. Barrera of the Department of Foreign Affairs, and Cresencio M. Siddayao of the Department of Labor.

Aside from these few callers, the President worked uninterrupted at his desk, during which he:

1) Ordered more mercy missions to Mindanao in view of reports of extensive damage wrought by Typhoon Titang, particularly in the provinces of Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte and Cotabato.

At the same time, the President directed Acting Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes to fly to Mindanao immediately to assess the typhoon damage there.

2) Designated Bruno M. Santos as acting president of the Mountain State Agricultural College.

Dr. Santos served as superintendent of the college before its conversion to a charter status.

3) Approved the commission of Eric Gruaz as honorary consul of the Philippine in Lyon, France; Pablo B. Gatchalian as Philippine consul in Thailand; and Juan A. Ona and Sime D. Hidalgo as Philippine consuls in Hongkong.

At the same time, the Chief Executive had extended recognition to the commissioning by the United States Government of Loren E. Lawrence and Ralph D. Griffin as U. S. consul general and consul, respectively, in Manila; and Yen Tingwei who has been commissioned as vice-consul of the Republic of China in Davao City.

Directed the proper offices to improve the postal system and the customs service, after he was apprised of the complaints against these offices from returning Filipinos and Filipinos abroad. In a memorandum to the secretary of public works and communications, the President directed that "the recurrent complaints of Filipinos abroad about the loss of checks, money and personal items in the mail, delays in mail delivery and others be looked into with the view to further improving our postal system." In another memorandum, he directed the secretary of finance to look into "complaints of some returning Filipinos about alleged occasional harassment by customs personnel in the airport and the piers, as well as petty abuses by baggage boys." The Chief Executive directed that corrective measures be instituted and that report be submitted to him on the matter.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: October 23-29, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

October 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS started the day by working at his study, then at 10 a.m. left Malacañang for Congress where he joined the solons at the necrological services for the late Rep. Floro S. Crisologo of Ilocos Sur. Accompanying him was the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos.

Back in Malacañang an hour later, the President received separately Rep. Amando Cope and Secretary of General Services Constancio E. Castañeda.

In the afternoon, the President read a message which was filmed by a team from the International Planned Parenthood Federation, in connection with the worldwide drive for family planning.

He then received a group of congressmen, governors and city mayors from Pangasinan, Mindanao and Sulu, who took up local problems with him.

In the evening, he left Malacañang once more to attend as guest of honor the opening ceremonies of the 8th biennial convention of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce, held at the Intercontinental Hotel.

Earlier, the Chief Executive appointed Oscar Santiago as acting member of the board of regents of the Central Luzon State University.

The President likewise designated Dr. Estefania Aldaba Lim and Jose Conrado Benitez as members of the National Manpower and Youth Council.

The President also ordered the deportation of a Chinese national, Dee Chee Ping alias Dee Pue Chuan alias Hua Chan, whose continued presence in the country is considered a menace to the peace and safety of the community.

Dee has been convicted by the Court of First Instance of Manila for kidnapping with murder. He was sentenced to death but this was modified by the Supreme Court to reclusion perpetua.

During the day, the President sent the following cablegram to UN Secretary-General U Thant on the commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the United Nations:

“ON THE OCCASION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, THE FILIPINO PEOPLE JOIN ME IN CONVENING TO YOUR EXCELLENCY SINCERE BEST WISHES AND CONGRATULATIONS STOP AS FIRM BELIEVERS IN THE IDEALS BEHIND THE CREATION OF THIS INTERNATIONAL BODY CMA WE HOPE AND PRAY THAT THE COMING YEARS SHALL WITNESS STRENGTHENING OF THE ORGANIZATION AND THAT IT SHALL BECOME THE DRIVING FORCE IN OUR SEARCH FOR WORLD PEACE CMA ECONOMIC STABILITY AND THE DIGNITY AND THE EQUALITY OF THE HUMAN RACE.”

October 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS was mostly free to attend to his paper work and other urgent state business, with his schedule of visitors virtually blank.

In the morning, he received a group of Manila congressmen, including Reps. Joaquin Roces, Pablo Ocampo and Ramon Bagatsing of Manila, and Frisco San Juan of Rizal, and inducted into office the new chief of the Office of the Economic Coordination, Eduardo J. Rodriguez.

In the afternoon, the President continued to work at his desk. At about 3 p.m., a group of officials from Pampanga, led by Gov. Francisco Nepomuceno, including barrio officials and members of Barrio Self-Defense Units, converged at Malacañang to present a plaque of appreciation to the President for the many benefits accruing to the province from development projects and for the upgraded peace and order in the region.

Among those present were Mayors Jose Mendiola of Floridablanca, Victoriano Panlilio of Porac, Salvador Dimson of Lubao, Eulogio Venson of Arayat, Daniel Lacson of Magalang, Norberto Blanco of Bacolor, Emiliano Candelaria of Mabalacat, Juan Deang of Sta. Ana, Jesus Santos of Mexico and Lamberto Punsalan of San Simon.

The President worked at his desk through evening, in the course of which he directed all heads of offices in the government to adopt proper measures to ensure and facilitate the prevention of petty graft and other forms of malfeasance, and to deal firmly with any employee in their departments, agencies or bureaus found guilty of irregularities.

The President issued the order in a memorandum to all department heads, heads of offices and government corporations, in view of persistent reports of dishonesty and other forms of irregularity in the public service.

In his memorandum, the Chief Executive pointed out that one of the first programs of government of the administration was that aimed at effecting a profound and thorough change in the public service through a vigorous campaign against graft and corruption.

In line with this fundamental policy, the government has since then consistently adopted and carried out measures aimed at ferreting out cases of venality which, the President said, resulted in the filing of various administrative cases, and the prosecution, suspension and dismissal of numerous officials and employees.

October 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had an unusually busy weekend, attending to papers requiring immediate action and conferring with government officials on matters concerning their respective departments.

The pressure of desk work compelled the President to ask Chairman Leonides S. Virata of the Development Bank of the Philippines to represent him at the inauguration of the Cebu Stock Exchange in Cebu City, and to read for him the speech prepared for the occasion.

In the speech, the President sounded both a warning and an appeal to the nation to put an end to conventional politics, as characterized by the maintenance of so-called private armies.

The task of reformation must begin now, the President told the guests at the inauguration.

October 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a full schedule of visitors and conferences, capped by the oath-taking of the new Philippine ambassador to the Court of St. James, London.

An outline of the President's activities follows:

- 1) A courtesy call of Andre Kostenaletz, accompanied by Mrs. Chole Romulo, Luis Araneta and Protacio Sta. Cruz.

2) A conference attended by former Supreme Court Justice Conrado V. Sanchez, Rep. Teodulo Natividad, Prisons Director Alejo Santos, Assistant Director Pedro Solis, Court of Appeals Justice Cecilia Muñoz-Palma, Assistant Fiscal Marcos Valentin and Attys. Felipe Kalalo and Manuel Yngson.

They conferred at length on a series of anti-crime measures which, from the President's point of view, deserves top priority from the national government.

The President forthwith directed the preparation of necessary administrative orders to enable immediate implementation of those measures, not requiring congressional action.

3) An official call of Secretary Manda Elizalde of Panamin, to discuss activities of the organization.

4) A call by Reps. Rafael Legaspi of Aklan, Jose Leido, Jr. of Mindoro Oriental, Andres Cosalan of Benguet, Tito Dupaya of Cagayan, Benjamin Perez of Nueva Vizcaya, Angel Concepcion of Nueva Ecija and Senator Leonardo Perez to discuss specific problems: and by Govs. Jose Legaspi of Aklan, Salvacion Iñiguez of Southern Leyte, Anacleto Alcala of Quezon, Benjamin Palispis of Benguet and Vicente Magsaysay of Zambales, to discuss local problems.

5) The induction of Ambassador Jaime Zobel de Ayala as Philippine envoy to the Court of St. James in London.

Later, the President directed Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco to release an additional ₱600,000 from the calamity fund to the Department of Social Welfare to augment its relief operations.

At the same time, the Chief Executive authorized the DSW to make local purchases, notably in Cebu, of relief goods for distribution to areas in Mindanao stricken by typhoon "Titang."

The President's directive was issued on recommendation of Acting Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, who reported on the conditions in the stricken areas, following a meeting of representatives of various government agencies engaged in relief work.

The President also set aside four parcels of public land with a total area of 2,934 hectares where squatters and slum dwellers in the Greater Manila Area could be permanently resettled.

Except for the 92-hectare site which is located in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, the rest of the reservation is located in the municipality of Montalban, Rizal.

In the evening the President was guest speaker at the dinner tendered for him by the Philippine Council of Industrial Editors at the A. Soriano Executive House in Makati, Rizal.

In his speech, the President underscored the basic, thing in development which, he said, is the ability of a people to relate themselves to the requirements of development, and acquire a personal sense of responsibility for supporting and accelerating that development.

The President also discussed the options taken by the administration in the development of the country's economy.

The President declared that if Philippine society is to work, it must have that shared spirit, arising from working together, toward the attainment of goals which, in turn, will benefit everyone.

October 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS again had a series of conferences, plus a full schedule of callers. In between, he worked on state papers.

One of his earliest meetings was with Senator Jose J. Roy, and Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile and Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos.

An important conference was that which discussed new moves to combat crime, attended by Cavite Gov. Delfin Montano, POLCOM Chairman Crispino de Castro, Secretary Enrile, NBI Director Jolly Bugarin, and others. Proposals made by Gov. Montano were referred by the President for study to Secretary Enrile and the POLCOM chief.

Later the President conferred with Rep. Ramon Bagatsing and Dean Feliciano Jover Ledesma of the San Beda College on private matters.

The President also received in the afternoon the staff of the Philippine Pavilion at Expo '70, led by Commissioner Victor Lim and Deputy Commissioner Jesus Tanchanco. Also present was the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos. The President commended the staff for a job well done.

Others received by the President were Reps. Rafael B. Legaspi of Aklan, Rogaciano Mercado of Bulacan, Angel Conception of Nueva Ecija, Eduardo Gullas of Cebu, Antonio Diaz of Zambales, Felipe Almazan of Kalinga-Apayao, Gov. Amado Almazan of Kalinga-Apayao and Mayor Salvador Dimson of Lubao, Pampanga.

Later, the Chief Executive affixed his signature to two air agreements earlier negotiated by the Philippine government with the governments of Belgium and Japan, and which went into effect after the exchange of diplomatic notes.

The agreements were transmitted to the President by the Civil Aeronautics Administration through Acting Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes for the former's signature.

The new air agreements were negotiated in line with the government's open skies policy, enunciated by the President last year, which was designed to encourage tourist travel to the Philippines.

October 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS concentrated mostly on his desk work, although he had a fairly well filled schedule of visitors and one press interview.

For most of the morning, the President worked on state papers then toward noon began receiving callers. Later, he sat down for an interview, for radio and TV with Ed Tipton of DZHP.

The President also received among others Reps. Tito Dupaya, Rodolfo Albano, David Puzon, Emilio Espinosa, Jr., James Chiongbian, Emerito Calderon, Eduardo Cojuangco, Artemio Loyola, Herminio Teves, and Celestino Sybio Jr.; Senators Rene Espina and Mamintal Tamano; and Govs. Julian F. Pacificador, Jaime K. Gomez, Cornelio Villareal, Jr. and Elizabeth Keon.

Through the afternoon and evening, the President worked at his desk.

Earlier, the President directed the Rice and Corn Administration to insure the stability of cereal supply in all typhoon ravaged areas in Mindanao, and to maintain the standard level of prices in the said areas.

At the same time, he directed the Philippine Navy to assign one of its ships to service the towns on the eastern coast of Davao del Sur, particularly in the distribution of relief supplies.

The President also ordered that any government personnel found using smuggled goods, such as blue seal cigarettes, be investigated and punished.

The President's order was a reiteration of Memorandum Circular No. 386, which was issued under his authority last August 22, 1970 by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr.

In that circular, the Chief Executive warned government officials and employees that he would impose severe penalties, including dismissal from office, on those violating regulations against the use of smuggled products.

October 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS received many callers and held conferences with a number of officials on various matters.

Ramon Gaviola, chairman of the Social Security System, was among the first to see the President, to submit his report on the recently concluded 17th General Assembly of the International Social Security Association in Cologne, Germany, as Philippine representative.

Gaviola had presided over the assembly after being elected vice president of the world organization. He was also reelected member of the 18-man governing body representing Asia and Oceania.

In the morning, the President conferred with three mayors from Cotabato who reported on the peace and order situation in their localities. The mayors were Esteban Doruelo of Pigkawayan, Nicolas Dequiña of Midsayap and Jose Escribano of Tacurong.

Then the President received G.S.R.B. Kobbekaduwa, minister of agriculture and land of Ceylon, who called to pay his respects, following his recent arrival in Manila for a few days visit.

The President also conferred with Julian Yballe, assistant director of the Bureau of Private Schools, whom he designated acting director of that bureau to fill the post vacated by Narciso Albarracin who was named undersecretary of education.

Early in the afternoon, the President was interviewed by Pouli S. Neilsen, foreign editor of the Denmark newspaper *Intelligensia*, and correspondent of that country's state-owned radio-TV network.

Other callers included Reps. Ali Dimaporo of Lanao del Norte, Eduardo Cojuangco of Tarlac, Alfredo Lamen of Mt. Province, Felipe Abrigo of Eastern Samar and Fermin Caram, Jr. of Iloilo; Governors Victor Masa of Eastern Samar and Nicolas Pardo of Camarines Norte, and Mayor Florencio Bernabe of Parañaque, Rizal.

The President instructed the Department of Social Welfare and People's Homesite and Housing Corporation to jointly look into the possibility of allocating a site for a workshop and an office center of the General Assembly of the Blind, Inc.

The society's request was conveyed to the President through Acting Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, before whom the new officers of the GABI headed by Celso Jamora took their oath of office.

The President also ordered an immediate study of the economic uses bakawan, a local forest product with an eye to solving the dispute over the product between local entrepreneurs and log exporters.

A committee, headed by Chairman Johnny M. Araneta of the National Export Coordinating Center, will conduct the studies and report their findings to the President.

In the course of the day, the President issued an executive order establishing a Presidential Award in Education to be granted to citizens who have made significant and distinctive contributions to education in this country.

Creation of the presidential award was proposed by the national committee in charge of the observance of the International Education Year and subsequently recommended for approval by Secretary of Education Onofre D. Corpuz.

Presentation of the award will be one of the highlights of the observance in the Philippines of the International Education Year this year, which was declared by the United Nations General Assembly to focus attention of member countries on the important role of education in the development of human resources, deemed essential to the attainment of the goals of the Second UN Development Decade.

In issuing the executive order establishing the award, President Marcos underscored the universal recognition of the value of education in promoting a country's enlightenment and progress, as well as world peace and understanding.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: October 30 - November 5, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

October 30—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had only one break from his desk work, to which he devoted most of his working day, when he met with the litigants in the land dispute which students and other activities had made a cause for staging demonstrations at the Department of Justice premises,

The President met in Malacañang at about noontime the farmer couple who had opposed the use of their land as a right-of-way for the trucks of a logger in Davao del Norte. During the preliminary meeting, the President tentatively inquired into the facts of the case, then set another meeting tomorrow where all parties concerned, including government authorities involved were asked to be present.

At the conference were officials of the Department of Justice headed by Secretary Vicente Abad Santos; Roman Cuison, a logging operator; Romualdo Bhadi, his wife and their counsel; Acting Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, Director of Forestry Jose Viado and Col Luis Ridad, Davao PC Provincial commander.

Receiving no callers, the President worked on official papers for the rest of the day, during which he signed a proclamation declaring Monday, November 9, a special public holiday to enable personnel of government offices and private firms to go home to their respective provinces and exercise their right of suffrage on November 10.

The nation will go to the polls on November 10 to elect the delegates to the Constitutional Convention scheduled in June next year.

October 31—

PRESIDENT MARCOS again concentrated on his desk work, during which he named Brig. Gen. Florencio Medina (ret.) head of the Philippine delegation attending the organizational meeting of the Association of Ministers of Science of Asia, which will be held in Manila from November 16 to 20, this year; and signed the appointment of Apolinario Orosa as director-general of the Presidential Economic Staff; of Placido Mapa, Jr. as director of World Bank representing the Philippines and Ruben Ancheta as PES deputy director-general for programming.

Both PES officials were inducted by the President at ceremonies held at the Malacañang Reception Hall.

Named members of the delegation were Chairman Juan Salcedo, Jr. of the National Research Council of the Philippines, President Salvador P. Lopez of the University of the Philippines, Chairman Gerardo Sicat of the National Economic Council, and Ambassador Rafaelita H. Soriano, assistant secretary of the United Nations Affairs and International Conferences of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The Chief Executive vested upon the delegation the full powers and authority to speak for the government at the meeting and to negotiate, include and sign any act or agreement with, the official delegates of the other countries participating in the conference.

In the afternoon, the President met with the leaders of the Free Farmers Federation on the same complaints raised by small farmers and settlers on the resolution of land disputes. He took steps to facilitate the early settlement of these disputes.

The President remained at his desk through the evening- working on government papers and other state concerns.

November 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS motored to Baguio City late in the afternoon from a pilgrimage to San Fernando, La Union, where, following Philippine religious tradition, he paid homage at the tomb of his late father in connection with All Saints' Day.

'The President left Manila aboard a Philippine National Railways coach, and arrived at the La Union capital at mid-morning.

He motored directly to the memorial built at San Fernando by the people of La Union, in honor of the former assemblyman, Mariano Marcos, the President's father who was killed by Japanese soldiers during the war.

In solemn rites at the memorial, accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, and their daughters Imee and Irene, the President laid a wreath and offered a brief prayer at the memorial, which was also raised by the provincial government of La Union, in homage to the fallen soldiers of the USAFIP-North Luzon guerillas, with which the President served during the Japanese occupation years, and through the liberation campaign.

The presidential party had luncheon with La Union officials at Poro Point. Among those present were Reps. Jose D. Aspiras and Joaquin Ortega, Gov. Juvenal Guerrero, San Fernando Mayor Lorenzo Dacanay and other municipal officials of the province.

After consultations with local officials, and a press interview later with Malacañang newspapermen covering his trip, the President and his party motored to the summer capital for the weekend.

November 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent most of his day in Baguio City conferring with various local officials, including provincial, executives from nearby provinces.

One of his earliest meetings was with Gov. Ben Palispis of Benguet and Mayor Lardizabal of this city.

In the evening, the President met with PC commanders of the three mountain provinces, Nueva Viscaya and Isabela, to assess the current situation and the status of the drive to stabilize peace and order.

The PC officers reported that the situation in their localities are well under control, and expressed optimism that the coming election will be peaceful.

Among those who conferred with the President were Lt. Col. Pedro Zafra and Capt. Constancio Lasaten of the 91st PC company (Benguet), Lt. Col. Jackson Alfarc (Nueva Viscaya), Lt. Col. Victorino Calano, officer-in-charge of the Baguio City police department: Capt. Ernesto Venturing who represented the Isabela provincial commander who is sick; and 2nd Lt. Renato Delima of the PC headquarters in Bontoc, Mt. Province.

They were accompanied by Brig. Gen. Felizardo Tanabe, First PC Zone commander.

The President also conferred with a delegation of mayors from La Union namely Mayors Antonio Aquino of San Juan, Anastacio Uble of Santol, Mario Nicha of Balaoan, and Jose Macuci of Sudipen, who were accompanied by Gov. Juvenal Guerrero.

Another delegation, accompanied, by Gov. Tito Primicias of Pangasinan, was headed by Mayor Corleto Castro of Bugallom

In-between conferences, the President worked on stale papers brought up from Malacañang for his study and action.

In an interview with newsmen late in the morning, the President announced that he will make available to the Constitutional Convention the research agencies of the government, like the U. P. Law Center, so that delegates may be properly assisted in introducing amendments into the fundamental law of the land.

The President expressed gratification over the fact that private universities and certain, civic organizations have likewise offered their research facilities to the convention delegates.

“We certainly cannot overemphasize the importance of this convention to the future of our country,” he said.

In another official move, the Chief Executive cleared the Fisheries Commission deputy chief of charges filed against him by a fishermen’s group. on the recommendation of the special committee which looked into the case.

Santos B. Kasalan, deputy commissioner of the Fisheries Commission, was cleared of charges in an eight-point complaint filed with the Office of the President by Tobias P. Marcelo, president of the Interisland Deep Sea Fishing Association. Inc.

November 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS conferred with local officials, in between working as usual according to a schedule resembling very much the same norm he follows in Malacañang.

Later in the day, he met with Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile and top brass of the armed forces and constabulary, to discuss the overall effort aimed at ensuring a peaceful election of delegates to the Constitutional Convention to be held next year.

Present at the meeting aside from Secretary Enrile were General Manuel T. Yan, AFP chief of staff; Major Gen. Romeo Espino, AFP vice chief of staff- Brig. Gen. Rafael, Ileta, Philippine Army chief; Brig. Gen. Eduardo Garcia, PC chief; Brig. Gen. Felizardo Tanabe, IPC zone commander; and Brig. Gen. Zosimo Paredes, UPC zone commander.

The President continued to work on official papers in his study at the Mansion House through, the evening.

In a new effort to conserve dollars in the country, the President further restricted travel abroad, by government personnel by curtailing even those trips involving no government expense.

In Memorandum Circular No. 404, issued by Acting Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes on the President’s authority, a ban was imposed on all travel abroad except when:

1. The trip is in compliance with an international commitment of the government.
2. The trip would redound to the financial benefit of the country.
3. The trip is in connection with a fellowship, scholarship or training grant.

November 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS worked mostly on state papers brought up from Malacañang, and otherwise enjoyed the nippy Baguio weather and a chance to relax. He decided to remain in the Pines city on the request of local officials, so that problems in the region could be threshed out with him.

He has scheduled conferences with various officials in the area, while also awaiting national officials whom he had called to Baguio for consultations.

Earlier in the day, the President sat down with newsmen covering him for a brief interview, in the course of which he commended Commission on Elections Chairman Jaime Ferrer for his courage in initiating the drive against so-called private armies, and at the same time announced that he will order the Philippine Constabulary to give all-out support to the Comelec campaign against armed groups.

The President also conferred with Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., who among other things reported on his recent trip abroad.

In the evening, tin Chief Executive signed House Bill No. 1537, otherwise known as the Special Peace and Order Fund bill.

The measure was received by Malacañang from Congress only yesterday and was conveyed to the President for his signature by Presidential Executive Assistant Jacobo C. Clave.

The new law provides for a special fund to finance the activities, functions and program of the Police Commission, created under the Police Act of 1966, and police activities of the National Bureau of Investigation.

The bill appropriates F60 million for the expenditures of the Police Commission from the date of effectivity of the Act to June 30, 1971. This is in addition to the appropriations for the Police Commission authorized under existing laws.

November 5—

PRESIDENT MARCOS worked as usual at his desk at the Mansion House on state papers, and issued directives on various matters, including an order to the PC Chief to meet with the Comelec on the drive against private armed groups.

The President also had two important meetings, one with Senator Alejandro Almendras on the senator's drive against government personnel committing irregularities, and the other with Secretary of Commerce and Industry Ernesto Maceda who reported on his recent mission to the United States.

The President, in his meeting with Almendras, offered the government's investigative facilities to the. Davao senator, so that the latter could pursue his probe and file the proper charges.

In his talk with Secretary Maceda, the President was informed six socialist countries in Europe are ready to establish limited trade relations with the Philippines, primarily to purchase the country's traditional export goods.

After his conferences with the senator and the commerce secret, the President continued to work through the evening on state matter brought to his attention.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: November 6-12, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

November 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS continued his conferences in Baguio with various government leaders, some of them coming from the Visayas and Mindanao, and others from Luzon.

During such conferences, the President discussed projects which will be taken up after the election of Constitutional Convention delegates, and repeated¹ his admonition to NPs to steer clear of the election campaign, and that if any NP wished to support any candidate, he should do it on his own as a constitutional right not in the name of the party.

And in consonance with the non-partisan and non-political election of delegates to the forthcoming Constitutional Convention, the Chief Executive also addressed a special appeal to all political parties to keep off the: elections as organized parties, and desist from exerting any "untoward pressures on our people in choosing—the right delegates to the Constitutional Convention."

A ceremony honoring the President, initiated by local officials, which included a parade, was cancelled by him in deference to the election campaign.

He also conferred at length with Gov. Jose Evangelista of Ilocos Norte, where the President is expected to vote on election day, Tuesday. He disclosed that immediately after voting, he would fly back to Manila where he would keep tabs on the election returns.

Among the papers he scanned while working at his desk in the Mansion House was the report submitted by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo on his stint at the United Nations, which pertained mostly to the proposed amendments to the UN charter and the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the world organization.

During the day, the President also named the members of the delegation of the Philippines to the 21st Colombo Plan Ministerial Meeting, scheduled to be held in Manila from November 24 to December 6, this year.

Secretary Romulo was named head of the delegation.

The delegation was invested by the President with full powers and the authority to meet and confer with their peers and negotiate, conclude and sign with them any acts or agreements adopted during the meeting.

November 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS continued to have an active day in the Pines City, as he interspersed desk work with meetings with officials from all over the country showing up at the Mansion House.

The President broke off his desk work as often as officials arrived to consult on various problems. Among those he received were Rep. Frisco San Juan of Rizal and Mayor Osmundo de Guzman of Marikina, who came together; and Immigration Commissioner Edmundo Reyes.

Some of the President's conferences were continuations of meetings he has held with officials coming from Mindanao, the Visayas and Luzon. As usual, the President sat down with newsmen for the daily informal press conference, which has become part of his work day in Baguio City.

While at work on official papers, the President issued a proclamation declaring the period from November 23 to 29, 1970 as National Papal Visit Week.

In issuing the proclamation, the President said that Filipinos are deeply grateful for the honor the Pope has bestowed on them, and their country with his visit.

The President enjoined all citizens and resident of the Philippines, regardless of faith, color or creed, to cooperate in making—the Papal visit a fruitful one “in the promotion of brotherhood among them.”

November 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent most of his working hours in his study at the Mansion House going over the official papers brought up to the summer capital by Malacañang aides.

He only left his desk work a couple of times to meet with government officials, including local executives, who discussed with him matters affecting their respective agencies or constituencies.

The President also had a brief informal meeting with newsmen covering his trip to the Pines City.

November 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS inspected the rabbitry, mushroom and silk culture projects of the Mountain Province Development Authority, the stock farm of the Bureau of Plant Industry, and the experimental fruit ‘orchards of the bureau.

Accompanied by Undersecretary of Agriculture Arturo Tanco, Jr., MPDA Chairman-Manager Sinai Hamada and BAI Director Pedro Refuerzo, the President first visited the state agricultural college in La Trinidad, where he looked into the progress of the rabbit raising and mushroom and silk culture projects and other projects of the MPDA.

The projects are designed to produce improved farm commodities in large quantities for export; provide additional sources of income for farmers and create a fairly prosperous farmer class in the four mountain provinces, namely: Kalinga-Apayao, Benguet, Ifugao and Mountain Province.

From the state college, the President proceeded to the Bureau of Plant Industry experimental station where improved, varieties of fruit trees are being developed for distribution to farmers. These fruit trees are apples, pears, chestnuts and other fruits which are in great demand locally and are imported in large quantities.

The President was shown around the experimental station by Crispin Ancheta, local BPI assistant superintendent.

Then the President metered, down Sto. Tomas road on the opposite section of the city where he visited the Bureau of Animal Industry’s cattle breeding station. He was shown the big imported bulls, which are being kept at the station for breeding purposes in connection with the cattle dispersal program of the government.

The President left the guesthouse at 4 p.m.—and was back at the Mansion House at about 6 p.m.

The President earlier worked on official papers brought up by aides from Malacañang.

He also issued the following message on the eve of election day: Tomorrow the Filipino nation goes to the polls to elect the men and women who will rewrite the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines. The writing or rewriting of a Constitution is the ultimate, the highest sovereign act of a people. For the Constitution is the framework, the skeleton of government, and it forecasts the future of a nation. We roust therefore all participate in this sovereign act.

I exhort each and everyone of you to go to the polls and vote tomorrow, I ask you to cast your vote on election day. In urging you to cast your vote, it is perhaps necessary to inform you and remind you that never again during the lifetime of our generation and perhaps the other generations that will follow, will our people be given an opportunity to re-cast and rewrite the Constitution of our country and of our people. It is therefore necessary that we seize and take advantage of this opportunity to mould our own future.

The government and I personally view with satisfaction the exemplary manner with which the campaign has been conducted and the way in which all the people and the government officials and employees have conducted themselves in order to maintain a free, open and unsullied expression of the popular will.

I congratulate and commend all those who have unceasingly and unstintingly labored in order that we may have a free and open election. Many have despaired and forecast apprehensions and misgivings on the manner in which this election would be conducted. But despite all of this, the campaign has been peaceful and free. It is my hope that the election on Tuesday—tomorrow—will be equally so. The fear that the campaign would be dominated by political parties or by the influential groups of men that may usually seek to pressure those who make decisions in our society, including the voters in this election, has not come about. And we are witness to the large presence of many from all the classes of our society, whether rich or poor, big or small, strong or weak, who are candidates and who hope to participate in the proceedings of the constitutional convention. I have no reason to doubt that the general desire and wish of everyone that the constitutional convention will be composed of men who are not tied down by partisan interest or committed to any selfish groups, or be subjected to pressures of any kind, will be essentially attained.

But while we are pleased with this development, there remains the duty of government to appeal once more to all the people, and this appeal I make today. I appeal to each and everyone of you, the citizenry of our country, to maintain this election free. The whole world watches us.

It is not only the Filipino people that looks to you for this act of sovereignty to be attained and for this act of sovereignty to be done with purity and with sincerity. It is the world which watches us. It is a world of friends and of enemies alike, who speculate at the manner in which we will conduct ourselves.

I have trust and confidence in the capability of our people to maintain free and open election as we have done in the past. May we continue to do so tomorrow. Let there be a free and unsullied expression of our popular will.

But first of all, all those who are qualified to vote go to the polls and vote. And when you vote, vote not only for your candidates. Vote for the best qualified of all the candidates that they may truly express the genius, the talent, the patriotism of the people of the Philippines.

November 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS left Baguio City early on a short flight to Laoag City, where he arrived at about 10 a.m. He was met by a large delegation of officials, including Gov. Jose Evangelista, Rep. Roque Ablan, Jr., Vice Gov. Elizabeth Keen, Mayor Eulalio Sison and other local officials.

From the airport, the President headed for the city cathedral where a *Te Deum* was sung for him. Then he drove to Batac, his hometown, arriving at about 11 a.m. He went straight to the public school where he voted at his old precinct.

He later presided at a conference with provincial and municipal officials at the Marcos residence. The officials reported on the conditions in their respective constituencies. All said that the situation was peaceful.

Brig. Gen. Felizardo Tanabe, 1st PC Zone commander, also saw the President to report on the peace and order situation. He said that Except for two shooting incidents all was peaceful in the 1st PC zone.

The President left Laoag shortly after high noon, arriving in Malacañang at about 2 p.m.

For the rest of the day, the President worked on state matters.

In the evening, he followed the trend of the elections as reports began pouring into Malacañang.

At the night of election day, the President issued the following Post-Election message.

Our people have just gone to the polls to elect their delegates to the coming Constitutional Convention.

They have gone to the polls as a free and freedom-loving people should—with dignity, decorum and a high sense of intellectual and moral involvement.

The peaceful and orderly conduct of the elections is an expression of the maturity of our people and a source of confidence and hope that those who will be elected to take part in the convention will represent the genuine popular will.

In the nationwide election, we have sought to elect men whose first and last aim is to be of service to our people. It is our earnest hope that the results of this election will guarantee a meaningful convention.

To all those who have worked for this peaceful and orderly election and to the entire Filipino nation, who deserves such an orderly election, I extend my deepest thanks and congratulations.

November 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent a quiet day at work in his study, while occasionally scanning reports on the progress of the canvassing votes all over the country.

The President did not receive visitors, only public officials who call for consultations in the course of the day's government business, an immediate aides in Malacanang.

In the afternoon, he endorsed the position taken by the committee of the Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation (PAAF), the Philippine participation at the 1970 Bangkok Asia should be limited to that of a "performing delegation" of athletes who have been rigidly screened and qualified as having good chances to win

The President made the endorsement after he was notified by PAAF president Felipe Monserrat, who is also chairman of the criteria, committee, that his committee was certifying only those athletes who had passed rigid screening.

He worked at his desk through the afternoon and early evening.

On the death of former President Charles de Gaulle of France, the President issued the following statement:

"The Filipino nation mourns with fraternal sorrow the death of General Charles de Gaulle, a great leader of men and a gift to the world of the twentieth century, who was not only a father to France but also a comrade to all those nations and peoples who needed a champion in their fight for freedom, independence, honor and dignity.

"In a world dominated, by mediocrity and endless compromise, he wakened men and nations anew to the truth that the most costly, the most ruinous policy is to small, to seek every favor from everybody and yet obtain nothing.

"As he restored to France her sense of grandeur and pride, he gave to other men a vision of greatness which only a high sense of freedom, independence, honor and courage might achieve.

“His passing is a profound loss to us all.”

November 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS devoted most of his time to his desk, during which he officially designated Ambassador Luis Moreno Salcedo, Philippine envoy to France, as his official representative at the funeral services for Charles de Gaulle.

The President also studied the report and recommendation of Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto Reyes on the efforts toward the rehabilitation of the typhoon-stricken areas of the Bicol Region, which emphasized the facilitation of the replanting of damaged farms and the delivery of needed reconstruction materials and seeds. Another report studied by the President was that of Commerce and Industry Secretary Ernesto Maceda on the need for broader promotion of Philippine products in the U.S., as well as of the effort to project a proper image of the country abroad.

The President did not receive any visitors, except for the officials of the National Development Corporation, whom he called in for a discussion of the immediate projects of the firm, particularly the development of export industries and the possible opening up of new investment areas.

Present at the meeting were Constando Fariñas, chairman of the NDC board; Demetrio Brillantes, general manager; and members Salvador Querubin, Tanerredo Gurav, Protacio Licsi, and Margarito Duavit.

In the course of the day the President signed into law House Bill No. 448, amending certain sections of Republic Act No. 4860, known as the Foreign Borrowing Act, with instructions to Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata, to provide official interpretation on those provisions that are being debated upon as to their validity and constitutionality.

The President continued to work at his desk through the afternoon and early evening.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: November 13-19, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

November 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS started the day by hosting a breakfast, along with the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, for visiting Transportation Secretary John Volpe of the United States, and Mrs. Volpe at Malacañang.

Then the President had a conference with Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, and Secretary of Public Works and Communications Manuel B. Syquiao, who were also breakfast guests, on various state matters pertaining to their departments.

Later in the day, the President had two more conferences, one with a group of officials from Pangasinan; the other with Rep. Eduardo Cojuangco on matters in the latter's constituency.

Present at the meeting with Pangasinan officials were Land Authority Gov. Conrado Estrella, Reps. Roberto Estrella and Antonio P. Villar.

In the afternoon, the Chief Executive directed Budget Commissioner Faustino SyChangco to release the funds needed to implement- the five per cent salary increase of public school teachers in Manila.

Funds for this purpose was provided for in the current appropriations act, and will involve some P110,000 a month. The increase will be effective July 1, this year.

The President also directed the Department of Foreign Affairs to ask the United States government for an immediate renegotiation of the Philippine-U.S. Military Bases Agreement of 1947.

The President made it clear that the agreement must be renegotiated to remove, among other things, those defects and controversial passages that tend to divide national opinion on the matter of upholding the country's sovereignty and national dignity.

After clearing off his scheduled conferences, he then worked steadily at his desk, breaking off at around 6:30 p.m. to meet, again, a group of Catholic bishops led by Rufino J. Cardinal Santos. The meeting was on the arrangements for the coming Papal visit.

Meanwhile, the President promulgated the guidelines and procedures to be followed by government offices in the dispersal of government assets with a value of over P500,000.

The guidelines were drawn in line with the policy to obtain the best price for government assets up for sale. Primarily, sealed public bidding has been prescribed, in order that a sufficient number of legitimate bidders could participate.

November 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent the morning entirely in his study, working on state papers, during which he proclaimed Friday, November 27 and Saturday, November 28, as public holidays in honor of the visit of Pope Paul VI here, and designated Ambassador Ernesto Lagdameo,

Philippine envoy to the U.S. as chief negotiator in the talks on a civil aviation agreement between the U.S. and the Philippines,

In the afternoon, the President met behind closed doors with Solicitor-General Felix Antonio, Central Bank Gov. Gregorio Licaros', Sugar Quota Administrator Jose Unson, Silay City Mayor Natalio Velez, Sen. Ambrosio Padilla, Reps. Pablo Roman of Bataan, and Roque Ablan Jr. of Ilocos Norte to discuss problems involving the offices represented by those at the meeting.

With no other visitors during the rest of the day, the President concentrated on this desk work.

November 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered a study of the feasibility of merging the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation with the National Housing Corporation, while inviting at the same time the labor sector to make proposals on policies and programs for government housing agencies.

He also issued policy guidelines for the Government Service Insurance System, the Social Security System, and the Development Bank of the Philippines on the processing of applications for housing loans.

Implementing the President's directives, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. conveyed the orders to the officials concerned, as follows:

1. Undersecretary of Labor Raoul Inocentes, who is also a member of the PHHC board of directors, to consult representative labor groups on working out a system of guidelines and priorities on housing "to benefit the working class."

The President sought labor's views in appreciation of the fact that housing is a critical need of workers—a need which he had previously pointed out will become more acute as the country moves towards industrial development.

He said his administration is committed to pursuing an intensive low-cost housing program, as embodied in the Four-Year Development Plan.

He asked Undersecretary Inocentes to submit his recommendations within 30 days.

2. The chairmen of the PHHC and the NHC to create each a panel of three, to include the General Manager in the case of the PHHC, to study the feasibility of merging the two corporations.

The principal objective of this move is to avoid duplication of activities and to integrate resources.

The President further, instructed these officials to avail of the assistance and/or opinion of the Secretary of Justice in establishing the legal basis of the merger.

He also directed that the report and recommendations of both panels, duly indorsed by the Secretary of Justice, should be submitted to him within 30 days.

3. For the GSIS, SSS and DBP, the following guidelines were prescribed in executing housing projects, and in approving individual housing loans:

- a) Priority should be given to mass housing projects, utilizing PHHC and other government-owned lands, rather than acquiring private subdivisions.

Dwelling units should be-acquired from the NHC, especially where the project requires the construction of detached housing units.

b) Multi-storey apartments suitable for metropolitan areas should be planned in such a way as to maximize the utilization of NHC products.

The GSIS, SSS and the DBP, respectively, should consider the feasibility of entering into a joint venture with the PHHC, and the NHC for this purpose.

c) Approval of individual housing loans should be subject to the condition that the dwelling unit shall be provided by the NHC, so as to channel housing funds to low and moderate-income families.

d) Priority should be given in all instances to the construction of new housing over applications for remodelling or expanding existing houses.

The President at the same time directed the National Science Development Board to prepare a study on the use of tobacco dust for pesticide, and the production of milk from coconut.

The conversion of these two principal produce of the country into substitute products would mean not only their full utilization but also the conservation of foreign exchange.

The President also created a Social Defense Planning Committee, which will evolve and adopt long-range and short-term programs and policies on social defense planning.

These programs will include a review of the country's penal system and criminal statutes as a whole, as an integral and essential part of planning for national development.

Former Supreme Court Justice Conrado V. Sanchez was named chairman of the committee, with Sen. Salvador H. Laurel and Rep. Teodulo Natividad, as members.

November 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS received Curt R. Strand, president of Hilton International, who paid his respects following his arrival in Manila in the course of an inspection tour of Hilton hotels in Asia.

During his call, the President and Strand exchanged views on the prospects and problems of the tourist trade and discussed ways and means of attracting more tourists to the Philippines.

Accompanying Strand were other Hilton Hotel officials, namely:

Kenneth S. Moss, vice-president for East Asia; Andre F. Charriere, Antonio Delgado and Francisco Delgado, general manager, president, and chairman, respectively, of the Manila Hilton.

Earlier in the morning, the President motored to the National Science Development Board offices to attend as guest of honor and speaker the opening ceremonies of the Association of Ministers of Science of Asia, held at the NSDB auditorium. (See pp. 10522-10525 for the text of the President's Speech).

Back in Malacañang at well past 11:00. a.m., the President met with mining executives on the plan to establish copper smelting plant in view of the expected reduction in local exports of copper ore.

Present at the meeting were Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata, Agriculture Undersecretary Arturo Tanco, Jr., Mines Director Fernando Busuego, Jr., and BOI Chairman Vicente Paterno, representing the government side; and

Jose Soriano of Atlas Mining, William Foster and B. M. Gozon of Marcopper Mining, Jesus Cabarrus of Marinduque Mines, Carlos Palanca and Alfredo Velayo of Lepanto Mining, G. T. Scholey, G. A. Scholey, P.

Elisorio, J. Foreta of Black Mountain Mines, Henry Brimo and Juan Singson of Philex Mines, and Senen Fua and Dr. Luis Dizon of Consolidated Mining Co.

Toward noon, the President conferred the Order of Sikatuna (rank of datu) on former Secretary of Foreign Affairs Narciso Ramos in recognition of his long and distinguished public service.

Among those who witnessed the award ceremonies were the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos; Secretary Virata, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. who read the citation for the President, chiefs and members of the foreign diplomatic missions in Manila, and the wife and children of Secretary Ramos.

In the afternoon, the President was again guest speaker, this time at the kick-off ceremonies of the national education and fund campaign of the League of Puericulture Centers held at Malacañang's Maharlika Hall.

November 17—

PRESIDENT MARCOS expressed the hope that science will succeed in uniting mankind in the "pursuit of a better life, and exhorted the pharmacists of Asia to contribute to the realization of this goal through collective effort.

In a speech at the opening of the Fourth General Assembly and Third Asian Congress of Pharmaceutical Sciences, held at the Philamlife auditorium. In the morning, the President also stressed the importance of combating drug addiction and of family planning in the face of worldwide population explosion.

Noting the involvement of the pharmacists in establishing uniform regulations in drug and food additives, fair practices in drug and food trading and in improving general health conditions in Asia, the President pledged the support of the Philippine government to all these endeavors.

The President worked as usual early in the morning on state papers, then at about 10 a.m. motored to the Philamlife auditorium to address the conference of Asian pharmacists.,

After the speech, he proceeded to Camp Aguinaldo, where he was given a three-hour briefing by the AFP and PC commanders on the present status of the armed services and their missions. The briefing is a periodic ritual to keep the President updated on the armed forces and the PC.

In the afternoon, the President mostly attended to his desk work had brief meetings with officials who came to consult him on problems, among whom was Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos.

During the day, the Chief Executive also announced that the government and a religious-civic organization will jointly develop a resettlement area for displaced families in Montalban, Rizal.

The President said the Land Authority, the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation and the National Social Action Council, an organization headed by Bishop Mariano Gaviola, will work together in the rehabilitation and development of resettlement areas for squatters and other families displaced from the Manila metropolitan area and resettled in Montalban.

Early in the evening, the President received Brig. Gen. F. C. Cauton, commanding general of the 3rd Infantry Brigade, based in Cebu, who presented him with the "Kampilan," the symbol of command of the brigade.

The Kampilan was to have been presented to the President last October 20, at the rites marking the Leyte landing anniversary, but the President was not able to attend.

The President worked at his desk through much of the evening.

November 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, welcomed at the Manila International Airport, the head of government of Burma, General Ne Win, and Madame Ne Win who arrived about 11 a.m. for a four-day state visit here. The First Couple of Burma are guests at Malacañang.

Earlier in the morning, the President worked in his study, acting on various state papers brought to his desk. Well before the expected arrival of the Ne Wins, he and the First Lady motored to the airport.

Returning to the Palace at the head of an official motorcade, the President and the First Lady stopped off along with their guests at the Luneta where Gen. Ne Win laid a floral offering at the Rizal Monument.

Arriving at Malacañang, the President had an informal talk with Gen. Ne Win at his study, and then returned to his official chores. After lunch, he played a round of golf with his guest at the Malacañang Park golf course.

Then he resumed his work, and at 4 p.m. formally received Gen. Ne Win who came for an official call.

In the evening, the President and the First Lady honored the state guests at a dinner held at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang.

While attending to state matters in the afternoon, the President asked Vice President Fernando Lopez, concurrently secretary of agriculture and natural resources, to adopt the new simplified procedure in the processing of forest applications by offices under his department.

The new procedure was devised after a two-month study by a management audit committee headed by Juan M. Sanchez of the PES-DND Computer Center, which included Oscar Anastacio of the Bureau of Forestry, Francisco Rabuy of the Bureau of Lands, Gerardo O. Zafra of the Budget Commission, and Umberto A. Rodriguez, also of the PDCC.

The recommendations embodied in the Sanchez committee report include:

1. Decentralization of functions in the Bureau of Forestry.
2. Adoption of a simplified procedure in the processing of forest application and grants.
3. Centralization of the administrative and operational management of the Bureau of Lands' computer so that it can be utilized by all other agencies under the DANR.
4. That heads of all other government agencies using survey data in the control and disposition of public agricultural and forest lands reconcile their records on survey and maps with that of the Bureau of Forestry.

November 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS mobilized teams from the various government agencies to undertake rescue, relief and wreckage clearing operations following receipt of report in Baguio City of the damage wrought by typhoon "Yoling" which lashed metropolitan Manila and the Southern Luzon provinces in the morning and early afternoon.

At the same time, he appealed to all citizens who had not been adversely affected by the typhoon to extend assistance to typhoon victims, notably in the form of cooked food and medicines.

He also ordered the release of P100,000 from the calamity fund for relief aid to victims.

The President issued the directive following a briefing by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. on the extent of the damage wrought by the typhoon.

The President arrived in Baguio City early in the morning with Gen. Ne Win, the Burmese chief of state, who arrived for a four-day state visit.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: November 20-26, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

November 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS flew from Baguio City on the first available government aircraft, arriving in Manila just before noon.

From the Nichols Air Base he, together with state visitor, Gen. Ne Win of Burma, the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, and Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. went straight to Camp Aguinaldo where he presided at the meeting of all government agencies involved in the relief and rehabilitation of typhoon victims, to coordinate their efforts.

In the course of the meeting, the President:

1. Signed a proclamation declaring a state of calamity in the provinces of Rizal and Bataan, and in the cities of Manila, Caloocan, Quezon and Pasay.

In signing the proclamation, the President emphasized that under a state of calamity, it is a criminal act to conceal, hoard, overprice or profiteer in the process of the sale of foodstuff and other prime necessities of life.

2. Directed the Metrocom to maintain round-the-clock patrols of city streets, particularly to prevent the theft of wires and looting, in the face of the blackout and the breakdown of PLDT and other communications, including media services, which may take some time to restore.

3. Asked the heads of the Government Service Insurance System, the Social Security System, the Development Bank of the Philippines, and the Philippine National Bank to liberalize their procedures in granting emergency loans to typhoon victims.

He also asked these officials to study the feasibility of declaring a moratorium on receivables, or re-amortization of existing loans.

4. Authorized the GSIS manager, the SSS Administrator, the PNB president, the DBP chairman, and the Governor of the Central Bank of the Philippines to contribute at least P^00,000 each in order to augment government funds for relief and rehabilitation work.

5. Instructed the Department Social Welfare and the Philippine Navy to coordinate in helping homeless typhoon victims return to their home provinces.

6. Directed the Armed Forces of the Philippines to lend auxiliary generators to the Department of Health which will in turn lend the units to the National Children's Hospital and the National Orthopedic Hospital.

7. Told the Bureau of Public Works and the Army Engineers to assist the Nawasa in restoring water services wherever these have been cut off.

8. Asked Secretary Public Works and Communcation Manuel Syquiao to immediately normalize communications.

At the meeting, Dr. Aldaba Lim informed the President that the First Lady's Project Tulungan, with the assistance of the US-Agency for International Development; has been maintaining rolling kitchens to serve some 36 evacuation and relief centers in the metropolitan area.

The President also reconfirmed the suspension of classes by the secretary of education, and the closing of government offices in the meantime, in the calamity area.

Likewise, the President, through Secretary Melchor, gave a three-day weekend to government employees, from Nov. 20 through the duration of the period of calamity,

After the meeting, which broke up around 2 p.m., the Chief Executive returned to Malacañang, where he “worked on state papers awaiting him.

He issued an order removing from office Municipal Judge Pedro R. Ravage of Cagwit, Surigao del Sur, who was considered “unfit to remain in the judicial branch of the Government”.

The case against the respondent judge was brought about by a complaint of Clenio Gndona, who charged the judge with political harassment and persecution.

At about 5 p.m., the President conducted a survey of the disaster areas in the Greater Manila area, including the Philippine Navy headquarters on Roxas boulevard and Fort Bonifacio, to see for himself the actual damage and determine the needs of the victims.

At the FN headquarters, he inspected the navy facilities damaged by the typhoon, while at Fort Bonifacio, the President, also observed the distribution of potable water by members of the Philippine Army to residents of the camp and the adjacent Guadalupe area.

The President followed his regular routine the rest of the day, with emphasis on those tasks related to post-typhoon needs. He kept in touch through the evening with all relief and rehabilitation workers.

November 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS issued a series of directives to speed up the rehabilitation of the typhoon victims, particularly in the Greater Manila area.

In a nationwide radio-television message broadcast from the President’s study in Malacañang in the evening, the President:

1. Ordered a week-long suspension of classes, from Monday to Saturday, in both private and public schools, adding that the situation will be reassessed thereafter.
2. Directed the implementation of a six-hour working day in all government offices, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily without lunch break, and a three-day weekend from Friday to Sunday, in the Greater Manila area.
3. Ordered the Government Service Insurance System and the Social Security System to give priority to the typhoon victims in the matter of loans and financing in order to repair their homes.
4. Asked all banks to be opened in order to allow government paymasters to draw money with which to pay the salaries of workers who had not received their pay for the week.
5. Suggested that industries and business scheduled to grant Christmas bonuses to their workers and employees should do so sooner.

The President said he would meet with leaders of Congress Sunday or Monday to study the augmentation of the calamity fund without congressional action, or if necessary, to call a special session.

He said this was necessary in view of the fact that the calamity fund authorized by the General Appropriations Act had been badly depleted by the successive calamities which hit the country.

The President also ordered steps taken immediately to relieve the acute water shortage caused by the power cut-off in the greater Manila area due to the damage to power lines wrought by typhoon "Yoling."

To arrest the shortage, the President directed the National Power Corporation, the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the MEKALCQ officials that generators be installed at NAWASA pumping stations immediately, or that power lines be thrown from the source of electric current to the pumping stations so that they can resume operations.

Earlier in the day, the President bade farewell to Gen. and Madame Ne Win, who ended their four-day state visit to the Philippines at noon, when they departed for Rangoon.

The President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, had breakfast with their distinguished house guests, the last get-together with the Ne Wins.

Later the President and the General had a formal, conversation on common problems facing the two countries and on matters important to the development of closer cooperation, and understanding among countries of the Asian region.

The President thanked General Ne Win and the people of Burma for their "kind message of sympathy over the tragic disaster" caused by typhoon "Yoling," and for their generous assistance.

The government of Burma has sent a planeload of candles and medicine to Manila upon learning that the power lines had been knocked out and that there was a shortage of candles. The goods came on the plane which was sent by the Union of Burma Airways to fetch General Ne Win and his party from Manila.

The President also conveyed the Filipino ^people's "deep appreciation for the great honor bestowed upon the country" by General Ne Win's visit, and his regret that the typhoon had interfered with the plans for making the visit memorable.

At about high noon, the President and the First Lady escorted their guests to the MIA, where full honors were given them, and shortly afterward, the Burmese First Couple took off, with members of local officialdom, the diplomatic corps and other personages seeing them off.

On returning to Malacañang, the President concentrated on urgent matters, primarily the measures aimed at normalizing the situation in the Greater Manila area after the destructive visit of Typhoon Yoling.

In the afternoon the President resumed his inspection of the typhoon damage in the Greater Manila area.

Leaving Malacañang at 4 p.m., the President motored slowly through San Juan, Rizal, Sta. Mesa and Cubao in Quezon City, Marikina and San Mateo, Rizal.

From San Mateo, the President motored back to Manila, arriving in Malacañang at 6:15 in the evening.

About an hour, later, the president went on radio and television to report among others, on the magnitude of the destruction caused by the typhoon, and to assure the people that the government would stand by them to the limits of its power and resources.

He also appealed to all sectors of society to help in extending aid to typhoon victims, even as he served notice to opportunists, profiteers and hoarders, the looters and manipulators, that they would be hounded and prosecuted vigorously by the government,

During the day the Chief Executive also received the following message from Pope Paul VI:

“WITH PROFOUND SORROW WE HAVE LEARNED OF THE DESTRUCTION CAUSED BY A VIOLENT TYPHOON TO THE BELOVED COUNTRY WE ARE SOON TO VISIT STOP WE ASSURE YOUR EXCELLENCY AND THROUGH YOU THE FILIPINO PEOPLE OF OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY IN THIS TIME OF TRIAL AND OUR FERVENT PRAYERS FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE DISASTER AND THEIR GRIEVING FAMILIES”.

November 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered the inclusion of the provinces of Bulacan and Zambales under the proclamation of a state of calamity he issued earlier, as a result of typhoon “Yoling.”

In the proclamation, only the provinces of Rizal and Bataan, and the four cities of Manila. Pasay, Caloocan and Quezon were covered.

In amending the proclamation, the President reiterated its implications —that it is a criminal act, in the areas covered, to conceal, hoard, overprice or profiteer in the process of the sale of foodstuff and other prime necessities of life.

The President, accompanied by Rep. Teodulo Natividad, Secretary of Labor Bias F. Ople, and Gov. Ignacio Santiago of Bulacan, conducted an aerial survey over the province to see for himself the extent of damage to public and private buildings, and crops, which had earlier been reported to them by the province’s municipal mayors

The President left Malacañang Park by helicopter at 11 a.m. and arrived at Malolos for the briefing at 11:15 a.m.

In view of the widespread destruction caused by the typhoon, the Chief Executive said that he looks forward to the implementation of the Marcos-Johnson communique of 1966 for the U.S. aid to “our efforts at typhoon, dissipation and damage control.”

The communique issued jointly by the President and President Johnson during the former’s state visit to the U.S. in 1966, provides that:

“* * * The considerable economic loss suffered annually in the Far East from typhoons was discussed by the two Presidents, who agreed that the regional initiatives undertaken by the ECAFE and WHO to improve technical capabilities for typhoon damage control deserved full support.

President Johnson offered the services of the United States meteorological team to develop a joint program of typhoon damage control in the Philippine area in concert with, regional planning’, and President Marcos agreed to the desirability of such a program. * * *”

The President cited the specific provisions of the communique when informed by acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs Manuel Collantes that the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) had offered to send a mission to the Philippines to investigate the damage caused by successive typhoons.

November 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS met with top Congress leaders and Cabinet officials to discuss additional measures to speed tro rehabilitation of typhoon victims.

Present at the meeting were Senate President Gil J. Puyat, Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., Sen. Gerardo M. Roxas who is the Liberal Party president, Sen. Dominador Aytona, Speaker Protempore Jose Aldeguer, House Majority Floorleader Mareelino Veloso and Borne Minority Floorleader Justiniano S. Montano.

The Cabinet officials present were Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, Secretary of Finance Cesar & A. Virata, Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Chang-co, Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, Commerce Undersecretary Troadio Quiazon, Jr., and Agriculture Undersecretary Arturo R. Tanco, Jr.

It was agreed at the meeting:

1. That the President need not call for a special session of Congress as there exists ample authorization in the current Appropriations Act to spend funds for the required rehabilitation.
2. That, instead, the President should avail of existing executive authority to raise or generate additional cash for the funding of massive rehabilitation work.

Following the meeting, the President issued additional instructions to government agencies concerned. In order to speed up the government's relief and rehabilitation effort.

The new instructions were:

1. The Fiscal Policy Committee to meet in three days, to re-examine the priorities in the overall government funding program, and to reduce expenditures of law-priority projects or activities in the light of the new crisis as a result of the recent typhoon,
2. The Secretary of Finance to release immediately to local governments concerned their respective shares from excess income tax collections.

This is aimed at enabling the local governments to undertake rehabilitation work on their own, and consequently reduce dependence on the national government.

3. The Chairman of the Separations Commission to include in the new schedule of reparations procurement additional items for prefabricated school buildings.
4. The Budget Commission to release P400,000 to the Department of Social Welfare as relief aid, in addition to the P100,000 previously released by the President. The President announced meanwhile, that the PI million contributed by the Central Bank, Philippine National Bank, Government Service Insurance System, Development Bank of the Philippines, and the Social Security System to the relief and rehabilitation fund will be used for the early resettlement, as differentiated from relief, of the victims rendered homeless by typhoon "Yoling."
5. That in connection with the earlier instructions to the GSIS, SSS, DBP, and PNB to liberalize procedures for the granting of emergency loans, the said agencies should publish such liberalized procedures in the newspapers immediately, for the guidance of loan applicants.
6. That the GSIS General Manager immediately effect the release and payment of dividends to all its members.
7. That an Agricultural Recovery Program for all damaged areas, including the latest devastations by typhoon "Yoling" be immediately implemented.
8. The Secretary of Public Works and Communications to submit an overall estimate of damaged public works projects, and to formulate an integrated program for the early repair or reconstruction of such projects to include the estimated cost and possible sources of funding.

During the meeting, the President signed the proclamation amending

Proclamation No. 775, which declared a state of calamity in the Greater Manila Area and the provinces of Rizal and Eataan. (See pp. 10695-10696 for text of the proclamation).

The amending proclamation includes the provinces of Bulacan, Pampanga and Zambales in the coverage of the state of calamity. It also designates the Price Control Council to implement the provisions of said proclamation, pertaining to legal sanctions against hoarding, overpricing, profiteering or concealing of such goods. It also empowers the Price Control Council in this regard to seize all hoarded stocks of prime commodities, and to arrest all violators.

November 24—

PRESIDENT-MARCOS took up the measures for recovering the crop losses suffered from the recent typhoons with the National Food and Agricultural Council.

In a long- meeting in the morning at Malacañang, the various measures eyed to accelerate replanting of destroyed ricefields were discussed, as well as other matters pertaining to the stabilization of food supply, particularly for typhoon victims.

The President did not receive many visitors, preferring to work through the day at his desk. However, he met a delegation from Davao del Sur, which consulted him on local problems. He referred the various problems presented to the government agencies concerned. The delegation headed by Rep. Artemio Loyola and Gov. Ramon de los Cientos, was composed of provincial officials and several municipal mayors.

In the earlier meeting, those present were Undersecretary of Agriculture Arturo Tanco, Jr., Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, Director Pedro Refuerzo of Animal Industry, Commissioner Francisco Saguiguit of the Agricultural Productivity Commission, Director Eliseo Carandang of Plant Industry, Peter Witt of the United Nations Development Program, Frank Sheperd of the United States Aid for International Development, Hector Moreno of the Rice and Corn Administration, Felix Gonzales of the Bureau of Fisheries, Gualberto Planas of the Rice and Corn Productivity Coordinating Council, Silverio Sarmiento of the Budget Commission, E. Alejandrino of the World Food Program, and representatives of the Central Bank and the Development Bank of the Philippines.

Earlier, the President signed the commission of three foreign affairs officers as consuls general of the Philippines in Indonesia and Belgium.

Those commissioned were:

1. Eugenic Concepcion, as consul general in Djakarta, Indonesia,
2. Prudencio E. del Castillo, as consul general in Menado, Indonesia, and
3. Antero Liwanag, as consul general in Belgium.

In an address to the nation in the evening over a nationwide radio-television hookup, the President warned that hoarders and price manipulators will be prosecuted to the limit of the law.

The Chief Executive said that there are indications of attempts on the part of price manipulators and hoarders to take over control of prices.

He said that “all persons engaged in these nefarious and criminal activities come under the special powers on price control extended by Congress to the executive and are immediately punishable.”

The President added that he had directed the organization of constabulary and armed forces teams ready to jump off and take over any hoarded rice stocks in any part of the country.

November 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered the reversion to the general fund of all inactive special and trust funds GI the government to be used for the rehabilitation of typhoon stricken areas.

At the same time, the President ordered that a system of priorities be set up giving emphasis to the replanting of lost crops and the repair of public works facilities.

He issued the directives during his meeting with the Fiscal and Financial Policy Committee which briefed him on the meetings of the Presidential Budget' Development Committee in the morning and the Fiscal Policy Committee earlier in the afternoon.

At the end of the conference, the President accepted the donation of P200,000 each from the five government financing institutions—the Central Bank, the Philippine National Bank, the Development Bank of the Philippines, the Government Service Insurance System and the Social Security System—to the typhoon relief and rehabilitation fund.

The President then worked on state papers, in the course of which he directed:

1. The Irrigation Service Unit to immediately release some 400 pump units to the National Food and Agricultural Council, which are needed by projects under the Agricultural Recovery Program.
2. The government institutions to consider declaring a moratorium on loans to rice millers, in the same way that this was being considered in favor of the farmers.
3. The Bureau of Telecommunications to charge not more than ten centavos (P0.10) for transmitting complains and grievances from any citizen to the Presidential Action Committee on Land Problems (PACLAP)

In his order, the President said that easy and inexpensive access to the committee should be afforded those who may have problems and grievances so that the PACLAP can accomplish its duties speedily.

The President created the PACLAP to provide greater protection and assistance to small settlers, small landholders, and members of the cultural minorities.

The President also laid down the general policy for the resumption of classes in both public and private schools in the Greater Manila Area in the provinces of Quezon, Rizal, Laguna, Cavite, Bulacan, Pampanga, Bataan and Zambales, which were severely affected by typhoon "Yoling."

In the afternoon, President and Mrs. Marcos gave a reception in honor of the delegates to the Asian Bishops Meeting, at Malacañang.

November 26—

THE PRESIDENT met with leaders of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

In his meeting with the congressional leaders, at which a sprinkling of Cabinet officials were present, the President discussed the resources available to the government in the relief and rehabilitation of victims of recent calamities, and including the rehabilitation of whole areas and public services.

He disclosed that some 2000 prefab schools have been ordered through reparations, but that meanwhile the country must make do with salvaged schoolbuildings until early next year when the prefab units will arrive.

Among the leaders of Congress present at the meeting were Senate president Gil j. Puyat, Speaker Pretempore Jose Aldeguer, Senator Gerardo M. Roxas, who is the president, House Majority Floorleader Marcelino Velosa, House

Minority Floordleader Justiniano S. Montano, Senator Dominador Aytona and Reps, Jose Alberto and Rovertio Sabido.

Among the cabinet officials who attended were Secretary of Public Works and Communications Manuel b. Syquiao, secretary of Finance Cesar e. a. Virata, secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, jr., Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, jr., Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, Agriculture Undersecretary Arturo Tanco, Jr., and director-general Apolinario Orosa of the Presidential Economic Staff.

Later in the morning, the President directed all departments and agencies of the government to furnish the joint congressional committee created under the peace and order fund act all data on peace and order as may be desired by the said committee.

The president gave this order with the understanding that such data would serve the official need of both the Senate and the House committee on ways and means in their committee hearings.

He emphasized that it might be useful for the said committees to “look into the operation and effects of accounts” as well as the “administration of taxes imposed” as provided in the Peace and Order Act.

In the name of the Filipino people, I welcome His Holiness Pope Paul VI to the Philippines. We consider his visit with us as a great honor and are truly glad that he has singled out the Philippines for special attention during his trip to this part of the world. For not only are we the lone Catholic country in the Far East, we are also the only predominantly Christian nation in this area. We are proud of this distinction, while appreciative at the same time of the importance and value of other faiths, if only because Christianity is one of our links with Western Civilization. The cultural and religious heritage of the West has enriched the spiritual and moral values handed down from our pre-Christian ancestors.

Among these values are tolerance and the sense of human brotherhood. We Filipinos have guarded our political freedoms as jealously as any other people, and in matters of faith, we have always shown tolerance toward one another, as attested by the existence in our midst not only of Christian churches of various faiths but of a large Muslim population, not to speak of scattered tribes who are sustained by the animistic beliefs of their ancestors. The acceptance of diversity in matters religious reflects our tolerant attitude in the political realm as well. Our democracy is all the more stable because it is founded on faith in the goodness of man and in the conviction that all men are brothers.

The ecumenical spirit of His Holiness’ visit is therefore something that is quite readily appreciated by us. He is coming not only as the Supreme Pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church but also as a world spiritual leader whose humanity and compassion brings a message of hope to men and women everywhere. As Catholics, as Christians, or as simple believers in one Supreme Being, we are heartened by the presence of the Holy Father and deeply grateful for the attention he has bestowed on our country and people.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: November 27 - December 3, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

November 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, led the nation in extending a warm welcome to His Holiness, Pope Paul VI.

In his welcome remarks, the President said that His Holiness came “at a time of trial, of deep sorrow and deprivation as a result of a natural calamity which reminds us that all of us are in the hands of God,” and “at a time of national ordeal as we seek to change and alter the very basis of our fundamental law of our society.”

The President pointed out that faith and freedom,—faith in Christ and freedom in democracy—the two most priceless gifts of Western civilization,” are now under trial.”

For these reasons, he said, “because we cherish this faith and the freedom of true democracy, we greet you as a dedicated successor of your namesake, Paul, who said that he had an equal duty to everyone, Greek or Barbarian, learned or simple, for ‘there are no human preferences with God. (*Seepp. 10852 to 10853-A for full text of the President's speech*)

In reply, His Holiness, the Pope said that “we come here in obedience to our spiritual mission: to take part in the deliberations of the conference of the bishops of the whole of Eastern Asia.”

Continuing, the Pope said, “We wish to seek together, in the spirit of the Second Vatican Council, how best to proclaim the Gospel to the men of this time and of this continent. We are seeking to make an eternal and universal message an answer to the questions asked by the man of today. The Gospel is, for all men, the message of salvation.”

The President and the First Lady arrived at the Manila International Airport at 8:40 a.m., or 10 minutes ahead of schedule.

Upon arrival at the MIA, the Chief Executive was given military honors, including a 21-gun salute and review by a composite battalion of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

After the airport ceremonies, the First Couple spearheaded a motorcade which proceeded to the Nayong Pilipino where the Pontiff made a whirlwind tour of the miniature replica of the Philippines.

From the Nayong Pilipino, the President and the First Lady took a helicopter to the Manila Cathedral in Intramuros where Liturgical Procession was held, and a Holy Mass celebrated by His Holiness.

After the Mass, the President and Mrs. Marcos returned to Malacañang while the Pope and his entourage proceeded to the Luneta, then to the Apostolic Nunciature.

Among those present at the welcome ceremonies were Vice President Fernando Lopez and Mrs. Lopez, former Presidents Carlos P. Garcia and Diosdado Macapagal and their ladies, former First Ladies Esperanza L. vda. de Osmeña, Trinidad Roxas and Luz B. Magsaysay, Senate President and Mrs. Gil J. Puyat, Speaker and Mrs. Jose B. Laurel, Jr., Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and Mrs. Roberto Concepcion, Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs Manuel Collantes, Rufino J. Cardinal Santos and Julio Cardinal Rosales; Msgr. Carmine Rocco, Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines; and the presidents of the Asian Episcopal Conferences.

In his remarks at the Malacañang reception for His Holiness Pope Paul VI, who came to call on him, the Chief Executive said the Philippines has embarked on a peaceful but revolutionary reformation in its social and economic programs, but added such a reformation can only lead to lasting results if it is based on moral responsibility.

"I believe I can assure Your Holiness," he said, "that the public authorities of this Republic are conscious of that responsibility." (See pp. 10858-B to 1085'J-D for full text of the President's remark.)

President Marcos pointed out that national leaders are and will continue to be actively engaged in seeking an equitable and humane solution to the urgent problem of inequality between those who have too much and those who have too little.

"The Pope's timely visit," he emphasized, "reminds Filipinos that in their solemn act of national re-examination the great encyclicals on social justice which have come from Rome since Leo XIII's *Rerum Novarum* down to the more recent pronouncements of *Mater et Magistra* and Pope Paul's own *Populorum Progressio* are foundry relevant.

In his response, the Pontiff expressed his appreciation for the "remarkable welcome which we received on arriving on your soil," and the hospitality that had been extended to them in Malacañang.

The Pope also informed the President that he was aware "of the lofty intentions which had inspired, and still inspire the policies of your government."

"We are certain," the Pope said, "that the cordial meeting between the Successor of Peter and the highest official among the clear Filipino people, the only people in the Far East that is Christian, in this greater part of the world, will likewise be an effective endeavor for new and vigorous efforts in favor of man."

November 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent most of the day in his office at Malacañang working on state papers, with occasional consultations with his staff and ranking officials. He did not receive any private visitors.

In one of the orders that issued from his desk, the President ordered all agencies and instrumentalities of the national government to submit an annual program for the procurement of supplies, materials and equipment.

In his order, the President pointed out the huge annual cost of purchasing supplies, materials and equipment, and that emergency procurements and piecemeal requisitions are wasteful and extravagant, and therefore must be avoided.

To achieve an economical, efficient, and effective procurement system, the President said, government agencies and the Bureau of Supply Coordination must project and plan ahead, so that a basis for a workable procurement program may be devised.

It is in this consideration that the President directed all heads of departments, bureaus, offices and agencies of the national government to submit an annual procurement program projecting the needs of their offices during the year.

In the "afternoon, he and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, left Malacañang to attend the Mass at the Rizal Park, officiated by Pope Paul VI. They both received Holy Communion.

Later, on his return to Malacañang, the President resumed his desk work. He lifted the ban on public school athletic meets below the regional level, which was instituted early this year.

Lifting of the ban was recommended by Director Liceria K. Soriano of Public Schools. Secretary of Education Onofre D. Corpuz and Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. concurred with the decision.

November 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS expressed the hope that the journey of Pope Paul VI will help achieve the universal dream of a lasting peace.

The President, accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos and their children Imee and Irene, led a big crowd of well-wishers to bid good-bye to the Pontiff who left in the evening bound for Pago-Pago Islands in the Pacific, the next itinerary in his Asian tour.

In brief remarks prior to the Pope's departure, President Marcos quoted from the Pope's appeal to the United Nations which he said men must realize the truth.

His Holiness said then: "Peace is the fruit of a moral transformation of mankind, there is no improvising a true peace: one cannot maintain a peace that is imposed by oppression or by fear or by juridical orders that are unjust and no longer admissible. Peace must be human, and therefore free, just, happy."

In parting, the President asked the Holy Father "to pray for God's peace, a free, just and happy peace, for our people, and God's blessings on our Republic and its government, on the deliberations of those who chart our course to economic well-being and social justice and progress, and above all on the dispossessed and heartbroken among us, who are so close to your own heart, and to whom you have given fresh hopes which we shall all endeavor to fulfill." (See pp. 10853-E and 10853-F for full text of the President's speech.)

In the morning-, the President issued a proclamation declaring the period from February 15 to 21, 1971 as real estate industry week.

He also signed an administrative order, amending Administrative Order No. 240 of September 18, 1970, which created a committee to study the financing scheme for nationwide river control and reforestation projects.

The amending order includes the Commissioner of Forest Products Research and Industries Development Commission as a member of the Payer Control and Reforestation Committee.

In proclaiming a real estate industry week, the President took note of the coming meeting in Manila, starting February 15 next year, of the Sixth. Pan Pacific Congress of Real Estate Appraisers, Counselors and Valuers.

November 30—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent a quiet day working on government papers. In his message on the 107th birth anniversary of Andres Bonifacio, the president, said: On the occasion of Bonifacio day this year, we pay tribute to a man who inscribed his name in history by committing commonest of his fellowmen to the highest principles of individual honor, freedom and national dignity.

To that extraordinary common man, more than to many others perhaps *in* the pantheon of our remembered heroes, the nation owes much of the dynamic spirit that moves it to this day. Especially at a time when the nation is about to embark in the historic act of rewriting its Constitution, we are called upon to reaffirm the fact that it was perhaps in Bonifacio's, more than in any other's time, that we first sought to lay the foundation of a just equitable and progressive Filipino society.

The strong nationalist spirit, which animates a growing number of our countrymen today, makes it doubly incumbent upon us to come up with a new Constitution that will ensure the growth of that society.

Among other business, he granted executive clemency to 68 convicts, and smarted the sweeping reform of the country's Peñal system with proposals to decongest Muntinlupa prison.

The President granted the pardons and commutations of sentence as a gesture marking the Holy Father's visit here. The Peñal reforms have been part of the program of change the President had long envisioned, which he means to implement at this time with vigor.

Through the day, the President worked at his desk, except for brief breaks. He received no visitors,

December 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS proposed that Asia adopt an ideology of cooperation, to accelerate development and create for Asia an inner strength. He broached this idea, in a speech delivered at the opening ceremonies of the first Asian conference on agricultural credit and cooperatives, held at the Philamlife auditorium at about midmorning.

Earlier, the President as usual worked in his study. Then at about 10 a.m., he left Malacañang for the conference hall on United Nations avenue.

On his return to Malacañang, he received the Indian Minister on Power and Irrigation, Dr. K. L. Rao, who made a courtesy call following his arrival Monday for a weeklong visit at the invitation of the government. He will observe agricultural and hydroelectric projects in the country.

Before noon, the President conferred with Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos; and with former PAAF officials Philip Monserrat, Chito Feliciano and Enrique Quema.

During the meeting with the justice secretary, the Chief Executive directed the former to prepare an administrative order transferring all prisoners serving not more than three-year terms from Muntinlupa to provincial jails.

The President issued the order upon being informed by Secretary Abad Santos that prisoners may be transferred from the national penitentiary to provincial jails without legislative authority.

The President had earlier instructed Secretary Abad Santos to look into the legality of transferring prisoners with light sentences from Muntinlupa to provincial jails as a means of decongesting the overcrowded national penitentiary

In the afternoon, the President received a delegation from Misamis Oriental led by Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez and Gov. Concordio Diel. The group took up local problems with the President, notably the procurement of waterworks facilities for the province.

Among those with the delegation were Provincial Board Members Alejandro and Francisco Abrogar; Provincial Treasurer Eleno Cabanlit, Gingoog City Mayor and Mrs. Romulo Rodriguez, Jr., Mayors Escolastico Laura of Lugait, Eugenio Alcid of Manticao, Salvador Legaspi of Naawan, Ismael Labis of Alubijid, Mariano Tan of El Salvador, Sergio Jocalan of Opol, Cesar Jamisalamín of Villanueva, Manuel Varquez of Balingasag, Jose Adar of Lagonglong, Jose Yatol of Sugbongcogon, Capistrano Legaspi of Kinoguitan, Vicente Santos of Balingcon, Victorino Serina of Talisayan, and Narcisa Pelaez of Medina.

Later in the afternoon, the President met once more with Monserrat, Feliciano and Quema, and the members of the National Olympic Committee, with whom the trio have had a falling out.

The President later issued an appeal to government officials and employees to contribute one-day's salary for the repair and reconstruction of elementary schools and hospitals destroyed by recent typhoons,

He issued the appeal after receiving a report on the extent of damage wrought by the recent typhoons from the National Disaster Control Committee, during a conference which he held in Malacañang in the evening.

The President said that these contributions will be added to the funds that the government will provide for the purpose in order to restore public facilities to normalcy as quickly as possible.

December 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS received a number of visitors and had several conferences with various officials, to make the day a particularly busy time.

Paying courtesy calls were:

1. Carlos Lleras Restrepo, former President of Colombia and the incumbent chairman of the United Nations FAQ special committee on agrarian reforms. He came with Land Authority Gov. Conrado Estrella and other local officials.
2. Gen. Jesus Vargas (AFP, retired), SSATO secretary-general, who consulted with the President on SEATO affairs, after a trip to Europe and the U. S. where he also talked with heads of states affiliated with the organization.
3. Kenneth MacLeish, senior assistant editor of the *National Geographic Magazine*, who has been here for a month looking into the conditions of Philippine cultural minorities. He was accompanied by PANAMIN Secretary Manuel Elizalde, Jr.

The President conferred with former RCA Chairman Alfredo Montelibano; and later in the day with Sen. Mamintal Tamano, Gov. Arsenio Quibranza of Lanao del Norte and Princess Potri Ali Pacasum on problems of the region.

Also conferring with the President in the morning were Rep. Jose Puyat, Jr. and Gov. Recaredo Castillo of Surigao del Sur, along with a number of municipal mayors, on local problems.

In the afternoon, the President was interviewed by Thomas Pepper of the *Baltimore Sun*.

For the rest of the his working day, he concentrated on official papers,

Among other things, the President:

1. Appointed four members of the board of directors of the Philippine-American Educational Foundation. Named directors were Chairman Gerardo Sicat of the National Economic Council, Dr. Juan Salcedo, Dr. Antonio Isidro, and Undersecretary Juan L. Manuel of the Department of Education.
2. Ordered that relief goods and seismograph and other detection instruments be sent immediately to Batanes, which recently suffered a series of earthquakes.

Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., relaying the President's order, wired Brig. Gen. Jesus Singson, chief of the Philippine Air Force, to assign a PAF plane to the relief mission for the province.

3. Asked Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos to give "such assistance as may be extended" to two newsmen in South Cotabato who are facing libel charges before the Court of First Instance of that province.

Reports reaching the President indicated that the two newspapermen. Victor C. Robin and Rene Peralta, editor-publisher and columnist, respectively, of the *Southern Mail* have been cited for libel by Mayor Restia de la Cruz of Norala, South Cotabato.

4. Ordered that henceforth, all those who will settle, on public lands must first of all organize themselves into agricultural cooperatives.

The formation of cooperatives among settlers, which follows the government policy of cooperative undertakings, will also help much in effecting rapid development of the new communities to be formed by the settlers, Jr. the spirit of “bayanihan,” which is a long cherished Filipino tradition.

December 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS received at least three big groups at Malacañang including public officials, and private individual callers.

As usual, the President had a full day of activity during which he issued. an appeal for full support of the Red Cross fund drive, which starts early next year; and named the new members of the government reorganization committee, representing the executive department, which includes two from the private sector. Chosen to head the committee was Armand Fabella

Other members named to the Commission were Cezar Zalamea and Roberto Ongpin. Along with Febella they will represent the Executive Department in the Commission. Members of the group “may come from within or without the government service, according to the reorganization law.

The other members are three senators appointed by the Senate President: Senators Salvador H. Laurel and Lorenzo Teves from the majority party, and Benigno Aquino, Jr. representing the minority party; and three Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House: Reps, Rogaciano Mercado and Rafael Legaspi representing the majority party, and Justiniano S. Montano of the minority party.

The President also issued the official order transferring short-term prisoners in Muntinlupa to local jails, as one way of decongesting the national prison. The order was issued to Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos.

Notable among the President’s visitors were:

1. Ambassador Pablo Peña, Philippine envoy to Burma, who called for final instructions prior to his return to Rangoon. Peña accompanied General Ne Win and Mrs. Ne Win of Burma to Manila.

2. Former Supreme Court Justice Conrado Sanchez and former Solicitor General Arturo Alafriz, Jr., president of the Philippine chapter and member of the organizing committee for the Law Association of Asia and Western Pacific, and executive vice president of the Philippine Lawyers Association and chairman of the Manila Conference of the Law Association of Asia and Western Pacific, respectively, who called on the President, accompanied by Secretary Abad Santos, to invite the President to deliver the keynote speech at the opening of the said conference, to be held in Manila, from January 18 to 22, 1971, at the Philamlife auditorium.

Member countries include Ceylon, Fiji, Hongkong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.

3. Judges Crispin and Augusto Sta. Maria, president and vice president, respectively, of the League of Municipal Judges, who took up with the President problems pertaining to the work of their colleagues.

4. A. delegation from Ifugao province, headed by Gov. Gualberto Lumauig and Rep. Romulo Lumauig, and which included Mayors Angelito Gianid of Lamut, Pugong Lopez of Hungduan and Carlos Cattiling of Potia, among others. The group took up local problems.

5. A delegation from Eastern Samar headed by Rep. Felipe Abrigo and Gov. Victor A. Amasa, and Mayors Cornelio Sison of Guiuan, Jesus Rediang of Mercedes, Francisco Cabogawan of Salcedo, Gregorio Anguren of Guinopandan, Filemon Gañas of Lawa-an, Guillermo Altar of MacArthur, Pedro Candido of Hernani, Rufilo Tan of Llorente, Gerundio Lira of Balancayan, Crispin Ambida of Maydolong, Luis Capito of Borongan, Felix Dolegon of San Julian, Aniceto Cabrerros of Taft, Pedro Cesista of An-avid, Hospicio Rivera of Dolores, Felix Morallos of San

Policarpio, Pio Penangay of Arteche and Lucas Lomuntad of Jipapad, and Board Member S. Sabate. With the group were vice mayors of the foregoing towns and Gov. Irene Balite of Northern Samar. The delegation also took up local problems with the President.

In the afternoon, the President issued a Memorandum Circular limiting the government's appeal for voluntary contributions for the repairs of hospitals and schools to only those employees receiving salaries of ₱600 or more a month.

This limitation was embodied in a Memorandum Circular issued through Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., which also proposed the adoption of the "One-Appeal-Plan" for generating a relief and rehabilitation fund. The new memorandum revoked Memorandum Circular No. 24, series of 1966, which instituted a "One-Appeal-Plan" for employee contributions for charitable purposes.

During the day, the President designated Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. as Philippine alternate governor with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), commonly known as the World Bank.

Mr. Melchor fills the post vacated by former Director-General Placido Mapa, Jr. of the Presidential Economic Staff who was recently named IBRD executive director.

The Philippine government's participation in the World Bank is provided for in the articles of agreement of the IBRD, as set forth in the final act of the United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference of July 22, 1944.

The Philippine IBRD governor is Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata who completes the Philippine participation in the World Bank with Secretary Melchor as his alternate, and Mapa as the executive director.

The term of each in the Bank is five years.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: December 4-10, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

December 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS created the government committee to work with its counterpart in the private sector on the plans for setting up a copper smelting plant in the country.

The President also declared the period from December 8, 1970 to December 7, 1971, as "Philippine Pharmacy Centennial Year."

In another proclamation issued earlier, the Chief Executive declared the period from December 6 to 12, this year, as "Government Employees Week."

In issuing the latter proclamation, the President cited "the legions of honest and efficient government workers" and their contribution to nation-building.

"Recognition of their service is an incentive to greater dedication and efficiency in public office," he added.

The advisory committee on copper industry was asked to assess the possibility of the Philippines engaging in direct copper trade in the light of world production and the consumption of copper products. To be studied as well by the committee is the utilization of copper byproducts, especially the production of fertilizer.

Named to compose the committee are the chairman of the Board of Investments, the secretary of finance or his representative, and the director of mines, to represent the government side; and the chief executives of the copper producing companies or their authorized representatives, to represent the private sector.

At about 10:30 a.m., the President received a number of callers, among them U. P. President Salvador P. Lopez; the officers of the Philippine Band of Mercy who sought the release of its PCSO allotments, who included Godofredo Lorenzana, president; Beatriz Ronquillo, and Mesdames Joaquina Zapanta and Paz Reyes; and SSS Commissioner Inocencio Ferrer and Antonio Roxas Chua of the Philippine Anti-Communist Movement. The latter two visitors called to inform the President of the coming conference in Manila of the World Anti-Communist League and the Asian People's Anti-Communist League.

It was already well past 2 p.m. when the President was able to clear off his schedule of callers. He therefore asked Ernesto Maceda Secretary of Commerce and Industry to read for him his speech on the arrival of the first giant Boeing 747, otherwise known as the Jumbo Jet, to Manila.

In congratulating the Northwest Orient Airlines for bringing in the giant passenger jetliner, the President said the arrival of the 747 "should now reassure everyone that the Manila International Airport is ready to accommodate giant aircraft."

He pointed out that the Philippines has not only facilities to service modern jet planes and serve tourists but also enjoys a geographical advantage since it is a focal point for air travel in the Pacific.

December 5—

PRESIDENT MARCOS worked mostly at his desk, acting on official papers, including signing the appointments of two judges, and the members of the Board of Examiners for Electronics and Communications Engineers.

Appointed were Judge Emigdio H. Lopez, as district judge of the 15th Judicial District, to preside over the court of first instance of Agusan del Sur, with official station at the town of Prosperidad; and Silverio C. del Leon, as municipal judge of Makilala, Cotabato.

Named to the electronic and communications board of examiners were Engineers Rosauro P. Calupitan, Felicito Rey Signo and Rigoberto Z. Espinoza.

In a quiet day with no conferences or official callers on his schedule, the President found time to fulfill private engagements in the morning. In the afternoon and through the evening, he remained at his desk doing his paper work.

December 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered a restudy of the Public Land Act, with the view to correcting the inequities which work against the poor.

He issued the order to the departments of justice and of agriculture and natural resources, in the course of a speech at the 17th annual convention of the Federation of Free Farmers (FFF) held at the San Beda College auditorium in the morning.

The President said the study will be to formulate an amendatory legislation to the Public Land Act, to be proposed to the coming regular session of Congress.

At the same time, the President ordered the director of lands to be guided by the rule that all grants and concessions granted, whether for logging, pasture, or mining, "are subject to private rights already established by long, continuous and unquestioned possession and ownership."

He said cultural minorities under this rule have established rights and titles to the lands which they and their ancestors had been occupying and tilling for generations and generations back.

In the afternoon, the President appointed another district judge, reappointed two members of the board of trustees of the National Coordinating Center for the Study and Development of Filipino Children and Youth (NCCSDFCY), while appointing three new members of the same board.

Those appointed by the Chief Executive were:

1. Eduardo C. Tutaan, as district judge of the 15th Judicial District. Judge Tutaan will preside over the court of first instance of Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur, and the cities of Marawi and Iligan, Branch IV, with official station at Baroy, Lanao del Norte.

2. Alfredo Lagmay, Amelia D. Felizmeña and Antonio P. Coronel, as acting members of the NCCSDFCY board of trustees.

Reappointed to the same board following the expiration of their terms were Dr. Serafin D. Quiazon and Dr. Francisco Casanova. The board has the secretary of education as chairman, and the director of the Child Study Center as the other member.

Among other actions, the President approved the proposed ₱5 million trust fund for jeepney drivers, to be established by the Petroleum Institute of the Philippines, Inc.

The setting of the trust fund was broached to the PIP by the President when he met with oil and gasoline executives last July 16, by way of threshing out the problems confronting the jeepney drivers.

December 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a full day during which he visited Nayong Pilipino, named new officials, and received a number of callers, including two visitors from the Soviet Union,

He also attended to state papers which required his immediate attention. At Nayong Pilipino, the President formally opened “Ilocos Norte Week” at appropriate ceremonies prepared by Ilocano provincial officials.

He announced the appointment of Gov. Jose Evangelista as chairman of the Public Service Commission, and held him personally accountable to him for the institution of badly needed reforms in the PSC. Later he inducted Evangelista in the presence of members of the Governors and City Mayors League.

The President also mingled with young people who are “taking over” city hall, for the duration of Boys and Girls Week. He took occasion to speak on student activism in these words:

“I welcome demonstrations, for in a sense they draw attention to the inefficient, the corrupt and the insensitive members of society.”

However, he added, before change can take hold in the country, “there must be change in man, in his heart and in his mind.”

At noon, the President handed to Jaime Zobel de Ayala letters of instructions for the latter who proceeds to London presently as new Philippine envoy to the Court of St. James.

Among other visitors, the President met Valentina Lubomudrova, member of the USSR Presidium, and Prof. Nicolai Tsagolov, who paid their respects following their arrival last Thursday.

They were accompanied to Malacañang by Igor Podberesky, a Russian scholar who studied Tagalog in Moscow under Teodosio Lansang and is now a UP student; Reps. Nicanor Yñiguez, Jose Leido, Jr. and Juliano Alba of Capiz and PES Director-General Apolinario Orosa.

To cap a full day, the President received members of the Airlines Pilots Association of the Philippines, who came with Labor Relations Director Amado Inciong, to try and resolve the continuing dispute between the association and management of Philippine Airlines.

In the afternoon, the President designated Jesus Tanchanco as a member of the board of administrators of the National Electrification Administration, a government agency created under Republic Act No. 6038.

Later, the President revoked Memorandum Circular No. 409, issued November 21, which instituted a five-hour working day and three-day weekened in areas covered by Proclamation No. 775.

Through the Executive Secretary, the President directed that effective tomorrow (December 8) all government offices affected by Circular 409 shall revert to the usual legal office hours of from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The shortened work schedule in government offices was instituted to enable those state workers whose homes were destroyed by the typhoon to attend to their repair or rehabilitation.

December 8—

AFTER rising quite early, President Marcos worked at his desk, then at about half past 8 went to Canlubang with the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, for a private engagement.

On his return to Malacañang, the President resumed his desk work.

Late in the afternoon, he sat down with Benigno Toda, Jr. PAL president and Rafael Ygoa, executive vice president to thresh out the problems of the airline, particularly the threatened mass resignation of PAL pilots.

After the meeting, the President continued to work on government papers, which he did through the evening.

In a speech at the ceremonies marking the centenary of pharmaceutical education in the Philippines, held at the Hotel Intercontinental, which was read for him by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., the President asked the nation's pharmacists to continue to upgrade their profession and make it "relevant to the needs of our society."

The President cited the rich tradition of pharmaceutical education in the country which has bred patriots and national leaders.

He also reiterated his exhortation to pharmacists, first made at the convention of Asian pharmacists some weeks ago, to help in their own sphere in the effort to enhance regional cooperation through exchange of vital information and research data on pharmacy.

December 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS received a briefing from defense officials, led by Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile.

The defense brass briefed the President on wide-ranging subjects from 11:20 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Earlier in the morning, the President received callers and gave one press interview.

One of the callers was Minister Samson Sabalones, charge d'affairs of the Philippine embassy in Laos. Sabalones called to receive final instructions before leaving for his post.

The Chief Executive next received Reps. Marcelino Veloso of Leyte, Emilio Espinosa, Jr. of Masbate and Carlos Imperial of Albay. He discussed with them local problems.

At mid-morning, the President motored to Camp Aguinaldo, where he received a briefing from defense officials.

In the afternoon, he worked on official papers through early evening when he broke off to receive new world flyweight champion Erbito Salavarria, the 23-year old fighter from Biñan, Laguna, who wrested the world crown by a second round TKO, from Chartchai Chionoi of Thailand the other day.

Salavarria arrived on a KLM plane at 7 o'clock in the evening and made his call on the President immediately.

During the call, the Chief Executive asked Chairman Justiniano Montano, Jr. of the Games and Amusement Board to prepare a project study on the establishment of a national coliseum for the benefit of Filipino champions.

At the same time, the President congratulated Salavarria, saying his feat was a victory and honor of the country. The President expressed the hope that the new Philippine world title holder will be able to retain his crown for many more years.

The President asked for the project study after Chairman Montano and other boxing aficionados including Mamerto Besa, president of the Philippine Boxing Association, had sought his help in the establishment of a national coliseum.

The boxing fans informed the President that because of the lack of a national coliseum in the Philippines, most of the Filipino champions are forced to defend their titles in foreign countries, where they are sometimes at the risk of a hometown decision unless they win by knockout or TKO.

December 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS worked mostly on state papers, receiving only one visitor throughout the whole day, US Ambassador Henry Byroade who informed the President that the US government is ready to turn over Sangley Point, an American naval base, to the Philippines.

Among other directives issued by the President was the order to the PC chief to provide protection for a farmer's family threatened with death by unidentified parties. The head of the family was himself earlier killed by assassins.

Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. also saw the President to inform him of the arrival of a team of experts from India, who will help the Philippine National Railways modernize its service.

The team, headed by Manuel Menezes, director of research of the Indian Ministry of Railways, and K. Visivanatharn and T. P. S. Kent, will conduct initially a study of the railway system.

The President remained at his desk through the afternoon and evening studying reports and other government papers.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: December 11-17, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

December 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS worked at his desk and received several delegations until early in the afternoon.

First to see him was a delegation from Mindanao headed by Sen. Mamintal A. Tamano during which they discussed local problems and the annual pilgrimage to Mecca.

The group included Mayor Omar Dianalan of Marawi City, Sheik Sakalaram Hadji Nono, and Aman Mino.

Next to see the President was another big delegation from Rizal, composed of members of the Mayors' League of that province. The local officials sought the President's help, in rehabilitating their typhoon-damaged communities. Among others, they asked national government aid in reconstructing schools and hospitals, repairing roads and other public facilities.

In the group were Mayors Florencio Bernabe of Parañaque, Pedro Fineza of Binangonan, Antonio Esguerra of Taytay, Eustacio Flores of Pateros, Jose Oliveros of Antipolo, Monico Tanyag of Taguig, Juan Vidallo of Jala-Jala, Felipe del Rosario of Navotas, Arturo Natividad of Teresa, Jose Luciano of Makati, and Macario Asistio of Caloocan City.

Other callers included Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Jose D. Ingles, who submitted a report on the 13th UNESCO general conference held in Paris, France; Reps. Fermin Caram, Jr. of Iloilo and Simeon Valdez of Ilocos Norte; Commissioner of Customs Rolando Geotina, and OEC Administrator Eduardo Rodriguez.

In the afternoon, the President received more callers, notably the leaders of a tour group composed of Filipinos from Hawaii.

During the call, Bart Alcazar, tour manager, informed the President that seven more groups, all consisting of Filipinos, will come to the Philippines from Hawaii in the next few months.

Other; in the group were Frank Rebultan, tour director; Laurie Miguel, tour social director; and PTTA Executive Director Salvador Peña.

In a major action during- the day, the Chief Executive ordered the dismissal of a senior special attorney for "conduct unbecoming a public official."

Removed from the service was Ernesto A. Atienza of the Office of the Agrarian Counsel in Naga City.

In connection with the observance of Census Day for Agriculture and Fisheries, which the President earlier declared, the Chief Executive created a Presidential Census Coordinating Board, which would be responsible for the systematic coordination of government agencies involved in the conduct of the 1971 census of agriculture and fisheries.

The President also proclaimed December 15, Tuesday, as a special public holiday in Naga City. The day marks the 22nd charter anniversary of the city.

December 12—

RECEIVING no callers during the day, the President devoted himself exclusively to his office work, concentrating on studying reports submitted to him by various government agencies and acting on state matters brought to his attention.

In the course of the day's work, he resolved the administrative cases against five judges, all of whom he disciplined after studying the results of the investigation of their individual cases.

He suspended one judge and lined the four others.

Except for occasional rest periods, the President worked steadily at his desk through the day.

Due to pressure of work, he cancelled a speaking engagement at Fernando Air Base, to address the graduates of the PAF flying school there, and requested Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile to deliver his speech for him at the exercises.

The President worked continuously at his desk through the evening.

December 13—

PRESIDENT and Mrs. Marcos drove to the Manila International Airport to meet their son Ferdinand, Jr., who arrived early this afternoon from his school in Sussex United Kingdom to spend the Christmas holidays here.

Accompanied by their daughters Imee and Irene, the President and the First Lady left Malacañang 2:10 p.m.

While at the airport, the President had occasion to exchange amenities with former Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi of Japan who was transiting through Manila.

The First Family was back at Malacañang at 3:40 p.m.

Later, in a memorandum circular issued through Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., the President urged all local officials in the typhoon-devastated, areas to give priority to the hospitals and school buildings in the rehabilitation and repair of damaged public properties in their respective localities.

The President said that the continued maintenance of public educational and health services demand the early rehabilitation and repair of damaged public school and hospital buildings.

He pointed out that this could be achieved only with the coordinated efforts of all agencies concerned in all levels of the government.

The pressure of desk work prevented the President from attending the award ceremonies for the Ten Outstanding Policemen of the Philippines, held at the Quirino grandstand in the afternoon.

He asked Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile to read for him his prepared speech for the occasion.

In his speech, the President congratulated the exemplary policemen even as he asked the nation's citizenry to "pursue their work in a more meaningful manner." He also hailed the Philippine Jaycees, who sponsored the TOPP and other project which "aim to extol the quality of excellence."

Only six cops were chosen to be given the TOPP award, namely;

1. Captain David Laquian, executive officer of the Manila Police Department, Precinct 5.

2. Cpl. Jose Laureate of MPD Precinct No. 2.
3. Det. Nicasio Beltran of MPD Precinct No. 8.
4. Sgt. Francisco Baguio of the Maigo Police Department in Lanao del Norte.
5. Pat. Wilfredo Cayena of the Cotabalo City Police Department.

While only six outstanding policemen were honored, the President said he was sure there are plenty of outstanding members of the police corps, and that the awardees now are the “finest” among the elite.

December 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, together with the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos and their children Imee, Bongbong, and Irene, played Santa Claus in the afternoon to thousands of indigent children who were the special guests at the “Maligayang Pasko ‘70” children’s festival in Malacañang.

The children, who arrived in dozens of buses as early as 2 p.m. come from 31 parishes and 26 closed institutions and orphanages in the Greater Manila area.

In the morning, the President conferred with Cabinet officials and Cavite provincial and city officials and civic leaders on the expected dislocation of some 1,424 Filipino workers who may be laid off from work with the reversion of the US Naval Base at Sangley Point to the Philippine government.

He also discussed with the Cavite leaders plans to transform Cavite City into an industrial city.

During the conference, the President directed:

1. Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. and the Presidential Economic Staff to look into the feasibility of setting up labor-incentive industries in Cavite City;
2. Secretary of Labor Blas F. Ople to have a survey team from the Manpower Training Center conduct a census of the Sangley Point workers, classifying them according to the types of work they do, skills, and salaries, so that possible placement elsewhere would be facilitated; and
3. Commissioner of Public Highways Baltazar Aquino to submit in a week’s time a plan for construction of a coastal highway linking Cavite City to Manila directly.

Other major actions taken by the President was the suspension of the sale of tobacco in the PYTA, pending the creation of a Cabinet committee to handle the sale of PVTA tobacco stock.

He directed that such a committee be immediately constituted with the following members: Secretary of Finance, Secretary of Justice, the Auditor General or his representative, the PVTA General Manager, and a representative of the Liberal Party.

In the evening, the President inducted the new set of officers of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce.

The President cited the work of the FFCCC in helping the government build and maintain a stable society,

In his message to the Second Conference of LAWASIA, an organization of lawyers from different countries of Asia and the Western Pacific, the President said:

The Republic of the Philippines considers it a singular honor to be the host of the Second Conference of LAWASIA, an organization of lawyers from different countries of Asia and the Western Pacific. In behalf of the Filipino people, I convey our warm greetings to the conference delegates and our good wishes for their pleasant sojourn in our country.

It is well that an association of the scope of LAWASIA has been founded, because it has awakened in its members of diverse nationalities the consciousness of professional and regional kinship.

For the common concerns of lawyers, such as the just settlement of controversies and the preservation of social peace under law, constitute a noble mission that should transcend national boundaries, political creeds, and religious beliefs.

I hope that the realization of this identity in diversity will spark earnest efforts within the region to answer the need for new legal directions that will contribute to the betterment of socio-economic conditions in our part of the globe. Archaic legal doctrines must be radically overhauled to make them more progressive and vigorous instruments of human development, in keeping with the requirements of our time.

“Law must be stable,” as Dean Roscoe Pound wisely observed, “but it cannot stand still.”

May this fresh awakening in Asia and the Western Pacific forge stronger bonds among the people of this region and open a new era of closer cooperation and understanding among us in the sensitive area of law and justice.

December 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had several closed door conferences with various officials, and as usual received other visitors.

He worked for a -while at his desk early in the morning, then one after the other received individual officials who took up urgent matters.

Among those the President conferred with in the morning were Central Bank Deputy Governor Amado Briñas, Reparations Commissioner Gregorio Abad, Highways Commissioner Baltazar Aquino, NDC Chairman Constante Fariñas, Vicente Paterno, chairman of the Board of Investments; and CAA Administrator Federico Ablan, Jr.

One of the topics discussed was the speedy rehabilitation of typhoon ravaged towns and barrios. He asked the Central Bank to spur moves that would channel as much money in circulation as possible to the provinces in order to speed up the rehabilitation of rural areas which suffered from the typhoons.

The President also conferred with several congressmen, including Reps. Ali Dimaporo of Lanao del Norte, Artemio Loyola of Davao del Sur, and William Chiongbian of Misamis Occidental.

Later in the day, the President received Sen. Leonardo Perez, who took up problems of his constituency.

The President then worked on official papers, issuing in the process a proclamation creating a national committee to take charge of the observance of Rizal Day.

December 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had several conferences in the morning, with a break in between when he joined the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, to speed off the 50 trucks carrying Christmas cheer to the needy of the Greater Manila area.

Early in the morning, the President worked at his desk, then had his first conference of the day, to discuss the details of the aid in kind to localities hit hard by the recent typhoons.

The President asked his official family to spend the season in the field particularly among the unfortunate victims of the floods and series of typhoons which wrought heavy damage to the country.

The President said he will start his Christmas trip with a visit to Bicolandia, during which he will confer with local officials and distribute credit certificates which will entitle barrio captains to requisition cement for school buildings from district engineers' offices.

The conferees agreed that the certificates would be distributed to the barrio captains and that each barrio official could draw up to 1.50 bags of cement, or as much cement as indicated by a previous survey made by the Department- of Public Works and. Communications. The cement will be charger to the Development Bank of the Philippines.

Present at the meeting were Secretary of Public Works and Communications Manuel B. Syquiao, Secretary of Finance Cesar E A. Virata, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Central Bank Governor Gregorio S. Licaros. DBP Chairman Leonides S. Virata and Governor Jose V. de Ocampo. and Carlos Leaño of the Infrastructure Operations Center (IOC).

Then at 10 a.m., the President and the First Lady stepped out of Malacañang to see off the student volunteers and others helping the First Lady bring off Maligayang Pasko 70.

Back in Malacañang about an hour later, the President worked for a while, then met behind closed doors with Secretary Virata and BIR Commissioner Misael P. Vera on the revamp of the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Next, the President conferred with a delegation of mayors from Cotabato, with the governor sitting in, on the peace and order condition in the province.

Gov. Simeon Datumanong informed the President that although there were incidents in five municipalities, general peace prevail in General Santos City and in 29 municipalities of the province. Trouble spots, he added, were only the municipalities of Upi, Lebak, Magatoy, Ampatuan and Datu Flang.

The President, however, said that further violence must stop and that the best way to do this was to hold a peace conference where all sides could present their views and work toward a just settlement of all disputes.

The President has scheduled a conference of feuding minorities and other factions in the province.

Others at the meeting were Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, Brig. Gen, Eduardo Garcia, chief of the Philippine Constabulary; Governor Datumanong, Lt. Col. C. B. Cajelo, provincial PC commander Mayors Datu Dima Dalid of Marmen, Bai Salilang Mangelen of Lutayan, Datu Balakat Sangki of Ampatuan, Datu Samad Mangelen of Buluan, Datu Akilan Ampatuan of Maganoy, Sansaluna Biruar of Parang, and Datu Carpenter Dumamba of Tumbao.

At about noon, the President taped an interview with Dr. Oswald C. J. Hoffman, president of the Lutheran National Council of America. The interview was for broadcast throughout the world on the Lutheran radio network. The First Lady was also interviewed along with the President.

Hoffman was accompanied by Robert Gormats, Rev. Hahn Browne of DZAS, Rev. Gene Thiaman and Rev. Alvero Cariño.

Other visitors received by the President were Reps. Emerito S. Calderon of Cebu, Felipe Almazan of Kalinga-Apayao, Felix Fuentebella of Camarines Sur, and Jose Luyat, Jr. of Surigao del Norte. The solons took up problems of their respective districts.

December 17—

PRESIDENT MARCOS left Manila early in the morning for Camarines Sur, where he launched the new program of the government, which is to extend assistance-in-kind to localities with the use of a “credit card.”

Landing at Pili airport at about 10 a.m., the President conferred with local officials while waiting for the plane bearing the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R Marcos. After she arrived, the presidential party motored to the Marcos Stadium in the center of the town for the ceremonies awarding plaques and citations to American officials and military units involved in the relief and rescue operations for typhoon victims.

From Pili, the President and party drove to Bato, another town, where the President distributed “credit cards” to barrio captains. Simultaneously, the First Lady distributed gift packages to the needy, in extension of her Maligayang Pasko 70 project.

It was about 12:30 p.m. when the President and his party drove back to Pili where they took off for the return trip to Manila.

In the afternoon, the President worked at his desk, breaking off at about 4 p.m. to officiate at the markmanship award ceremonies of the Presidential Security Agency, held at Malacañang Park. The First Lady and children Imee, Bongbong and Irene also attended the affair.

The President also issued a proclamation declaring December 18, Friday, as a special public holiday in the city and province of Iloilo in honor of Graciano Lopez Jaena, one of the patriots of the Philippine Revolution, whose birth anniversary falls on that date.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: December 18-24, 1970

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

December 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS continued his visits to the provinces, choosing this time Bulacan and Rizal where he distributed at Guiguinto and Pasig checks and “credit cards” to barrio officials. The cards can be used to draw from, district engineers’ offices the needed construction materials to repair public buildings, such as schools.

Accompanying him was the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, who on her part distributed medical kits to the barrio officials and gift bags to indigents.

Among those present at the distribution were Secretary of Labor Blas F. Ople, Secretary of Commerce and Industry Ernesto Maceda, Secretary of Public Works and Communications Manuel B. Syquiao, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, Commissioner of Highways Baltazar Aquino, Rep. Rogaciano Mercado of Bulacan, Vice Governor Amado T. Pineda, the members of the Bulacan Provincial Board, and PACD Administrator Rosendo Marquez. About 1000 local officials were also present.

The President was out all day, ending up late in the afternoon at Camp Aguinaldo where he was guest speaker at the commencement exercises of the second batch of graduates of the Philippine Command and General Staff College.

In his speech, the President lent new urgency to the task of preserving democracy as the Filipino way of life and to its improvement which, he said, may even be more important.

He asked the graduates to share with other concerned citizens the “task of vigorous and substantial reform” so that the democratic system could enhance the people’s life.

Back in the Palace at about 7 p.m., he rested before resuming his office work. He took up only urgent matters which required his attention, including the appointment of Epifanio R. Pangramuyen as deputy commissioner of the Civil Service Commission. The post has been vacant for some time.

Until his appointment to his post, Pangramuyen was executive director of the CSC.

December 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS worked mostly at his desk, studying reports and state papers requiring his immediate attention. He had no prior schedule of visitors or conferences, but summoned to Malacañang Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, Brig. Gen. Eduardo Garcia, PC chief; and Brig. Gen. Mariano Ordoñez, Metrocom chief, for a conference, during which the Chief Executive inquired into the report that the Metrocom “raided” the CIS headquarters.

At this instance, the PC and the Metrocom chiefs informed the President that the press report was less than accurate, since the so-called raid was merely a response to an alarm that armed civilians were acting suspiciously in the CIS area. The same response was made to a report that similarly unidentified armed civilians were in the premises of the ANCAR headquarters.

Towards the end of the conference, the President also directed Secretary Enrile to loan to the city of Manila dump trucks to help Mayor Villegas solve the city garbage problem.

Mayor Villegas had written Malacañang requesting the President to make available some army trucks for hauling of garbage from Manila streets.

The President also told Secretary Enrile to proceed with the preparations for the holding of a peace conference in Cotabato on Dec. 28, to arrest prevailing tension between Muslims and Tirurays.

Following his conference with Secretary Enrile and the PC and Metrocom chiefs, the President received Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, who called at Malacañang straight from the airport upon his arrival from the U.S. where he attended the UN General Assembly sessions to report on the same and the Philippine delegation's participation in the said assembly.

In turn, the President congratulated the foreign affairs secretary for his effective handling of the Philippine-sponsored resolutions on air hijacking; the need for a reappraisal of the UN charter; and on the rechanneling of savings from disarmament to aid for developing countries.

The President had no other visitors through the day, thus leaving him free to work at his desk.

December 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, visited Balanga, the provincial capital of Bataan, where they distributed cement credit cards, credit notices representing shares of local governments in the special highway fund, medical assistance kits and Maligayang Pasko '70 gift bags.

The First Couple, accompanied by members of the Cabinet and other government officials, arrived in Balanga at 10 a.m. aboard a helicopter which flew them from the National Shipyards and Steel Corporation in Mariveles, where the *RPS 777* was docked.

Upon their arrival, the presidential party was welcomed by a big crowd headed by Rep, Pablo Roman, Gov. Guillermo Arcenas, other provincial, municipal and barrio officials.

The President and his party proceeded to the Balanga School of Arts and Trades where the distribution was made after the President had explained why cement credit cards instead of cash were being given as aid to the local governments which suffered heavy losses during the typhoons.

The President turned over to the provincial treasurer and the municipal mayors credit advices authorizing them to withdraw their shares of the special highway fund from the Philippine National Bank.

Then the President turned over the cement credit cards and medical assistance kits to the 172 barrio captains and their representatives.

After the distribution, the First Lady, assisted by members of the party, unloaded two truckloads of Maligayang Pasko '70 gift bags, some of which were distributed direct to the indigents while the rest were turned over to the governor, the mayors and the barrio captains for distribution.

At a little past noon, the President and the First Lady boarded the helicopter for their trip back to Mariveles to board the *RPS 777* for their return trip to Manila.

Later in the afternoon, following a brief rest, the President worked on official papers in his study. He signed, among others, the *ad interim* appointments of Jose L. Magpali as clerk of court of the Court of First Instance of Pangasinan, Tayug branch, and of Adelaida C. Salom as municipal judge of Cabugao, Ilocos Sur.

December 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS worked mostly on state papers with his schedule of callers clean, leaving him free to concentrate on his desk work.

In the morning, the President fulfilled only one outside engagement as guest of honor, in his capacity as commander-in-chief of the country's armed forces, at the rites marking the 35th anniversary of the AFP.

In his speech, the Chief Executive once again called on the nation's soldiers to initiate reforms and other change within the military organization in response to the need of the times for such change.

Accompanying the President to Camp Aguinaldo, where the ceremonies were held was the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, who on her part distributed gift bags to the families of the enlisted men of the AFP.

On returning to Malacañang, the President resumed his office work. He issued among others, a proclamation declaring December 26, December 31, 1970 and January 2, 1971 as special public holidays.

December 26, Saturday, falls between Christmas Day and Sunday; December 31, Thursday, falls between Rizal Day and New Year's Day which falls on Friday, thus January 2, Saturday, comes in between two holidays.

The President declared the special holidays to enable employees to go to their home provinces and enjoy the Yuletide holidays with their families.

The President also went over a formal report on the full implementation by the Development Bank of the Philippines of his directive to assist the victims of typhoon "Yoling."

DBP Chairman Leonides S. Virata said in his report that the bank is granting a maximum loan of ₱10,000 per calamity victim for the repair and restoration of damaged houses.

Chairman Virata also said that the DBP is granting assistance to government projects and public utilities.

December 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS again focused on his office work, dispensing for that reason his usual crowded schedule of visitors.

He received only one caller, Mohammed Tewfik Oweide of the United Arab Republic, who called to pay his respects following his arrival in Manila to attend the first Muslim National Conference and the inauguration of the Supreme Council of Islamic Affairs, to be held in Marawi City from December 25 to 27.

The President's other activity outside of desk work was his induction into office of the new ranking military officials he has appointed. Sworn in by the President were Brigadier Generals Fidel Ramos, Teodorico P. Almuete, Domingo C. Tutaan, Edilberto C. V. Bernales; Commodores Leovigildo Gantioqui and Octavio A. Posadas.

After these two activities, the President continued working on state papers, including a review of the proposed rules and regulations submitted by the Board of Investments, simplifying export procedure for all exporters registered under the Export Incentives Act, which he approved.

A result of the joint effort of various government agencies involved in exportation, the simplified procedure reduces pre-exportation requirements being followed by exporters, from 13 to only three (3) basic steps, (to wit:

1. Exporter applies for export permit.
2. Exporter pays arrastre, and
3. Exporter loads goods and services in the presence of customs inspectors.

The simplified procedure has three main features, which were realized without in any way sacrificing government revenue collection.

These are the elimination of unnecessary documents, reduction in frequency of commodity clearance, and postponement of wharfage fees.

December 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS constituted the Committee on Presidential Award in Education even as he continued concentrating on desk work and other matters of state.

In an executive order that he issued from his desk, the President designated Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo and Julieta Benedicto as members of the award committee.

The executive order provides for the designation of the incumbent Secretary of Education as chairman, and a former secretary of education and an outstanding citizen as members.

The Presidential Award in Education will be granted to citizens who have made significant and distinctive contribution to education in the country.

Among other actions, the President appointed three municipal judges, two registers of deeds, one clerk of court of the Court of First Instance, and a city treasurer.

Appointed *ad interim* Municipal Judges were Adelaida Centeno Salon, for Cabugao, Ilocos Sur, Silverio C. de Leon, for Makilala, Cotabato; and; Benjamin S. Abalos, for Pasig, Rizal.

Designated acting registers of deeds were Santiago Bautista, Jr. of San Jose City and Isabel G. Ibad of Cotabato City.

Named acting city treasurer was Virgilio B. Buendia of Batangas City, while Jose L. Magpali was appointed *ad interim* clerk of court of the Court of First Instance of Pangasinan.

December 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS issued a new proclamation further amending Proclamation No. 775 dated November 20, 1970, as amended by Proclamation No. 776 dated November 23, 1970, so as to include the provinces of Batanes and Laguna as calamity areas.

Under Proclamation No. 775, the areas declared as in a state of public calamity were the Greater Manila area, Rizal and Bataan. To these areas were added, by virtue of the amending Proclamation No. 776 the provinces of Bulacan, Pampanga and Zambales.

The new Proclamation included Batanes and Laguna in the calamity areas because of the heavy damage to public and private properties and agricultural crops in these provinces, also wrought by the recent typhoon.

The President did not receive callers in order that he could dispose of important state papers, as well as go over the list of prisoners recommended for executive clemency by the Board of Pardons and Parole.

He extended executive clemency to 115 prisoners in keeping with the tradition of granting pardons to deserving prisoners during the Christmas season.

Of these prisoners, eight were given absolute pardons, one a special absolute pardon, four conditional pardons, 58 conditional pardons with parole conditions, and 44 commutations of sentence.

In other actions, the President ordered the deportation of three Chinese nationals whose continued presence in the country is considered a menace to the peace and safety of the community.

Ordered expelled from the country, on the recommendation of the Deportation Board, are Jimmy Chua y Ojeda. Johnny Lu, and Gan Hal Sun *alias* Tan Kook.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: December 25, 1971 – January 7, 1971

President's Week in Review: January 8-14, 1971

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

January 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS heard for the second time in as many days the views of both the striking and non-striking groups of jeepney drivers on the price ceiling of gasoline, during which the two groups also made known their respective stands on the question of a strike.

The striking group, led by Lupiño Lazaro of the Pangkalahatang Samahan ng Maynila at Suburbs Drivers Associations (Pasang-Masda) said they would continue with the strike pending a favorable outcome of the President's scheduled meeting with executives of oil firms, while the non-striking group, a splinter group of the Pasang-Masda headed by Oscar Lazaro, said they would continue plying their routes.

In the course of his talks with the two groups, whom he met separately, the President:

1. Directed Secretary of Commerce and Industry Ernesto Maceda, who is also acting chairman of the Price Control Council, to finish the hearings on the increase in fuel cost, stressing that the PCC should come to a decision in the shortest possible time. Hearings should be conducted continuously, he said.

2. Asked J. J. Wolahan, president of the Petroleum Institute of the Philippines, to confer with other oil executives and to consider rolling back the prices of gasoline in the meantime that the PCC's decision on its price ceiling is being awaited.

In his talk with Wolahan over the telephone, the President deplored the raising of gasoline prices by the oil companies before notifying him of their decision, which was contrary to a previous understanding.

3. Directed Chairman Jose Evangelista of the Public Service Commission to advise bus and jeepney operators to allow their drivers to ply their routes.

4. Ordered the Philippine Constabulary and the Metrocom to put more men in the field to provide security to non-striking drivers of vehicles plying their routes because of reports of harassments allegedly perpetrated by people identified with the striking group.

During his meeting with the drivers' groups, the President also discussed the possibility of the government putting up its own oil refinery or acquiring the majority stocks of oil refineries.

Complimentary to this is the establishment of fuel and spare parts cooperatives by the drivers' unions to be financed out of the ₱5 million trust fund set aside by the gasoline companies for such projects.

The President asked the drivers to agree on who should represent them in the board of trustees of the trust fund, when informed that the board members representing the drivers was not their choice for the board.

Earlier in the day, the President directed Chairman Gregorio Abad of the Reparations Commission to undertake a special mission to Japan for the Philippine government, in connection with the procurement of reparations.

At the same time the President designated Repacom Commissioner Anacleto Mangaser acting chairman of the Commission.

He also received Ambassador Ake Rodolf Wither of Finland who paid a farewell call prior to leaving for his country for reassignment.

Wither has been serving as a non-resident envoy of Finland to the Philippines, being the Finnish resident ambassador in Tokyo.

A slight fever prevented the President from receiving other callers. They, instead, paid social calls on the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos.

The callers included Dr. Georges Fischer, a scholar lecturer on Rizal; Rep. Romulo Lumaig and Gov. Gualberto Lumaig of Ifugao; Ex-Gov. Dominador Camerino and Myrna Santiago of Cavite; Mayor Emma Gadi of Kidapawan and Mayor Bai Tonina of Pagalungan, both in Cotabato.

In the afternoon, the President received Capt. O. Forsberg, president of the International Federation of Airline Pilots Association, who paid a social call.

The President met with the leaders of jeepney drivers late in the evening.

January 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS directed the Price Control Council to establish whether there is a *prima facie* case for the oil companies to increase the price of gasoline. He gave the order to the council after meeting in the morning with oil executives who were summoned to Malacañang in the wake of the transportation strike arising from the price hike.

The President ordered Secretary of Commerce and Industry Ernesto Maceda, concurrently Price Control Council action officer, to find out at the hearings of the council whether added costs allegedly incurred by the companies would justify confirmation or suspension of the price increase.

The President deplored the fact that the prices of oil and gasoline had been increased even before the council had a chance to take up the recommendation of Manila City Mayor Antonio J. Villegas for the increase in prices of gasoline by two centavos, and diesel oil by three centavos per liter.

The President asked the oil executives to extend to the council maximum cooperation in seeking to resolve the issue.

The President also directed:

1. Central Bank Governor Gregorio S. Licaros and the Board of Investments to appear at the council's hearings and testify on the supposed additional costs being incurred by oil companies and which were being used as basis for increasing prices by the same companies.
2. Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata to finish in 90 days a close investigation into the books of accounts of the oil companies to determine once and for all the margin of profit being made by these companies.

The President also directed the Public Service Commission through Chairman Jose Evangelista to apprehend all public carriers whose non-operation would be violative of the Public Service Law.

The President reminded Evangelista that the Commission is empowered to withdraw certificate of conveniences from operators of public vehicles violating the terms of their certificates.

He also asked the commissioner to help government authorities gather and bring evidence against certain parties reported to have been collecting unauthorized "fees" from taxi drivers.

Evangelista had submitted names of these parties to the President and the latter endorsed these names to the appropriate investigating agencies.

Present at the conference were J. J. Wolahan and Francis Ablan of Caltex, P. J. Crumbine of Mobil Oil, J. Chuidian of Filoil, T. E. Wallace of ESSO, E. L. Shepley of Getty Oil, Emil Cowing of Shell Company, and Ramon V. del Rosario of Filoil.

Before the meeting with the oil executives, the President had a huddle with Secretary Virata, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Governor Licaros, Secretary Maceda and Chairman Evangelista.

The President devoted the whole afternoon to desk work.

In the evening, the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda U. Marcos sent off master Ferdinand Jr. to London to resume his schooling.

Together with Imee and Irene, and close friends, the First Family motored to the Manila International Airport, arriving there at about 6 p.m.

January 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS outlined an eight point plan designed to broaden the government's social justice program.

Addressing the first national convention of the Philippine Congress of Trade Unions at the Magsaysay Hall of the Social Security System building in Quezon City, the President said the goals of his administration are:

1. A massive low-cost housing program for the masses.
2. Creation of public defenders' office to provide free legal aid to indigent laborers.
3. Establishment of employment exchange offices to facilitate employment and systematize the chaotic labor market.
4. Encourage the organization of workers' consumer cooperatives to help secure low and reasonable prices.
5. The merger of the Court of Industrial Relations and the Court of Agrarian Relations.
6. Establishment of a Workers' Bank, to meet the special credit requirements of the workers.
7. A more serious study of unemployment insurance to be administered jointly by the Department of Labor, the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System.
8. A new land policy designed to effect the full development of idle lands, both public and private, as early as possible.

The President also told the convention that in accordance with the appeal of labor leaders, he had authorized the distribution of 90 percent of the ₱30 million expected from the ₱1 fee to be collected on every picul of sugar produced, as bonus for the sugar workers.

He further said that a legislation had been pending in Congress for sometime for a massive low-cost housing program for workers. The President also appealed to the labor leaders to police their own ranks because the implementation of the labor laws was their primary responsibility.

Earlier, the Pagkakaisa ng Manggagawang Pilipino group, led by its president Roberto Oca, pledged its support to the President in the current controversy between the oil companies and the jeepney drivers.

Oca informed the President that the PMP will support every move of the President to resolve the controversy particularly because the jeepney strike was causing hardship among the workers who could not go to work and earn a living.

The PMP group included Antonio A. Ancheta, Israel Bocobo, Frank Nora, Macfidio H. Cruz, Geronimo Quadra, Ricardo Manalad and Andres Dingsalan, Jr.

Present at the PILCONTU convention were Secretary of Labor Blas F. Ople, Democrito Mendoza, president; Cecilio T. Seno, vice-president; and Jerry Montemayor, Jr. Fr. Pacifico Ortiz, Jr., and some 400 delegates from 17 affiliated organizations.

While attending to his desk work in the afternoon, the President designated Jose Alvarez, director of the Rizal Park, as officer-in-charge of the Parks and Wildlife Office.

Alvarez took the place of Director of Forestry Jose Viado, who has been concurrent Parks and Wildlife Office head.

The President also directed the Department of Education to resume classes in all schools. Classes were suspended by the education department due to the strike of jeepney drivers.

January 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS held a two-hour joint conference with the leaders of Congress and the executive committee of the Foreign Policy Council, in Malacañang in the morning.

During the meeting, he took up with the leaders of Congress the following:

1. The legislative program for the current year, and
2. A preview of the report and recommendations which he would submit to Congress, at the opening of its regular session.

The President also set a meeting of the Foreign Policy Council to discuss the issue of establishing trade and diplomatic relations with Socialist countries.

Upon instructions of the President, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo furnished the meeting with background materials on the proposed establishment of trade and diplomatic relations with Socialist countries.

The President opened the conference by emphasizing two persistent demands brought about by the series of natural calamities which hit the country, namely:

1. The liberalization of credit and release of funds to reinvigorate economic activity.
2. The need for balancing the budget.

He said there was a need to balance the two demands with the release of money without causing a runaway inflation at the same time increasing agricultural productivity.

The President emphasized that the agricultural recovery program in the typhoon-ravaged provinces would need ₱35.5 million, and that the total damage caused by the floods and typhoons had been placed by the National Economic Council at over ₱600 million.

The President also asked the financing institutions to consider the possibility of recalling money that had been lent out or all maturing-loans to support productive enterprise, thus reorienting the financing system.

He also asked Congress leaders to study the proposals of the United Coconut Association to continue without the reglamentary annual reduction the export tax on coconut products so that the proceeds could be used to rehabilitate the coconut industry.

The President also called for:

1. Restructuring of the country's educational system.
2. Restudy of the tariff structure with the view to its simplification.
3. Revision of the provisions in the Special Highway Fund Act and the National Internal Revenue Code regarding the distribution and allocation of snares of cities and provinces in the special highway fund and the excess income tax collections.

The President said that under the present system the students are trained to go to the higher class but not to productive pursuits. Thus, he added, they cannot get employed.

The President called for a study of the tariff structure and suggested that a foreign exchange tax be imposed on the sale of foreign exchange. The proceeds from this tax, the President said, could then be utilized to further economic development activities.

He also proposed a total ban on the importation of luxuries, and, with the concurrence of the leaders of Congress, directed Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata and Central Bank Governor Gregorio S. Licaros to draft the necessary bill for submission to the next regular session of Congress.

Governor Licaros gave the Congress leaders a briefing on the effects of the stabilization program.

He said that four significant developments had been quite overlooked by analysts which are favorable and had come from Congress and are of permanent characters.

The Central Bank Governor said these are:

1. The Export Tax Law, Sec. 5 of which provides restrictions on Central Bank credit to government, thereby establishing exchange restrictions to prevent the printing of money, etc.
2. The Foreign Borrowing Act, which limits to 20 percent the amount that could be used for servicing debts, thus automatically restricting the volume of external debt.
3. The Export Incentives Law which gives stronger impetus to the export policy adopted with the floating rate.
4. The tax on securities.

Governor Licaros said these provided the necessary guidelines for the proper implementation of the Investment Incentives Act which are of legislative origin and of permanent nature.

The President and the Congress leaders also explored the possibility of further increasing the tourist trade and exploring market possibilities for Philippine products in the United States and Canada.

Present at the conference were Vice President Fernando Lopez, Senate President Gil J. Puyat, Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., Senate Majority Floorleader Arturo M. Tolentino, Speaker Protempore Jose Aldeguer, House Majority Floorleader Marcelino Veloso, Rep. Natalio P. Castillo;

Secretary Virata, Secretary Romulo, Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, Jr., Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos, Secretary of Labor Blas F. Ople, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Undersecretary of Agriculture Arturo R. Tanco, Jr., Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, Governor Licaros, Board of Investments Chairman Vicente Paterno, Presidential Economic Staff Director General Apolinario Orosa, Presidential Executive Assistant Jacobo C. Clave, and Press Secretary Francisco S. Tatad.

Earlier, the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, received government officials and members of the diplomatic corps at the traditional reception held at Malacañang for the new year.

Well-wishers deluded former President and Mrs. Carlos P. Garcia, and former President Diosdado Macapagal.

The reception started promptly at 9 a.m. when Vice President Fernando Lopez and his lady arrived to head long line of members of the Cabinet.

Then followed members of Congress led by Senate President Gil J. Puyat and Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., members of the judiciary headed by Chief Justice Roberto Concepcion, and ranking officials in the executive department, and their wives.

In the traditional exchange of toasts between the President and members of the diplomatic corps, Msgr. Carmine Rocco, papal nuncio, congratulated the President and the Filipino people, in behalf of the chiefs of missions, for achievements during the year just ended.

The dean of the diplomatic corps also cited Mrs. Marcos for her sustained charity and beautification drives which, he said, had contributed to the progress of the nation.

In his response, the President offered the following prayer: "May God grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, the courage to change the things we can, and the wisdom to know the difference."

The reception lasted up to. 11 a.m.

Later in the afternoon, the President met with J. J. Wolahan of Caltex and Ramon V. del Rosario of Filoil, during which he appealed to oil companies to reduce their margin of profits and keep the prices of gasoline at an acceptable level.

The President said that the country was itself undergoing sacrifices to surmount temporary difficulties.

He said oil companies could share with the country some of the burdens of development while still operating with a reasonable return on their investments.

The President asked the Price Control Council to sit down with oil company executives on his appeal.

After the meeting, the Chief Executive received Lupiño Lazaro, president of the striking Pasang-Masda, and informed him of his talk with the oil executives.

January 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS went on a nationwide radio and television hookup in the evening, and appealed to both the oil industry and the striking drivers to end the empassé.

“I am aware that the protagonists in this unfortunate confrontation are deeply persuaded by their own reasons for making an intractable stand. But I am also aware that other sectors, the employees and hard-pressed common workers, our students, and our people in general have been deprived of their right of movement because of the strike, and they are subject to tensions and threat of injury and even death,” the President said.

The President assured the people that the government would take all the steps necessary to immediately end the strike.

In a meeting with leaders of the oil industry and members of the Price Control Council earlier in the day, the President told the oil executives that they must accept a temporary cutback on gasoline prices as a first step toward settling the jeepney strike.

The oil men agreed to cut the two-centavo increase by one centavo, until such time that the commission has completed its task and made its recommendations.

During the conference, the President announced the creation of a Presidential Oil Commission and charged it with the task of looking into the books of the oil companies.

With the oil executives in seeing the President were Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata and Secretary of Commerce and Industry Ernesto Maceda.

In another major conference, the President ordered a study on the feasibility of adopting a policy whereby the government will have a 50 percent participation in the profits of every corporation engaged in the exploitation of the country's natural resources.

He issued the order to Undersecretary Tanco and Secretary Virata during his meeting with the Presidential Budget Development Committee and with Armand Fabella, chairman of the Reorganization Commission.

The meeting was called by the President to review the reorganization plan submitted by the Reorganization Commission to promote efficiency in the government while at the same time effecting a savings of ₱30 million.

The President pointed out that the natural resources of the country belong to everyone and that these resources should be the principal source of revenue of the government, which proceeds will be channelled to social services and economic development.

Going over the recommendation of the Reorganization Commission, the President also:

1. Ordered a further study aimed at increasing expected savings from ₱30 million to at least ₱100 million without undermining service efficiency.
2. Ordered a restudy of the powers of the President to see if there may be other powers which can either be transferred or delegated to lower level officials.
3. Told the secretary of national defense and the chief of staff of the armed forces to submit a position paper on the proposed merger of the Philippine Constabulary with other army units to form the National Police Command.

Present at the morning conference were Chairman Fabella, Executive Director Abelardo Belmonte, Secretary Virata, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., National Economic Council Chairman Gerardo Sicat, Office of the Economic Coordination Administrator Eduardo Rodriguez, Presidential Economic Staff Director-General Apolinario Orosa, Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco and Central Bank Governor Gregorio S. Licaros.

The President started conferring with the government officials after clearing his desk of urgent state papers. First to see him was Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos, which was followed by his meeting with Secretaries Virata and Maceda on the oil prices.

Other callers included Rep. Cornelio T. Villareal, Gov. Virgilio Lacaya of Zamboanga del Norte and Mayor Habibon Pia of Sibuco, who took up with him local problems.

In the evening the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, honored Dr. S. D. Savkar, director of Asian Affairs of the IMF, at dinner. Also present were Central Bank Gov. Gregorio S. Licaros, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., and other officials.

January 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a well spaced schedule of callers which allowed him to attend to urgent official papers, and other matters of state long enough before they came in.

The President worked at his desk after having breakfast. At about 10:30 a.m., he disengaged from paper work to receive European financiers accompanied by Rep. Roque Ablan, Jr. of Ilocos Norte.

The visitors, Georges Gedilaghine of the Hanover Building and Banking Corporation and Regis Benezit of the French Society for the Expansion of Commerce and Industry, offered European dollar loans for massive low-cost housing projects and other development purposes.

The financiers assured the President that they would be ready to meet the conditions and requirements set by the International Monetary Fund for exchange borrowings by the Philippines.

The President expressed his appreciation for the offer, particularly the development of low-cost housing projects and of Corregidor as a tourist spot, since massive low-cost housing and the promotion of the tourist industry are two of the government's major projects. He endorsed the offer to his fiscal advisers for study.

Another caller was Ryotaro Sato, son of Prime Minister Eisaku Sato of Japan and vice president of Asia Off-Shore Drilling, who informed him that his firm, in collaboration with the Zapata-Norgess and the Oriental Petroleum of the Philippines, will start oil exploration off Palawan beginning March 1.

Also received by the President was Vincent Stott, TWA vice president and director of the Pacific Air Travel Association who called to pay his respects.

Stott arrived to make arrangements for the PATA workshop on January 21-23 in Baguio City and conference on January 24-29 in Manila.

Among other callers were Rep. Manuel Zosa of Cebu, and seven municipal mayors from Cotabato who discussed with him urgent matters concerning their areas of jurisdiction.

The President received his callers up to well past noon. He resumed his paper work later in the afternoon.

He resumed his paper work later in the afternoon.

January 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS held a number of conferences with members of his cabinet and later, at way past noon, with Nacionalista congressmen.

Among the President's late morning callers was Vice President Fernando Lopez, who offered his resignation. The President accepted the resignation.

Both men were mutually agreed that it was untenable for the Vice President to remain in the cabinet in view of his relationship with the pressure group which the President has exposed.

The President assured Vice President Lopez that there was nothing personal in his acceptance of the latter's resignation. "You and I have been in the best relations," the President. "But your position in the Cabinet has now become untenable in view of your relationship with the financial and political interests that I have identified as constituting a pressure group intent upon the destruction of my development program."

In an interview with newsmen later in the day, the President said he was serving notice on all other pressure groups that he would not be pressured by anyone into granting favors and concessions to vested groups against the interest of the people.

Within the hour of the Vice President's resignation, the President swore in Undersecretary Arturo Tanco, Jr. as secretary of agriculture and natural resources.

The President then sat down at a belated luncheon with Nacionalista members of the House of Representatives with whom he discussed, among others, closer coordination between the Presidential Economic Staff and those of the Senate and House of Representatives, solution of the corn shortage in Cebu and Leyte, faster processing and release of land titles, and the strike situation.

He enjoined the NP congressmen to close ranks and to make the coming regular session of Congress a "session of achievements."

The congressmen were led by Speaker Jose B. Laurel Jr. and Speaker Protempore Jose. Aldeguer.

Government officials who conferred 'with the President earlier in the day were Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata and Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile. They reported on their respective departments.

The President also received Tetuo Takashima, president of the Japanese Floating Fair, who called to pay his respects and to invite the President to the inauguration of the fair.

Also received by the President was Ambassador-at-large Ramon Nolan who called for final instructions before leaving for Washington, D.C. With Nolan was Philippine ambassador to Washington, Ernesto Lagdameo.

In the evening, the President had another meeting with the leaders of the striking jeepney drivers in his continuing effort to put an end to the strike.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: January 15-20, 1971

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

January 15—

PRESIDENT MARCUS, in remarks before a delegation of several thousands from Tondo, who marched to Malacañang late in the afternoon, said he would pursue his fight against the country's oppressive oligarchy in the name of "country, honor and duty" and that he had "absolute confidence" that the people will support him in fighting for their own cause.

For two solid hours, the Malacañang reception and ceremonial halls were turned into a public forum as the leaders of the various groups sought firm assurance from the President that he would pursue to its logical conclusion the fight he has begun with oppressive pressure groups identified with the oligarchy.

In addressing the crowd, the President said it was now time to effect drastic changes in our society.

Aside from the marchers who pledged their support to the President, various individuals and groups from various parts of the country also pledged their all-out rapport to the President in his fight against the oligarchy.

Earlier in the day, the Chief Executive ordered the temporary return, of the prices of all oil products to the January 8, 1971 levels until the reasonable prices for them shall have been determined by the Price Control Council.

He issued the order in a memorandum to the Price Control Council following a series of conferences with the drivers of jeepneys, buses and taxis, and their representatives and leaders, and a spokesman of the local oil companies.

The presidential directive was issued so as to give all parties concerned a cooling off period of seven days and to effect the early lifting of the strike being staged by jeepney drivers.

Among other actions, the President also approved the hosting by the Central Bank of the Philippines of the Sixth Conference of Governors of Central Banks in Southeast Asia with Baguio City as the conference site.

The governors of central banks in Southeast Asia decided in 1964 to meet once a year, primarily to discuss the monetary and economic Problems existing in their countries and to study together common problems of economic development of the region.

In the evening, the President extended official welcome to the 9th Japan Industry Floating Fair aboard the "M. S. Sakura Maru" at Pier 15 at the Manila South Harbor.

The First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos cut the ceremonial ribbon, formally opening the floating fair.

Present at the opening rites were members of the diplomatic corps, ranking government officials and representatives of prominent business organizations in Manila.

January 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS continued to receive support and encouragement from various sectors of society in his determined effort to throw out the pressure groups and return the government to the people.

Close on the heels of a group of labor leaders representing 1,200,000 workers and farmers throughout the country, a 500-man delegation from Pasay City, headed by Francisco Piga, marched to Malacañang in order to give their pledge that whatever happened they will support the President in his fight.

Addressing the marchers, the President said that he was encouraged even more to pursue the fight until the country is rid of the evil influence of pressure groups.

“Now is the time to start and in this fight there will be no retreat,” he said, adding, “You can rest assured I will go on fighting so that the country will prosper and the people will have better opportunities.”

Earlier in the morning, the President met a group of labor leaders who discussed with him the problems of labor and presented a resolution supporting the new orientation of the government toward the dispersal of monopolies and oligarchies and an intensified program to alleviate the condition of workers and the average citizen, and protect their legal rights.

Among the leaders who called were: Roberto Oca, Andres Dingsalan, Jr. and Gerry Quadra of the Pinagbuklod ng mga Manggagawa sa Pilipinas. Israel Bocobo of the Philippine Association of Free Labor Unions, Cesar Legayada and Leonardo Agting of the Federated Unions of Rizal, Tony Diaz of the Philippine Social Security Labor Union, Fred Fajardo and Jess Gentiles of the SSS Employees Association, Bonifacio Bayhon, Efren Aranzamendo and Domingo Sta. Ana of the Federation of Free Workers, Francisco Nora of the Communications Workers Federation, Mario Rosal and Melanio Calor of the Federation of Democratic Workers, Tony Policarpio of the NLU, Vicente Arniego of the National Labor Union Congress, Amorito Cañete, Januario Seno and Eduardo Nolasco of the Philippine Congress of Trade Unions, Oliver Germendo, Eulogio Lerum and Max Cortez of the Philippine Labor Unity Movement.

The Chief Executive also received courtesy calls from Chief Justice John Kerr of Australia, who was accompanied by J. H. Wooten secretary general of LAWASIA; and Phra Manuot Vernoulart, former chief justice of the Supreme Court of Thailand.

Aside from these calls, the President received no other visitors the rest of the day except Gen. Mark Clark (retired), who made a courtesy call. Gen. Clark is the chairman of the American Battle Monuments Commission. He arrived in Manila to visit cemeteries for American servicemen and to confer with U.S. military authorities in the Philippines.

In between these calls, the President did his desk work, scanning over official papers needing his attention.

January 17—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent almost the whole day in his study going over official papers. He did not receive any private callers to be able to concentrate more fully on his desk work.

Late in the afternoon, the President received a delegation of market vendors who called at Malacañang.

Headed by Mrs. Polly Cayetano, president of the Chamber of Filipino Retailers, the vendors group pledged the support of some 20,000 members, which include sari-sari store owners, behind the President in his fight against the oligarchies.

Mrs. Cayetano also thanked the President for his having signed into law a bill, now Republic Act No. 5039 also known as the Market Law.

In his remarks, the President explained that his administration's program allowed for immediate cooperation with the rich, in line with the concept of immediate industrialization.

He said he thought that by helping build a strong private industrial base, he would be in effect securing the interests of the poor.

However, he said, he saw, for himself that the conscienceless rich had an insatiable tendency to be monopolists, to dictate the conditions of the market at their convenience, starting with prices, while the poor suffer the most.

“It is now time to fight the pressure groups and the oligarchs, in the name of our people.” the President declared.

.January 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS met leaders of Congress in the morning to discuss the order of priorities of bills in the coming regular session of Congress and the means of expediting action on the most urgent measures.

At the conference, Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr. submitted to the President the list of priority bills pending before the House of Representatives in accordance with an agreement between Malacañang on the one hand and the Senate and Pre House on the other on close coordination of efforts to insure swift action on vital measures.

The President requested Speaker Laurel to ask the Congress Economic Planning Office, to meet with its Senate counterpart in order that the three priority lists could be consolidated.

The President emphasized the importance of the three bodies—the Executive and the Legislative represented by the Senate and the House—getting” together and working out a single priority list, as well as on agreeing on the Reorganization Plan, particularly in regard to the creation of the National Police Commission.

In lieu of the creation of an Indent Office, the President proposed the establishment of a Government Trading Corporation which, he said, will be necessary “if we are serious about establishing trade relations with Russia.”

The President directed Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. to draft the necessary bill, and, to consolidate the provisions of the two bills on housing which were included in the priority list.

The President also ordered Secretary of Education Onofre D. Corpus to prepare a bill to provide free and compulsory education from the first to the sixth grade, and revising the curriculum for secondary education.

Others at the conference were Senator Leonardo Perez, House Majority Floor Leader Marcelino Veloso, Reps. Jose Alberto of Catanduanes, Eduardo Cojuangco of Tarlac, Tito Dupaya of Cagayan, and Carmelo Barbero of Abra; and Land Authority Governor Conrado Estrella.

Following the conference, the President attended the opening session of the convention of members of the Law Association for Asia and, the Western Pacific, as guest of honor, held at the Philamlife Auditorium.

In his address, the President underscored the need for law “to grow in flexibility and wisdom” in the face of rapid worldwide social and economic change, particularly in Asia.

He pointed out that the legal profession, “fairly or unfairly, is being criticized in some countries, particularly the developing ones, as a force for maintaining the status quo for resisting change in an age of reform and change.”

The President declared that it may be true that the law is inherently conservative but is often forced to be because a minimum of political, social and economic stability is “essential to the enjoyment of legal rights, and to uphold the dignity of the human person.” He stressed that human dignity cannot “flourish in an atmosphere of chronic anarchy and chaos.” (*See pp. 485 to 488 for full text of the President’s speech.*)

Represented at the convention were the countries of Afghanistan, Australia, Ceylon, China, Fiji, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Western Samoa.

In the afternoon, the President held his first formal press conference of this year.

In between these activities, the President did his regular chores; working on state papers and acting on state business.

The Chief Executive authorized the inclusion of nutrition coordination in the food production program of the National Food and Agriculture Council (NFAC).

In view of this, he designated the National Coordinating Council of Food and Nutrition, represented by the research director of the Food and Nutrition Research Center, as a member of the NFAC.

The President pointed out that “national concern should not only be for production of food but also for its nutritive utilization so that the traditional deficiencies in the average diet of the people may be remedied.

January 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS met Nationalists senators at a working lunch to map out the priorities in the administration’s legislative program to be submitted to the regular session of Congress this year.

The Chief Executive recommended that action on bills taken according to this order of priority:

1. The bill banning the import of luxury items.
2. The agrarian reform and cooperatives bill.
3. A consolidated bill on housing.
4. The Petroleum Exploration Act.
5. A bill providing for educational reforms.
6. A bill creating the State Trading Corporation.
7. A bill imposing a tax on affluent consumption.

The Oil Commission bill, which was Number 1 in the priority listing submitted by Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., had already been passed by the Senate.

However, the President informed the senators that he had instructed the Department of justice and the Presidential Economic Staff to prepare an anti-trust bill for consideration of both the Senate and the House, as a complementary measure.

On land reform the Chief Executive said that the Reorganization Commission has recommended formation of a Commission on Land Reform, and that action on the bill on agrarian reform will probably depend on the approval of the reorganization plan.

He also suggested a series of meetings with senators and representatives on the reorganization plan, which must be submitted within 40 days of the opening of the regular session of Congress.

The President suggested that a caucus be held at the end of the month, followed by two other meetings in February, so that the reorganization plan can be finalized and submitted to Congress on time.

The Petroleum Exploration Act would change from lease to service contract the permit to explore, for oil in the country. Under this system, the concession remains a property of the state unlike in the lease contract. This will also increase the share of the government in the profits.

The President underscored the importance of an improved educational system by pointing out that under the present system, high school graduates could not get employment, because they do not have job skills. That is why, he added, there has to be a manpower training program.

Present during the meeting were Senate President Protempore Jose J. Roy, Senate Majority Floorleader Arturo M. Tolentino, Senators Rene Espina, Dominador R. Aytona, Alejandro D. Almendras, Wenceslao R. Lagumbay, Ambrosio Padilla, Lorenzo Sumulong, Lorenzo M. Tañada, Lorenzo G. Teves, Salvador H. Laurel, Leonardo B. Perez, Eva Estrada-Kalaw and Helena Z. Benitez.

Other presidential activities included the usual calls, among them those Vice Speaker Speaker of the House of Representatives of Indonesia, who paid his respects; Charge d'Affaires Nguyen Van Loc of South Vietnam, who handcarried a painting from Vietnam's Senate President, as a memento for the President.

The President also inducted the officers of the Philippine Cigarette Manufacturers Association, headed by Ralph Nubia; as well as Eric Nubia, as chairman of the board of examiners for architecture.

The Chief Executive did his usual office work in between these activities.

January 20—

A LARGE GROUP of farmers representing two organizations in Nueva Ecija called on President Marcos to present a manifesto urging the government to push through its crusade against vested interests Led by Mac Fabian, chairman of the Federation of Land Reform Farmers Associations, and Sergio Cayanan, spokesman for the Filipino Agrarian Movement, the delegation urged the President to break up monopolies and otherwise effect a more equitable distribution of the nation's wealth so as to benefit the larger mass of the people.

Also present during the call of the farmers were Luis Taruc and Land Authority Gov. Conrado Estrella.

Earlier in the morning, the President inducted two new associate justices of the Court of Appeals, namely, Juan O. Reyes and Mateo Canonoy, both judges of the courts of first instance of Manila and Cebu, respectively, at the time of their appointments. Present at the ceremonies were relatives of the new justices, as well as prominent members of the judiciary and Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos.

In the afternoon the President received the members of the Japanese business survey team who had arrived in Manila to inquire into possibilities of investment or other trade ties with the Philippines.

At the head of the groups were Mission Chief Teiichiro Morinaga, Mission Deputy Chief Isao Masamuna, Hiroshi Shimizu, Counselor of Ministers Secretariat, Ministry of Finance; Masaki Seo, official of Asian Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Makoto Kobayashi, official of Trade and Development Bureau, Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

Others who called on the President during the day included Gov. Gualberto Lumaig of Ifugao, who took up local problems; Director of Prisons Alejo Santos, who discussed matters pertaining to his office; and former Gov. Madki Alonto.

In between these activities, the President as usual worked at his desk.

PRESIDENT MARCOS whittled down his schedule of callers to only one group, even as he concentrated once more to paper work and urgent state business.

It was already late in the afternoon when he left his desk at his private study to meet with vegetable and egg dealers on the prices of prime consumer goods in view of reports of price hikes in these items.

The President appealed to the group to see to it that prices of prime commodities are maintained at reasonable levels, adding that the government would keep close watch of price trends.

In the course of the conference, the President ordered the release of ₱2 million for the operations of the Greater Manila Terminal Food Market and the extension of credit for the department of agriculture for the replanting of some 150,000 hectares of agricultural lands.

Among the Chinese businessmen present were Johnson Robert Go of Robina Farms, Tammy Chua of General Milling; and Kho Han Seng of the Vegetable and Fruit Dealers Association.

While engaged in paper work in the morning the President signed the appointment of Dr. Domingo Soriano as acting president of Central Luzon Teachers College, vice Mariano Raquel who retired from the service.

Soriano's appointment to the CLTC was unanimously recommended by the college's board of trustees.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: January 21-28, 1971

President's Week in Review: January 29 - February 4, 1971

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

January 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS bade farewell to outgoing Mexican Ambassador Federico Barrera Fuentes who called at Malacañang preparatory to his departing for his home country after completing his tour of duty here.

After his meeting with the Mexican diplomat, the President interrupted himself when he heard that a large group of Filipinos from Hawaii had expressed the desire to see him. The visitors were on a sight-seeing tour of Malacañang. He emerged from his study to talk with the group, in the process inviting them to invest in Philippine development.

Earlier, the President worked at his desk on state papers, during which he approved the establishment of a second pilot "moshav" project in Barrio Ricarte. Llanera, Nueva Ecija, in line with the administration's plan to promote cooperative farming throughout the country,

The proposal, to set up a second project was made jointly by acting Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Arturo R. Tanco, Jr. in his capacity as action officer of the National Food and Agriculture Council; and Governor Conrado Estrella of the Land Authority and chairman of the National Reform Council.

The first farmers' cooperative project patterned after the Israeli "moshav" concept, as established at Magalang, Pampanga through the joint efforts of the Philippine and Israeli governments, and the Filipinas Foundation of the Ayala Corporation.

Later in the morning, the President conferred with officials concerned with public works project, including those in charge of funding. The priorities of infrastructure development and other projects in this area were discussed. Present at the meeting were Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Secretary of Public Works and Communications Manuel B. Syquiao, PACD Secretary Roscudo Marquoz, Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, and Commissioner of Public Highways Baltazar Aquino,

Having no scheduled engagements in the afternoon, the President concentrated on his office work.

January 30—

PRESIDENT MARCOS met with his Cabinet to discuss ways and means of effectively moving the bureaucracy, to push to the level of the rural masses the President's "democratic revolution" for 1971.

The meeting, which started at mid-morning and wound up at 2 p.m., took up the following points:

1. Within the framework of the new orientation, there must now be a concerted effort among all those in government to restore to the taxpayer, the feeling that it is his right to expect genuine, efficient service from those in the public service. It shall be the duty of all personnel holding key positions in government to see to it that there is a consistent performance audit of their respective offices and agencies truly responsible to public need. Key government personnel shall henceforth use all means possible to retrain and reorient lower echelon personnel along the only philosophy acceptable to the leadership in regard to public service, namely that, the civil servant must know, at all times, that he is a servant of the people, and at no instance their master. In this moral campaign that must be undertaken by government, the Cabinet agreed on the need to lead the example.

In this connection, the President called the attention of the Cabinet on the need for bold moves to seriously remove incompetent, corrupt and unduly privileged personnel from public service, without regard to political or blood connections and other such ties that may have in the past served to tie down the hands of administrators called upon to enforce efficiency and justice.

It was agreed that a system be worked out whereby citizens' grievances against particular personnel of government, or any particular office would be efficiently monitored and acted upon by an appropriate body. More immediate than this, a performance evaluation task force will monitor the performance of all offices and agencies, on the basis of continuing assessment and evaluation by appropriate teams of the same task force.

2. Referring to specific priority projects for 1971, the Cabinet agreed that government should now undertake a massive low-cost housing program for the workers and small employees to be supported principally by the SSS and the GSIS. The SSS has a P150 million allotment for the project in 1971, the GSIS P200 million. The President expressed the desire that the GSIS should produce units between P10,000 to P12,000. The SSS informed the meeting that its units are estimated to cost P8,500 each.

The President directed the agencies concerned to study the possibility of arriving at a situation where workers and small employees may be able to acquire low-cost houses without having to have collaterals. Speaking on this subject, the secretary of labor pointed out that workers' housing should be given higher priority by the various government financing institutions since most of them depend heavily on workers' deposits.

Upon suggestion of the chairman of the Development Bank of the Philippines, the meeting agreed that GSIS and SSS should support to the full extent workers' low-cost housing, while PNB and DBP support industry and agriculture, including small scale industries.

The meeting heard a report on the cottage industry mass-employment scheme of the NACIDA, as well as electrification-scheme of the National Electrification Administration.

3. Referring to the matter of public utility rates, the President created a Presidential Commission to supersede the existing committee of limited membership to undertake a general review of all public utility rates with a view to ascertaining whether present conditions justify any modification of their rates and with a view to safeguarding the public interest.

Named to this commission were Chairman of the Board of Investments Vicente Paterno, OEC Administrator Eduardo Rodriguez, and Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos.

Present; during the meeting were Secretaries Carlos P. Romulo of Foreign Affairs, Cesar E. A. Virata of Finance, Vicente Abad Santos of Justice, Arturo B. Tanco, Jr. of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Manuel P. Syquiao of Public Works and Communications. Onofre D. Corpus of Education, Bias F. Ople of Labor, Juan Ponce Enrile of National Defense, Amadeo H. Cruz of Health, Constancio E. Castañeda of General Services, and Gregorio M. Feliciano of Social Welfare, Press Secretary Francisco S. Tatad;

Executive Secretary Alejandro, Melchor, Jr., Chairman Gerardo Sicat of the National Economic Council, Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, Presidential Economic Staff Director-General Apolinario Orosa, Land Authority Governor Conrado Estrelia, Chairman Vicente Paterno of the Board of Investments, PNB President Eusebio Villatuya, SSS Administrator Gilberto Teodoro, Central Bank Governor Gregorio S. Licaros;

DBP Chairman Leonides S. Virata, GSIS General Manager Roman V. Cruz, Jr., Manager Gaudencio Tobias of the National Housing Corporation, PHHC Manager Sebastian Santiago; NACIDA Administrator

Mario Reyes, Ronnie Diaz of the National Manpower and Youth Councils OEC Administrator Eduardo Rodriguez. NIA Administrator Alfredo Juinio, Secretary Manuel Elizalde Jr. of PANAMIN, Secretary Eliseo Villamor representing Secretary of Commerce and industry Ernesto Maceda and Col. P. Dumol representing Chairman Ronnie Velasco of the National Electrification Administration,,

Earlier, the President received the offer of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines to use the organization as an instrument for social change in line with the President's call for a democratic revolution.

The offer was made by the executives and other officials of the BSP, headed by Dr. Vitaliano Bernardino, president; and Antonio Delgado, vice president of the national council and executive chairman of the World Jamboree Committee,

The BSP executives informed the President that in line with the objectives of the BSP Golden Jubilee celebration, the organization will “restructure its activities to exploit to the fullest its potentials , as an instrument for social change.”

The scouting organization will implement this policy through programs designed to “provide scouts and non-scouts alike opportunities for maximum involvement and participation in impact projects of economic and social nature.

In the evening, the President received 20 city mayors who presented a resolution of loyalty and support in his policies to preserve the government and bridge the gap between the rich and the poor, by some 52 city mayors who had unanimously adopted it.

The Chief Executive enjoined the city mayors to take a firm stand against the enemies of the Republic before it is too late,

The city mayors were led by league chairman Mayor Macario Asistio of Caloocan, and Mayor Elias Lopez of Davao City.

January 31—

PRESIDENT MARCOS pushed further his call for a “democratic revolution” by calling on the country’s provincial governors and city mayors “to give back the government to the people, to whom government truly belongs.”

In extemporaneous remarks at the Malacañang State Dining Hall following the induction of officers of the League of Provincial Governors and City Mayors for 1971, the President said:

“No matter what we do there will be change. But we must preside over that change not with the ideology of those who seek it by violence, but rather with the ideology of those who believe in radicalism and revolution within the limits of the law.”

The President said, the call of the times is for local and national government leaders “to give the people hope,” to reassure them that the government is theirs, and that it works for their interests.”

“We must now forget self and set a new style of leadership that will be accepted by our people,” he said.

The President observed that in many cases, public issues and controversies are lost by default on the part of leaders who would not speak up when they must in order to defend the truth.

“ I need your help not in my own name, nor for my own personal sake. I need your help in the name of the Republic,” he said, pointing out that “Marcos is a mere period in the history of the Republic, but the Republic must endure and prevail long after the Marcos presidency.”

Inducted into office in the league were Governor Tito Primicias, Jr. of Pangasinan, chairman; Governor Benjamin Romualdez of Leyte, executive vice-chairman; Governor Felicisimo San Luis of Laguna, vice-chairman; Governor Jose A. Roño of Western Samar, secretary-general; Governor Consuelo Calo of Agusan, treasurer; Governors Vicente M. Alberto of Catanduanes, Alfredo Montelibano, Jr. of Negros Occidental, and Henry Y. Regalado of Misamis Occidental, regional vice-chairman; Governors Teresa J. Dupaya of Cagayan and Cornelio Villareal, Jr., and City Mayors Omar Dianalan of Marawi, regional secretary-treasurers; and the following directors:

Governors Elizabeth M. Keon of Ilocos Norte, Mayor Luis Lardizabal of Baguio City, Governor Vicente Magsaysay of Zambales, Mayor Cipriano Manaois of Dagupan City, Governor Ignacio Santiago of Bu-lacan, Mayor Reynaldo Reyes of Lipa City, Governor Arsenio Villarosa of Mindoro Occidental, Mayor Luis Jalandoni, Jr. of La Carlota City, Governor Armando Cledera of Camarines Sur, Mayor Jose Pro. Teves of Dumaguete City, Governor Tose Legaspi of Aklan, Governor Con-snl-ieion Yiiiiguez of Southern Leyte, Mayor Hilarion Ramiro of Dipolog and Governor Bienvenido Ebarle of Zamboanga del Sur.

Earlier, the President ordered that a coordinated research be made toward,? formulating an overall policy on agriculture.

In this connection, he named NEC Chairman Gerardo Sicat as chairman of a committee which will formulate the overall program on agricultural research.

Named members of the committee were NSDB Chairman Florencio Medina, Undersecretary for Agriculture Jose Drilon, Jr., BOI Chairman Vicente Paterno, and Dean Dioscoro Umali, vice president for agriculture and forestry of the University of the Philippines.

February 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS conferred on Ambassador Federico Barrera Fuentes, Mexican envoy to the Philippines, the Order of Sikatuna, rank of Lakan, in a ceremony at Malacañang.

Present at the ceremony were First Lady Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, members of the Cabinet headed by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, members of the diplomatic corps led by Msgr. Carmine Rocco and other ranking government officials.

Ambassador Fuentes was cited for his service in the field of international relations and for his contributions to the furtherance of firm and friendly ties between Mexico and Philippines.

The Mexican envoy was also cited for having initiated steps for greater exchanges along cultural and commercial fields between the two countries and peoples, through trade and cultural missions, as well as friendly visits between government representatives

The ambassador was schedule to return to his home office for reassignment after having served in the Philippines for more than two years.

Earlier, the President participated in a religious ritual marking the departure from Malacañang the image of Our Lady of Fatima which had been brought to the Palace, in the course of its annual visits to churches, hospitals and charity institutions in the Greater Manila area.

Following the diplomatic rites where the President and members of the diplomatic corps also exchange toasts, the President received a number of callers, among them Ambassador Pelagio Llamas.

Ambassador Llamas called for final instructions before assuming his new post as Philippine envoy to the Republic of China. Formerly Consul General in New Orleans, Ambassador Llamas succeeded Ambassador Victorino Paredes who was assigned to the consulate general in Kobe, Japan.

Other Palace visitors were Mayor Norberto Amoranto of Quezon City who had asked for financial assistance in the completion of the new 15-storey City Hall. Rep. Constantino Navarro and Gov. Jose C. Sering of Surigao del norte who sought aid for flood victims in their province, Rep. Indanan Anni of Sulu and U.S. Ambassador Henry Byroade.

Among others, the Chief Executive issued a proclamation further extending up to February 28, 1972 the national education and fund campaign of the PANAMIN Foundation, Inc. to enable it to reach its minimum goal of P3 million to finance its humanitarian activities.

The extension was requested by FANAMIN Secretary Manuel Elizalde, Jr. who informed the President that the fund raising drive of the foundation had been interrupted by natural disasters such as typhoons, and the preoccupation of the people with important events such as the election of Constitutional Convention delegates and the visit here of Pope Paul VI in 1979.

In the afternoon, the President ordered the sending out of copies of his form letter asking citizens for direct comments on the government institution and their kind of service and asking for suggestions on how to improve the public service without any cost on the part of the citizens.

At the same time, the President called upon all officials and employees of the government to implement an institutionalized "ombudsman" in their respective offices, by encouraging citizens having official dealings with them to answer a questionnaire on the kind of service they get from government offices.

The ombudsman is part of the democratic revolution the government has launched, and one of the main vehicles in trying to involve everyone in this movement.

The President's letter said:

"Together we have embarked on a democratic revolution, One of our main vehicles in our common struggle is our government.

"I am as deeply concerned as you are with the services that you get from our government. It is continuously working to improve its public servants and its procedures in order to make it an effective vehicle of our revolution.

"I therefore ask and encourage you to write to me. Tell me what is wrong with it and what you think I can do to improve it, I have attached here a form which you can use, and mail to me without cost to you.

"Thank you for your contribution to push our democratic revolution to victory."

The President, through Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., also promulgated the guidelines to be followed by its financing institutions in setting down rules and regulations to govern their respective programs on housing for low salaried workers.

The guidelines were spelled out to the chairman and general manager of the GSIS, and the chairman and administrator of the SSS. The memorandum asked the following points be considered;

1. A loan coverage of P7,500 minimum and P12,000 maximum.
2. Amortization period of 25 years,
3. No collateral other than the workers' house and lot, both of which are to be financed.
4. Financing of the full value of the workers' house and lot.

The memorandum asked the respective boards of directors of the GSIS and the SSS to convene an early meeting to consider the adoption of liberalized rules and regulations governing the workers' housing programs, according to the aforementioned guidelines.

Secretary Melchor asked the GSIS and the SSS heads to submit their respective reports on the action taken by their boards.

February 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a brisk stream of visitors to Malacañang, beginning with the private meeting he had with Secretary Manuel Elizalde, Jr. of PANAMIN. Prior to his meeting with the PANAMIN head, the President worked in his study going over state papers.

Among the day's visitors were:

1. Officials of the Southeastern Sierra Madre Resources, who accompanied George L. Guthrie, a geologist, who assured the President of oil deposits on the company's concession in Agusan. The officials of the firm present were Col. Jose P. Moran, president, and Alfonso Agcaoile, secretary.
2. Sen. Leonardo D. Perez, with whom the President conferred in private. Also present were Rep. Benjamin Perez and Constitutional Convention Delegate Demetrio Aquino.
3. A delegation from Pangasinan led by Reps. Corazon Primicias, Aguedo Agbayani, Robert Estrella and Antonio P. Villar, with whom the President took up local problems.
4. A delegation from Albay composed of Reps. Roberto Sabido, Carlos Imperial and Amando Cope. He discussed with them matters affecting their respective constituencies.
5. Col. Francisco V. Saula, who demonstrated how alcohol may be used to power a motor car engine. The President himself took the wheel of the test vehicle, a jeep, and drove it around the Malacañang grounds.

In between these callers and through the rest of the day, the President worked at his desk.

February 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS met with a delegation of fishermen from around Manila Bay who sought the government's assistance in preventing illegal fishing and in modernizing their fishing paraphernalia.

In answer to their appeals, the President issued a series of directives to various government agencies, such as:

1. The PC and the Philippine Coast Guard to intensify their campaign against dynamite fishing and other illegal methods, and to apprehend all violators of fishing laws.
2. Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Arturo R. Tanco, Jr. to restudy carefully Administrative Order No. 99 with the view to recommending amendment on the basis of biological studies to be made by the fisheries commissioner.
3. Creation of a Joint Task Force composed of representatives of the Fisheries Commission, the Chief of the PC and the Commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard for the immediate and full implementation of the provisions of Republic Act No. 804S and Fisheries Commission Administrative Order No. 99 regarding the bagnet operators and trawlers over three tons net. who were not included in the injunction orders issued by competent courts.
4. The Philippine Coast Guard to utilize members of the Federation of Small Fisherman's Association in the enforcement of fishing laws.

5. The Central Bank to immediately study the feasibility of adopting a special financing program through the IBRD for small fishermen and to submit its recommendation in seven days.

6. The Greater Manila Terminal Food Market to carry on bulk trading with the small fishermen,

The fishermen's group, which was composed of fishermen from Cavite, Rizal, Bulacan and Pampanga, was led by Naic Mayor Macario Pena, Ben Santos of the Citizens for Better Cavite; Valerico Arzadon, president of the Parañaque Small Fisherman's Association; and Basilio Francisco of the Tondo Federation of Fishermen.

Earlier in the day, the President named two local officials from, Romblon and Dumaguete City.

Appointed were Senen F. Fanio, as member of the provincial board of Romblon; and Ostervaldo Z. Emilio, as member of the municipal board of Dumaguete.

Among others, the President proclaimed Fridays February 5, 1971 as a special, public holiday in the provinces of Lanao del Sur and Sulu, and in the cities of Basilan, Marawi and Iligan, in connection with the feast of "Bidul Adha Almubabak."

Later in the afternoon, the President ordered the withdrawal of METROCOM troops and Quezon City policemen from the campus of the University of the Philippines in Diliman to ease tension prevailing there resulting from the activists barricading the UP campus.

The Chief Executive, however, gave UP President Salvador P. Lopez the responsibility for the maintenance of the peace and order within the university campus.

February 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS met with four city mayors of Greater Manila who reported to him that things have returned to normal in their respective cities.

Those who met the president were Mayors Antonio J. Villegas of Manila, Macario Asistio of Caloocan City, Norberto Amoranto of Quezon City and Jovito Claudio of Pasay City.

Following the conference, the President announced that he was withdrawing the METROCOM troops reinforcing the regular police forces in Greater Manila since the mayors reported that the local police forces could already handle the situation resulting from the activities of student demonstrators.

The mayors also reported that while there were still incidents of violence, these were few and far between and that tension has eased in their respective areas.

The President said, however, that while the METROCOM will be withdrawn from anti-riot duties, routinary mobile patrol by METROCOM will continue. A representative of the local police force will accompany the METROCOM patrol.

"Inasmuch as we now are dealing with simple hooliganism and the commission of crimes, upon the request of local governments, the CIS and other police agencies of the national government have been directed to cooperate with the local officials to immediately identify the perpetrators of crimes and obtain evidence against them," the President said.

"It is hoped," he added, "that this action will help stop the various incidents in the cities."

In an interview aired over the Manila Overseas Press Forum in the evening, the President expressed the feeling that oil companies and other public utility firms should sell part of their securities to the public.

“I think they (oil companies) should now start selling securities to the public. You see, the feeling of most, and I think this is an accurate assessment, is that this is a monopoly which is controlled by a few Americans and these Americans are trying to impose upon our people an unfair and unjust prices. If the securities were sold to the public and were owned by as many people as possible then these accusations will not be valid,” the President said.

Asked on whether he favors buying directly from the oil producing-countries, the President said “this is a very ticklish matter.”

As you have probably been told, the question of the international game of buying and selling oil is that there are cartels, there are monopolies and there are mutual efforts to protect each other. I refer to suppliers as well as the big companies. However, we are looking inks this.”

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: February 5-11, 1971

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

February 5—

PRESIDENT MARCOS challenged all those in the government to make public service the vanguard of the democratic revolution by reorienting it to genuinely benefit the people.

The President issued the challenge when he addressed a seminar of top officials of the Bureau of Internal Revenue shortly before noon.

In his address, the Chief Executive called upon government workers to help provide the moral ground for a democratic revolution based on justice and equity, and designed to return the government to the people.

He pointed out that “government bears within itself the seeds of its own destruction” and that any government, whether authoritarian or democratic, depends upon the compliance of the people to its basic policies.

“Otherwise,” he added, “that government, no matter how strong, will ultimately fail.”

The delegation of top BIR officials, headed by Commissioner Misael P. Vera, Deputy Commissioners Conrado P. Diaz and Ambrosio M. Lina, was received by the President at the Maharlika Hall in Malacañang.

Earlier, the President enjoined the Philippine Labor Alliance to open a dialogue with the jeepney drivers supposed to be on strike and to ask them to help conditions return to normalcy.

The President was informed by Roberto S. Oca, chairman of the PLA, that the first to suffer as a result of the prolonged strike fanned by student demonstrators are the workers who lead a hand-to-mouth existence.

Those who called on the President, besides Oca, were Antonio Ancheta of the Confederation of Unions in Government Corporation (CUGCO), Fortunate Biangco of the Philippine Airlines Employees Association (PALEA), Temistocles Dejon of the Philippine Trade Union Congress (PTUC), Julito Serrano of the Philippine Transport and General Workers Organization (PTGWO), Pedro Fernandez of the Union de Obreros y Estivadores Filipinas (UOEF), Frank M. Nora of the Communications Workers Federation;

Oliver Gesmundo of the CCLU, Johnny S. Oca of the PEPCW. Geronimo Quadra of the Pinagbuklod ng Manggagawang Pilipino (PMP), Vicente Rafael of the Philippine Labor Unity Movement (PLUM), Magfidio H. Cruz of the NADROSS, Antonio Policarpio of the National Labor Union (NLU), and Clemencio Leaño of the NUFM.

Later in the afternoon, the President issued a proclamation approving the First Export Priorities Plan under the Export Incentives Act.

The plan was prepared by the Board of Investments pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act No. 6135, otherwise known as the Export Incentives Act, and was recommended by the National Economic Council.

February 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS renewed his appeal to all government officials and employees to spearhead the democratic revolution by being the first to effect changes and reforms in their daily conduct and attitudes in serving the general public.

The President had occasion to renew his appeal during the rally for “economic emancipation” staged by a representative delegation from different government offices under the auspices of the Kapisanan ng Mga Kawani ng Pamahalaan (KKP).

During the rally in Malacañang, the President also called on the “silent majority” to speak out openly and fearlessly whether they are for the putting to a stop to the intimidation, harassment and terrorism being committed by a radical minority.

He said that a great majority of the people are against communism but that they were being cowed into silence by the terroristic activities of the few who want to overthrow the duly constituted government and impose the communist ideology over the country.

The President pointed out that the government workers, the teachers, and the enlisted men being the symbol of government to the people, it is necessary that they initiate the democratic revolution by being courteous to those who come to their offices, by being efficient in their work, and by helping eradicate corruption.

He also added: “We can no longer allow the few who, by intimidation and coercion, have attained financial power and use that power to terrorize the people in public office for economic gains.”

During the rally, the KKP presented a manifesto of loyalty to the government, assuring the President that they will police and purge their ranks of corrupt and dishonest officials and employees and denounce publicly their acts of venality, dishonesty and irregularity in the public service.

The delegation composed of some 2,000 men and women from various government offices and agencies was headed by Maximo F. Belmonte, KKP president; Salvador Pads, KKP executive vice president; Santos Pascual, KKP vice president (general manager, PPSTA); Esmeraldo Acorda, KKP board member and EPAP president; Juan Echiverri, coordinator for other office; Deogracias Atienza, KKP secretary; Jose Unson, KKP board member; Juan Santos, KKP secretary-general; Undersecretary of Education Juan L. Manuel, Maj. Demetrio Taboji, PTA administrator; Bureau of Lands Assistant Director Eusebio David; Julio Balmes, Superintendent of City Schools David Cruz, Rizal PTA president; Caloocan City Schools Supt. Modesta Boquirin and Max Castañeda of the Land Authority.

Earlier in the day, the President submitted to the Commission on Appointments the nominations of five individuals to various posts in the judiciary.

Those nominated were:

1. Remigio A. Castillo, as city judge of Caloocan City, Branch II;
2. Filemon M. Mendoza, as auxiliary judge of the city court of Caloocan City, Branch IX;
3. Clarito A. Demaala” as municipal judge of Aborlan, Palawan;
4. Sergio A. Bantiles as municipal judge of Kapatagan, Lanao del Norte; and
5. Norodin A. Dimacisil, as clerk of court of the court of first instance of Cotabato, Pagalungan branch.

The President also granted conditional pardon to Anastacia C. Ragot, on recommendation of the Board of Pardons and Parole.

In recommending executive clemency for Ragot, the board said that the prisoner has already served a good portion of her sentence “with very good conduct.”

February 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS devoted the whole morning and most of the afternoon to desk work. He did not receive callers, but consulted with aides as he worked on official papers.

One of the actions taken by the President during the day was the designation of Fr. Horacio de la Costa as chairman of the Burgos, Gomez, Zamora Centennial Commission.

In the executive order which created the commission, the President also designated Supreme Court Associate Justice Calixto O. Zaldivar and Carlos Quirino as additional members of the said commission.

Fr de la Costa filled the post vacated by retired Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, Jose Ma. Paredes, who resigned his chairmanship of the commission when he ran for delegate to the Constitutional Convention.

The Commission was created on October 28, 1963 to take charge of preparations for the observance of the 100th anniversary of the martyrs' execution which falls due on February 17, 1972 The martyr-priests are Fathers Jose Burgos, Mariano Gomez and Jacinto Zamora.

Others in the commission are Secretary of Education Onofre D. Corpuz, vice-chairman; and Luis Montilla, Jose P. Apostol Mrs. Carmen Guerrero Nakpil. National library Director Serafin D. Quiazon and National Museum Director Galo B. Ocampo, members.

February 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS put in a whole morning's work on state papers, including studies on reports of various government agencies.

He received callers in the afternoon and also inducted Jose Drilon, Jr., executive officer of the International Rice Research Institute, as Undersecretary of Agriculture.

Drilon took the place of Arturo R. Tanco, Jr. who has been appointed secretary of agriculture and natural resources.

Among those who witnessed the induction ceremony held at the President's study were Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos, Secretary Tanco, Bureau of Plant Industry Director Eliseo Carandang and Executive Director Roberto Fronda of the National Food and Agriculture Council.

At 4 p.m., about an hour after the induction ceremony, the Chief Executive honored at a reception, the 74 surviving delegates of the 1935 Constitutional Convention in connection with the observance of Constitution Day.

In addressing the guests composed of high government officials and delegates to the 1971 Constitutional Convention who also attended the reception, the President underscored the importance of the forthcoming Constitutional Convention which will "recast, our political, social and economic system to a pattern that will release the deepest potentials of the Filipino people."

He added: "This convention will be, in principle, omnipotent in the sense that no one and no force may hinder the convention in its task of redefining the postulates of our society. But such enormous power, I am sure, will be matched by an equally immense feeling or responsibility."

The President pointed out that the convention will legislate not only for today and tomorrow, but for the ages."

The surviving delegates of the Constitutional Convention of 1935 were:

Manuel Abella, Gaudencio E. Abordo, Felipe Abrigo, Manuel T. Albero, Jose M. Aldeguer, Salvador Araneta, Francisco Arellano, Jose M. Aruego, Eugenio Baltao, Saturnino Benito, Miguel B. Binag, Juan L. Bocar, Jose Bonto, Teofilo B. Buslon, Mateo Cahonoy, Florentine O. Chioco, Atilano E. Cinco, Gaudencio Cloribel;

Miguel Cuaderno, Jose Gutierrez David, Jose M. Delgado, Max Du-guiang, Demetrio B. Encarnacion, Mariano Ezpeleta, Sofronio M. Flores, Vicente J. Francisco, Alejandro A. Galang, Ezekiel S. Grageda, Delfin Gumban, Antonio Guzman, Pedro C. Hernaez, Alejo Labrado, Baldomero M. Lapak, Jose C. Locsin, Eusebio M. Lopez, Tiburcio Lutero, Manuel Lim, Jose M. Lorenzana;

Juanito T. Maramara, Mariano C. Melendres, Pedro D. Melendrez, Antonio J. Montesa, Anastacio A. Mumar, Francisco Muñoz, Dionisio Nierre, Camilo Osias, Jesus Y. Perez, Gabriel P. Prieto, Demetrio Quirino, Jose S. Reyes, Timoteo O. Ricohermoso, Jose E. Romero, Victorino N. Salazar, Vicente Salumbides, Conrado V. Sanchez, Jose G. Sanvictores, Enrique C. Sobrepeña, Numeriano Tanopo;

Arolas Tulawie, Jose C. "Velasco, Juan Ventenilla, Francisco Ventura, Cornelio T. Villareal, Domingo T. Zavalla, Jesus B. Surban, Severo Cea, Juan D. Nepomuceno, Pascual M. Beltran and Enrique Maglanoc.

Also in connection with the observance of Constitution Day, the President earlier issued the following statement:

The commemoration of Constitution Day today takes an added meaning in the light of the Constitutional Convention which will soon convene to consider the restructuring of the basic charter of our nation, so as to make it a more effective framework for nation building and more relevant to our times.

I join all Filipinos in prayerful hope that the coming Constitutional Convention would succeed in laying the premises for the needed transformation of our society, particularly in ridding our society of certain age old inequities which have burdened the mass of our people. In order that our nation may fully flower in freedom and progress, we must make social and economic justice not only an abiding principle of government, but part of our way of life, as guaranteed by the Constitution.

And this is a responsibility that belongs not only to the convention delegates, but all citizens.

We celebrate Constitution Day because we believe in our hearts that it is basically a sound instrument of democracy although there are a few among us who would renounce it by degrading the majesty of the law, and substituting force for the rule of law, but ultimately men of peace and goodwill and with a faith in freedom and in an orderly society will prevail.

I pray that our new Constitution will uphold this ideal and perpetuate a life of freedom and justice for all our people.

February 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS gave final instructions to three Philippine ambassadors assigned to different countries abroad; and received other visitors at Malacañang.

Ambassador Narciso Reyes, newly appointed permanent representative to the United Nations, reported to the President of his initial meetings with the UNDP governing council from January 14 to 29 this year.

A former Philippine envoy to the United Kingdom, Ambassador Reyes informed the President that he had flown direct from London to present his credentials to the UN president in New York and subsequently attended meetings of the UNDP.

Other envoys who received their instructions were Ambassador Gregorio Abad who was assigned to Australia and Ambassador Modesto Farolan who brief the President before returning to his post in Jakarta.

Earlier in the morning, the President signed the ₱4.574 billion national budget proposed for the ensuing fiscal year and sent the same to Congress for its consideration, thus beating the headline set by law for his submission of the appropriations bill for enactment of the legislative body.

The President has 15 days following the opening of the regular session of Congress within which to submit his budget proposal.

Present during the signing were ranking officials of the Budget Commission headed by Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco.

Shortly before noon, the President received a delegation from the Taxicab Operators Association headed by its president, Philip Monserrat, which petitioned their inclusion in the roll-back of prices of regular gasoline, as decreed by the Price Control Council.

The taxi operators explained that their companies have their own gasoline stations but had not been included in the ruling recently promulgated by the PCC regulating the prices of petroleum products.

The President referred their petition to Secretary of Commerce and Industry Ernesto Maceda, acting chairman of the council.

Later, the President received Donald M. Graham, board chairman of the Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust Company, who came to pay his respects. Graham arrived in Manila in the course of a tour of branch offices and agent banks of his organization in the Far East.

Accompanied by Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata, Graham's group included N. Joel Smith, vice president for the Far East and Paul Niemantsverdriet, the bank's representative in the Philippines.

Other callers were provincial delegations which apprised the President on local problems.

In a speech read for him by Dr. Pacifico E. Marcos at the opening program of the BSP Northern Luzon Jamborette at Bacnotan, La Union in the morning, the President said the authentic way to a "meaningful reformation" is by a democratic revolution, a revolution fought not with arms but with convictions, and through the assertion of the will and ideas.

The President stressed further that the people who are in the best position to wage this revolution are the youth, whom he described as "the biggest, most active and most articulate members of our society."

He also added that majority of the country's young men and women are prepared to renew their world in the libertarian manner.

As in the positive approach of scouting to citizenship and nation-building, the President said, these young men and women "see not only the shortcomings but the best features of our society. They see not only the sins but the potentials of our system."

"They would rebuild their society in the manner of builders and engineers and not in the fashion of warriors who know only the power of force".

"The ethic of boy scouting is to effect change in a peaceful manner, to wage revolution the democratic way," he concluded.

February 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS advised a delegation of jeepney operators and drivers affiliated with the Manila South Operators and Drivers Confederation (MAS-CON) to speed up the formation of cooperatives so that the government can extend to them the necessary assistance through said cooperatives.

In his remarks before some 400 jeepney operators and drivers affiliated with MAS-CON, who called on him in the morning, the President lauded the decision of the MAS-CON affiliates to abide with the ruling of the Price Control Council on gasoline prices.

He said that the decision benefitted the people for by standing fast the drivers helped bring about normalcy to the Greater Manila area.

“I thank you for peacefully bringing your problems to the attention of the government,” the President said. “With your support, I am confident that this Republic will not be forsaken but will move forward.”

The confederation, led by Rafael Sarao, MAS-CON president, was accompanied to Malacañang by Pasay City Mayor Jovito Claudio.

Earlier, the First Couple bade visiting Hearst executive Richard Berlin and Mrs. Berlin good-bye at breakfast.

For most of the morning and through the afternoon, he worked on his desk, during which he approved the creation of a commission that will, among others, conduct a conciliation and pacification campaign among the various feuding groups in Cotabato.

Called the Cotabato Peace Commission, it has Gov. Simeon Datumanong as chairman, Lt. Col. Carlos Cajelo, was named co-chairman.

Designated members of the commission were Bishop Gerard Mongeau, Bishop Manguramas, Pablo Mangulabnan and the president of the Cotabato Mayors' League.

Toward early evening, the President broke off from his paper work to appear on a TV program, “Straight from the Shoulder,” as special guest.

Among other visitors received by the President were Senators Rene Espina, Alejandro Almendras and Emmanuel Pelaez.

Senators Espina and Almendras reported on the increase in price of corn grit in Cebu. The President directed Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Arturo R. Tanco, Jr. to channel the corn produce in General Santos City to bring down the rising cost of corn grit in Cebu.

Sen. Pelaez reported to the President a new arrangement between jeepney operators and drivers, which would do away with the anomalous boundary system.

Under the new arrangement, the jeepney operator and driver would become partners and would share equally in the profits and expenses for the operation of the jeepneys.

With Sen. Pelaez were Gov. Concordio Diel of Misamis Oriental, Mayor Arturo Casiño of Tagaloan, same province, Pablo Sasing, representing the jeepney drivers, and Jesus Alinsub, representing the operators.

February 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS started his day working on state papers, but broke off towards mid-morning to receive a stream of callers, mostly congressmen, who discussed with him various local problems.

First to see the President was Rep. Rodolfo B. Albano, Jr. of Isabela who accompanied Mayor Severo Lachica of San Mateo, who requested the release of funds for the reconstruction of the public market which was destroyed by fire.

The President also received Msgr. Mariano Gaviola, secretary-general of the Catholic Bishops of the Philippines, who requested that a government survey be made of some 5,000 hectares of public land in Montalban, Rizal, which would be converted into a housing resettlement and cooperative farming project for urban squatters under the auspices of the Church, as part of the reorientation of the church.

Msgr. Gaviola informed the President that he had already discussed the project with Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Arturo R. Tanco, Jr. and Land Authority Gov. Conrado Estrella, who expressed support for the project.

Later, the President met with Rep. Rogaciano Mercado of Bulacan who requested the Chief Executive to fill the post, of municipal judge of Valenzuela, Bulacan, as soon as the incumbent Judge Teofilo Avejo retires at the end of February.

Mercado recommended Judge Conrado D. Manzana of San Ildefonso for the post to be vacated by Avejo.

Other representatives who discussed local problems with the President were Eduardo Gullas of Cebu, Guillermo Sanchez of Agusan, Rafael Aquino of Sorsogon and Angel Conception of Nueva Ecija.

The congressmen mostly requested for the release of funds allocated to their respective districts for community development projects.

Among the President's prominent action of the day was his approval of the promotion of 739 officers of the armed forces of the Philippines, upon the recommendation of Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile and Gen. Manuel T. Yan, AFP chief of staff.

Source: **University of the Philippines College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: February 12-18, 1971

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

February 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS met his Cabinet primarily to discuss the government reorganization plan which he has to submit to Congress on March 5.

During the meeting, the President emphasized that he was more concerned with the idea of setting up an effective mechanism, which would be embodied in the reorganization plan, for the removal or punishment, of crooked, ineffective and discourteous government personnel, particularly in the Bureau of Customs and the Bureau of Internal Revenue. In advancing the idea, he noted the 60-day suspension required under the Civil Service Law proved too short or outright ineffective in disciplining erring civil servants. The President said that usually after 60 days the crook is back in the government and up to his old tricks,

The Chief Executive recommended that suspensions should be made executory pending the hearing of the administrative charges filed against the accused. However, in fairness of the accused, the President suggested that a period should be set for the final disposition of the administrative case.

On the other hand, the President added, the Commission should also give emphasis to rewarding or recognizing model public servant.

The President directed Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos to make a study of these recommendations and to submit to him his report before the meeting of the Commission with congressional leaders.

Commission Chairman Armand Fabella informed the President that under the tentative plan, the Commission would favor a 10 per cent reduction of government personnel, or about 40,000 employees. Fabella said that the proposal would enable the government to realize an outright savings of about ₱200 million.

Fabella said that the scheme of the plan was actually to eliminate temporary and casual employment except on emergency and seasonal basis. Deserving and necessary casual should be converted to permanent, classified positions. In other words, Fabella said, there would be an eventual professionalism of government service.

Other problems discussed by the Cabinet included the regionalization of the power of department heads and the question of whether there should be only one or more undersecretaries and whether the position should be permanent or political.

The President also instructed members of the Cabinet concerned to attend the Monday meeting with specific schemes for incorporation into the reorganization plan, such as the machinery capable of carrying out more expeditiously the various priority development) programs of the administration, as outlined in his statet-of-the-nation message.

Present at the meeting were Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, Secretary of Education Onofre D. Corpuz, Secretary of Commerce and Industry Ernesto Maceda, Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Arturo R. Tanco, Jr., Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata, Secretary of Public Works and Communications Manuel B. Syquiao, Secretary of Health Amadeo H. Cruz, Secretary of Labor Blas F. Ople, Secretary of General Services Constancio E. Castañeda, Secretary of Social Welfare Gregorio Feliciano, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Press Secretary Francisco S. Tatad;

Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, Reorganization Commission Chairman Armand Fabella, NEC Chairman Gerardo Sicat, OEC Administrator Eduardo Rodriguez, Panamin Secretary Manuel Elizalde, Jr., Presidential Executive Assistant Jacobo C. Clave, Land Authority Governor Conrado Estrella, CNI Commissioner

Mama Sinsuat, Central Bank Governor Gregorio S. Licaros, DBP Chairman Leonides S. Vrata, PNB President Eusebio Villatuya, GSIS General Manager Roman Cruz, Jr., BOI Chairman Vicente Paterno, PES Director-General Apolinario Orosa, SSS Administrator Gilberto Teodoro, NHC Chairman Gaudencio Tobias, PHHC General Manager Sebastian Santiago, and NSDB Chairman Florencio Medina.

Before the President met with his Cabinet, he received a delegation from Sorsogon headed by Rep. Rafael Aquino; and Mayor Datu Balakat Sangki of Ampatuan, Gotabato. The callers discussed local problems with him.

Following a meeting with his official family, the President had a brief rest, and then received the three bar topnotchers from the Far Eastern University, namely, Romulo D. San Juan, Obed C. Cotaran and Jose Baisas.

Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., who accompanied the three topnotchers, said he invited them to join the government and would assign them to the management audit in order to get a good perspective of the work in the government.

During the call, the President expressed the hope that the three new young lawyers would make their services and talents available to the administration.

Later in the afternoon, the President received Raymond Goodman, World Bank director for East Asia, and Mrs. Goodman. They were accompanied to Malacañang by DBP Chairman Leonides S. Virata, CB Governor Gregorio S. Licaros, Secretary Melchor and Secretary Virata.

In the evening, the President was guest of honor and speaker at the closing ceremonies of the 3rd National Convention of Small and Medium Scale Industries, held at the SSS auditorium in Quezon City.

In his speech, the Chief Executive urged the economic community to work hand in hand with government in opening up more opportunities for the poor so that they can “participate fully in the political life of the nation.”

He said that the government has been reorienting domestic policy in order to “redress the balance on the side of the people.”

In other words, he said, where before the emphasis was purely economic, the welfare of the working class must now be taken into account in any development scheme.

“I call on each one of you to join the nation in this effort, this democratic revolution; which should end once and for all the injustices, the abject poverty of the great masses of our people, and the over-reliance on external sources for the sustenance of our economy,” the President concluded.

February 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent most of his working hours at his desk, occasionally calling in for consultation officials in connection with urgent state matters. He had no formal schedule of callers, but was available to visitors with important things to take up with him.

Among others, the President had a conference with Acting Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Arturo R. Tanco, Jr.

Working at his desk through the afternoon and for most of early evening, the President concentrated his attention on the draft of details of, the organization and operation of the Development Performance Evaluation System, a new agency he had created to improve the performance of government agencies concerned with development projects, as well as to meet the urgent need of revitalizing the government structure and the changing directions of development objectives in the coming decade.

The DPES took the place of the proposed Development Performance Task Force.

As organized, the system would encompass the entire spectrum of development activities of government—social, economic, political and national security.

The President also approved the issuance of an entry visa to Florin Gheorgiu, a Rumanian international grandmaster, to play a series of simultaneous chess exhibitions in Manila.

The President approved the visa upon representations made by Ernesto Coronado, secretary-general of the Philippine Chess Federation. The latter said that Gheorgiu would stay here for one week beginning the 18th of February.

February 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered all government departments, bureaus, offices, agencies and instrumentalities to adopt and implement a system of rotation in the assignment of personnel.

Adoption of the system of rotation is designed to improve the career civil service and gear it towards maximum national development.

The President noted that under the present career service, many talented and capable employees could not be fully utilized because of the rigid and constructing rules on such matters as tenure, seniority, length of service, next-in-rank, etc.

He said that a system of rotation would revitalize the public service and gear the bureaucracy, in harmony with the other sectors of society, towards the goal of national development.

By rotation in personnel assignment, he explained, the talents, training, capacities and abilities of civil service employees may be availed of and used in whichever position and whatever functions they are needed without directly violating, and within the bounds of, the existing laws and rules on civil service.

In this regard, the President directed that there should be close coordination among the departments and agencies as to their personnel needs or requirements.

In pursuance of this policy, the President set forth the following guidelines:

1. The actual rotation or assignment of the personnel concerned should be effected in the manner provided in a memorandum of agreement which should be entered into between and among departments, where the rotation or assignment involved is from one department to another.
2. The memorandum of agreement should be between and among bureaus and offices within a department where the rotation or assignment is within the said department, with the approval of the department head.
3. In preparing the memorandum of agreement, the parties to it should always remember that the same is entered into with the objective of removing roadblocks to the full utilization of the talent, training, capability or expertise of career service personnel in the interest of national government.

The President's order was embodied in an Administrative Order issued by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. The order required all concerned to submit as soon as possible a report on action taken, with copies of the memorandum of agreement.

The President spent part of the morning and most of the afternoon in his private study working on other urgent official papers.

February 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS left the whole morning free for himself, with no visitors on his schedule of callers, thus giving him time to discuss thoroughly with the Cabinet the reorganization plan for the executive department of the government. The two-hour meeting, which started at 10 a.m., is the second of a series of meetings on the revamp plan.

The discussions centered mainly on the restructuring and strengthening of the various departments in the executive branch and turning them into primary policy, planning, programming, coordinating and administrative entities in their respective fields.

Included was the proposal of the Reorganization Commission to reduce the number of agencies reporting directly to Malacañang. Of 140 offices under the Office of the President, only 25 were proposed to be retained.

Also taken up was the projected creation of a new department which would take charge of agrarian reforms, community development and local government affairs.

The proposed restructuring and strengthening of the different departments, aimed primarily at minimizing duplication of functions and achieving maximum economy, efficiency and effectiveness, would involve the abolition or merger of commission, bureaus, councils, boards, committees and other like, bodies, or their transfer to more appropriate departments of the government.

It would also involve the merger or “decabinetization” of certain departments in order to integrate or simplify overlapping functions and turn them into effective, unified agencies of the government.

It was agreed at the meeting, however, that each department should have only one undersecretary who should be a career administrator, to insure continuity of policies despite changes in political administration.

In the afternoon, the President worked for sometime at his desk, then at 4:30 p.m., he honored the officers and members of the City Judges Association of the Philippines at a merienda-cena. The city judges called on the President after the termination of their three-day convention.

In his brief remarks before the judges, the Chief Executive warned that injustice is one of the main causes of violent revolution that could lead to the overthrow of governments.

He then called upon the members of the judiciary to join the “democratic revolution” by showing more dedication in the administration of justice in their respective jurisdictions.

The President said that the “democratic revolution,” as an alternative to violent revolution, would not only mean the restructuring of Philippine society or the narrowing down of the cleavage between the rich and the poor.

It also assures equal justice to all segments of our society,” he added.

The group, which was accompanied to Malacañang by Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos, was led by its president, Judge Buenaventura J. Guerrero of Quezon City.

Upon the request of the group, the President authorized the release of ₱61,250 for the employment of 102 process servers to help facilitate the early resolution of cases pending before the city courts.

Later in the evening, the President conferred with NP congressmen representing constituencies in the Bicol Region, the Visayas and Mindanao.

February 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS certified to Congress four urgent measures, including an anti-trust act, which he had proposed in his state-of-the-nation message last January.

The measures are:

1. An act outlawing restraints on trade and curbing monopolies, combinations and other similar practices.
2. An act which further amends Republic Act No. 409 of the Revised Charter of Manila,
3. An act appropriating ₱250,000 for the holding of, the 5th Joint World Anti-Communist League Conference and the 17th Asian Peoples' Anti-Communist League Conference in Manila in 1971.
4. An act strengthening the independence of the Supreme Court as the court of last resort and the Presidential Electoral Tribunal.

Aside from certifying these vital measures, the President was kept busy in the morning by a stream of callers that begun with the visit of Rep. Cornelius Gallagher, chairman of the Far East Sub-Committee on Foreign Affairs of the U. S. House of Representatives.

Congressman Gallagher, arrived in Manila in the course of an Asian tour. He was accompanied in paying a courtesy call on the President by Elmer Hullen of the US Embassy.

The former informed the President of the extensive hearings being conducted by his sub-committee on the future role of the United States in Asia, the Nixon Doctrine, and the effects of the reduction of U. S. troops in Asia.

Gallagher arrived Sunday, February, 14, to inspect U. S. military installations in Subic and Clark Field before proceeding to other Asian countries.

Later, the President conferred with Ambassador Hortencio Brillantes, who planed in Friday, February 12, for consultations.

At mid-morning, the President inducted the newly-elected officers of the Philippine Chamber of Communications, Inc., an organization of telegraph and telephone companies headed by Bernardo Silverio, president of Capitol Wireless.

Among other Presidential callers were Rep. Vicente Cerilles of Zamboanga del Sur and Mayor Ponciano Guillen of Molave; Governor Salvacion Yñiguez of Leyte and Rep. Lamberto Marias of Negros Oriental.

February 17—

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE further discussed with his Cabinet the proposed integrated reorganization plan for the executive branch of the government prior to its submission to Congress.

In the meeting, the President approved the proposal of the Reorganization Commission creating two new departments in government geared towards hastening agrarian reform, community development and the amelioration of local governments.

Going deeper into the plan, the President stressed to the Commission the need to eliminate overlapping powers and functions of office and to simplify business procedures of the government.

Another meeting of the Cabinet was scheduled to further discuss the reorganization plan.

Earlier, the President inducted Ligaya Perez as member of the Board of Examiners for Optometry.

At 4 p.m., the President addressed some 400 officials of various provincial and city chapters of the Philippine Public School Teachers Association of the Philippines, who called at Malacañang.

In brief remarks, the President urged the reactivation of the parent-teachers associations and supported the plan of public school teachers to hold rural congresses throughout the country.

“Let us not default in the performance of our duties not only as teachers but as parents and let us guide our children in the ways of freedom,” the President said. “It is necessary for each and everyone of us to undertake his own mission.”

The President pledged to support the efforts of the school teachers with all the facilities at his command.

Early in the evening, the President video-taped an interview on television with a panel of reporters from the morning dailies.

February 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a heavy schedule that started with the call of the members of the presidential commission which, undertook the survey and assessment of the country's educational system.

Chairmanned by Secretary of Education Onofre D. Corpuz, the Commission recommended the total overhaul of the educational system and its reorientation to the present goals of national development,

The President also received the 25-man study group on Asian Tax Administration and Research which held a seminar in Manila on tax collection and incentives promotion. Participants from, nine Asian countries composed the study group.

The President was informed by Rep. Artemio Loyola that the Philippine delegation, of which he is the chairman, has proposed the establishment of an Asian Center for Tax Administration and Research. The group was accompanied to Malacañang by Secretary of Finance Cesar A. Virata,

Among other callers on the President were Mayor Lucio Gutierrez of Malabon, Delegate-elect Domingo Guevarra, former Rep. Carmen Dinglasan Consing and former Cavite Governor Dominador Camerino.

In the evening, the President met with some 100 business, trade and industrial leaders, representing a fair cross-section of the economic community, at the Makati residence of Jesus Cabarrus, a mining industrialist, during which he enlisted the Support of business and industry behind a long-range massive housing program for the common laborers.

The President also sounded out the private sector on the various features which may be incorporated into a proposed exports incentives bill which he will submit to Congress.

The administration's proposed low-cost housing program will be submitted by the President for Senate Committee hearings.

Present during the three-hour conference were Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Secretaries Cesar E. A. Virata of the Department of Finance; Arturo R. Tanco, Jr. of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Ernesto Maceda of the Department of Commerce and Industry; NEC Chairman Gerardo Sicat, RCA Chairman Alfredo Montelibano, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Jose D. Ingles, CB Governor Gregorio S. Licaros, GSIS General Manager Roman.

Cruz, Jr., SSS Administrator Gilberto Teodoro, Minister Sergio Barrero of DFA, House Majority Floorleader Marcelino Veloso and Johnny Araneta of the Export Coordinating Center.

From the private sector were Manuel Elizalde, Jesus and Jose Cabarrus, Jose Ma. Soriano, Andres Soriano, Jr., Washington and Alfonso Sycip, Domingo Guevara, Manuel Lim, Polly Cayetano, Ramon V. del Rosario, Hans Menzi, Jose Campos, Antonio Roxas-Chua, Jose de la Cruz, Generoso Tanseco, Greg Timbol, Sebastian Ugarte, and many others.

While working on state papers earlier in the afternoon, the President issued an administrative order formally removing from office Felipe B. Pareja, city treasurer of Cebu. Pareja and three others were sentenced to life imprisonment by the Court of First Instance of Cebu for the murder of Antonio Abad Tormis, editor of the *Republic News* of Cebu City. The sentence was later affirmed by the Supreme Court.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: February 19-25, 1971

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

February 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a full measure of desk work, but broke off from it from time to time to receive a number of callers on his schedule.

One of the first to call on him was Greek Ambassador Dimitri Avramidis, whom the President received at the guest house of Malacañang, the *Pangarap*. The Greek envoy to the Philippines paid a farewell call prior to his departure for Athens.

Ambassador Avramidis has completed his two-year tour of duty here.

Among the President's other callers were Rep. Cornelio T. Villareal and Gov. Cornelio Villareal, Jr. of Capiz, and a delegation from Agusan headed by Rep. Democrito O. Plaza. They took up local problems concerning their respective constituencies.

During the day, the President also submitted to the Commission on Appointments for its consideration 44 nominations for various posts in the Department of Justice.

The President worked at his desk hi the afternoon and through the evening, during which he:

1. Issued an administrative order redefining the functions and status of the Infrastructure Operations Center;
2. Named Johnny Araneta and Francisco Oira as members of the executive committee for the 21st Colombo Plan consultative committee meeting; and
3. Declared. Wednesday, February 24, as special public holiday in Cebu City so that the city can mark properly its charter anniversary.

February 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS officiated at the inauguration in the afternoon of the prefabricated low-cost house factory of the National Housing Corporation at Tala, Caloocan City.

The President delivered the main address and pushed the lever activating the porous cement block factory while the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, unveiled the markers.

In his brief remarks, the President said that the administration has embarked on a massive low-cost housing program in order to narrow the gap between the actual needs for housing and the actual rate of construction,

He said that the NHC is the administration's answer to all the dreams and aspirations of the poor to own houses they could call their own.

"We dedicate this vast production complex we are now inaugurating," the President said, "to the small man, in accordance with our pledge in my state-of-the-nation address to launch a democratic revolution."

The President confined himself to his private study the whole morning working on state papers, in the course of which he issued an executive order reconstituting the Committee on Wood Industries Development (CWID) and two proclamations, one declaring the first week of March of every year as "Better Environment Week," creating a

committee to take charge of its observance; and the other setting the period from March 29 to April 4, 1971 as "Tax Consciousness Week."

The President reconstituted the CWID in view of the capabilities for rapid growth and expansion of the local wood industry.

The President stressed the need for the accelerated development of the country's wood industry as a vital factor of the country's economic program, and proposed that the government provide a stable environment for the industry, in return for which a fair share of the proceeds of forest products and services would go to the government.

In proclaiming Better Environment Week, the President pointed out that the health, welfare, and general well-being of the people depend on the quality of the country's physical environment.

It is important, he said, to foster public consciousness of the importance of good environment, which could be maintained through the conservation, wise utilization and development of natural resources, including national parks, wildlife, and marine resources, as well as the wise use of land, water and air.

The President proclaimed Tax Consciousness Week because of the need of instilling into the citizenry a greater awareness of their obligations as citizens, and of underscoring the taxpayer's role in promoting economic progress and in pursuing nation-building.

It is the civic obligation and patriotic duty of every citizen to pay his just taxes promptly, the President said.

February 21—

With his day clear of scheduled callers, President Marcos had time to concentrate more fully on official papers and other urgent matters of state.

He continued his review of the reorganization of the executive branch of the government, as recommended by the Reorganization Commission, even as he scheduled another meeting with his Cabinet on this matter.

In the afternoon, the President worked on state papers, in the process issuing a proclamation designating the years 1971, 1972 and 1973 as the golden jubilee years of scouting in the Philippines.

The designation of the three-year period was made to focus the nation's attention to the important and far-reaching effects of scouting in the country.

The President noted that the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, through the Golden Jubilee board and committees, is undertaking long-term projects and programs.

These are designed, he said, to prepare the movement for even greater and more significant national and community development in the coming years, by providing the youth with opportunities for meaningful service to community and the nation.

February 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS held morning and afternoon sessions with his Cabinet to finalize the integrated reorganization plan for the executive branch of the government. Also present at the afternoon session to which Congress leaders were invited were Senate President Protempore Jose J. Roy, Senators Dominador Aytona, Wenceslao R. Lagumbay and Lorenzo Teves; and Reps. Justiniano S. Montano, Rogaciano Mercado, Jose Alberto and Rafael B. Legaspi.

In between these two conferences, the President did his usual desk work. He had no callers except for the delegation of San Miguel Corporation distributors in the United States, who paid a courtesy call.

The President thanked the group for their response to his call for intensifying the national campaign to encourage tourism and the development of export products.

Accompanying the group were SMC officials, including Andres Soriano, Jr., president; Joaquin B. Preysler, executive vice president; Col. Lee A. Telesco, assistant vice president; A. E. Streegan, U. S. marketing director; G. Adolfo Roenach, beer marketing division manager; Jose A. Carpio, public relations office manager; Augusto de Asis, expert department manager; Mariano Limjap, marketing service manager; Felix Avellana, general sales manager; and M. J. Edralin, Jr., public relations coordinator.

Because of his morning and afternoon conferences, the President was not able to attend the opening convention of the Assembly of Teachers, Future Agricultural Homemakers and Future Farmers in Batac, Ilocos Norte.

He however asked Undersecretary of Agriculture Jose Drilon, Jr. to read his speech prepared for the occasion, in which the President expressed the government's determination to pursue land reform "to break up the shackles of feudalism in our land tenure system."

Pointing to the "period of change" the nation is undergoing, he said that Filipinos "must accept the reality of change or change will impose itself upon us."

The administration itself, he said, is committed to democratic change and has "set in motion a peaceful revolution."

The change initiated by the government, he said, "to emancipate our farmers" will be achieved not through violence but through a democratic revolution "within the framework of our Constitution and our laws."

February 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS devoted most of the morning to his desk work, then motored to the Savoy Hotel where he was the keynote speaker at the ministerial meeting of the Colombo Plan.

in his address, the Chief Executive underscored the need for organized cooperation among nations "on a scale that transcends regional and ideological boundaries," as an imperative for survival of all developing and "rich and developed nations."

"The dominant anxiety of our times center on the necessity to remove the source of this major peril to the future of human society," the President asserted.

This source, he said, is found in the "existing disparity between the few powerful states and the many weak states with their impoverished peoples," the sharp disparity in the conditions of life, economic opportunities and social status.

"Indeed a disparity," the President added, "that is an anachronism and an abnormality in the modern world."

The President said that there has developed from this disparity the urgent need to "defuse the tension and impatience in depressed regions that comprised the 'Third World.' "

In the afternoon, the President addressed the conference of Catholic Broadcasters in Asia held at the Malacañang Ceremonial Hall, during which he urged communication media men to abide by the truth in reporting or expounding on the news, relating this activity to the proper and peaceful realization of reform and change.

He said that he had no doubt that the overwhelming majority of the Filipino people can be mobilized by network media to provide the power for effecting the “radical process of democratic change that I envision.”

The President told the broadcasters that it is “up to men like you, artisans of the spoken word and molders of responsible thought, to pour into this waiting matrix (the people’s hearts and minds) the substance of the Filipino dream and the spirit of reform that will make the fulfillment of that dream possible in our time.”

Then, at about 6:30 p.m., the President and the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, hosted a merienda for the delegates to the Colombo Plan conference.

Among those present were Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, Undersecretary Manuel Collantes, former Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Mrs. Narciso Ramos, Secretary of Labor Blas F. Ople, NEC Chairman Gerardo Sicat, Assistant Executive Secretary Ponciano G. A. Mathay, Japanese Ambassador Toshio Urabe, Deputy Prime Minister Pote Sarasin of Thailand, Minister Richard Wood for Overseas Development of the United Kingdom, and the delegates from Australia, Bhutan, Burma, Canada, Ceylon, India, Indonesia, Iran, Khmer Republic, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Netherlands, Pakistan, Singapore, United States, Vietnam and Germany.

February 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS received in the morning the board of directors of the Provincial, City and Municipal Treasurers and Assessors Association of the Philippines, who extended an invitation to the President to keynote their annual convention on March 15, 1971.

Afterwards, the President worked at his desk, but in-between, he also received callers, among whom, were Reps. Constantino Navarro of Surigao del Norte, James Chiongbian of South Cotabato, Roberto Sabido of Albay, Angel Concepcion of Nueva Ecija, Manuel Zosa of Cebu and municipal officials of Paranaque headed by Mayor Florencio Bernabe who discussed local problems with him.

In the afternoon, the President presided over a joint meeting of the leaders of both chambers of Congress and members of the Cabinet, during which Reorganization Commission Chairman Armand Fabella briefed them on the proposed reorganization bill to effect simplicity, efficiency and economy in the government service.

During the conference, the President was also assured by the leaders of Congress that the deadline for his submission of the National Government reorganization bill will be extended another 60 days up to May 5.

Under the law, the President has to submit the bill not later than 40 days after the start of the regular session of Congress or up to March 5.

The President then explained to the Congress leaders that he could use the time to review the report with them, since the bill has to be rejected or approved *en toto*.

It was later decided by the President and the legislative leaders that a series of meetings be held with all members of both Houses of Congress present, in order to thresh out points of possible disagreement and insure the swift passage of the bill.

Present at the meeting were Senate President Gil J. Puyat and President Protempore Jose J. Roy, Majority Floorleader Arturo M. Tolentino and Minority Floorleader Gerardo M. Roxas; Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr. and Speaker Protempore Jose Aldeguer, House Majority Floorleader Marcelino Veloso and Minority Floorleader Justiniano Montano; Senators Benigno Aquino, Jr. and Lorenzo Teves, and Reps. Rogaciano Mercado and Rafael Legaspi, representing the Senate and House panels in the Reorganization Commission; Reorganization Commissioners Cesar Zalamea and Roberto Ongpin, Executive Director Abelardo Samonte; Secretaries Cesar E. A. Virata of Finance, Manuel B. Syquiao of Public-Works and Communications, Onofre D. Corpuz of Education and

Blas F. Ople of Labor; Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., NEC Chairman Gerardo Sicat and Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco.

During the day, the Chief Executive submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation the names of five nominees to various local posts.

Nominated were Gregorio Besinga, as city treasurer of Surigao City; Antolin J. Ouano, as register of deeds of Mandaue City; Saaduddin A. Alauya, Jose G. Genilo, Jr., and Santos Adiong as municipal judges of Bubong and Ditsaan, Lanao del Sur; Calapan, Mindoro Oriental; and Piagapo, Lanao del Sur, respectively.

February 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS concentrated on paper work, in the course of which he directed the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources to expedite action on mining claims, and Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos to personally conduct an investigation into the graft charges aired by Sen. Alejandro D. Almendras against two members of the Cabinet and six other government officials.

Charged by the senator for having allegedly violated the Anti-Graft Law were Secretaries Manuel B. Syquiao of Public Works and Communications and Onofre D. Corpuz of Education, CAA Administrator Federico Ablan, Jr., former secretary of General Services Salih Ututalum, acting Telecommunications Director Pedro Villaseñor, NDC Chairman Constante Fariñas, former officer-in-charge Celerino Delgado of the Bureau of Supply Coordination, and former Public Schools Director Jose Enriquez.

The President ordered the Justice Secretary to “proceed with a full-dress investigation of the charges to determine if there is sufficient evidence to support the alleged culpability of these officials under the anti-graft and corrupt practices law.”

He likewise told Secretary Abad Santos to submit to him before the end of the week his recommendations on whether or not any or all of the officials charged should be temporarily suspended pending the investigation of the charges.

Toward noon, the President took time out to meet the officers of the Association of Rice Millers of Bulacan, with whom he threshed out the problem of rising prices in Manila and suburbs. The President asked the group to stabilize prices at present levels, poising drastic action if hoarding and rice manipulations are resorted to by rice dealers.

Present at the meeting with the President were Secretary of Commerce and Industry Ernesto Maceda, Undersecretary Troadio Quiazon, Jr., Undersecretary of Agriculture Jose D. Drilon, Jr., RCA General Manager Pedro Rodrigo and Mrs. Magdalena Santos, head of the Association.

In the afternoon, the President continued his desk work, during which he prepared and went over the list of nominees to various public posts he sent to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation.

In one of the directives he issued in the afternoon, the Chief Executive ordered the AFP to refrain from initiating any aggressive action against the so-called black-shirts in Mindanao and to stop any intended reinforcement of the troops there.

He gave the order as he appealed for sobriety and calmness and asked all these in a position to help ease tension in the South.

The President indicated that a more definitive action on this matter would await reports from the field from two teams now in Mindanao, one of them headed by Brig. Gen. Rafael Ileta, Philippine Army commander.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Official Week in Review: February 26 – March 4, 1971

February 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS conferred with Director of Forestry Jose Viado and Director of Mines Fernando Busuego, Jr. on the progress of priority projects being undertaken by their respective bureaus.

Director Viado presented to the President a vegetative map of the Philippines delimiting the areas for forest reserves, national parks, principal logging concessions, commercial forests, alienable and disposable lands which were given priority in the budget proposals submitted by the President to Congress.

In land classification, priorities were given to reservations for native settlers and cultural minorities, while in land subdivision, preferences were given to actual occupants or tillers.

Director Busuego, on the other hand, reported that the delay in the issuance of permits for oil exploration was due to the failure of many applicants to meet standard policy requirements.

The President has ordered expeditious action on pending permits, and laid down the policy that only applicants who are technically and financially competent should be given licenses for oil explorations.

Also at the conference were Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Arturo R. Tanco, Jr. and Antonio Quejado, presidential assistant on forest matters.

Earlier in the morning, the President conferred with U.S. Ambassador Henry Byroade.

Then the President received Rep. Jiew Jow Leou of Nationalist China who presented him with a maple sculpture of the “god of good luck which, he said, was a sample of one of the native handicraft in Taiwan.

Later, the President inducted the newly elected officers of the Philippine Automotive Association headed by Anthony Lee.

In the afternoon, he conferred with government officials and religious leaders who came from Cotabato on their assessment of the peace and order situation in the province.

Present at the conference were Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, Brig. Gen. Eduardo Garcia, PC chief; Commissioner of National Integration Mama Sinsuat, Commissioner of Small Settlers Raoul Beloso, Bishop Gerard Mongeau of Cotabato City, and members of the mass media.

The President also issued an Executive Order creating The Order of Kalantiao award to be given to any citizen of the Philippines for exceptional and meritorious services in the administration of justice and in the field of law.

The Order of Kalantiao is divided into four ranks, as follows:

1. First Class—for extraordinary services and high standards of performance in the judicial branch of government, notably in the Supreme Court, or in the field of international law;
2. Second Class—for exceptionally meritorious services in the judicial and other branches of government;
3. Third Class—for outstanding services in the administration of justice in the government;
4. Fourth Class—for excellent services in the enhancement of the rule of law and high degree of professionalism and integrity in private law practice.

In his Executive Order creating the decoration, the President also said that the Order of Kalantiao may also be awarded posthumously to any person entitled thereto, in which case it shall be received by his legal heirs or nearest kin.

February 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS worked at his desk for most of the morning acting on state papers and other official business.

At noon he broke off, to receive a delegation composed of members of the Future Farmers of the Philippines and the Future Agricultural Homemakers of the Philippines.

The President was visibly relaxed with the young people, whom he lauded for being engaged at their age in a very important area of activity, saying that the escalation of national efforts to develop fully the agricultural potentials of the country requires the participation of the young.

The President urged rural youths who have migrated to urban centers to “renew their kinship with the soil and thus help the government increase its capabilities in fully exploiting the green revolution to benefit the mass of the people.”

He told the students that one of the top priorities in the Reorganization Plan of the government is related to the reorientation of the entire educational system from academic to vocational education with emphasis on agricultural courses.

The delegation was accompanied to Malacañang by officials of the Bureau of Vocational Education, headed by Assistant Director Napoleon Dignadice.

After lunch, the President rested briefly then returned to his desk work. He remained at his study till about 5 p.m. when he conferred with Mindanao leaders on the Cotabato situation.

Among those present were Gov. Simeon Datumanong and Lt. Col. Carlos Cajelo, PC provincial commander and co-chairmen of the Peace Commission, Bishops Gerard Mongeau and Constantino Manguramas, members; Mayor Dima Dalid of Carmen, president of the Cotabato Mayors League, Undersecretaries of national Defense Efren Plana and Jose M. Crisol, Undersecretary of Agriculture Jose Drilon, Jr., Undersecretary of Justice Guillermo Santos, Sen. Mamintal A. Tamano, Rep. Salipada A. Pendatun, Commissioner of Small Settlers Raoul Beloso, Commissioner of National Integration Mama Sinsuat, Mayor Udtog Matalam, Jr. of Pikit, Duma Sinsuat, Datu Abdullah Sangki, Mrs. Ester Blah Sinsuat, Gen. Manuel T. Yan, AFP chief of staff; Brig. Gen Rafael Ileto, PA commanding general, and Brig. Gen. Eduardo Garcia, PC chief.

February 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS limited his schedule of callers to only one group, even as he concentrated more on official papers and other matters of state.

He started his paper work after having breakfast, then broke off at about 11:30 a.m. to receive the governors of Central Banks of several Asian countries who had met in Baguio City on regional cooperation.

The bank officials, who were accompanied to Malacañang by CB Gov. Gregorio Licaros, included Ismael Bin Mohamed Ali of Malaysia, Radius Prawiro of Indonesia, Long Boret of Cambodia, Y. P. Pant of Nepal, and Nguyen Van Dong of South Vietnam.

Following the call of the CB governors, the President had lunch, then took a brief rest. He resumed his desk work later in the afternoon.

March 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS worked as usual early in the morning on state papers, in the course of which he:

1. Issued a proclamation extending the deadline for applying for free patents, to give national minorities ample time to perfect their petitions for land title;
2. Created a Fertilizer Commission to assess the current situation of the fertilizer industry and its needs; and
3. Submitted to the Commission on Appointments the designation of Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. as alternate governor representing the Philippines in IBRD, as well as a number of nominees to posts in the Office of the Solicitor General.

At noon, the President received representatives of PHILCOA workers and PHILCOA Chairman Eliseo Carandang and Roberto Oca, PMP president, who were accompanied to Malacañang by Secretary of Labor Blas F. Ople.

The President conferred with the workers who were on strike and convinced them to return to work.

At the same time, the President ordered that a program be drafted, aimed at scaling up the planting of high yield coconuts and the full utilization of coconut by-products.

In the afternoon, the President was back at his desk to continue working on state papers, but disengaged from it once more to receive Sen. Jose J. Roy, who presented to him on behalf of the Philippine Lawyers' Association Volumes 3 and 4 of the book on the Philippine Constitution published by the P.L. A.

March 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS worked on state papers through the morning, among other things designating Assistant Executive Secretary Ponciano G.A. Mathay as acting secretary of justice, during the absence of Justice Secretary Vicente Abad Santos who left for abroad to attend an international conference; and extending pardons to 45 penalized jockeys and racehorses.

In the afternoon, the President conferred with Mindanao leaders on the Cotabato situation, with the aim of restoring as soon as possible normalcy to that province.

The President appealed for understanding, particularly to the people of Cotabato—Muslims, Christian, and Tirurays—in order to maintain the unity of the people under one Republic and one flag.

At the end of the three-hour conference, it was agreed that the agreement of December 27, 1970, arrived at in a peace conference in Cotabato, be fully implemented.

The agreement was that all unlicensed guns would be confiscated in an intensive province-wide campaign, the Philippine Constabulary and all other law enforcement agencies work on the investigation of alleged training grounds of armed men to stop once and for all the suspicions of alleged activities of armed elements whether outlaws or subversive organization, and the civic action work will continue.

Present at the conference were Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Rep. Salipada Pendatun of Cotabato, Senators Mamintal Tamano, Leonardo Perez, Alejandro Almendras, Lorenzo Tañada and Helena Benitez of the Senate committee on national minorities.

Reps Ramon Durano, Guillermo Sanchez, Mariano Peñaflorida, Manuel Zosa, Felipe Azcuna, Corazon Primicias, Antonio Villar, and Benjamin Perez, Artemio Mate, Teodoro Galagar and Pedro Roa of the House committee on national minorities;

Gov. Simeon Datumanong, Lt. Col. Carlos Cajelo, Bishop Constancio Manguramas, and Mayor Datu Dalid of the Cotabato Peace Commission; Mayors Nicolas Dequina of Midsayap, P. de la Cerna of Libungan, Jorge Labog of Lebak, Hadji Drus Ali of Palimbag, Datu Michael Sinsuat of Upi, Don Ampatuan of Bagumbayan; Reps. Ali Dimaporo and Indanan Anni, Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, Defense Undersecretaries Efren Plana and Jose Crisol, Gen. Manuel Yan, Brig. Gen. Eduardo Garcia, Brig. Gen. Rafael Iletto, Brig. Gen. Fidel Ramos, Datu Abdullah Sangki, Ester Blah Sinsuat and others.

Among the few callers received by the President during the day were Mrs. Anna Chenault, who called on the President to pay her respects, and a number of provincial governors and city mayors, who took up matters concerning their respective constituencies.

The President then inducted former Justice Undersecretary Ramon Fernandez and former CFI Judge Luis B. Reyes, as associate justices of the Court of Appeals; and Assistant Executive Secretary Ponciano G.A. Mathay as acting Secretary of Justice.

The appointments of Justices Fernandez and Reyes were approved by the Commission on Appointments.

Secretary Mathay would head the justice department in the absence of Secretary Vicente Abad Santos who left to represent the Philippines in the conference on the Peaceful Uses of the Seabed and Ocean Floor Beyond the Limits of Jurisdiction.

March 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS issued three proclamations excluding from Davao del Norte Penal Colony three parcels of land aggregating some 4,023 hectares which would be made available to the public as settlement farms. The public lands segregated for distribution to settlers consist of 1,913 hectares in Barrio Dujali, Panabo; 910 hectares in the Logan area in Sto. Tomas; and 1,200 hectares in the Solis area in Barrios Palangaan and Bobongan, Sto. Tomas.

Distribution of the land would be made through the Land Authority so that technical and financial assistance may be extended to the farmers and speculation and landlordism be prevented.

The President signed the proclamations in the presence of a provincial delegation led by Rep. Lorenzo S. Sarmiento, and which included Gov. Verulo C. Boiser, Vice Gov. Cecilia A. dela Paz, Board Members Ruperto O. Garcia, Dominador F. Selga and Candido M. Perales, Mayor Gregorio Dujali of Panabo, president of the Mayors League of the province; and Mayors Feliciano Ganade of Sto. Tomas and Hermenegildo Baloyo of Tagum.

Later, the Chief Executive received the credentials of Ambassador Eduardo Lauro Novaro, new Argentine envoy to the Philippines.

In presenting his credentials, the new envoy pledged to carry on the mission of his predecessors to further strengthen the cordial ties between his country and the Philippines.

Responding in Pilipino, the President assured Ambassador Novaro of full government cooperation in the achievement of the common goals of their two countries.

Present at the presentation ceremony held at Malacañang shortly before noon were members of the Cabinet headed by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo and ranking officials of the Argentine embassy in Manila headed by First Secretary Alberto Agrelo.

In the afternoon, the President submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation the nominations of 19 individuals to various government posts.

Submitted were nominations of one as first assistant city fiscal, one as second assistant city fiscal, five as clerks of courts, three as municipal judges, one as register of deeds, one as city assessor, one as chairman of the board of assessment appeals, four as members in the board of assessment appeal, and one as member of the board of dental examiners.

March 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS discussed plans for updating the radar system at the Manila International Airport and the Mactan Airport in Cebu with Secretary of Public Works and Communications Manuel B. Syquio, CAA Administrator Federico Ablan, Jr., and Col. Jesus Villamor (ret.), who called at Malacañang for the purpose.

Also taken up during the meeting were certain aspects of the national electrification program.

After the meeting, the President received a group headed by Mayor Lino David of Tarlac, Tarlac, to discuss local problems. Others in the group were Councilor Benjamin Rivera. Municipal Treasurer Antonio Punzalan and Assistant Treasurer Butch Nicolas.

Of special concern to the Tarlac mayor was the reconstruction of the public market which was razed by fire. He said that the town needed financial aid to rebuild the market.

Next to see the President was a delegation from Bataan led by Rep. Pablo R. Roman, who conferred with the former on the free port zone in that province. With them in the meeting were Secretary Syquio and Teodoro Peña, who heads the Foreign Trade Zone Authority.

Peña showed the President the blueprint of the planned facilities within the zone, including piers and the housing project to be built by the SSS.

Other callers were Allan Foran, general manager of Ford Philippines, who conveyed the appreciation of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ford II for the

Hospitality extended them during their recent visit here; the new set of officers of the Philippine Association of Board Examiners, who were inducted by the President, with Eric Nubla as president; a delegation of the Provincial Election Supervisors Association of the Philippines, led by Rodolfo C. de Guzman, association president, who petitioned the President for a raise in the salary of the supervisors.

In the afternoon, the President confined himself mostly to his desk work, during which he signed the nomination of Jose M. Evangelista as Chief of Mission, Class III, with the rank of ambassador.

A career diplomat, Minister Evangelista was recommended by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo and the Board of Foreign Service of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Evangelista has, until his nomination, held the rank of Chief of Mission, Class III. He was the last of the three Deputy Chiefs of Mission in Tokyo before his promotion.

During the day, the President ordered the dismissal from the service of two municipal judges who had been found guilty of charges ranging from immorality to grave abuse of judicial power.

Ordered dismissed were Leandro P. Reyes, municipal judge of San Jose, Mindoro Occidental and Francisco D. Boter, municipal judge of Midsalip, Zamboanga del Sur.

The removal of the two judges was recommended by the secretary of justice, who concurred with the findings of the district judge assigned to investigate them.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

Marcos, F. E. (1971). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 67 (10), lxxxvii-xcii.

President's Week in Review: March 5-11, 1971

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

March 5.—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had an unexpected reunion with a former comrade-in-arms, Sgt. Gregorio Sampag, (ret.), who served with him in the 14th Infantry Regiment, USAFIP-NL, during the war.

Visiting in Manila with his family, the burly sergeant, now a farmer in Quezon province, took a chance in seeing the President by contacting Lt. Col. Venancio Duque, also a fellow guerilla and now the President's appointments secretary. Duque, then arranged for the former sergeant to meet his unit commander, the President. It was a pleasant occasion for both.

Aside from his reunion with his former comrade-in-arms and a courtesy call given to him by 11 exchange students sponsored by Rotary International from Australia and the United States, the President had no other visitors on his schedule.

The youngsters, all girls, were Sue Fairly, 17, Julie Whitehead, 15, and Brian Kildea, 17, from Australia; Marcia Busto, 17, and Pel Roselle, 18, from New York; Debbie Grub, 17, from Oregon; Diana Sawyer, 17 from Illinois; Joanne Wagner, 17, from Pennsylvania; and Sharon Robinson, also 17, from Ohio.

Along toward noon, the President sat down for an interview with Mrs. Gloria Abaya, a representative of McGraw publications.

In the afternoon and through the evening, the President concentrated on his desk work, during which he signed the designation papers of Small Farmers Commission Chairman Raoul H. Beloso, as one of the action officers of the Presidential Action Committee for Land Reform.

Beloso took the place of former Undersecretary of Natural Resources Isosceles Pascual, who had retired, as action officer of the committee.

The committee was organized by virtue of Executive Order No. 251 dated July 31, 1970 to expedite and coordinate the investigation and resolution of land disputes, streamline and shorten administrative procedures, adopt bold and decisive measures *m* solve land problems, and/or recommend other solutions.

Also during the day, the President exhorted local officials to take on the burden of strengthening the effectiveness of government in solving problems and carrying out public services, pointing out that the government's effectiveness is "increasingly being challenged."

The President made the call in a speech read for him by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor Jr. at the opening of the Third Pangasinan Executive Development Seminar in Baguio City in which he said that in a time when the people's impatience and demands are increasing, the "most ambitious actions of government have fallen short of the people's expectations."

The challenge to the government's effectiveness, he added, is nowhere more evident than at the level of the local government, "which is the focal point of contact between the government and the people."

March 6 —

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent almost the whole day working on state papers, receiving only very few callers in the afternoon.

At about 6:40 in the afternoon, the President received the Sultan of Pahang and his wife, Che Pusa Marie, who arrived early in the afternoon for a week's stay here.

The Malaysian Sultan was accompanied to Malacañang by Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Manuel Collantes, Col. Jake Zobel and Enrique Zobel, and Malaysian Ambassador and Mrs. Hashin bin Sultan.

After receiving the visiting dignitary, the President conferred with Brig. Gen. Eduardo Garcia, PC chief, and Brig. Gen. Domingo Tutaan, VI PC zone commander, who briefed him on the peace and order situation in Cotabato.

Gen. Tutaan reported to the President that it was generally peaceful, but that some 27 to 30 armed men were reported in Barrio New Panay, Midsayap, and that the PC was verifying the report.

He also reported that the people were in favor of placing the police forces of the eight towns, particularly Pikit, Pagalungan and Midsayap, under PC control.

During the conference, the Chief Executive ordered the Philippine Constabulary to implement immediately the agreement reached at Cotabato Peace conference held in Malacañang on March 2, which was attended by the Cotabato Peace Mission, members of the Senate and House committees on national defense, local governments, and cultural minorities. It was agreed then that:

1. All unlicensed guns in the province will be confiscated in an intensive provincewide campaign.
2. The PC and other law enforcement agencies will look into the reported training of armed elements to stop once and for all the suspicions on such alleged activities of armed elements whether outlaws or subversives.
3. The police forces of eight towns in the province will be placed under PC control. These are Pikit, Pagalungan, Midsayap, Libungan, Pigkawayan, Alamada, Carmen and Kabacan.

Following his conference with the PC zone commander, the President rested for a while and then, returned to his study where he continued his desk work, through the evening.

Among other actions, the Chief Executive constituted the Philippine delegation to the 4th meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) scheduled to be held in Manila on March 12 and 13.

With Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo as chairman and Secretary of Commerce and Industry Ernesto M. Maceda as vice chairman, the Philippine delegation has as members Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez and Rep. Nicanor Yñiguez of the Senate and House committees on foreign affairs, respectively;

Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Arturo R. Tanco, Jr., Undersecretaries of Foreign Affairs Jose D. Ingles and Manuel Collantes, Undersecretary of Industry Troadio T. Quiazon, Jr., Ambassadors Modesto Farolan and Romeo Busuego, Philippine envoys to Indonesia and Malaysia, respectively; BTTI Commissioner Gregorio Araneta II and Pedro Afable of the National Science Development Board.

Ambassadors Guillermo V. Sison, Francisco Oira, Sergio Barrera and Mario Belisario, all FAO assistants; CAA Director Federico Ablan, Jr., NMPC Assistant Director Gregorio Cendana, Director of Public Works Carlos Castillo, NDC General Manager Demetrio Brillantes, Mrs. Rosario G. Manalo, ASEAN secretariat;

Dean Jose Encarnacion of the U. P., Dr. Gregorio Zara of the CAB, Mrs. Rosalinda V. Tirona and Oscar Velenzuela of the Department of Foreign Affairs,

The President also submitted for consideration of the Commission on Appointments the nominations of Dr. Ricavdo A. Arcilla as president of the, Bicol University and Leonor C. Gorgolon as municipal judge of Del Carmen and San Isidro, Surigao del Norte.

March 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, together with the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, was guest of honor at an air show at the Manila International Airport climaxing the nationwide celebration of Aviation Week.

Arriving by helicopter from Malacañang at 8:10 a.m., the President was greeted by a large Sunday crowd that jampacked the ramp and main terminal building of the airport.

On hand to welcome the President were Civil Aeronautics officials and Philippine Air Force top brass, led by CAA Administrator Federico Ablan, Jr., MIA General Manager Luis Tabuena and Brig. Gen. Jesus Singson, PAF commanding general,

The President was then escorted to the improvised platform adjoining the VIP Room, where the other distinguished guests were seated, among them Col. Jesus Villamor (ret.), Don Alfredo Carmelo, Col. Antonio Arnaiz and several United States Air Force officials.

The President was later joined by the First Lady and Irene who also flew in by helicopter from Malacañang. Mrs. Marcos was presented a bouquet of red roses by Miss Aviation, Lotis Key.

An appreciation plaque and a 747 jumbo jet model were also presented to the President by the International Airline Operators Council, Manuel Silva of the MIA Press Club and Helmuth Dosch of the Northwest Airlines.

At exactly 8:30 a.m., the President officially opened the air show, which featured an aircraft display, flying exhibitions by the PAF's Blue Diamonds aerobatic team, United States Air Force and Nationalist China Air Force; parachutists' mass jump, skydiving, balloon and aero-model exhibitions, and fly-by by the Reserve Airlift Tactical Support Service (RATSS), an organization of civilian and private pilots established for humanitarian missions.

In brief remarks, the President emphasized the need for progress in aviation to cope with the ever increasing demands in air travel.

In between the exhibitions, the President, assisted by the First Lady and Irene, awarded Presidential plaques and citations to individuals and different participating units.

The President was back in Malacañang in time for lunch. He had a brief rest later and then attended to desk work the rest of the afternoon and early evening.

March 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS devoted his time to his desk work, among other concerns named the Philippine panel to negotiate the agricultural commodities agreement under US Public Law 480 with the US government; designated National Historical Commission Chairman Carmen Guerrero Nakpil to head the Historical Documents Committee, vice Secretary of Education Onofre D. Corpuz, who gave up the chairmanship because of the pressure of work in his own department; and ordered the strict enforcement of the policy making Virginia tobacco purchase deals in public and at the designated trading centers.

The President received only one caller, Gordon E. Jones and his wife, who paid a courtesy call. Jones is board chairman of the IBM World Trade Corp. He arrived in Manila to formally install Raimerio O. Reyes as manager of the IBM company in the Philippines, the first Filipino to take charge of an IBM firm. Jones said that it is the IBM policy to turn over control of IBM offices in various parts of the world to local citizens.

The rest of the workday was devoted by the President to his desk work, during which he signed the promotional appointments of three special attorneys in the Office of the Agrarian Counsel (OTAC), designated eight individuals as acting members of the board of directors of the Philippine Veterans Bank (PVB), and appointed a city treasurer for Gingoog City.

Promoted in the OTAC were Amado B. Castaño, from senior special attorney to supervising special attorney; Salvacion G. Birco, from special attorney to senior special attorney, vice Castaño; and Ana Bon-Uy, from legal officer to special attorney.

Designated acting board members of the PVB were Agustin Marking, Alejo S. Santos, Jaime S. Mejia, Benjamin S. Florentino, Generoso Salazar, Alfredo C. Gray, Moises A. Maramba, Sr. and Alfonso V. Arellano.

Appointed treasurer of Gingoog City was Iligan City assistant treasurer Wilfredo J. Cabili.

March 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered the immediate recovery of over five million (5,000,000) cavans of palay deposited by the Rice and Corn Administration with some 150 bonded warehouses. He added that the stock should be placed at the disposal of the RCA.

The President issued the order in a memorandum to the secretaries of commerce and industry, and of agriculture and natural resources, and the RCA chairman, giving them one week within which to carry out his instructions.

The initial objective of the officials concerned, the President said, should be to recover some two million cavans of palay within that period.

Once again, the President suspended his schedule of callers in favor of working at his desk on important state business.

He worked all morning on government papers, among others signing the nominations of four employees in the judiciary due for promotion, and submitting the same to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation.

Appointed were:

1. Bonifacio V. Curso, as municipal judge of Kawayan, Leyte,
2. Arturo L. Juliano, as auxiliary municipal judge of Cabuyao, Laguna.
3. Mrs. Zosima Ramos-Oandasan, as special attorney in the Office of the Agrarian Counsel, Cagayan de Oro Regional Office.
4. Miss Aurea G. Peñalosa, as branch clerk of court, Court of First Instance of Camarines Norte, Branch I, in Daet.

In the afternoon, the President had one conference, with the officials of the Philippine Virginia Tobacco Administration, with whom he discussed the means of improving the operations of the tobacco agency, particularly in making it possible for poor tobacco growers to benefit fully and immediately from their produce. He issued a series of directives to this effect.

The PVTA officials also submitted their resignations to afford the President a free hand in reorganizing the agency.

Present at the meeting were Chairman Federico B. Moreno and Directors Adriatico Golea, Ricardo Aguila and Taciano Ledda of the PVTa; Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata, Central Bank Governor Gregorio S. Licaros, BIR Commissioner Misael P. Vera and Jaime Mejia and Phil-Asia President Vicente Velasco, Jr.

After the meeting, the President resumed his desk work, remaining in his study through evening.

March 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS did a full measure of desk work early, after which he attended to the stream of callers that began with Krishna Moorthi and Cornelio Balmaceda, vice president and alternate director, respectively, of the Asian Development Bank, who were accompanied to, Malacañang by Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata.

He discussed with the ADB officials a number of priority development projects earmarked for assistance by the bank.

Next, the President received the delegation of school teachers from Espiritu, Ilocos Norte, headed by former Mayor Teodorico Agres, who asked the President for assistance in the construction of an administration building of Espiritu Elementary School.

Others in the delegation were: Victorino LI. Jose, principal, Espiritu Elementary School; Blesida Bumanlag, Teresa Barbers, Ofelia Dichoso and Winifred Barbers, teachers; and Alberto Dichoso, chairman of the Board of Inquiry, Bureau of Immigration.

At mid-morning, the President received Ricardo Silverio and Rodolfo Cuenca, presidents of Air Manila and Construction Development Corporation of the Philippines, respectively, who brought to Malacañang several Trans World Airlines officials.

Silverio informed the President that Air Manila has concluded an aid and assistance agreement with TWA, with the latter providing the local airline firm with aircraft, as well as technical and marketing assistance, including personnel training in the projected international operations of Air Manila. Silverio said Air Manila's international flights will help boost the local tourist industry by providing more travel facilities to tourists.

Toward noon, the President inducted Nicetas S. Viesa as director of the Rice and Corn Board. Among the witnesses were Reps. Leopoldo Diaz and Angel Concepcion of Nueva Ecija; Mrs. Viesca and their daughters Blanquita and Violeta; and relatives and friends of the inductee.

At past noon, the President took time to attend to several congressmen who called to discuss with him the problems of their respective districts, among them Jose G. Puyat, Jr. of Surigao del Sur, Democrito O. Plaza of Agusan, Leopoldo Diaz and Angel Concepcion of Nueva Ecija and Ali Dimaporo of Lanao del Norte.

In the afternoon, the President submitted to the Commission on Appointments the nominations of seven individuals as members of the board of directors of the Philippine Veterans Bank, and of a division chief as assistant director of the Bureau of Animal Industry.

Nominated to the PVB board were Agustin Marking, Alejo S. Santos, Jaime S. Mejia, Benjamin S. Florentino, Generoso P. Salazar, Alfredo C. Gray and Moises A. Maramba, Jr.

Nominated as assistant director of the Bureau of Animal industry was Faustino S. Mensalvas, chief of the bureau's livestock research division.

March 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS again discussed the reorganization plan for the executive branch with various national leaders, including those in Congress, who were briefed on the overall proposals at Maharlika Hall in Malacañang starting at 3 p.m.

Present at the briefing were Senate President Protempore Jose J. Roy, Senators Alejandro D. Almendras, Gerardo M. Roxas, Dominador R. Aytona, Lorenzo M. Tañada, Rene Espina, Magnolia W. Antonino, Salvador H. Laurel, Leonardo B. Perez, Helena Z. Benitez, Mamintal A. Tamano, Wenceslao R. Lagumbay, and Ambrosio Padilla.

Reps. Aguedo F. Agbayani, Rodolfo B. Albano, Jr., Felipe B. Almazan, Indanan, M. Anni, Jose D. Aspiras, Gaudencio, Becluya, Emerito S. Calderon, Fermin Z. Caram, Jr., Natalio P. Castillo, Vicente M. Cerilles, James L. Chiongbian, Joaquin E. Chipeco, Eduardo M. Cojuangco, Jr., Amado D. Cope, Andres A. Cosalan, Antonio M. Diaz, Mohammad Ali Dimaporo, Roberto C. Diokno, Ramon M. Durano;

Emilio R. Espinosa, Jr., Cesar M. Fortich, Felix A. Fuentabella, Eduardo R. Gullas, Rafael B. Legaspi, Jose J. Leido, Jr., Leonides C. de Leon, Expedito M. Leviste, Artemio Al. Loyola, Esteban S. Madrona, Constancio B. Maglana, Pablo A. Malasarte, Artemio E. Mate, Pedro C. Medulla, Justiniano S. Montano, Roberto L. Montelibano, Teodulo C. Natividad, Constantino C. Navarro, Jose P. Neri, Mariano B. Peñaflorida;

Benjamin B. Perez, Democrito O. Plaza, Jose G. Puyat, Jr., Rodolfo M. Revilla, Pablo R. Roman, Roberto M. Sabido, Guillermo R. Sanchez, Frisco F. San Juan. Lorenzo S. Sarmiento, Celestino N. Sybico, Jr., Godofredo M. Tan, Herminio G. Teves, Fernando R. Veloso, Marcelino R. Veloso, Enrique A. Zaldivar, and Manuel A. Zosa;

Secretaries Cesar E. A. Virata of Finance, Ponciano G. A. Mathay of Justice, Manuel B. Syquio of Public Works and Communications, Onnfre D. Corpuz of Education, Bias F. Ople of Labor, Juan Ponce Enrile of National Defense, Amadeo H. Cruz of Health, Constancio E. Castañeda of General Services, Gregorio M. Feliciano of Social Welfare; Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco;

National Economic Council Chairman Gerardo Sicat, Office of the Economic Coordination Administrator Eduardo Rodriguez, PES Director-General Apolinario Orosa, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Jose D. Ingles, Undersecretary of Agriculture Jose Drilon, Jr., PANAMIN Secretary Manuel Elizalde, Jr., Land Authority Governor Conrado Estrella, and Board of Investments Chairman Vicente Paterno.

Earlier in the morning, the President worked at his desk, then began receiving visitors at 10:30 a.m. The first to see him was Don Vicente Garcia, who heads the Escano Shipping Lines, along with Antonio Florendo. Then he received Francisco Delgado, vice President of the Rotary International, who reiterated the invitation of Rotary International to the President, to be the keynoter at the organization's convention in Sydney, Australia on May 16.

Also, the President inducted the new set of directors of the Philippine Veterans Bank. Those inducted were Generoso P. Salazar, Alfredo C. Gray, Moises A. Maramba, Jr., Agustin Marking, Alejo S. Santos, Jaime S. Mejia, Alfonso Arellano and Benjamin S. Florentino.

Another induction was that of Esteban A. de Ocampo who took over from Mrs. Carmen Guerrero Nakpil as chairman of the National Historical Commission.

Then PES Director-General Johnny Araneta paid a courtesy call, prior to leaving the government to return to private life. Other callers in the morning were Reps. Joaquin Chipeco and Leonides de Leon of Laguna.

Later in the afternoon, the Chief Executive swore in Col. Fabian C. Ver, director of the Presidential Security Agency and the commanding officer of the Presidential Guard Battalion, as brigadier general in the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Ver's nomination was confirmed by the Commission on Appointments.

Following the induction ceremony, the President received Tun Ismail bin Datu Abdul Rahman, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, who paid a courtesy call.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: March 12-18, 1971

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

March 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, in a speech at the opening ceremonies of the fourth meeting of the ASEAN foreign ministers, held at the Manila Hilton, called for new directions in regional economic cooperation, and for this purpose proposed the proclamation of an ASEAN Development Decade for the seventies.

In the pursuit of regional economic cooperation, the President said, "the time for action has come."

The ASEAN must draw up a definite and specific program for economic cooperation, the President said, which should indicate both short-term and long-range goals.

The President specifically proposed:

1. An ASEAN common market, which would promote throughout the region harmonious economic development, continuous and balanced expansion, increased stability, rapid improvement of the standard of living, and closer relations between member countries.
2. Expansion of intra-regional trade, with a limited free trade area on a selective basis set up as a start.
3. The formation of an Asian Payments Union, to serve all of Asia, with limited payments union set up first in the ASEAN region, as a sort of pilot project".

At the same time, the President cautioned against the danger of attempting too much too soon. He said that it is better "to make haste, slowly in order to prevent discouraging and costly setbacks." (See pp. 2143-2148 for full text of the President's speech.)

Before going to the conference, however, the President worked at his desk. He left Malacañang at mid-morning, arriving at the conference site about 10 a.m., where he was met by the ministers in attendance, headed by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, who leads the Philippine delegation at the meeting.

Returning to Malacañang at about 11:30 a.m., the President received a delegation from the Bureau of Forestry, led by Director Jose Viado. The delegation was composed of regional directors and district foresters. The group paid its respects to the President.

After receiving the delegation, the President resumed his desk work, in the course of which he signed and submitted two nominations to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation, and appointed four persons to various posts in the government.

Nominated were Eric C. Nubla, as chairman of the Board of Examiners for Architects; and Renato D. Acain, as municipal judge of Salay, Misamis Oriental.

Appointed were Ignacia B. Olaso, as president of the Zamboanga State College; Eusebio Botengan, Jr., as acting member of the board of the Mountain Province Development Authority; Gregorio G. Tronco, as clerk of court in the Court of First Instance of Negros Occidental; and Felipe H. Romero, as acting city superintendent of schools of Tangub City.

Later at 5:30 p.m., the President received the members of the Japanese industrial survey mission.

The group assured the President that Japan will extend all possible cooperation in the efforts of the country toward economic development. Masaharu Doi, mission chairman, said that in view of the very bright economic future of the Philippines, "there is much room for Japanese private firms to increase their investments where they are welcome."

Others in the group were Teizo Horikoshi, vice chairman of the mission, Masakazu Echigo, Chobei Takeda, Mitsuo Aikyo, Yukio Shibayama, Junji Hiraga, Mamoru Okita, Atsuhiko Yatabe;

Teruyoshi Tasaba, Sueo Koyama, Kasuo Yoshida, Morishisa Emori, Hisashi Murata, Taizo Nakamura, Minoru Horimoto, Mitsuya Okano, Masao Uchibayashi, Fusasaburo Iwai, Katsuhiko Fujiwara, Masaki Orita, Shigeru Yagioka, and Yuko Kasahara.

At 8 p.m., the President and the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, honored the ASEAN foreign ministers at dinner in Malacañang.

March 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS issued an executive order reconstituting the Institute of National Language with a membership representing the major native languages.

In his order, the President stressed the necessity of reconstituting the INL "to facilitate and enhance the effective propagation and development of the national language and to actively involve all linguistic groups in this nationalistic endeavor."

The reconstituted INL is composed of Director Ponciano B. P. Pineda (Tagalog), chairman; and the following members: Dr. Lino Q. Arquiza (Cebuano), Dr. Nelia C. Casambre (Hiligaynon), Dr. Lorenzo Ga. Cesar (Samar-Leyte), Dr. Ernesto Constantino (Ilokano), Dr. Clodualdo H. Leocadio (Bikol), Dr. Juan Manuel (Pangasinan), Dr. Alejandro Q. Perez (Pampanga), Dr. Mauryag M. Tamano (Tausog and Cultural Minority Languages).

Assistant Director Fe Aldave-Yap was named secretary and executive officer of the institute.

Having no scheduled callers, the President attended mostly to his office work. However, toward noon, he received a delegation of La Union officials, who called to discuss local problems.

In the group were Sen. Magnolia W. Antonino, Reps. Jose D. Aspiras and Joaquin Ortega, Gov. Jovenal K. Guerrero, Mayors Antonio Aquino of San Juan, Romeo de Guzman of Bauang, and Mauro Nicha of Balaoan; Board Member Castor Z. Concepcion, Engineers Aureo Gallardo and Fernando Gallardo, and Col. Ernesto Kasintahan, PC provincial commander.

In the afternoon, the President again concentrated on his desk work, during which he issued orders suspending a municipal judge and a city health officer from office for three months without pay.

Suspended were Municipal Judge Antonio Rodriguez of Las Piñas, Rizal and Dr. Augusto Jornales, city health officer of Canlaon City.

Judge Rodriguez was found guilty of failure to resolve a criminal case on consented abduction within the 90-day period prescribed by law, and for erroneously dismissing said case over which he had no jurisdiction except to conduct a preliminary investigation.

Dr. Jornales, on the other hand, was found guilty by a special investigator of violating a Department of Health order when he sold to patients medicines allegedly left to him by a drug agent on consignment.

The only other activity he had was a press conference held at about 5 p.m.

March 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS reminded elected delegates to the Constitutional Convention of their solemn duty to rewrite the Philippine Constitution to make it more responsive to the needs of the people.

The President gave the reminder when he addressed 21 delegates from Northern Luzon during the testimonial luncheon at Camp Aguinaldo given in their honor by the USAFIP-NL.

In his address, the President said:

“I am for radical reforms. But I am for radical reforms that can be implemented, reforms that will alter the social structure and bridge the gap between the rich and the poor.”

The President reiterated his state-of-the-nation message to the effect that reforms are some of the most important things that the people need today.

However, he told the delegates that they should not expect him to come to them because it would create the impression that he was “imposing” on them.

“I will be more circumspect and prudent in seeing to it that you are considered independent,” the President told the delegates-elect.

During the luncheon, the President also inducted former Rep. Miguel Rilloraza, Jr. of La Union as the new presidential legislative liaison.

The President spent most of his time going over state papers, and did not receive any caller.

Among the papers he studied were those on prospective candidates for salas in the courts of first instance of several provinces, and the vacancies in the Philippine Virginia Tobacco Administration. The entire PVTA board has tendered its resignation to give the President leeway in reorganizing the tobacco agency.

He also issued two executive orders, one placing the Anti-Smuggling Action Center (ASAC) under the direct supervision and control of the secretary of finance; the other reconstituting the Gomez, Burgos, Zamora Centennial Commission, by designating Supreme Court Justice Calixto Zaldivar as chairman of the commission, vice Fr. Horacio de la Costa.

The Commission was charged, among others, with the preparation and management of the general program of the centenary, as well as the publication of the writings of the three martyr priests, and such other Works pertaining to the martyrs, considered necessary in the proper understanding of their lives and labors, specially as these relate to the development of the Filipino nation.

March 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS started the workday at his desk as usual, than at midmorning disengaged to address two gatherings.

First, the President motored to Camp Aguinaldo, where he was guest of honor and speaker at the 9th anniversary rites of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Supply Center (AFPSC).

In his speech, the President expressed confidence that the Filipino “can do great things in the face of the impossible,” including (meeting the nation’s need for change, provided, he said, there is common purpose and unity of effort, performed with “a high sense of duty and honor.”

He took cognizance of the achievement of the unit, when he noted that it has demonstrated its ability to fill the needs of the military through innovation and ingenuity in the absence of tools, equipment, and funds.

In solving the country's problems, compounded by the imperatives of change, the President said, "a soldier or a plain citizen can contribute invaluablely to the democratic revolution I have envisioned not through extraordinary feats but simply in the fulfillment of obligations as citizens or as public servants." (See pp. for full text of the President's speech.)

The President later toured the AFPSC's sprawling plant and warehouse complex, including the section which builds components of the Marcos pre-fabricated schoolhouses, and various exhibits of modern weaponry as well as the emergency dispensary clinics used during disaster operations.

From Camp Aguinaldo, the President proceeded to the Manila Hotel Fiesta Pavilion where he addressed the provincial, municipal and city treasurers and assessors of the Philippines, on the occasion of the group's 53rd annual convention.

In his address, the President urged the said officials to pursue the ideals of the democratic revolution by serving faithfully as public servants and as prime movers of national development.

He described the urgency of instituting reforms, stressing some of the most crucial changes needed, including the more equitable distribution of the nation's wealth so that the few who are rich may not get richer, while the average and the poor citizens may enjoy more advantages; the broadening of land reform; the implementation of mass public housing projects; the facilitation of the award of land titles to landless farmers; and the prevention of the use of political influence and economic power to advance the interests of a few oligarchs to the detriment of the majority of the people.

The President returned to Malacañang to past high noon.

While engaged in paper work in the afternoon the Chief Executive signed the appointment of Augusto Pacis as city treasurer of Cebu City, as well as submitted to the Commission on Appointments the following for confirmation:

1. Francisco T. Bueser, as auxiliary city judge of San Pablo City;
2. Miguel P. Avestruz, as municipal judge of Daram, Samar;
3. Francisco G. Centeno, as provincial treasurer of Batangas; and
4. Jose R. Vera, chairman, and Asterio Favis, Jesus M. Bondoc, Daniel Visco and Rogelio W. Manalo, as members, of the Board of Assessment Appeals of Manila.

The President also issued a proclamation declaring Wednesday, March 31, 1971, as a special public holiday in the provinces of Leyte and Southern Leyte.

The date marks the 450th anniversary of the first Holy Mass celebrated in the Philippines. The Mass was held at the island of Limasawa, off the mainland of Leyte.

Among others, the President congratulated Prime Minister Indira Gandhi for her victory in the recent elections in India. He sent the following. congratulatory message:

"I AM HAPPY TO LEARN OF YOUR EXCELLENCY'S OVERWHELMING NEW VICTORY STOP MRS MARCOS JOINS ME IN CONVEYING TO YOUR EXCELLENCY SINCEREST CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES FOR CONTINUED SUCCESS STOP AS PRIME MINISTER OF A GREAT NATION YOUR EXCELLENCY HAS A VITAL AND HISTORIC ROLE IN SHAPING THE FUTURE OF MANKIND STOP

FILIPINOS ARE CONFIDENT THAT OUR GOVERNMENTS AND OUR PEOPLES WILL CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER IN THE CAUSE OF PEACE AND FREEDOM IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF FRIENDSHIP AND TRUE UNDERSTANDING.”

March 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Arturo R. Tanco, Jr. to work out arrangements with the Greater Manila Terminal Food Market (GMTFM) toward making the Fishermen’s Market in Navotas, Rizal operational by the end of the month.

The President said the opening of the fishermen’s market will contribute to the stabilization of the prices of fish and other sea products in the Greater Manila area.

Their arrangements ordered by the President for the GMTFM to include the completion of construction and the installation of the needed facilities, for eventual turn over to a fishermen’s cooperative.

To prepare the groundwork for the market’s transfer to the cooperative, the President ordered Secretary Tanco to take steps toward the organization of a cooperative for fishermen.

In the course of his work on official papers in the afternoon the President designated Jesus A. Avanceña as acting member of the board of governors of the Development Bank of the Philippines.

The President also submitted to the Commission on Appointments for consideration the nomination of Oscar T. Eusebio as register of deeds of Rizal.

March 17—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a busy day with callers, including many provincial delegations who came to discuss local problems.

Early in the morning, the President as usual worked at his desk, to act on urgent state matters.

Then toward midmorning, he began receiving visitors. The first to see him was a group of Reparations Commission officials, led by Chief of Mission Eulogio Balao.

They took up with the President the financing, through the Reparations Commission, of priority projects.

Next, the President received Senator Ambrosio Padilla, who accompanied Mayors Perfecto Lim and Graciano Lim of Pintuyan and Liloan towns, respectively, both in Southern Leyte.

The President also inducted the new officials, namely: Jose Evangelista as chief of mission Class III and career ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary; and Recio Garcia as member of the board of governors of the DBP. Among those who witnessed Garcia’s oath taking were Dr. Pacifico Marcos, and close friends and relatives. Present at the induction of Evangelista were Mrs. Evangelista, BIR Deputy Commissioner and Mrs. Conrado P. Diaz, Brig. Gen. Antonio D. Evangelista and Undersecretary of National Defense Manuel Salientes.

At noon, the President and the First Lady, Imelda ,R. Marcos, were hosts at luncheon for UPI President A. A. Thomason and Mrs. Thomason. The U.S. press mogul arrived in Manila in the course of a survey of Asia. Other guests at the luncheon were representatives of local mass media.

Later in the day, the President received delegations from Samar, Bukidnon and South Cotabato. Again, they came to consult with the President on local problems.

In the evening, the First Couple tendered an informal dinner in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Thomason, with newspaper and magazine publishers and editors as guests.

March 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said the country may expect sugar surpluses in the next three years and should prepare now to solve any problem on over-production might cause.

As the same time the President expressed optimism that the Philippines would not only continue to get its quota from the United States but perhaps succeed in increasing it.

The President made these points in a speech at the opening of the sugar industry convention, where he was guest speaker.

Arriving at the convention at 11:15 a.m. the President was welcomed and escorted to the presidential table by Don Manolo Elizalde, president of the Sugar Club of the Philippines, Inc. and the Sugar Association; Don Carlos Ledesma, president of the National Federation of Sugarcane Planters; Ciro Locsin, president of the Sugar Producers' Cooperative Marketing Association, Inc.; and Ernesto V. Santos, president of the Sugar Exporters Association of the Philippines.

The President started the day with a breakfast with UPI President A. Mims Thomason, and publishers and editors of newspapers, after which he put in some desk work.

Later in the morning, Thomason returned to Malacañang to interview the President. Accompanying Thomason was Vicente Maliwanag, Manila UPI manager.

Then the President received at formal rites the credentials of the new Swiss envoy, Ferdinand Dufour, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary. The ceremony was attended by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, Secretary of General Services Constancio E. Castañeda, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Manuel Collantes and Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes.

After a spell of work back at his desk, the President again submitted to an interview, this time by Fr. Martin Ramsaver of the Ateneo East Asia Pastoral Institute. The Jesuit priest was accompanied to Malacañang by Fr. Friedrich, a colleague from the EAPI and a television reporter.

Before noon, the President also had a conference with NBI Director Jolly Bugarin and put in an appearance at the sugar industry convention at the Hotel Intercontinental.

He had a working lunch with Henry Kearns, president and chairman of the Export-Import Bank, along with Secretary Romulo, Central Bank Governor, Gregorio S. Licaros, Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata, DBP Chairman Leonides S. Virata, and J. E. Corette, general counsel of the Export-Import Bank.

In the afternoon, the President worked mostly at his desk, but disengaged from it at about 4 p.m. to receive two large delegations from Bataan and Pangasinan who took up local problems with him, notably public works and PACD projects.

The Bataan delegation, headed by Gov. Guillermo Arcenas and Rep. Pablo R. Roman, was composed of the mayors of Dinalupihan, Hermosa, Samal, Abucay, Pilar, Bagac, Morong, and officials of the Federation of Barrio Councilmen of the province.

The Pangasinan delegation was headed by Land Authority Gov. Conrado Estrella, Vice Gov. Vicente Milora, former Vice Gov. Nancy Q. Sison, Board Members Porfirio Sison, Agerico Rosario, and Alfonso Bince, Jr., and included delegates to the Constitutional Convention and municipal mayors from five districts.

After receiving the provincial delegations, the President and the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, received Mr. and Mrs. A. Mims Thomason who came to bade goodbye before leaving Manila.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: March 19 - April 8, 1971

President's Week in Review: April 9-15, 1971

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

April 9—

Except for his attendance at the commemorative ceremonies marking the 29th anniversary of Bataan Day, President Marcos otherwise had another relatively quiet day as the nation paused in observance of Good Friday.

The President motored to the Libingan ng mga Bayani at Fort Bonifacio, Rizal at about 8 a.m. for the commemorative rites. He led in laying wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

From the Libingan, the commemorative ceremonies shifted to the nearby U.S. Military Cemetery, where the same rites were held.

Later in the afternoon, the President motored to Pier 15 where he boarded the *RPS 777* for the Bataan Day commemorative rites at sea, off Mariveles, Bataan.

Among others present at the ceremonies were AFP top brass led by Gen. Manuel T. Yan, chief of staff; Brig. Generals Rafael Ilete, Fidel Ramos and Eduardo Garcia; Rep. Ramon D. Bagatsing, and Ernesto Rufino, past president of the Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, and other officers of veterans organizations, including Mrs. Charles Shaw, national president of the American Legion Auxiliary.

In-between the commemorative ceremonies, the President confined his other activities only to the most urgent state business.

In his Bataan, Day message issued earlier, the President said:

Once again we commemorate the Fall of Bataan, in remembrance of those who fell in the last war. Almost three decades have now passed since that day in Bataan, and perhaps we only dimly remember their heroism in the relative calm of our times.

Yet the long span of the years has not diminished the significance of their sacrifice; rather it assumes a new meaning at this time of self-confrontation.

For if in time of war, it took heroes to keep this nation from the rule of tyrants, it takes the same kind of heroism to move this nation in time of peace.

Neither can we forget that the world we live in today is haunted by a tenuous, if not a violent and volatiles, peace.

The wars that continue to rage in Asia and the Middle East inflict a deep wound upon the hearts of men everywhere, but especially upon us who have paid the supreme exactions of war.

The history of Bataan and the men who died there continue to strengthen our bonds with all those who must, today or tomorrow, fight for their peace and freedom.

April 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS continued to have no schedule of callers, but spent a couple of hours in the morning and afternoon on important matters of state, including urgent desk work.

April 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS resumed his regular schedule of activities, paced by his inauguration of the first two units of bunker-type houses constructed by the National Housing Corporation (NHC) at the customs area in North Bay Boulevard for the temporary retention of the fire victims in Tondo.

The emergency housing complex was designed to house some 3,000 families.

The President inspected the bunker-type houses after attending an Easter Sunday Mass with the fire victims at the chapel of the Don Bosco Youth Center in Tondo. With the President were the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos; their children Irene and Bongbong, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, Senator Helena Benitez, chairman of the Senate committee on housing, urban development and resettlement; Press Secretary Francisco S. Tatad, Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes and Undersecretary of Health Clemente Gatmaitan.

In the course of his brief remarks before the Tondo fire victims, the President invited their leaders, including those of other civic organizations, to a meeting in Malacañang with national and city officials concerned with the Tondo rehabilitation work.

Back in Malacañang, the President signed the appointment papers of Estefania Aldaba-Lim, a Malacañang special consultant on community services, as secretary of the Department of Social Welfare, vice Secretary Gregorio M. Feliciano, who has resigned.

Undersecretary Petra R. de Joya of the DSW was designated to discharge the duties of secretary in the absence of Dr. Lim, who had left for an official mission abroad.

Toward noon the President received General Abdul Haris Nasution, chairman of the Provisional People's Consultative Assembly of the Republic of Indonesia, who arrived in Manila for a six-day official visit to this country. Mrs. Nasution was likewise received by the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos.

They were accompanied to Malacañang by Senate President and Mrs. Gil J. Puyat, Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo and Indonesian Ambassador and Mrs. Utomo.

Later, the President met with Senate President Puyat and Speaker Villareal, during which the three agreed on the need for action on vital measures pending in Congress, particularly those designed to increase production. They also agreed on a moratorium on intramurals to enable both chambers of Congress to devote the remaining days of the regular session to fruitful legislation.

In another conference, this time with Justice Undersecretary Catalan; Macaraig and prisons officials, the President directed that strict disciplinary measures be instituted to prevent the recurring violence at the state penitentiary in Muntinglupa, Rizal. He also:

1. Directed the Philippine Navy to transfer qualified prisoners to Iwahig, Davao and Sablayan Penal Colonies;
2. Authorized the transfer of prisoners to army camps as a temporary measure until the restoration of normal conditions at the New Bilibid Prisons;
3. Released P200,000 to set up additional building where prisoners can be housed; and
4. Ordered the allocation of 40 prefabricated school buildings establishment of a medium security compound for 3,000 prisoners who, the President said, should have their own administration office, vocational shops, kitchen and mess, hospital, library and recreation hall.

In his Easter message in English and Pilipino, the President said:

(ENGLISH)

We share anew today a special day of hope and triumph with the rest of the Christian world.

Throughout its long history, mankind has always found in Easter a renascence of the spirit and a reawakening of moral energies.

In the timeless story of Christ's death and resurrection, man has always found comfort in facing the vicissitudes of his world, and hope in the healing of his troubled spirit. To its great and glorious mystery, men have learned to look for deliverance from the darkest crises of their personal lives.

None of us can fail to appreciate the significance of this unique occasion, especially at this time when great tension troubles the whole of mankind, and great difficulty faces our country and people. The kind of work which we are now engaged in as a nation, and the fulfillment that we seek in our national life, need the kind of illumination and radiance, the sobriety and peace, that Easter uniquely brings to our individual lives.

My family and I join one and all in wishing each and everyone of you a very happy Easter.

(PILIPINO)

Magkaisa tayong nagsasaya ngayon sa muling pagsapit ng araw na ito—isang araw ng pag-asa at tagumpay.

Sa simula pa, ang Mahal na Araw ay laging sagisag ng masiglang pagkapukaw at pagkagising ng kabutihan ng sangkatauhan.

Sa walang katapusang kasaysayang ito ng pagkamatay at muling pagkabuhay ng Panginoon, ay walang katapusang dumadaloy ang kasiyahang loob upang ating harapin ang mga suliraning pandaigdig.

Sa kasaysayang ito ay walang katapusang nagmumula ang likas na pananalig, sa gitna man ng pinakamadilim na sandali ng ating buhay.

Walang sino mang maaaring hindi kumilala sa kahalagahan ng na-tatanging okasyong ito, laluna sa panahong ito na ligalig ang buong sangkatauhan, at maraming kahirapang tinatawid ang ating bayan at mga mamamayan.

Ang mga gawaing ginampanan natin ngayon bilang isang bansa, at ang katuparang hinahangad natin, para sa bansang ito ay nangangailangan ng ilaw at liwanag na tanging Mahal na Araw lamang ang makakapagbigay.

Ang aking mag-anak at ako ay kaisa ng lahat ngayon sa hangaring nawa'y sumating lahat ang isang maligaya at mapayapang Linggo ng Muling Pagkabuhay.

April 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had two major conferences, one on vital legislation and the other on the rehabilitation and relocation of the fire victims in Tondo. In between these meetings, the President received several callers and worked on state papers.

The President first met at about 10 a.m. with some 40 Nacionalista congressmen led by Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal, Speaker Protempore Jose Aldeguer, and House Majority Floor Leader Marcelino R. Veloso.

He called upon the members of Congress to put an end to political wranglings and buckle down to their vital task of considering legislation.

The President served notice that he was leaving the reorganization of the lower chamber entirely in the hands of its members and urged them to resolve the question of leadership as soon as possible.

“I presume that whatever you decide on will be for the good of the country,” the President said.

The President also took occasion to dismiss as ridiculous speculations that he was forming his own party, pointing out that he was convoking the NP national directorate to a meeting at the end of the month for a general assessment of party problems,

Even as the meeting continued, the President broke off at 10:30 a.m. to receive, together with the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, General and Mrs. Abdul Haris Nasution, who paid them a courtesy call.

The President and General Nasution had an exchange of views on latest developments in Southeast Asia and other matters of common interest to their two countries.

With the Nasutions in calling on the First Couple were Mrs. Gil J. Puyat, and Indonesian Ambassador and Mrs. Utomo.

Following the courtesy call of the Indonesian visitors, the President rejoined the congressmen for the continuation of his meeting with them.

Toward noon the President conferred with some members of Congress, national and city officials, and representatives of the church, private organizations and Tondo residents. In the course of the meeting, the President directed:

1. the opening and clearing of six main streets in the area, namely: Pacheco, the road behind the Don Bosco compound, Fishermen's Channel, Herbosa, Roxas Boulevard Extension and Dandan;
2. the NAWASA to use the P500,000 payment of the city government to the agency for the construction of water facilities in the area; and
3. that no government agency, private organization or individual should undertake any construction on Roxas Boulevard Extension.

The President also ordered that lands within 40 meters along Roxas Boulevard Extension be cleared of any housing, and to transfer residents thereof to the bunker-type houses built by the NHC or have them relocated temporarily at the Fishermen's Channel.

Following the conference, the President created a coordinating committee, with himself as overall chairman, to hasten the rehabilitation and relocation of the fire victims. The committee will undertake the planning and implementation of an urban renewal and housing program in the burnt area in Tondo.

Mayor Antonio J. Villegas was named chairman for city government projects, while Public Works Director Alejandro Deleña was designated chairman for national government projects.

Named members of the committee were Sen. Helena Z. Benitez, chairman of the Senate committee on housing, urban development and resettlement; Rep. Roque Ablan, Jr., chairman of the House committee on housing; Rep. Francisco Reyes, Land Authority Deputy Governor Ernesto Valdez, NHC Executive Vice President Gaudencio Tobias, Commissioner of Public Highways Baltazar Aquino.

PHHC General Manager Sebastian Santiago, NAWASA Assistant General Manager Victor Recio, Councilor Martin B. Isidro, Col. Pacifico de Leon, liaison between the national and city governments; Col. Fidel Ventura, AFP chief of Engineers; Carlos Valdez, Jose Ma. Soriano, Nelly Nufable of the Department of Social Welfare, representatives

of USAID, and such civic, religious and charitable organizations as may be willing to provide financial assistance to the program.

April 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS concentrated mostly on desk work, receiving a few government officials only, who called at Malacañang for consultations.

Among other actions taken by the President in the morning was the submission to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation of the nominations of Eduardo Rodriguez as administrator of the Office of Economic Coordination and three others for municipal judges.

Nominated to judicial posts were:

1. Romulo S. Sasondoncillo, as municipal judge of Pakil, Laguna;
2. Ceriaco A. Sumaya, as municipal judge of Famy, Laguna; and
3. Norberto T. Hebayan, as municipal judge of Maslog, Eastern Samar.

Rodriguez has been acting OEC administrator for seven months.

Early in the afternoon, following allegations made by Rep. Salipada Pendatun on the floor of the House of Representatives, to the effect that Muslims in Cotabato were being killed, and their houses being burned, no longer by fanatics, but by uniformed PC men, the President directed National Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile to create a Board of Inquiry composed of three (3) officers to inquire into the charges.

In view of conflicting reports, however, the President directed Secretary Enrile to give all those who might be cited for the alleged abuses a chance to present their side, giving them the assistance of counsel if necessary.

In the evening, the President and the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, tendered a formal dinner in Malacañang in honor of General and Mrs. Abdul Haris Nasution.

April 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS limited his schedule to only one engagement—the proclamation of five more provinces as land reform areas in ceremonies held at the Maharlika Hall. The whole morning and early evening were devoted to paper work.

Proclaimed were eight towns of Isabela, nine towns in the fourth congressional district of Pangasinan, eight municipalities of Quezon, 13 in Iloilo province, including Iloilo City; and the entire province of Camarines Sur.

In his speech at the proclamation ceremonies, the President underscored the need for eliminating the oppressive features of the nation's outmoded land tenure system before "a meaningful level of economic development" can take place in the country's essentially agrarian economy.

"We know that if we fail to bring about land reform through peaceful and democratic means, attempts will be made to carry it out by force and violence," the President said.

He pointed out that despite the odds the administration has to contend with, its achievements in the area of land reform had been very substantial.

As of December 1970, he said, the land reform program had spread to 16 provinces, involving some 161 municipalities with a total of 222,021 rice and corn farmers working on an area of about 544,789.82 hectares.

Undertaken by the government under the land reform program were the acquisition of private agricultural lands, the opening of public lands or settlement projects, and manpower and clientele development programs, the President said.

He disclosed that as of December 1970, 99 estates had been acquired, covering an area of 68,974 hectares with 51,339 farmer beneficiaries.

Aside from this, the President said, 35 estates had been acquired by the Land Bank with a total area of 4,009 hectares, costing some P16,893,800, and with 2,316 farmers directly benefiting from the acquisitions. He also mentioned the acquisition of 30 settlement reservations and EDCOR farms with an area of 527,033 hectares, on which some 24,509 families had been settled under the government settlement scheme.

“The process of land reform will go on until it is completed,” the President said. “Before the end of 1973, before I step down from the Presidency, the whole Republic of the Philippines shall have been declared a land reform area,” he said.

The President was introduced by Conrado F. Estrella, Land Authority governor and chairman of the Land Reform Council, who formally read the proclamation declaring an additional five provinces, as land reform areas.

Present at the proclamation were former President Diosdado Macapagal under whose administration the Land Reform Code was enacted; senators, representatives, governors, city and municipal mayors; and a large delegation of farmers from the newly proclaimed localities.

The President was back to his desk work later in the afternoon, in the course of which he submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation the nomination of a career minister, Monico Vicente, as Chief of Mission, Class III.

April 15—

AFTER AN early morning stint at his desk disposing of official papers, the President turned to other official activities, which started at 10 a.m., with the conferment of the Order of Sikatuna, rank of *Maginoo*, to former Mayor Gordon S. Clinton of Seattle.

Clinton was specially cited for his “abiding concern for the well-being and greater welfare” of the Filipinos in Seattle, both in his capacity as former mayor of that city and as a private citizen.

The conferment ceremony was followed by the oath-taking of the chairman and five members of the newly reconstituted Institute of National Language.

Sworn in by the President were Director Ponciano B.P. Pineda (Tagalog), chairman Dr. Lino Q. Arquiza (Cebuano), Dr. Nelia Cuanco Casambre (Hiligaynon), Dr. Lorenza Ga. Cesar (Samar-Leyte), Dr. Alejandro Q. Perez (Pampango), members; and Assistant Director Fe Aldave-Yap, secretary and executive officer.

The President then received the members of the CFI-National Association of Clerks of Court led by Vicente S. Pulido, president, who called at Malacañang on the second day of the three-day annual convention of the group to pay their respects.

Also received by the President were Mayors Emma Gaddi of Kidapawan, Cotabato, and Florencio Bernabe of Parañaque, Rizal who took up with him local matters.

In the afternoon, the President motored to Navotas, Rizal for the inauguration of the Navotas Fish Market.

In his speech inaugurating the 3-hectare fish landing complex, the President described the Navotas Fish Market as a precursor of a more intensive effort of the government to transform Navotas into a center of the country's fish industry.

The President said that the government has allotted P60 million for the construction of a fish port in Navotas, complete with such facilities as refrigeration storage, auction rooms, and facilities for fish brokerage activities in connection with wholesale transactions.

Of the P60 million, he said that the Asian Development Bank has already assigned to the Philippines a loan of \$5.5 or some P37 million for the construction of the fish port.

The President, in the presence of national and local officials, big and small fishermen of the Manila Bay area, and residents of Navotas, signed an executive order opening the Navotas Fish Market and creating a Fish Landing Authority for Navotas.

Under the order, the authority to administer the fish market was transferred from the GMTFM and the DBP to the cooperative union, to be established by the fishermen of Navotas. He asked the fishermen-residents of the municipality to hasten the formation of these cooperatives.

Among those present at the ceremonies were Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Arturo R. Tanco, Jr., DBP Chairman Leonides S. Virata, Commodore Santiago Nuval (ret.), of the Bureau of Customs, Navotas Mayor Felipe del Rosario, Commissioner of Fisheries Andres Mane, and DBP Governors Leon O. Ty, Atilano Cinco, Jose Estevez and Jose D. Ocampo.

The Navotas Fish Landing Authority will manage and operate the fish market under the administration of the Philippine Fisheries Commission.

Earlier in the afternoon, the President formally accepted the resignation of Director Alejo Santos of the Bureau of Prisons and named Brig. Gen. Vicente Raval (ret.) to succeed him.

The President also issued a proclamation authorizing the Press Photographers of the Philippines (PPP) to conduct a nationwide fund campaign during the period from April 15 to June 15.

Source: **Supreme Court Library**

President's Week in Review: April 16-22, 1971

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

April 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had three farewell calls, including that of General and Madame Abdul Haris Nasution, who ended a six-day unofficial visit here.

In the morning, the President received Italian Ambassador Dante Maticotta, who bade goodbye after a four-and-a-half-year tour of duty in the Philippines. He intimated to the President during the call that he was being reassigned to Jordan. As a parting gift, he gave the President a folio of reproductions of Italian paintings.

Also in the morning, the President received Ambassador Rogelio de la Rosa, who paid a farewell call prior to his departure for The Hague, where he was assigned as this country's envoy. De la Rosa spent six years in Cambodia: as Philippine ambassador.

Among other callers in the morning was a group of officials from Palembang, Cotabato. In the group were Mayor Druz Ali and Councilors Sixto Maluyo, Tranquilino Ramos, Sabino Manalo, and Salamin Martin, a lawyer with the Commission on National Integration. The officials discussed with him local problems, including the need for a survey of public lands in the municipality, and the issuance of titles to legal occupants of several parcels of land. The group also requested the President to initiate road construction projects in the locality, with assistance from armed forces engineers.

In the afternoon, the President and the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, had a pleasant 30-minute visit with General and Madame Nasution. The visiting couple went direct from Malacañang to the MIA, where they boarded their plane for Jakarta.

In-between all these calls, the President as usual worked on state papers and otherwise attended to state business.

Earlier, the President approved the hosting by the Philippine government of a course on the new United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA) and its data requirements and uses, scheduled to be held from the last week of April to the third week of May.

The new system provides a detailed and comprehensive framework for the systematic and integrated recording of the flows and stocks of an economy urgently required for planning and policy-making purposes in the developing countries.

The pressure of work prevented the President to attend the closing ceremony of Inventors Week. He sent Labor Secretary Blas F. Ople to deliver his speech for him, in which the President thanked the inventors for their contributions to the enrichment of Filipino life and said that the awards conferred on Filipino inventors for distinguished work are not alone a recognition of excellence but one way of honoring the "spirit of discovery," the "seeking of new horizons." He asserted that the government pledged to provide "the widest assistance and encouragement" to promote inventions and build up the body of inventors in the country.

April 17—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had only two major activities on his schedule—a conference with some 200 small fishermen at 10:30 in the morning, and attendance as guest of honor at the formal launching of the "Green Revolution" project of the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, at the Nayong Pilipino at 4:30 p.m.

In the course of his meeting with the fishermen, the President ordered the increase of harbor patrols with an eye to apprehending all trawlers operating in waters less than seven fathoms (42 feet) deep in Manila Bay, following a report from the group that destructive trawl and basnig fishing continues to be conducted in Manila Bay.

The President also directed:

1. Secretary of Agriculture Arturo Tanco, Jr., and Fisheries Commissioner Andres Mane to submit to him written studies on the fishing problems in Manila Bay and San Miguel Bay;
2. The agriculture secretary to look into the possibility of easing the terms under which members of fishing cooperatives can get loans from rural banks; and
3. Secretary Tanco to look into a report that the mayor of Manila has plans to construct housing projects for Manila policemen and firemen in an area of the city proclaimed by the President in 1957 as a fishermen's village.

Present at the two-hour meeting were, aside from Secretary Tanco and Commissioner Mane, Naic (Cavite) Mayor Macario Pena, who led the group; other representatives of small or "sustenance" fisherman; and representatives of trawlers led by Mayor Felipe del Rosario of Navotas, Rizal.

The President and the First Lady motored to the Nayong Pilipino at past 4 p.m., after receiving the greetings of government and private groups who had come for the occasion in green dresses, bush jackets and caps, they proceeded to the Hunting Barrio for the blessing ceremonies.

After the blessing of the Hunting Barrio by Fr. Juan Bautista, chaplain of the Presidential Guard Battalion, the First Couple went up the improvised stage for the program.

In his brief extemporaneous remarks, the President said that the Green Revolution actually was started in 196 when the First Lady launched the home garden movement.

He said that although the Green Revolution "aims to conquer want, hunger, and the limitations of resources, it is also symbolic of the fight against customs, traditions, attitudes and habits."

The President expressed the hope that the Green Revolution would catch on and ultimately provide the foundation for unity of the entire people.

Addressing the First Lady and others responsible for the movement, the President said: "Perhaps where the statesmen and diplomats, the technicians and technocrats have failed, you will succeed in bringing about unity among our people by this simple and very obviously common thing of planting seeds upon the soil and seeing them grow into life."

In-between these two activities, the President attended in paper work in his private study.

April 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS addressed the national convention of the Agricultural (cooperatives League of the Philippines, held at the DBP auditorium in Makati, Rizal.

In his speech, the President underscored the importance of the cooperative movement, which he described as the only salvation of the country and the Filipino people. He said that all the other programs of government depend on the success of the cooperative movement for their success.

The President cited the land reform program, which was given a new orientation with the introduction of farm cooperatives in the pilot projects in Magalang, Pampanga, and in Nueva Ecija.

The President said that a farmer should not only be given his own piece of land but should be taught how to utilize it along the system of cooperatives.

He explained that if a farmer is given five hectares under the land reform program but divides this land among his five children, giving each only one' hectare, and these children in turn divide the one-hectare lot among their own children, the land is fragmented into small unproductive lots. Thus, the problem of lack of land becomes recurrent generation after generation.

"Here is where the cooperative comes in," the President emphasized. "If the farmers bond themselves together they can purchase a tractor which they cannot individually purchase and maintain."

The President also urged the ACLP to move forward in order that ultimately it could supervise the Greater Manila Terminal Food Market and others programmed for construction in either parts of the country.

He said that food terminals are being established to provide a ready market for the producers and break up the monopolies that control the prices of commodities.

Among those present at the convention, besides the officers and members of the League, were DBP Chairman Leonides S. Virata and Governors Leon O. Ty and Jose R. Tengco, Jr.

The President had no other scheduled engagement. He devoted the rest of his working hours to desk work, in the process submitting to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation 31 nominations to Courts of First Instance and one to the Court of Agrarian Relations.

April 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS received a number of officials and prominent business leaders in one of his most crowded days in recent weeks.

He also inducted into office the new officers of the Philippine Historical Association. During the call of the group, the President was presented with a compilation of the writings of Cen. Emilio Aguinaldo, the president of the First Philippine Republic and other historical documents authored by the revolutionary leader.

Inducted by the President were Dr. Gregorio V. Zaide, president; Jose Ma. Aruego, vice president; Col. Crisanto Alba, secretary; Dr. Ricardo Arcilla, treasurer; and Dr. Sixto Orosa, Dr. Pedro GageIonia, Prof. Celedonio Ancheta, Prof. Celedonio Resurreccion and Prof. Gabriel Isabella, board directors.

The President was also presented a book written by Rev. Richard Wurmbrand, the Rumanian evangelical pastor who defied the ban of the communist regime of that country against religious services and was imprisoned and tortured. The book, titled "Tortured for Christ," is an account of the years spent by the minister in prison. It was presented by Roy Alvarez.

Later in the morning, the President received Tristan Beplat, senior vice president of the Manufacturers Hanover Trust Co., who paid a courtesy call. Accompanying the visitor were Central Bank Gov. Gregorio S. Licaros, C. E. Harkness and George B. Colins, chief and deputy representatives, respectively, of the firm.

Also at Malacañang in the morning to pay his respects was ECAFE Executive Secretary U Nyun, who was accompanied by Secretary of Commerce and Industry Ernesto Maceda. The ECAFE official arrived for the 10-day meeting of the organization.

Among other callers was Demetrio Tabije, assistant general manager of the Philippine Tobacco Association.

In-between these calls, the President attended to his desk work.

He issued a memorandum to RCA Chairman Jose Drilon, Jr. directing him to break up a syndicate of RCA officials and employees reportedly trafficking in rice, and which had been seen as responsible for an estimated shortage of some 5.1 million cavans of RCA rice.

According to reports received by the President, this syndicate, which was said to have been operating since the administration of former President Macapagal, withdraws rice from RCA warehouses by using one invoice over and over.

"I received these reports from a reliable party who has promised to help the RCA weed out undesirable elements in the agency," the President told Agriculture Undersecretary Drilon, the concurrent RCA chairman.

"You are hereby directed to take immediate steps to break up this syndicate and to stop its operations within one week."

The President added: "Considering your knowledge of RCA operations, I do not anticipate any difficulty in your accomplishing this task."

He also called Drilon's attention to reports that most of the rice dealers in Mindanao who had not paid their debts to the RCA are Filipino-Chinese.

The President directed that steps be taken to enforce collection of these unpaid debts.

April 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS was guest of honor and speaker at the opening of the 10-day 27th ministerial session of the Economic Commission on Asia and the Far East (ECAFE), held in the morning at the Manila Hotel.

In his speech, the President urged the ECAFE to accelerate the integrated development of the region, stressing that social progress must be pursued hand in hand with economic growth.

Stating that the "key resource of any nation is the human potential," the President pointed out that the recent past has demonstrated "beyond dispute that neglect of the human factor can give rise to social instabilities which negate economic development."

He added that it could be accepted "as a universal rule that economic development is hallowed at its core if it does not benefit the greatest number."

The President also emphasized the lag in development of the region, attributing it to the population explosion, the inability of developing countries to mobilize their full potential for development, and the failure of developed countries to "reconcile principle with practice in extending assistance to less fortunate countries."

Unless the "original meaning of international assistance is restored," he said, the developing countries will remain in the grip of what he called the "trial of poverty."

This triad, he said, consists of:

1. The hardening of international loans which, along with "aid-tying," constricts development.
2. The existence of immovable trade barriers which adversely affect first of all the developing countries.
3. The requirement for substantive international reserves which inhibits the mobilization of development resources by developing countries.

The President said that it is the last factor which must be reviewed, "since its harsh impact is beginning to be felt by the less fortunate regions.

Earlier, the President worked at his desk, among others issuing a directive which gave to the Joint Committee on Financial Management the added responsibility of clearing the debts of government agencies and financial houses through a new system of procedures.

The President left Malacañang at mid-morning for the Manila Hotel, arriving there at exactly 10 a.m. He was welcomed by U Nyun, executive secretary of ECAFE, and other officials of and delegates to the conference.

He was back in Malacañang before noon, and conferred on Tristan Beplat, senior executive vice president of Manufacturers Hanover Trust Co. of New York, the Presidential Golden Heart Award, for distinguished services to the Philippines. Present at the award rites were the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, and a number of local leaders of the private sector.

In the afternoon the President broke away from his desk work to motor with the First Lady to the Manila International Airport, where they welcomed King Mahendra and Queen Ratna of Nepal. The royal couple planed in for a two-day stopover in Manila before flying on to Australia on a state visit.

The President and the First Lady were back in Malacañang at about 6 p.m. Later they had a dinner with the Nepalese king and queen.

April 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS received the heads of delegations to the ECAFE meet in Manila, some individually, others in groups.

First to call to pay his respects was former US Treasury Secretary David Kennedy, now ambassador-at-large, and head of the US delegation.

He was accompanied by William Knight, deputy head of mission of the US embassy here.

Also making an individual call on the President was Australian Minister for Primary Industry I. Sinclair, who presented to the President the donation of Australia through the SEATO Aid Program of some US\$308,000 worth of telecommunications equipment to improve the country's typhoon warning system; and Indonesian Foreign Minister Adam Malik.

Hungarian Ambassador Peter Koos, who is his country's envoy to New Delhi; Ambassador Jerzy Bociong, Poland's envoy to Jakarta; Dr. Jaromir Johanes, Czechoslovakia's ambassador to Indonesia; and M. M. Volkov, the USSR ambassador to Indonesia, made the courtesy call on the President as a group.

They were accompanied to the Palace by Philippine delegate, Secretary of Commerce and Industry Ernesto Maceda, and ECAFE Executive Secretary U Nyun.

Later in the morning, the President inducted the officers of the Advanced Management Association of the Far East. Inducted were Rene Cristobal, president; Col. Manuel Salientes (ret.), first vice president; Pedro Nisperos, second vice president; Domingo Y. Itchon, treasurer; Arsenio Vistro, secretary; and Angel Limjoco, Jr., Horacio Gutierrez, Romeo Intengan, Gabino Mendoza, Edgardo de Leon. Gil Sulil, Jr., Patrocinio Bautista, Eusebio Viilatuya, and Patemo Kintanar, directors.

In his brief remarks following the induction, the President said the organization could help particularly in looking into new approaches for solving old problems, which emerged as "new conflicts" as a result of the implementation of innovative programs of government.

Later, the President sought the improvement of the real property assessment committee in the Department of Finance.

In creating the committee, the President stressed the importance of the realty tax as a source of revenue for local governments.

The President also emphasized that an improved real property assessment would result in the fair distribution of the realty tax burden among real property owners throughout the country.

In the afternoon, the President had leeway for attending to his desk work and other state matters. Much later, he and the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, again played hosts to the visiting King and Queen of Nepal, as the royal visitors went on a brief sight-seeing tour of the city environs.

April 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, tendered a formal dinner in honor of King Mahendra and Queen Ratna Rajya Laxmi Devi Shah, during which the President conferred the Order of Sikatuna, rank of Rajah, on the King, and the Golden Heart Presidential Award on the Queen.

Later in the evening, the President and the First Lady accompanied the visiting Royalty from Nepal to the Manila International Airport where they boarded a plane for their state visit to Australia.

Among those present at the dinner were Senate President and Mrs. Gil J. Puyat, Speaker and Mrs. Cornelio T. Villareal, Foreign Secretary Carlos P. Romulo, Education Secretary and Mrs. Juan Manuel, General Services Secretary Constancio Castañeda, Justice Secretary and Mrs. Vicente Abad Santos Central Bank Gov. and Mrs. Gregorio Licaros, chiefs of the diplomatic missions in the Philippines, and members of the Royal Couple's entourage.

The President had a full schedule of callers in the morning, among

1. Dr. Henry Clement, a tourism expert from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on assignment with the Presidential Economic Staff (PES) to help draft a tourist development program for the Philippines. Dr. Clement is author of the famed "Chechi Report," which projects the future of tourism in the Pacific and the Far East.
2. Members of a team, of the Rural Volunteers of the Philippines (RSVP), who called to pay their respects prior to their departure for Agusan del Sur to engage in a summer project among the rural folks of the Land Authority resettlement area there.
3. Members of the Philippine football team, who also called to pay their respects preparatory to their departure for Japan to compete in the Asian Youth Football Tournament.

The President worked on state papers and went over reports from various government agencies the whole afternoon.

He submitted to the Commission on Appointments two more nominations to the courts of first instance, and issued a memorandum to all members of the Cabinet on the purchase of supplies and equipment, and an executive order creating a national committee to undertake preparations for the celebration of the 73rd anniversary of Independence Day on June 12.

Nominated to CFI posts were Ildefonso Bleza, state prosecutor, and Eduardo R. Bengzon, secretary of the Senate Electoral Tribunal, as judges of the courts of first instance of Mindoro Oriental and Negros Oriental, respectively.

In his memorandum to Cabinet members, the President ordered that all purchases of supplies, materials, equipment and the like by government offices should be made directly with reputable manufacturers or their duly registered and licensed distributors in the country, to the exclusion of middlemen, as a way of precluding overpricing.

In this connection, the President directed the Department of General Services to make a list of legitimate manufacturers and their duly registered or licensed distributors in the Philippines.

The President said that should the needed materials, supplies, and equipment be not in stock, a certification to that effect issued by the general manager of the reputable manufacturer or his duly authorized representative, or the firm's duly registered and licensed distributor, shall be made the basis for the procurement through competitive public bidding of the needed materials or equipment. The certification, he said, shall be included in the claim for payment, otherwise any purchase of supplies, materials equipment and the like shall be considered irregular and therefore not be passed in audit.

Named to head the Independence Day committee were Labor Secretary Blas F. Ople, chairman; and Education Secretary Juan Manuel, vice-chairman.

For the purpose of discharging its functions effectively, the committee was empowered to create sub-committees as may be necessary.

It was also authorized to call upon any department, bureau, office, agency or instrumentality of the government, including government-owned or controlled corporations, for assistance to insure the success of the celebration.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: April 23 - May 6, 1971

President's Week in Review: May 7-13, 1971

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

May 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS sought the early completion of public works and rural improvement projects, urging greater effort during the summer months to head off the rainy season.

The President told Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, Secretary of Public Works and Communications Manuel B. Syquio, and PACD Officer-In-Charge Rosendo Marquez in a conference in Malacañang, that all necessary funds be released for the priority projects so that substantial progress may be made before the rains set in.

The President said that unless the projects are completed on time they might be set back by the elements when the rains start, and the expenses and effort put into them would just be wasted.

He later received several provincial governors and city mayors from Luzon who took up with him their local problems, particularly releases from the Calamity Fund, Special Highways Fund, and from their share of excess income tax collections.

Among those who railed were Governors Cipriano Primicias, Jr. of Pangasinan, Silvino B. Agudo of Batanes, Jose S. Estevez of Albay, Elizabeth M. Keon of Ilocos Norte, and Bienvenido Ongkeko representing Gov. Amando Cledera of Camarines Sur; and City Mayors Reynaldo Reyes of Lipa, Cesar P. Dizon of San Pablo, Cipriano Manaois of Dagupan and Elpidio Cucio of Palayan.

Among other actions, the President delegated to the National Historical Commission the authority to choose the awardee or awardees in the field of history in connection with the Annual Republic Cultural Heritage Awards.

The President's move was in recognition of the functions and responsibilities of the historical commission, notably to enable it to "encourage research in Philippine history and the writing and publication of textbooks on the subject, research on and the writing of biographies of heroes accounts of historical events, translation of important scholarly works of Filipinos and foreigners" through appropriate and adequate incentives.

The President also submitted to the Commission on Appointments the nominations of four bar topnotchers, four provincial and city fiscals, three Department of Justice officials, six law professors, one clerk of the Supreme Court, live law practitioners as judges of the Court of First Instance of various salas in the country; and transferred 12 CFI judges to salas in the Greater Manila area.

May 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS underscored the need for an effective administrative structure, which is both strong and flexible, in the planning and implementation of economic and social programs, if these programs should meet current needs and the demands posed by growing populations.

"We cannot afford to let them be overwhelmed by the scope and complexity of the problems they face. As needs and priorities change, they must adjust, anticipating and meeting new responsibilities and challenges." the President said in a speech read for him by Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile at the opening of the 6th General Assembly and Conferences of the Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration (EROPA), held at the Ramon Magsaysay Center memorial hall.

The President hailed EROPA for pioneering again in deciding to organize a regional conference on the administrative implications of rapid population growth in Asia, saying that administrators cannot ignore change as a factor in their planned activities.

Earlier, the President conveyed to the people and government of Nationalist China the gratitude of the people of the Philippines for the loan of 50,000 metric tons of rice to relieve the temporary rice shortage.

The President requested Minister of Finance K. T. Li during the signing of the Rice Loan Agreement between China and the Philippines, to convey to President Chiang Kai-Shek and the people of Nationalist China “our gratitude for your understanding and sympathy for the Filipino people.”

The Rice Loan Agreement was signed by Minister Li for and in behalf of his government, and Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Arturo R. Tanco, Jr. for and in behalf of the Philippines, in the presence of President Marcos.

The Rice Loan Agreement provides that China would loan to the Philippines 50,000 metric tons of milled rice, payable in kind over a period of 10 years.

Under this agreement, the proceeds from the rice sale could be used by the Philippines for the promotion of agricultural productivity while the payment is not yet due. The rice loan was negotiated by Secretary Tanco.

Also present at the signing of the agreement were Undersecretary of Agriculture and acting RCA Chairman and General Manager Jose D. Drilon, Jr., Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata, Ambassador to China Pelagio Llamas, Director of Plant Industry Eliseo C. Carandang, PNB Vice President Nicanor Fernandez, Antonio Roxas-Chua of the Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce.

H. P. Chen, director of the Central Trust of China; Chinese Ambassador Patrick Pichi Sun; S. T. Shih, acting director of Taiwan Provincial Food Bureau; Stewart Y. F. Pei, secretary of the Chinese delegations; and S. J. Ho and William Sun, counsellor and commercial attache, respectively of the Chinese embassy.

May 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and Mrs. Marcos led the nation in commemorating the 29th anniversary of the fall of Corregidor by making a pilgrim age to Corregidor island.

The President was the guest speaker while the First Lady officiated at the wreath-laying ceremony at the marker on the exact site where the Philippine-American forces surrendered to the Japanese conquerors.

During the simple but solemn ceremonies, the President renewed his pledge to sacrifice “our everything—our lives, our hope and our dreams—even unto death, to fight for the freedom for which we stand.”

A veteran and member of the Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor the President said:

“We come to rededicate ourselves to the ideals and valor of those who lie here.

The President said that the difficult thing about the present struggle was that as free men, “we must give the same rights and privileges which we consider as basic and are enshrined in the very Constitution which they seek to destroy.”

The Presidential party arrived at Corregidor at 11:20 a.m. After the President received full military honors from a composite battalion of the AFP, he proceeded to the actual site of the surrender where the First Lady laid a wreath. Rizalino Lacuna, DBC national commander, assisted her. This was followed by the President’s remarks.

Then, U. S. Ambassador Henry Byroade inducted the new set of officers of the Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor headed by its national commander, Rizalino Lacuna.

Others who took their oaths were Alfred X. Burgos, vice national commander; Reno G. Lavadia, national adjutant; Antonio S. Vinlian, national finance officer; Ismael C. Lomibao, national public relations officer; Jose Syjuco, national judge advocate; Jose D. Regala, national inspector; Teofilo S. San Agustin, national auditor; Ismael D. Lapus, immediate past national commander; Gen. Manuel T. Yan, Undersecretary of National Defense Manuel Q. Salientes, Bienvenido C. Buenaventura, Angel A. Ricasata, Mario O. Cruz, and Jose C. Moran, national directors; and Constante Ma. Cruz, national welfare officer; Carlos Vergel de Dios, national surgeon; and Fr. Sebastian Posadas, OP, national chaplain.

After the induction of officers. and departure honors, the President and his party boarded the *RPS 77* and proceeded to Mariveles to give the guests who had gone on the pilgrimage a chance to visit the *Dambana ng Kagitingan* on Mount Samat.

The *RPS 777* left Mariveles at 5 p.m. and arrived in Manila at about 7 p.m.

Among those who accompanied the President were Executive Secretary and Mrs. Alejandro Melchor. Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, participants in the Green Revolution including PACD Officer-In-Charge Rosendo Marquez. Fisheries Commissioner Andres Mane. and National Agriculture and Food Council Executive Director Roberto Fronda.

Among other actions, the President nominated Mrs. Lucina C. Alday, as director of the Bureau of Women and Minors, vice Carmen Herrera-Acosta, retired.

May 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS concentrated on official papers and other matters of state, preparatory to his scheduled trip to the north in another of a series of visits to the provinces during summer.

The President attended to desk work shortly after breakfast, breaking off at well past noon for lunch and a brief rest. He was back to paper work later in the afternoon.

He did not receive callers, but consulted with his aides in the course of the day.

May 11 —

PRESIDENT MARCOS warned the people of Northern Luzon against national leaders who, once having gained power, are using that power “wittingly or unwittingly,” to help advance communism in this country.

He made the warning in brief remarks at the inauguration of the branch of the Philippine National Bank in Aparri before noon.

The President also cautioned the people to be more discriminating in their choice of aspirants to government posts such that leaders of dubious motives and qualifications are not returned to power.

The President was accompanied to Cagayan by the First Lady Imelda R. Marcos, who took advantage of the opportunity to thank the people of the region for their wholehearted support of her Green Revolution.

The First Lady impressed upon the Ilocanos the importance of the movement, saying it is the basic foundation of any developing country like the Philippines.

The First Couple was accorded a rousing reception upon their arrival in Aparri. It was their first visit to the northernmost town of Luzon since the President assumed the highest office of the Republic.

The President was introduced by Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, who is a native of the province. Other speakers included Gov. Teresa Dupaya, Aparri Mayor Oscar W. Litaua, and PNB President Eusebio Villatuya who headed PNB officials at the ceremony.

Following the inaugural rites, the Presidential Party flew to the capital town of Tuguegarao where they boarded helicopters which ferried them to Liwan, Kalinga-Apayao. In that town they viewed the fossilized remains of prehistoric animals and man-made tools said to date back to 100,000 to 400,000 years ago.

The artifacts were unearthed by archaeological excavation undertaken by the National Museum and the University of the Philippines archaeological department.

The First Couple was accompanied to the excavation site by Rep. Roque Ablan, Jr., president of the Philippine Tourist and Travel Association.

From Kalinga-Apayao, the President returned to Tuguegarao where he conferred with local officials whom he urged to finish improvement projects in their areas before the rainy season sets in. He also inquired into the peace and order situation in their respective localities.

May 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, together with the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, made a side trip to the Fuga Island group, some 47 nautical miles north of Luzon, for some relaxation.

The President was originally scheduled to visit Isabela, but decided to postpone it and proceeded instead to Fuga Island, where he tried his luck in the clear waters of the island. He caught a 5-pound [unreadable] and an 8-pound *jack*.

May 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS returned to Manila from a three-day visit to the Cagayan Valley provinces, which he undertook in connection with his annual summer tour of the country.

Accompanied by the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, the President covered the provinces of Cagayan, Kalinga-Apayao and Isabela, where he looked into the progress of various on-going development projects.

While in Isabela, the President also received a briefing from military officials on the peace and order situation in the province.

The military commanders reported that communist dissidents previously operating in Tarlac and Pampanga had transferred their operations to Isabela but that the armed forces have them on the run and are in full control of the situation.

Present at the briefing held at the residence of Gov. Samuel F. Reyes in Cauayan at noon were Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, Brig. Gen. Eduardo Garcia, PC chief: Brig. Gen. Felizardo Tanabe, 1st PC zone commander; and ranking officers of the provincial and task force commands.

After his conferences with the local and military officials, the President and the First Lady left for Manila, arriving in Malacañang late in the afternoon.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: May 14-20, 1971

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

May 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS resumed work at his study after a three-day absence from Malacañang, during which he visited Cagayan Valley where he assessed the progress of on-going projects and conferred with local officials on their problems. After a spell of work at his desk, he received Gen. Shim Heung-Sun, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Korea, who called to pay his respects. The visiting Korean top brass was accompanied by Korean Ambassador to the Philippines Se Ryun Kim.

Later at formal ceremonies, the President conferred the Legion of Honor (rank of commander) on Gen. Shim, for signal services in promoting and enhancing the friendship between the Philippines and his country, and for his contributions to the security of the Asian region. At the ceremonies were top brass of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

After the rites, the President took advantage of the presence of the military leaders of the country to discuss current problems of defense, and to get a briefing on the peace and order situation.

In the afternoon, the President again worked at his desk, and received a few more private visitors. Then he motored to the Hotel Intercontinental where he addressed a gathering of 4-H Club members.

In his speech, the President lauded the 4-H Club for "paving the way for the Green Revolution."

The President said that so long as there are young men and women like the 4-H Club members, who believe there is need for reform and look forward to reforms, and who believe in bringing about reforms without violence, those reforms can be obtained peacefully.

In the evening, the President conferred the Order of the Golden Heart on Gen. Charles A. Lindbergh "for his persevering concern regarding the kind of impact civilization makes on the quality of all forms of life on earth—human life, and other life as well."

The award was presented to the world renowned aviator, humanist and conservationist at a formal dinner tendered by the President and the First Lady. Imelda R. Marcos, in Malacañang.

Lindbergh was cited for, among others, his personal commitment in dramatizing the urgent need for concentrated efforts to preserve the tamaraw, the monkey-eating eagle, the green sea turtle and other dwindling species of Philippine wildlife from extinction, as well as for generating international support of Philippine conservation efforts in the form of field laboratory equipment and other facilities.

May 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS was guest of honor and speaker at the closing ceremonies of the Livestock, Piggery and Poultry Week and National Agricultural Fair held at the Greater Manila Terminal Food Market.

In his speech, the President urged the intensification of animal production, saying that it is one of the greatly deficient areas of production in the country.

The President also congratulated the officials and industrial leaders responsible for the holding of the Fair.

The President said that national problems like unrest, reform, medical indigency, or pollution control can be solved through production.

“If each and every child, man or woman produces something, no matter how modest or small,” the President said, “he will be able to solve all our problems.”

He said production means increased income for the farmers who need not beg for food or clothing, but could afford to send their children to school and live comfortably.

Before motoring to the GMTFM, the President witnessed the signing of the deed covering the donation of \$1 million worth of rice by the Japanese government to the Philippine government.

The document was signed by Ambassador Toshio Urabe on behalf of the Japanese Government, and by Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs Jose D. Ingles on behalf of the Philippine Government, at a simple ceremony held in Malacañang.

The President later signed a note conveying to the Japanese government and people the gratitude of the Filipino for the rice donation.

In the afternoon, the President had a reunion with a wartime buddy, Marcelo Paat, who provided him shelter and refuge from the Japanese during the war.

Aged 78 and jobless, but healthy, Paat came to Malacañang upon invitation of the President who wanted to know in what way he could help the old man. Paat hails from Bantay, Ilocos Sur.

Following his reunion with his wartime comrade, the President held a press conference at Malacañang, during which he, among others clarified points on the PC circular regarding the arrest of persons inciting rebellion during demonstrations.

The President said that the PC circular ordering the filing of charges against persons inciting rebellion in connection with anti-government demonstrations and rallies would not in any way affect the right of free speech and assembly.

He said that the administration would continue to tolerate criticism, but the President added seditious acts are punishable under the law and the authorities are going to enforce the law.

Proper legal procedures would be observed, the President concluded.

May 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS inducted into office Dr. Estefania Aldaba-Lim as secretary of social welfare.

The President appointed Dr. Aldaba-Lim to the social welfare post after Secretary Gregorio M. Feliciano resigned to re-assume his position in the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction.

The new DSW secretary took her oath of office in the presence of the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos; Sen. Helena Z. Benitez, Rep. Jose Alberto and Ali Dimaporo, Dr. Vicente Villamin and other members of her family, which included her mother Estefania J. Vda de Aldaba; mother-in-law Pilar Hidalgo-Lim; brothers Benjamin Homobono and Rodolfo and their ladies; sisters Lualhati, Dalisay and Diwata; children Cristina, Alberto, Luis, Jr., and Ricardo; and son-in-law Yuzon.

The President devoted the rest of his working hours in the morning and afternoon to state papers, in the process ordering a nationwide crackdown on the production of pornography in all its forms.

He issued the order in a directive to the Secretary of Justice, the Secretary of National Defense, the Philippine Constabulary, the National Bureau of Investigation and local executives and their prosecutors.

The President directed them to arrest and prosecute all guilty parties.

May 17—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had another day spent mostly on official papers.

Among others, he issued an executive order creating an Education Project Task Force which would undertake feasibility studies of certain specific projects to be financed through soft loans from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank).

Proposed by the Department of Education, the task force would evaluate and choose the specific projects from among those recommended by a Presidential Commission previously constituted under an earlier executive order to conduct a survey of education in the Philippines.

May 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS continued concentrating on paper work and other urgent matters of state, even as he kept his schedule clear of callers.

The President limited his conferences to government officials, who discussed with him developmental concerns of their respective departments.

While engaged in desk work, the President certified to Congress House Bill No. 1919, otherwise known as the Electoral Reform Bill.

The President, in messages to the Senate and the House of Representatives, certified to the urgency of enacting the bill subject to proper amendments.

The bill has been reported out by the House Special Committee on Electoral Reforms, with some amendments.

The bill, among others:

1. Organizes and defines the powers and functions of the Commission on Elections.
2. Defines the election period.
3. Creates the Office of Election Prosecutors.
4. Moves national elections from the second Tuesday to the second Monday of November.
5. Requires the registration of political parties and defines their rights and obligations.
6. Prohibits contributions from foreign sources for election campaigns.
7. Prohibits candidates and leaders from receiving contributions, specifying that only the political party as an organization is authorized to do so.
8. Limits expenditures and advertisements for election campaigns.

9. Cites violations of the provisions of the law and sets down the corresponding punishment.

May 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS maintained the pace of his desk work, trimming down the piles of official papers in his private study.

The President started acting on official papers at about 9:10 a.m., breaking off some three hours later for lunch and a brief rest. He was back in his study later in the afternoon, remaining at his desk through early evening.

May 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS issued a proclamation calling Congress to a special session beginning June 14.

Earlier in the day, the President certified to Congress House Bill No. 3609, transferring the site for the inaugural meeting of the Constitutional Convention from the Congress building to the Manila Hotel.

The President certified the bill upon the request of the Inaugural Committee of the Constitutional Convention, members of which called on him to invite him to attend the inaugural ceremonies.

The members of the Inaugural Committee informed the President that during their pre-convention meeting on April 21, Manila Hotel was made the overwhelming choice for the site of the inauguration.

They said that with 320 members, the Hall of the House of Representatives would be too small for all the delegates. The Manila Hotel, they said, is spacious enough to contain even more guests than already invited.

Those who called on the President were Delegates Cicero Calderon, inaugural committee chairman; Felino Neri, Rev. Pacifico Ortiz, Eriberto Misa, Antonio Raquiza and Heherson Alvarez.

The President called Congress to a special session upon recommendation of the leaders of Congress in order to take up several vital measures pending before both Chambers of the legislative body.

He summoned Congress to a special session for a period not exceeding 30 days starting June 14, in response to the request of Congress leaders to give them at least two weeks after adjournment of the regular session, within which to iron out their differences on some of the bills.

In his proclamation, the President listed down four bills for inclusion in the agenda of the special session, namely:

House Bill No. 3343—	AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES DURING THE PERIOD FROM JULY FIRST, NINETEEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-ONE TO JUNE THIRTIETH, NINETEEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-TWO AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES
SENATE BILL No. 184—	AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR ELECTORAL REFORMS, TO AMEND THE ELECTION CODE AND INSERTING NEW SECTIONS THEREIN, AND AMENDING FURTHER REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED THIRTY-THREE, THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FOUR, AS AMENDED;
HOUSE BILL No. 1919—	NEW ELECTION CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES;
SENATE BILL No. 478—	AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED THIRTY-THREE, THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FOUR, AS AMENDED;

Earlier in the morning, the President received the credentials of the Italian envoy. Ambassador Luigi Martelli, at ceremonies in Malacañang.

Immediately after the rites, the President sat down with Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo who reported on the SEATO ministers meeting in London, and the meeting he called in Madrid of Philippine envoys in Europe.

Shortly afterward, the President again sat down for a conference with USAID Assistant Director Roderick O'Connor. They discussed future uses of USAID assistance, in such areas of development as electrification and such problem areas as population control. Also present at the conference were Secretary Romulo, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. and NEC Chairman Gerardo Sicat.

In the afternoon, the President had time to work extensively at his desk, during which he issued a proclamation calling Congress to a special session.

The President knocked off only for a meeting with US Assistant Secretary of State Marshal Green. With the US official was Frank Shakespeare, USIS director. They were accompanied by US Ambassador Henry Byroade.

In the evening, the President and the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, were hosts at a dinner honoring the visiting US envoys in Asia, who had gathered in Manila for a conference.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: May 21-27, 1971

President's Week in Review: May 28 - June 3, 1971

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

May 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS conferred the Golden Heart Presidential Award on Dr. Clark Bloom, resident representative in the Philippines of the Ford Foundation.

The President presented the award in recognition of Dr. Bloom's, distinguished service to the Philippines and the Filipino people, particularly in strengthening Philippine institutions relating to development in essential areas like agriculture and education.

Present at the conferment ceremony were Mrs. Bloom, Dr. Arthur Hill, Dr. David Szanton and Silvestre Sarmiento.

In the afternoon, the President was honored with a parade and review by the Presidential Guard Battalion in a ceremony held at Malacañang Park, commemorating the 33rd anniversary of its founding.

Addressing the officers and men of the organization, the President pointed out that the "unsettled character of our times pose dangers to our democracy."

This present crisis, the President stated, would require those in the military and those in the government, to exercise the "ability to keep events from getting ahead of us and to keep the ship of state from sinking in the eye of the typhoon."

The President stressed the difficulty of the task, saying that government response, if it is to be truly reflective of democracy, must never "trample on the bedrock of freedom—civil liberties."

He continued: "Our response must be tempered with caution even in dealing with those who are sworn to bring down the government."

The President was introduced by Brig. Gen. Fabian C. Ver, PGB commander.

Present at the rites were Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce 'v Enrile, Undersecretary Jose F. Crisol, AFP Chief of Staff General Manuel Yan, heads of the major services of the armed forces, families and friends of the members of the PGB.

May 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS told some 64 graduates of the seminar on provincial electric cooperatives that they are responsible for the success of one of the most important programs of government.

Composed of representatives from the Presidential Arm on Community Development, Cooperatives Administration Office, local government, teachers and civic groups, the trainees had just completed a 10-day intensive training, preparatory to being divided into five-man teams to be called Provincial Electric Cooperatives Teams and sent to the barrio^ and towns, some to gather data for feasibility studies and others to organize or set the proper atmosphere for the organization of cooperative as a new approach to the problem of electricity.

"Thus," the President told them, "you will bring light where there is darkness, progress where there is stagnation, knowledge where there is ignorance, abundance where there is scarcity, and health where there is disease."

The President also took occasion to express his gratitude to the United States Government through Director Thomas Niblock of the local U.S. Agency for International Development for the various assistance given by that and other U.S. agencies to the Philippines.

Later in the afternoon, the President sent the following letter to the delegates to the Constitutional Convention:

The				Delegates
1971		Constitutional		Convention
Through	the	Inaugural	Committee	Chairman
Dr.	Cicero		D.	Calderon
Manila				

Gentlemen of the Convention:

In answer to a letter of your inauguration committee, I have the pleasure to accept your invitation, which I understand has been supported by a Resolution inviting me to speak.

It is my hope that this will lay the foundation for unity among our people, who are praying for the success of the Constitutional Convention.

Very truly yours

(Sdg.)	FERDINAND	E.	MARCOS
President of the Philippines			

May 30—

PRESIDENT MARCOS directed RCA Chairman-General Manager Jose D. Drilon, Jr. to effect a complete revamp of the agency with the view to making it a more effective and respected arm of the government.

The President gave the order after Drilon reported that syndicates which had been responsible for shortages in RCA stocks have virtually been busted with the filing of administrative charges and suspension of five RCA regional managers, three branch and agency managers, nine finance officers, nine provincial inspectors and 44 warehousemen.

The President commended Undersecretary Drilon for cleaning up the RCA, the agency charged with stabilizing the supply of the staple food of the people.

In the afternoon, the President proclaimed June 1, Tuesday, a special public holiday.

In proclaiming the opening, of the Constitutional Convention a special holiday, the President said that “the people should be given the opportunity to ponder upon the importance of the historic undertaking and to think out and propose to their respective delegates much-needed reforms in the social, economic and political structure.”

The day marks the opening of the 1971 Constitutional Convention.

The President also designated Leticia Perez de Guzman, a vice president for administration of the Philippine Women’s University, as member of the National Manpower and Youth Council, to represent Family Organizations.

May 31—

PRESIDENT MARCOS paid tribute to the war dead, urging the people to carry on with the ideals for which they had fought and died.

At the Memorial Day services held at the Manila American Cemetery in Fort Bonifacio in the afternoon, the President urged his hearers to “keep our promises to the men who had believed with us but are not here to share our burdens.”

The President decried that the peace the war heroes had looked forward to “remains fragile and fragmented, with the evils and malignancies they had sought to cleanse away with their blood still haunting the world, enslaving or wounding men, if not their flesh, their spirit; if not their minds, their hopes of a brighter day.”

Refusing to concede that all that these heroes had died for had been nothing, the President stated that “perhaps the world is what it is today, wracked by suspicion and prejudice, by hostile conspiracies and mindless violence; moved by greed and lust for power; because the idea of human brotherhood and common dignity has not yet reached its time.”

The President exhorted the people to “overcome the dissensions and the jealousies dividing the human family,” to “dominate the tigers that ceaselessly strive to break loose within us and thus make us one of the same pack of predators stalking the weak and the helpless.”

He continued: “Let us strive so that we too could live as emblems of conduct, in the way they fought and died.”

Present at the solemn rites were members of the diplomatic corps, representatives of 36 participating veterans organizations, ranking American and Filipino military officials and families of the war dead.

Military honors were accorded the President by a company of Philippine Army men upon his arrival at the cemetery gate at exactly 4:00 p.m.

The President was welcomed at the steps of the cemetery by U.S. Ambassador Henry Byroade; John F. McLaughlin, master of ceremonies; Dr. Charles Mosebrook, minister of United Methodist Church; (Lt. Cmdr.) James Clark, catholic chaplain; and (Lt. Cmdr.) Richard Smithy protestant chaplain.

Then the President laid a wreath on the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, followed by Ambassador Byroade. Some 20 special guests and representatives of veterans, civic and military organizations also jointly made floral offerings.

As part of the observance, the United States and Philippine flags were lowered at half-mast the whole day.

Capping the ceremonies were memorial day prayers delivered by both the Catholic and Protestant chaplains.

Earlier in the morning the President directed the chief of the Philippine Navy to take “strong punitive action” against a PN officer allegedly involved in a gunrunning attempt in Saigon, Vietnam.

At the same time, the President ordered the Department of Foreign Affairs to explore with the local Vietnamese embassy by means of regulating the entry into Vietnam of Filipino job-seekers without appropriate working visas.

The President issued the twin directives through Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. following receipt of reports of unsavory incidents involving Filipinos in South Vietnam.

The Chief Executive asked both the Secretary of Foreign Affairs and the PN chief to submit their respective reports on the action taken by them on these cases.

June 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS appealed to the delegates to the Constitutional Convention to cast aside narrow interests and work in unity and close cooperation in the framing of a new Constitution.

Addressing the opening session of the Constitutional Convention at the Manila Hotel, the President also asked everyone to help provide the moral climate of cooperation and support “without which this great opportunity for human growth in this part of the world must surely lapse unfulfilled.”

The President said he had come to the Convention “to offer that cooperation and support,” and “to express in person the fervent hope that the Constitutional Convention will succeed in its noble task to meet the great expectations of our people in a Philippine Constitution.”

The President said that “the price of a successful new Charter is unity itself, for neither the making of a new Constitution nor its blueprints of ideals and principles is an assurance by itself that we shall attain the peaceful, abundant and meaningful life which alone is the object of our best endeavors.”

The President reminded the delegates that they go into their historic mission with the confidence of the people who elected them in their “ability and willingness to discard narrow interests so that neither political ends, nor personal fortune, nor fanaticism shall stand in the way of a Charter expressive of the true aspirations of our people.”

The President continued, “The new tribalism engendered by organized anarchy must now be discarded in favor of national unity, which alone can ensure the calm and orderliness that can guarantee the success of you efforts.” (See pp. 4436-4437 for text of the President’s speech.)

The President, together with the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez-Marcos arrived at the convention hall at about 10 a.m. Their arrival was announced by a long standing ovation as the delegates and their guests stood up to greet them.

After acknowledging the greetings from the crowd, the President proceeded to the rostrum where he sat flanked by Senate President Gil J. Puyat and Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal, while the First Lady joined Mrs. Mariquit Lopez, wife of Vice President Fernando Lopez, and former First Ladies, namely, Mesdames Carlos P. Garcia, Diosdado Macapagal and Sergio Osmeña, Sr.

As soon as the President and the First Lady were seated, Senate President Puyat and Speaker Villareal called the convention to order.

The program started with the singing of the National Anthem, followed by an ecumenical prayer led by representatives of the Iglesia ni Cristo Muslim faith, National Council of Churches, Philippine Independent Church and Roman Catholic Church.

This was followed by a speech by Senate President Puyat, and the certification of the election of the delegates present by Chairman Jaime N Ferrer of the Commission on Elections, who informed the convention that there were 312 delegates elected, with eight others not yet decided and 309 of the 312 elected were present at the opening session.

After the certification of elections, Speaker Villareal addressed the Convention, followed by the oath-taking of the elected delegates.

The Speaker then introduced the President who spoke for 13 minutes, and then waited for the session to be recessed before leaving the convention hall.

Also present at the opening session of the Constitutional Convention were surviving members of the Constitutional Convention of 1934, members of the Cabinet, senators and representatives, members; of the diplomatic corps, and other government officials.

The President worked on urgent state papers the rest of the day.

June 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS conferred with leaders of Congress headed by Senate President Gil J. Puyat and Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal, to insure the passage of four vital measures which he had certified to Congress for consideration in the coming special session.

In his proclamation calling Congress to a special session for a period of 30 days or less starting on June 14, the President certified for inclusion in the agenda, the following:

- 1) H. No. 3443, otherwise known as the General Appropriations Act;
- 2) H. No. 184, otherwise known as the Electoral Reform Bill;
- 3) H. No. 1919, calling for a New Election Code; and
- 4) H. No. 3453 (S. No. 478), otherwise known as the Land Reform Act;

The President, however, emphasized that the agenda may be expanded to include other pending bills which the leaders of Congress might consider of vital importance and urgency.

In today's meeting, the President and the leaders of Congress took up the pending measures and agreed to limit the agenda to as few bills as possible.

Present at the conference were Speaker Protempore Jose Aldeguer, House Majority Floorleader Marcelino Veloso, Reps, Jose D. Aspiras and Joaquin Ortega of La Union, Emerito Calderon of Cebu, James L. Chiongbian of South Cotabato, Ali Dimaporo of Lanao del Norte, Rafael B. Legaspi of Aklan, Jose J. Leido, Jr. of Oriental Mindoro, Lamberto L. Macias of Negros Oriental, Pablo Malasarte of Bohol, Pedro C. Medalla of Occ. Mindoro, Constantino Navarro of Surigao del Norte, Pablo R. Roman of Bataan, Roberto Sabido of Albay, Lorenzo Sarmiento of Davao del Norte and Nicanor E. Yñiguez of Southern Leyte.

June 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS early in the morning left for the North on his inspection tour.

He was accompanied by the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos.

Before leaving Malacañang, the President directed:

1. Chairman Vicente Paterno of the Board of Investments to discuss with ASEAN investment agencies regional investment and industrial programs, taking into consideration the Philippine car manufacturing program and its expected effect on the economy of the region.
2. The Philippine ambassador to Washington Ernesto Lagdameo to submit an official report on the reported cut made on Philippine sugar quota in the United States.

In a memorandum circular issued through Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., the President asked all departments, bureaus, offices and government-owned or controlled corporations to sponsor or conduct on or before June 12 appropriate programs commemorating Philippine Independence Day.

The directive was a reiteration of a circular issued by the Rational

Independence Day Committee, chair manned by Secretary of Labor Blas F. Ople.

In keeping with the temper of the times and cognizant of the imperative need for immediate reforms in society, the committee adopted "Social Regeneration" as the theme for this year's Independence Day celebrations.

The committee said that "the 73rd Independence Day anniversary is an auspicious occasion for all departments, agencies and corporations owned or controlled by the government to give practical content to the theme of "social regeneration" by sponsoring programs and activities designed to relate themselves in a real and immediate sense to the reforms that "the people are clamoring for programs that would generate clearly and strongly a pervasive mood or temper for critical self-reexamination that could pave the way for the departments, bureaus, offices and corporations to improve their performance and their services to the people."

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: June 4-17, 1971

President's Week in Review: June 18-24, 1971

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

June 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS led public officials, the kins and friends of the late President Carlos P. Garcia in hearing the special Mass celebrated by Rufino Cardinal Santos at the Ceremonial Hall of Malacañang for the late President.

Among those who attended, apart from the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, and the family of the deceased, close relatives and friends, were the officials who served under President Garcia, members of the Constitutional Convention, the Senate and the House of Representatives; the judiciary and the diplomatic corps; and military top brass.

At about 12:30 p.m., the President conferred with officials and chapter presidents of the Philippine Public School Teachers Association (PPSTA) who were accompanied by Secretary of Commerce and Industry Ernesto Maceda to Malacañang. Also present were Acting Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco and Secretary of Education Juan L. Manuel.

The First Couple later had luncheon with members of the family of the late President Garcia and others who had come for the Mass.

Notable among those present at the Mass were Mrs. Leonila D. Garcia, Linda Garcia-Campos, Fernando Campos, their three children; Secretary of Health Amadeo H. Cruz, Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos, Secretary Reyes, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, Secretary Manuel, Commissioner Sy-Changco, Auditor General Ismael Mathay;

Reps, Emerito Calderon of Cebu, Jose D. Aspiras of La Union, Jose Aldeguer of Iloilo, William Chiongbian of Misamis Occidental, and Lamberto Macias and Herminio Teves of Negros Oriental; and Senator Dominador Aytona.

Delegate and Mrs. Roseller T. Lim, former Secretary of Education Jose Romero, former Defense Secretary Alejo Santos, former Asst. Executive Secretary Enrique Quema, former Executive Secretary Fortunato de Leon, former Social Welfare Administrator Amparo Villamor, Mons. Mariano Gaviola, and SSS Chairman Ramon Gaviola, Jr.

The President spent the rest of the day at work in his study, during which he issued a proclamation declaring June 19, Saturday, a special public holiday in the province of Laguna and the city of San Pablo.

June 19, 1971, marks the 111th birth anniversary of Dr. Jose Rizal, the Philippine national hero, who was born in Calamba, Laguna.

June 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, headed the funeral procession together with Mrs. Leonila D. Garcia and her daughter Linda, when the remains of the late President Carlos P. Garcia were taken in the morning to a waiting funeral car at Gate 2 from the Malacanang Ceremonial Hall for airlifting to Tagbilaran, where necrological services were held in the afternoon.

Earlier, the President and the First Lady, the bereaved family, and relatives and friends of the late President, heard Mass said by Msgr. Mariano Gaviola.

Toward noon, the President motored to the GSIS building to address the 26th annual convention of the Philippine Veterans Legion.

In his speech, the President renewed his plea for unity and called on the people to be ready to fight for freedom and democracy.

The President reminded the veterans that freedom was being eroded once more by negative attitudes. He said that to some people it is the height of patriotism to speak ill of their government and to assassinate the character of their leaders.”

The President said the people can remain free only as long as “we recognize the limitations of our, freedom and exercise that freedom with a sense of maturity and responsibility.”

Later in the day, the President issued a proclamation declaring June 24, Thursday; as a special public holiday in the Greater Manila Area.

The day marks the 400th anniversary of the formal organization of the City of Manila.

June 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had one engagement which took him out of Malacañang. The rest of the day he spent mostly on paper work.

At 8:00 a.m. the President motored to the Rizal Coliseum where he shot the first arrow which formally launched the whole-day National Open Indoor Archery Tournament.

In his brief remarks during the launching ceremony, the President pledged to give all the public and private encouragement for the development of archery in the Philippines.

The President said that the development of athletics is something which every man, whether a public official or not, should encourage. “The policy of government is to encourage athletics from the highest level all the way down to the lowest,” added.

The President was to address another gathering, the annual general assembly of the Philippine Veterans Legion at Fort Bonifacio, Rizal, “but he had to ask Secretary of Defense Juan Ponce Enrile to read his message to the assembly because he could not make it on time.

In his speech, the President renewed his appeal to Filipino veterans to be ready once again to fight in defense of freedom.

The President said that to some people “it is the height of patriotism to speak ill of their government and to assassinate the character of their leaders.”

The President said that while the freedom of the press should be powerful force contributing to national development, “the press, if it abuses its own freedom, may weaken the very system under which it thrives.”

The President said that if one were to listen to some of the strident voices of the activists one would think “we had wiped out their liberties and installed a regime of fascism. But the fact that they can slander their president and employ the most vitriolic language against him ” the President said, “is the very refutation to their claim that fascism prevails in this country.”

The president deplored the fact that some of them even foment disorder and commit acts of vandalism and abuse in the exercise of freedom.

The President said that the exercise of freedom is regulated by law and it is the duty of government to protect the people and preserve their individual liberties.

The President said the people can remain free only as long as “we recognize the limitations of our freedom and exercise that freedom with a sense of maturity and responsibility.”

The President said the Filipinos should be proud of the fact that in a region where most peoples are deprived of human freedom, “we still enjoy our heritage of democracy and freedom.”

Concluding, the President told the veterans the value of freedom is immeasurable and if it is necessary “that we should fight again, we shall do so for freedom. We shall not hesitate to offer our lives, our honor, our dreams and aspirations, so that the people will remain free.”

June 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS constituted an interim inter-agency committee which will coordinate and centralize all activities to Sangley Point.

The official turn-over of the United States naval base at Sangley Point to the Philippine government was scheduled for September 1.

A development plan for the eventual use and land allocation of the naval base has been prepared.

Other preparatory work and pertinent analytical studies pertaining to the eventual transfer of Sangley Point had also been conducted.

Named to the committee were the director-general of the Presidential Economic Staff or his representative, as chairman; and the chairman of the Board of Investment, the Secretary of Public Works and Communications, the administrator of Economic Coordination, the Flag Officer-in-Command of the Philippine Navy, Commanding General of the Philippine Air Force and the Director-General of the National Manpower and Youth Council or their representatives, as members.

The governor of Cavite, the mayor of Cavite City, the chairman of the Cavite Socio-Economic Council, and the president of the Filipino Employees Association of U.S. Bases in the Philippines could seat as ex-officio members in the Committee on an invitation basis.

At past noon, the President and the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, had as luncheon guests Administrator David Hamil of the U.S. Rural Electrification Administration and Mrs. Hamil who arrived in Manila recently in the course of a tour of U.S. assisted projects in Asia.

During the luncheon, the President received assurance from the U.S. Agency for International Development that it would continue to support the rural electrification program of the government, aimed at providing cheap electric power in the rural areas and improve the living conditions in outlying regions.

Among other luncheon guests at Malacañang were U.S. Ambassador Henry A. Byroade, Director and Mrs. Thomas C. Niblock of USAID in Manila, Acting Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, Chairman Gerardo Sicat of the National Economic Council, PACD Secretary Rosendo Marquez and Chairman Geronimo Velasco of the Electrification Administration.

June 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS led the Filipino people in paying homage to the late President Carlos P. Garcia who was laid to rest at Fort Bonifacio, Rizal at high noon.

The burial of the late President ended a week-long period of memorial services during which the remains of the former President of the country lay in state at the session hall of the Constitutional Convention at the Manila Hotel, at Malacañang, at the Tagbilaran Cultural Center, and at the House of Representatives.

In an extemporaneous funeral oration, delivered in the session hall of Congress, the President extolled the late President as a politician, statesman, poet and dreamer whose irreplaceable loss will be felt by the whole nation.

The President said the late President “symbolized the gentleman of the old school and represented the virtues of his generation—generosity, goodwill, graceful accommodation and compromise.” . (See pp. 5086 to 5087 for full text of the President’s eulogy.)

The President and the First Lady arrived at the Hall of Congress at 7:30 a.m. and were greeted by other officials led by Senate President Gil J. Puyat and Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal, and members of the Constitutional Convention led by President Protempore Sotero Laurel.

After the delivery of the invocation by Msgr. Mariano Gaviola, other funeral orations were delivered by President Protempore Laurel, Chief Justice Roberto Conception of the Supreme Court, Speaker Villareal and Senate President Puyat.

At about 9 a.m., as the necrological services ended, the flag-draped casket bearing the remains of the late President was borne away by a funeral car at the head of a long procession which headed for the Manila Cathedral.

At the Cathedral, a Mass was said for the dead by Rufino Cardinal Santos, after which the long procession started for the place of burial at the Libingan ng mga Bayani at Fort Bonifacio.

The funeral procession passed along Roxas Boulevard, through Harrison Boulevard to the South Superhighway, then Buendia and Ayala Avenue in Makati, and finally Mckinley Road to Fort Bonifacio.

As the funeral cortege entered Fort Bonifacio, an artillery batten-boomed a 21-gun salute to the late President.

At the gate to the Libingan, a composite battalion made up of units of the Philippine Army, Philippine Constabulary, Philippine Marines, Philippine Air Force and Philippine Navy, followed by a formation of the Presidential Guard Battalion, preceded the caisson bearing the casket.

Following the casket were the President and the First Lady, the members of the Garcia family headed by Mrs. Leonila D. Garcia, members of the Constitutional Convention, other government officials, and relatives and friends of the bereaved family.

At the foot of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the procession stopped as the Philippine National Anthem was played. Then, slowly and carefully, the casket was lifted by the pallbearers and gently placed at the graveside.

Rufino Cardinal Santos then blessed the dead and, after the widow and Children of the late President, and other relatives and friends had taken a last look, the casket was closed and the flag draping folded and presented to Mrs. Garcia by the President himself.

Then, the muffled drums sounded the three volleys of musketry reverberated as taps was sounded in a final salute. Overhead a plane hovered, swooped and springled the grave with flowers.

As the casket was being lowered into the grave, another 21-gun salute bommed in the distance, and the late President was laid to rest.

With the remains of the departed leader in its final resting place and the grave eventually sealed, the First Couple invited members of the bereaved family into the Presidential car and accompanied them to the Garcia residence on Bohol avenue in Quezon City.

There the First Couple alighted and lingered for a while to comfort Mrs. Garcia and other immediate members of the family. The President and the First Lady were back at Malacañang about 2 p.m.

In the afternoon, the President directed key officials concerned to go over carefully the bill (HB 3417) intended to increase the salaries of public school teachers.

The President emphasized that in the bill to be presented to Congress, extreme care be taken to obviate any disparity in the matter of salary adjustment among teachers.

June 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered the revamp of two bureaus which he described as “most inefficient,” notably to weed out misfits and improve performance.

The President ordered the revamp of the Bureau of Posts under the Department of Public Works and Communications and the Bureau of Customs under the Department of Finance.

The President also expressed dissatisfaction with the slow pace of road construction, even as he directed Acting Secretary of Public Works and Communications Baltazar Aquino to rush completion of the cementing of Pampanga road, the Ilocos Norte road, and the Bataan road. The condition of the Bataan road, he said, has discouraged tourists from, traveling to Bataan.

In his directive on the revamp of the two bureaus, the President ordered the pinpointing of responsibility and the prosecution and separation from service of personnel found guilty of misfeasance and malfeasance in office.

In a day which he devoted mostly to office work, the President received a few callers, among whom were a group of Agrarian Relations Court judges who presented a resolution pledging support of the administration policies in land reform and other important areas; and Senator Wenceslao Lagumbay who discussed local problems with the President.

He worked at his office through the afternoon and evening.

June 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS reiterated his call for “improved honesty, efficiency, initiative and courtesy in the public service” in a speech on the opening of the 11th general convention of the Confederation of Government Employees held at the capitol building in Pasig, Rizal.

The President, at the same time, pledged that he would continue to “hold uppermost, within the means of our government, the happiness and well-being of all government employees.”

The President asserted that it is the rank and file of government employees that serve as a link between the government and the people.

“In effect, the performance of the government is your performance,” he said and added that the government is not what the President, or Congress or the Supreme Court makes it but is what the rank and file employees make it.

"I call on you to be honest, morally and intellectually, which means doing your functions and duties efficiently and without regard to any ulterior consideration," he added.

With no scheduled callers to attend to the President concentrated on deskwork. Among other actions, he created a coordinating committee for nuclear power study, 'which will look into the feasibility, in all its aspects, of establishing a nuclear power plant in the Philippines before the end of this decade.

An agreement in principle has been entered into by the National Power Corporation (NPC) and the Manila Electric Company (MERALCO) for the integrated planning of capacity additions to the Luzon Grid.

Named to compose the coordinating committee were the commissioner of the Philippine Atomic Energy Commission, as chairman; and the assistant general manager of the National Power Corporation, the deputy director-general for operations of the Presidential Economic Staff, and the director of the Office of Foreign Aid Coordination, National Economic Council, as members.

Issued earlier by the President was the following message on the 400th anniversary of the formal organization of Manila as a Christian city:

The 400th anniversary of Manila as a Christian city comes at a time when the Philippines is poised to enter a new era, a period characterized by ferment and debate, an outward reaching out as well as an inward search for identity and direction. All these manifestations are sharply reflected in Manila, which has always been the central nervous system of the nation, and for more than three centuries the cultural, economic and political capital of this archipelago.

Today Manila has the image and pulsebeat of a modern city, yet different from similar metropolises in that somehow it has retained the increments of history and the distinct substance of the Filipino.

This is only right for we need, among other imperatives, to assert our uniqueness as a people, to keep alive our history as a nation, because there is a real danger of losing our identity in a world more and more growing impersonal and insensitive. I welcome therefore the efforts to perpetuate in Manila the Filipino essence, perhaps best exemplified by Andres Bonifacio, happily enshrined as the city's emblem of Filipinism, who possessed the rugged individualism, the sturdy virtue, the affinity to the land, the love of freedom which define and animate the Filipino.

As the nation grows and develops, Manila will surely pace the rest of the country as it has done in times past, thereby posing new challenges not only to the city's leaders but to its population, a population which is, properly, a cross-section of the nation's inhabitants, affirming once again the central place Manila enjoys in the life of the Philippines.

It is my pleasure indeed to extend congratulations to the people of Manila and to its energetic leaders, beginning with Mavor Villegas with the hope that the next decade will be the most dynamic and significant period of growth for Manila, for it is the period when Manilans working together and spurred by; the same great dreams can bring about a renaissance of their City, perhaps to surpass the progress it has made in all the centuries past.

In a conference in the evening with a team he had dispatched to Cotabato to verify reports of mass killings in the area, the President directed Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile to deploy a battalion combat team in Cotabato to conduct a search and destroy operation against outlaw bands responsible for the loss of lives and property in the area.

The team, composed of Secretary Enrile, Rep. Constantino Navarro of Surigao del Norte, who is chairman of the House committee on defense; and Rep. Ali Dimaporo of Lanao del Norte, president of the Mindanao, Sulu and Palawan Association (Minsupala); returned to Manila late in the afternoon and rendered its report to the President.

During the conference, the President also ordered, among others:

1. The Department of Health to dispatch medical teams to minister to the health needs of refugees, and the Department of Social Welfare to send relief teams to locate and attend to the relief requirements of evacuees and assist in their relocation in suitable resettlement centers, pending normalization of conditions in the region;
2. The disbandment of the Cotabato Peace Commission previously created to help restore peace in the province. The commission had been found to be ineffective.

In dispatching a batallion combat team to the area, the President said the government has no other alternative but to saturate the area with troopers in order to put a stop to what he considered senseless killings and destruction of property in the province.

He observed that the warring groups in the province had violated agreements entered into with the President in a series of meetings at Malacañang to police their own ranks, disarm their men, and refrain from resorting to violence as a means of resolving their conflicts.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: June 25 - July 1, 1971

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

June 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS gave three hours of his time to a conference on the Cotabato situation, when he met at Malacañang the political leaders and officials of that province to thresh out the problems and the solutions to the resurgent armed strife among hostile factions in the region.

Deeply concerned about the situation in that province, the President asked the officials and other leaders of the region to stick to their posts during this emergency so that the people may better respond to authority and allay their fears.

He also issued directives and asked local leaders to coordinate with the military in hardening peace and order in the area.

Present during the conference were Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, Acting Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, Sen. Mamintal Tamano, Reps. Constantino C. Navarro, who is chairman of the House Committee on National Defense; Mohammad Ali Dimaporo of Lanao del Norte and Salipada K. Pendatun of North Cotabato.

Mayor Omar Dianalan of Marawi City, Gov. Simeon Datumanong of North Cotabato, Board Member Doroteo Palencia, Mayors Esteban Doruelo of Pigkawayan, Nicolas Dequinia of Midsayap, Armando S. Lagda of Kabacan and Dima Dalid of Carmen, all in Cotabato.

Earlier in the morning, the President received officials of the Anti-Communist League of the Philippines. The group requested the early release of the ₱250,000 authorized by Congress for the expenses of holding the joint conference of Asian anti-communist groups in Manila next month.

Those who composed the group were Senators Jose J. Roy and Leonardo B. Perez; Reps. Ramon D. Bagatsing, Frisco San Juan, Salipada K. Pendatun, Fermin Z. Caram, Jr.; former Director of Prisons Alejo Santos, Antonio Roxas Chua, Col. Ernesto Golez, N. Fernandez, Leon O. Ty, former Rep. Inocencio V. Ferrer, and Prudencio T. Europa.

Among the few other callers the President received was a delegation from the Philippine Jockeys Association and the Sta. Ana Park Horse Race Trainers and Jockeys Association, headed by Lumen Policarpio, which presented a plaque of appreciation to the President for his support of R.A. 6115 providing benefits to these class of workers, and which he subsequently signed.

In-between these conferences and callers, the President acted on other urgent official matters, including certifying to Congress the bill giving public school teachers increases in salary rates.

He also designated Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal as his personal representative at the inauguration of President Park Chung Hee of Korea on July 1.

Others designated to compose the Philippine delegation were Philippine Ambassador Benjamin Tirona to Korea; Mayor Elias Lopez of Davao City; Brig. Gen. Edilberto Bernaldes of the Philippine Air Force and Atty. Ramon Martinez.

Among other actions, the President declared July 1, 1971 (Thursday) a special public holiday in the province of Southern Leyte, marking the 11th anniversary of its creation as a separate province.

Proclamation of the public holiday was requested by Governor Salvation O. Yñiguez and Rep. Nicanor E. Yñiguez of that province.

June 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had his schedule of activities for the day cleared of callers, even as he devoted his working hours to urgent official papers preparatory to his trip to the Leyte provinces.

Among the matters acted upon by the President were nominations to various posts in the government, which he submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation.

Heading the list of nominees were Dr. Estefania Aldaba-Lim, as Secretary of social welfare; Eduardo Rodriguez, as administrator of economic coordination; Gregorio Cendaña, as director of the National Media Production Center; Juan Mariano, as director of soils; and Godofredo L. Alcasid, as director of the National Museum.

June 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS continued to focus on desk work, but made himself available to some heads of department who took up important matters with him.

During the day, the President, among others, directed Undersecretary of Finance and Acting Customs Commissioner Alfredo Pio de Roda to inform him of the “identity” of the high government official reportedly interested in the disposition of imported remnants seized at the bureau of customs.

The official reportedly tried to pressure the Bureau of Customs into selling to his client more than 3,000 bales of remnants worth millions of pesos, and even threatened to take the customs bureau to court.

The President also approved the promotion of 481 regular and reserve officers in the active service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to the grades of 1st Lieutenant/Lieutenant (JG.) PN and Captain/Lieutenant (SG)/ PN, as well as the commission or appointment of 66 individuals in the reserve force of the AFP.

Shortly before midnight, the President and the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, boarded the *RPS 777* at Pier 15 for the resumption of the President’s summer inspection trips to the provinces.

June 28—

WHILE enroute to Ormoc City, President Marcos confined himself to his cabin on board the *RPS 777* the greater part of the day and disposed of piles of state papers he brought along with him in the trip.

The President and the First Lady went out to the deck at about midmorning to view the coastline and see just how far the ship has sailed during the night. After conferring briefly with some Malacañang aides, the President returned to his cabin and started his paper work.

In a speech read for him by Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, at the opening of the 3rd National Representative Assembly of the Kapisanan ng mga Kawani ng Pamahalaan, held at the SSS building in Quezon City, the President said that the seeming national consensus for change is meaningless, and will remain no more than the “rhetoric of change,” if the people do not first of all change themselves.

He said that those who call for sweeping change in disregard of the rights of the people in a democratic society do not seek democratic change.

The Filipino people, he said, “are prepared for heroic measures, but they must not be deluded into believing that the sacrifice of their freedom is the best way to improve their economic and social conditions.”

June 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, together with the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, arrived in Ormoc City aboard the *RPS 777* at 6 a.m. to inspect and inaugurate some public works projects.

A big crowd led by Mayor Iñaki Larrazabal was on hand to give the First Couple a warm welcome. From the pier they proceeded to the local parish church for Mass, and then went to the residence of Mayor Larrazabal for breakfast and a meeting with local officials.

After the conference, the President and the First Lady inaugurated the ₱4 million Bao irrigation system, practically the biggest irrigation project in the entire Visayas that would provide irrigation to some 6,000 hectares,

Another public works projects inaugurated later by the First Couple was the Cantubo bridge.

From Cantubo, the President and his party proceeded to the OSPA-Farmers Medical Center for the inauguration rites. Built by the Ormoc sugarcane planters for the benefit of their laborers and their dependents, the President described the hospital as “a monument to compassion, to conscience and to courage.”

He expressed gratification over the initiative taken by some sectors of society to help their fellowmen who are not as fortunately situated in life as they are.

Following the OSPA-Farmers Medical Center inaugural rites, the President and the First Lady reboarded *RPS 777* for Tacloban City, arriving there early in the evening.

Another enthusiastic crowd led by Gov. Benjamin Romualdez, met the First Couple at the pier. From the pier they dropped by the Nipa Hut, the governor’s official residence in Tacloban City, before proceeding to the family resthouse in Sitio Olot, in Tolosa, some 25 kilometers away.

Upon learning of the result of the election for the presidency of the Constitutional Convention earlier in the day, the President sent the following congratulatory wire to former President Diosdado Macapagal:

“Congratulations for your sound victory on the first balloting of the Constitutional Convention. I am certain your election augurs well for the unity of the convention. Regards.”

June 30—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, led the faithful in celebration of the Tacloban City fiesta in honor of the Sto. Niño.

Early in the morning, the First Couple attended a Pontifical Mass officiated by Leyte Bishop Manuel Salvador, at the public plaza fronting the city cathedral.

Later in the afternoon, the President and the First Lady, joined, the procession which started from the pier and wended through the city streets to the city cathedral.

The President and the First Lady motored to Tacloban city early in the morning from Olot for the Mass.

After the Mass they proceeded to the Nipa Hut, Gov. Benjamin Romualdez's official residence, for breakfast and a meeting with provincial and municipal officials. Then they again drove back to Olot, returning to the city early in the afternoon for the procession.

In the course of his work on urgent state matters at the resthouse, in Olot, the President took steps to avert possible disruption of essential government services due to the failure of Congress to enact the general appropriations act for the incoming fiscal year, starting July 1.

In a directive to Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, the President said that "if at midnight (June 30), the end of the present fiscal year the appropriations act for the next fiscal year is not approved into law, you are directed to release such funds for the operation of the government as are within the limits of the present appropriations act."

Among other actions, the President issued the following message on the death in space of three Russian Cosmonauts:

The death of the Soviet cosmonauts is a great loss to all men and nations of the world.

Their historic voyage had brought all of us closer to our highest dreams in space exploration, and we can only grieve this terrible tragedy at the moment of their greatest triumph.

The Filipino nation joins all of mankind in expressing its highest admiration for their courage and example, and its deepest sympathies to the Russian people.

July 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS checked on the progress of the construction of the San Juanico Bridge, the longest bridge in the Philippines, even as he focused on the status of the different developmental projects in Tacloban City and the province of Leyte.

The President, together with the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, motored to the construction site on the Leyte side of the bridge in sitio Kabalawan in the morning to inquire from the engineers and officials concerned on the progress of construction and to see for himself the work so fast accomplished.

The bridge spans the San Juanico Strait and is 2,162.40 meters long. It would serve as water-link of the Pan Philippine Highway that would run from Aparri through Southern Mindanao.

Obviously satisfied with the progress of the work, the President said "it looks so good."

In a conference later with the provincial, district and city engineers and other Public Highways officials, the President reviewed with them the road system in Leyte which would form part of the Pan Philippine Highway, as well as other provincial and city roads which, when completed, would help accelerate the development of the province socially and economically.

Among those present at the conference were Division Engineer Florencio Coloma and District Engineers Vicente Sy-Diongco, Luis Mendoza, Cipriano Perez, Vicente Villegas and Melchor Cañete. Also present were Rep. Artemio Mate and Gov. Benjamin Romualdez of Leyte.

Following the conference, the President and the First Lady, motored to the Leyte Institute of Technology for the inauguration of the new building of the Institute. The President also laid the cornerstone of the Leyte Sports Center.

The First Couple then motored back to the family resthouse in Olot, where the President spent the rest of the day going over state papers, including nominations to various posts in the government.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: July 2-8, 1971

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

July 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, together with the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, attended the signing of the loan agreement between the National Electrification Administration (NEA) and the Leyte Electric Cooperative, Inc., held at the Leyte provincial capitol at noon. Mrs. Marcos signed as one of the witnesses to the agreement.

In brief remarks, the President said the active involvement of electric cooperatives in the government's rural electrification program assures, in more ways than one, the success of that program itself.

The system of cooperatives will prove to be the key to that success, the President said.

He said that rural electrification is one of the top priority projects of the government in order to expand the country's areas of productivity and thus provide greater employment opportunities for the people.

The Leyte Electric Cooperatives, Inc. has programmed initial service to nine municipalities, namely: Dagami, Dulag, Julita, La Paz, Mallorca Pastrana, Santa Fe, Tabon-Tabon and Tolosa, with an aggregate population of approximately 144,000.

The cooperative's generating plant consists of three units of 2,500 kilowatt each, with a distribution system consisting of 258 kilometers of primary lines and 332 kilometers of secondary lines.

The loan agreement was signed for the NEA by Chairman Geronimo Velasco and for the LEC by Dr. Nicanor Tancingco, president.

Among those present at the signing ceremony were Leyte provincial, municipal and barrio officials, Secretary of Labor Blas F. Ople, Highways Commissioner Baltazar Aquino, U.S. Ambassador Henry Byroade, and Ambassador and Mrs. John N. O. Curle of Great Britain.

Mrs. Marcos participation in the signing ceremony was one of the highlights of her birthday celebration. She has been the recipient of advance birthday greetings since her arrival in Tacloban, and was visibly touched by the warm greetings of provincemates who started serenading her since the eve of her birthday.

Some of the well-wishers came individually while the greater majority composed mostly of plain folk from the different towns of the province came in groups.

The President helped the First Lady in receiving well-wishers, even while holding brief impromptu conferences with officials of the executive department who had called at the resthouse to felicitate Mrs. Marcos. Among the officials were Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile and Assistant Executive Secretary Ponciano Mathay.

The President also acted on some urgent official papers brought to him by Presidential Executive Assistant Jacobo C. Clave and Presidential Assistant Guillermo C. de Vega.

July 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS' plans to return to Manila were upset by typhoon *Neneng*, whose strong winds and heavy rains started buffeting the eastern coast of Leyte and Tacloban City in the morning.

Also spoiled by the typhoon were certain scheduled activities of the President and the First Lady, including the inauguration of the NACIDA community kiln in the town of Tanauan.

Earlier, when the weather was just beginning to worsen, the First Couple, together with the members of the Romualdez clan, attended the blessing and dedication of the Don Vicente Orestes Romualdez Memorial in Tolosa, and officiated at the inauguration of the Tolosa municipal hall.

By about mid-morning, the typhoon's torrential rains and strong winds bore down on the province and Tacloban City, as the howler cut through the northern tip of Leyte and on to Masbate, Romblon, Marinduque and the southern Tagalog provinces.

In anticipation of the damage wrought by the typhoon along its path, the President alerted all relief and health agencies to stand by for immediate relief work.

At the same time, the President directed Budget Commissioner Faustina Sy-Changco to make immediately available funds for relief work and for the repair and reconstruction of public works projects damaged by the typhoon.

The President directed Commissioner Sy-Changco to set aside immediately ₱300,000 for public works repair and ₱200,000 for relief, and to be ready to release more funds if necessary.

Forced to "lie low" by the typhoon, the President spent the day going over official papers at the resthouse, aside from keeping tab of damages caused by the typhoon.

July 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, boarded the *RPS 777* in clear weather at the Tacloban pier for their return trip to Manila after having been stranded in Leyte by typhoon *Neneng*.

The First Couple boarded the ship at 10:00 a.m. following military honors rendered the President at the wharf by a contingent of the Philippine Constabulary.

Shortly after the ship had gone underway, the President, the First Lady and the rest of the presidential party heard Mass celebrated before an improvised altar at the upper deck.

While sailing through San Juanico Strait, the First Couple officiated at the renaming in Pilipino of *RPS 777*. It was renamed "Ang Pangulo." They unveiled the ship's new nameplate and the presidential seal, which was also worded in Pilipino.

Following the ceremony, the President buckled down to paper work in his cabin, in the process issuing an administrative order invalidating as of June 30 the authority granted to insurance and surety companies to become sureties "upon official recognizances, stipulations, bonds and undertakings" unless they have paid-up capital of ₱1 million.

He issued the order upon recommendation of both the secretary of finance and the insurance commissioner not only to increase the underwriting capacity of domestic insurance companies but to enable them to absorb government securities.

Among other actions, the President conveyed the felicitations and best wishes of the Filipino people to the people of the United States, on the occasion of the celebration of their Independence Day. In his cable to President Richard M. Nixon in Washington, the President said:

“On the occasion of the celebration of your Independence Day, the Filipino people join me in conveying sincere felicitations and best wishes. It is our hope that Philippine-American friendship in the years to come shall continue to grow ever stronger for the mutual benefit of our two countries.”

July 5—

PRESIDENT MARCOS was back in Malacañang early in the evening from his trip to the South, after a brief stopover in Bataan to inspect the progress of development work at the Dambana ng Kagitingan in Mt. Samat.

Earlier in the day, as the *RPS “Ang Pangulo”* steamed Manila-ward, the President issued among others, an administrative order creating a special presidential committee charged with investigating administrative complaints against provincial and city treasurers, as well as other similar presidential appointees under the department of finance.

The President constituted the permanent probe body to obviate the necessity of having to amend the administrative order everytime a provincial or city treasurers or order presidential appointees under the department of finance, comes up for administrative investigation.

Named to compose the committee were a representative of the Department of Finance, as chairman; and a representative each of the Department of Justice and the General Auditing Office, as members.

July 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a three-hour conference with members of the Price Control Council and a number of Cabinet members on the stabilization of prices, particularly of prime commodities.

During the conference the President directed the Rice and Corn Administration to release to the public as much of the newly imported rice as necessary at ₱2.10 to ₱2.20 per ganta, to prevent hoarding and price manipulation.

At the same time, he called for a close watch on price trends and directed several members of his Cabinet to submit immediately updated statistics on the supply of rice, cement, and other local manufactures likely to be affected by price increases.

The President also informed those who attended the meeting that he could not create a Price Control Council with powers to punish those who increase prices beyond reasonable levels.

Because of this, “we can only monitor prices,” the President said, “and the Central Bank, the Department of Commerce and Industry, and the National Economic Council are continuously monitoring price levels.” During the conference, the President also directed:

1. The Central Bank to release additional dollars up to double the normal requirements for the importation of consumer goods.
2. The Bureau of Customs to promptly release all imports of consumer goods provided all legal requirements are complied with by importers.
3. The Central Bank and the Development Bank of the Philippines to fund, further imports required by tinplate manufacturers to meet deficiencies and maintain current levels.
4. Central Bank Gov. Gregorio S. Licaros to meet with the Bankers Association’ of the Philippines and seek exemption of imported consumer goods from the imposition of a per cent marginal deposit requirement.

Present at the meeting were Secretaries Arturo Tanco, Jr. of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Cesar E. A. Virata of Finance, Ernesto Maceda of Commerce and Industry, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., DBP Chairman Leonides S. Virata, CB Governor Gregorio S. Licaros, NEC Chairman Gerardo Sicat, PES Director-General Apolinario Orosa, Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, Undersecretary of Finance Alfredo Pio de Roda and Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes.

Following the conference, the President conferred on Alan Ford, first secretary of the U. S. Embassy in Manila, the Philippine Legion of Honor, degree of Legionnaire, for outstanding services in enhancing Philippine-American relations.

Ford was scheduled to return to Washington, D. C. after a four-years tour of duty in this country.

Present at the conferment rites were U. S. Ambassador Henry Byroade, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Gen. Manuel T. Yan, AFP chief of staff; and Rear Admiral George Muse, commander of the U. S. Naval Forces in the Philippines.

Toward noon, the President received a number of provincial delegations, including one of Sorsogon mayors accompanied by Rep. Rafael C. Aquino. The local officials discussed with the President matters concerning their respective constituencies.

The President devoted the afternoon to desk work.

In the evening, the President inducted the newly elected officers of the Malacañang Press Corps, headed by Jose de la Cruz of the *Philippines Herald*, president.

The other MPC officers inducted were Primitivo Mijares of *The Manila Chronicle*, vice president; Domingo Quimlat of the *Taliba*, secretary Manuel Salak of *The Manila Times*, chairman; and David Borje of *The Evening News*, board member.

July 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a series of conferences with congressmen, being Congressmen's Day at Malacañang, mostly on problems and requirements of the solons' constituencies.

The President, in the course of his meeting with them, appealed to some 30 congressmen to push through the passage of vital administration measures, particularly on land reform and electoral reform, before the end of the special session.

He had called Congress to a 30-days special session, certifying four urgent measures on land reform, electoral reform, the budget, and a new Election Code.

With the extra session ending on July 17, the President expressed grave concern over the still unacted measures pending before both Houses of Congress.

Apart from these meetings, the President had conferences with various executive department officials on current problems of the country, notably on the threatened spiral of commodity prices. In this connection, he took steps to stem increases in the prices of food, such as livestock meat and poultry products, by declaring the Greater Manila Terminal Food Market a national abattoir.

The President also ordered several government agencies to launch a massive production program as the best way of preventing an increase in prices and of improving the earning capacity of the people.

He issued the directive during his conference with Rosendo Marquez, officer-in-charge of the PACD; NACIDA Administrator Mario Reyes, and Bureau of Fisheries Commissioner Andres Mane.

The President told the agencies concerned, including the Bureaus of Animal Industry and Plant Industry, to redouble their efforts toward attaining peak production because this is the best way to stop rising prices.

He also called to a separate conference on the progress of the workers' housing program, GSIS General Manager Roman Cruz, Jr. and SSS Administrator Gilberto Teodoro to Malacañang.

Notable among the President's other callers was Taiwan solon Mah Su Lay, a member of the Legislative Yuan of that Republic, who paid a courtesy call. The Chinese legislator was here in the course of a survey of Southeast Asian countries.

Earlier, the President directed the Department of Foreign Affairs to explore new markets abroad for Philippine logs, one of the nation's biggest dollar-earning products.

Upon the recommendation of the Presidential Committee on Wood Industries Development, the President instructed Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo to utilize diplomatic posts abroad for the purpose of sounding out foreign countries interested in buying Philippine lumber, "regardless of ideology."

Members of the committee called on the President to submit their report and recommendations on the improvement of forestry operations, including the reorganization of the resources and activities of the Bureau of Forestry, the assessment and reorientation of present policies and the adoption of an integrated and basically export-oriented wood industry development plan.

Headed by Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Arturo Tanco, Jr., chairman; members of the presidential committee who attended the Palace meeting included Florencio Tamesis of the Society of Filipino Foresters, Jose Sanvictores of the Philippine Association for Permanent Forests, Nicolas Lansigan and Renato Arevalo of the Philippine Lumber Producers Association and Apolinario Dionilio of the Philippine Chamber of Wood Industries.

July 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a big stream of official callers whom he started receiving at mid-morning through up to about 3 p.m. Among those who called were:

1. Iloilo City Mayor Reinerio Ticao, accompanied by Speaker Protempore Jose Aldeguer and Rep. Fermin Caram, Jr., who brought up problems affecting the city.
2. The Philippine Normal College Faculty Association, which sought certification of House Bill No. 3002, providing free tuition for PNC undergraduates.
3. Gov. Jose B. Legaspi, accompanied by Rep. Rafael B. Legaspi of Aklan, who also discussed local problems.
4. Gov. Armando S. Cledera of Camarines Sur and Mayor Jose C. Villanueva of Iriga City, accompanied by Rep. Roberto Sabido of Albay, who again took up local problems.
5. Gov. Sergio Morales of South Cotabato, who likewise consulted him on local problems.
6. Mayors Eufenio Daconday of San Agustin, Carmen Martinez of Cortez and Candelario Viola of Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur, accompanied by Rep. Jose Puyat, Jr., all of whom focused on local problems, particularly roads and bridges.

7. Governors Verulo C. Boiser of Davao del Norte, Leopoldo Lopez of Davao Oriental and Ramon de los Cientos of Davao del Sur, and Davao City Mayor Elias Lopez, accompanied by Reps. Artemio Al. Loyola, Lorenzo Sarmiento and Constancio Maglana.

8. Gov. Irene Balite of Northern Samar who also requested fund releases for public works projects.

The President attended to urgent state papers in the afternoon.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: July 9-15, 1971

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

July 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS conferred with government officials having to do with food production and cottage industries with the view to consolidating government resources and facilities behind a massive program designed to provide incomes and food for the masses.

During the conference, the President called for an integrated effort in the drive to promote cottage industries, fishing, vegetable raising and meat production, even as he expressed dissatisfaction over the progress of the uncoordinated campaigns being waged by different agencies of the government, such as the National Cottage Industries Development Authority (NACIDA), Bureau of Plant Industry, Bureau of Animal Industry, Bureau of Fisheries, Agricultural Credit Administration and the Agricultural Productivity Commission.

The President designated Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Arturo R. Tanco, Jr. as over-all coordinator of the integrated drive.

He instructed Secretary Tanco at the conference to prepare a comprehensive program, setting forth its requirements, government facilities and resources now available for its implementation, and estimated expenditures and projections.

Present at the conference, besides Tanco, were Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, Undersecretary for Industry Troadio Quiazon, Commissioner Francisco Saguiguit of the Agricultural Credit Administration and Amado Lansang of the Agricultural Productivity Commission.

The President worked at his desk most of the day, but took time out to receive a number of callers, including two groups of government organizations, the officers of which he inducted. Inducted by the President were the officers of the Confederation of Government Employees Organization (COGEO), namely, Fernando Santico, president; Simon Guillermo, 1st vice president; Leonardo Cabanero, 2nd vice president, Mariano Noriel, 3rd vice president; Antonio de la Cruz, PRO; and members of the board of directors.

Also sworn in by the President were the following officers of the Bureau Directors Association:

Manuel L. Agustin of the Bureau of Printing, president; Jonas A. Victoria of NCDA, vice president; Razon T. Heresco of the Tariff Commission, secretary; Miguela M. Solis of NCCSDFCY, treasurer; Ubaldo C. Carbonell of the Treasury, counselor; Ramon R. Monsalud, auditor; and Jose A. Aguilin, PRO.

Other callers included Mayors Conrado Apacible of Nasugbu, Luis Ramos of Balayan, Mariano Venturanza of Lemery, and Olimpio Sayo of Calatagan, all in Batangas, who requested for replacements for prefabricated schoolhouses destroyed by typhoons;

Mayors Jose Sison of Surallah, Honorio Cornejo of Tupi and Ireneo Barroso of Tampakan, all in Cotabato, who took up with the President priority community projects; and Governors Salvacion D. Yñiguez of Southern Leyte, Cipriano Primicias, Jr. of Pangasinan, and Samuel F. Reyes of Isabela, who likewise discussed with the President matters concerning their respective constituencies.

While engaged in paper work, the President considered other urgent matters of state, including the question of Freedomland, on which he scheduled a meeting of the National Security Council.

The President also issued an order suspending Capt. Rogelio C. Morales, superintendent of the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy (PMMA) following the filing of administrative charges against him by Col. Tagumpay A. Nañadiego, Constabulary judge advocate.

The Constabulary judge advocate, in a formal complaint sent to the President, charged Morales with having taken advantage of his positions as superintendent and vice-chairman of the Academy's board of trustees, allegedly approving appointments of candidates to the academy's cadet corps despite their failure to qualify in the entrance examinations as well as allowing certain employees to receive pay without rendering any actual service, among other cases.

July 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS convoked the National Security Council to a three-hour meeting at Camp Aguinaldo to consider the situation obtaining in one of the Spratly Island Group as it affects the security of the Philippines.

The meeting was preceded by a briefing conducted by intelligence officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

A communique on the meeting was read by the President at his press conference in Malacañang later in the afternoon, in which was stated, among others, that the Council is of the unanimous opinion that because of the fast pace of developments in the region and because of the proximity of the island to the Philippines its occupation by a foreign power constitutes a serious threat to the country's national security (See pages 5673 & 5674 for full text of the Communique).

Among those present at the NSC meeting were Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal, Secretaries Carlos P. Romulo of Foreign Affairs, Juan Ponce Enrile of National Defense, and Cesar E.A. Virata of Finance; Press Secretary Francisco S. Tatad, House Majority Floor Leader Marcelino Veloso and members of the Rouse committees on defense and foreign relations, including Reps. Carmelo Barbero, Nicanor Yñiguez, Constantino Navarro, Ramon Mitra, Jr., and Rafael Aquino.

Also present were Undersecretaries Jose Crisol and Efren Plana of National Defense, Jose D. Ingles and Manuel Collantes of Foreign Affairs, and Alfredo Pio de Roda of Finance; NBI Director Jolly Rugarin, Brig. Gen. Ismael Lapuz of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency, members of the AFP general staff and chiefs of the major command led by Gen. Manuel T. Yan, AFP chief of staff.

The President attended to desk work the rest of the afternoon and early evening, during which he issued a proclamation designating the period from July 11 to 17, as University Presidents Week, to coincide with the holding of the World Congress of University Presidents during the said period.

The special week was proclaimed in appreciation of the necessity to focus public attention on the role of university presidents in the development of a nation, in molding public opinion, in humanitarian services and civic leadership and in promoting the professions.

July 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS called upon the world's institutions of learning to take the initiative in the promotion of "human brotherhood and peace among nations."

In a speech at the opening of the week-long World Congress of University Presidents at the Philamlife Auditorium in the morning, the President said that the world has moved from one crisis to another in an era described as "a permanent state of undeclared."

The President said that while it is all very well to hope that men would soon come to their senses and that the dream of One World would become a reality, “we cannot wait for the millenium to happen a decade or a century from now.”

He warned: “The odds against us are too great and the margin of safety has become too narrow. With thermonuclear weapons being stockpiled in the arsenals of an increasing number of states, we are truly running a race with catastrophe and doom.”

He expressed gratification over the dialogue initiated by men of learning and without regard for race, creed or ideology. (See page 5675 to 5679 for full text of the President Speech).

Earlier in the morning, the President presented the Bronze Cross to five officers and enlisted men of the Philippine Air Force for “exceptional heroism” in saving two men from certain death during the fire which destroyed the FGU building in Makati, Rizal.

Decorated by the President were: First Lt. Felix A. Enriquez, pilot; Second Lt. Gabriel I. Mainit, co-pilot; M/Sgt. Percival Dornonila ere chief; M/Sgt. Andres G. Sison, PARAMEDIC, PAF; and Sgt. Evaristo Ruiz, also a PARAMEDIC.

The President said that by their courage and bravery they helped enhance the prestige of the Philippine Air Force.

In the afternoon, the President, among others, issued an administrative order creating the Rural Improvement Committee to take charge of the government’s integrated rural improvement program.

In another order, the President amended Executive Order No. 213 creating the Cottage Industry Development Council and a Cottage Industry Development Enterprise, so as to include the director of the Cooperatives Administration Office as a member of the Council.

The President made the amendment to emphasize the role of cooperatives m the development of cottage industries in the country.

July 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS issued an administrative order creating a committee to study the problem of excess workers in the sugar plantations throughout the country and how to resettle and rehabilitate them.

The President issued the order upon the recommendation of Secretary of Labor Blas F. Ople who informed him of the recent strike against five sugar haciendas in Bais City, Negros Oriental, which was the result of the displacement of some 264 Dumaan families. The displaced families represented the excess workers of the haciendas.

In his order, the President took special cognizance of the plight of the sugar plantation workers affected by the labor dispute in Bais City.

Earlier, the President thanked local rancher, Engr. Virgilio V. Dionisio of Pulilan, Bulacan, who donated 207 head of cattle to the food production drive of the government and the Green Revolution project of the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, for his interest and concern in the common welfare.

The donation, he said would greatly boost the government’s food production program.

The President also thanked the Republic of China for its donation of fruit and vegetable seeds to the Philippines, more particularly to the Green Revolution project of the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos.

The initial shipment of 75 kilos of improved fruit and vegetable seed varieties was presented to the FIRST COUPLE by Taipei's Foreign Minister Chou-Shu-Kai at a simple ceremony in Malacañang.

Minister Chou, who arrived in Manila for the Asian and Pacific Council (ASPAC) ministerial meeting, paid a courtesy call on the President earlier in the morning.

The seeds turned over by Minister Chou to the First Couple include those of Pai Chung Welsh onion, Ta-tong sweet pepper, tomato, radish, hot pepper, Taiwan Early Yehsen cabbage and petsay.

July 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS urged the Asian and Pacific Council (ASPAC) to form a consensus on the immediate tasks before the nations of the region, which he said, in a larger perspective, aim at strengthening the peace and stability of the region.

He declared that in achieving this objective, a decisive influence "on the future course of our nations and on their common well-being" will be exerted.

Delivering the keynote speech at the opening of the ASPAC sixth ministerial conference, held at the Intercontinental Hotel in Makati, Rizal, in the morning, the President, however, emphasized that there is good reason to view with optimism the prospects of success in solving the problems eyed by the council.

Despite the hopeful elements which encourage an optimistic view of the region, the President said, "the Asian and Pacific area remains a troubled one," pointing out that it is in the midst of problems "for which there are no immediate solutions, and these are problems which bear the most intimate relation the peace of the continent." (See pages 5680 to 5686 for full text of the President's Speech).

The pressure of desk work prevented the President from attending the launching of the Medical Assistance Program (MAP), held at Talavera, Nueva Ecija in the afternoon. He asked his brother, Dr. Pacifico Marcos, to represent him at the affair and to deliver his message for the occasion.

In his prepared speech, the President hailed the MAP, but cautioned that its success would depend on the kind of cooperation established between the community and the doctors, stressing that the "active participation and support of every community" are decisive in fully realizing the program.

The private medical practitioners of the country, he said, play a critical role in "the life and future of the nation," and expressed confidence in their capacity to fulfill this role by virtue of "this unprecedented and voluntary program of medical assistance that you now undertake with the national government."

While attending to official papers, the President created the Coordinating Committee on Project Feasibility Studies, with the primary task of coordinating and correlating all project feasibility studies towards the attainment of national objectives.

Named to head the committee was PES Deputy-General for Operations Antonio Locsin.

The President also issued orders deporting two Chinese nationals considered undesirables and whose continued presence in the Philippines is deemed a menace to the peace and safety of the community.

Ordered deported by the first available transportation to China or Taiwan were Santiago Cheng *alias* Santiago Ching *alias* Santiago Chung *alias* Roberto Chua, and Valentin Go.

The President issued the order upon the recommendation of the Deportation Board, which found them guilty of committing acts contrary to good morals and public policy.

In the evening, the President signed into law Senate Bill No. 614 (H. B. 3305), regulating rentals for two years, of dwelling units or of land on which another's dwelling is located and penalizing violations thereof.

The bill provides, among others, that "no lessor of a dwelling unit or of land on which another's dwelling is located shall, during the period of one year from the effectivity of this Act, increase the monthly rental agreed upon between the lessor and the lessee as of the effectivity of this Act when said rental does not exceed three hundred pesos (P300.00) a month. Thereafter, for the next year the rentals may not be increased more than ten (10%) *per centum*."

The President was guest of honor and speaker late in the afternoon at the launching of the special fund campaign for the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of Philippine Scouting in 1973, at ceremonies held at the Malacañang Maharlika Hall.

In his extemporaneous remarks, the President said that scouting is the best youth activism and one of the best types of manpower development because it is concerned not only with vocational skills, but also with the inculcation of sound physical, moral and spiritual values.

July 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had an unscheduled caller in the morning in the person of Libyan Ambassador Salem Buyasir, who called to pay his respects.

During their meeting, the President briefed Ambassador Buyasir on the Cotabato situation. The President said the unrest in Cotabato is "not a dispute between Muslim on one side and Christians on the other, but between conflicting interests and groups in the region.

He said the roots of the conflict are land ownership, politics, and the activities of agent provocateurs who are trying to foment disorder and dissension in the region.

Another courtesy caller received by the President was W. W. Richardson, vice president of Mobil East.

Earlier, the President received some local officials from the Ilocos and Albay provinces, who consulted him on problems of their constituencies.

The President devoted the rest of the day to official papers, taking time off toward evening to induct two newly confirmed assistant city fiscals of Manila, namely, Roque A. Tamayo and Marcelo Obien.

A graduate of the college of law of the University of Santo Tomas, Tamayo was admitted to the bar in 1955, and entered government service as a member of the legal staff of the Senate president.

Obien is a graduate of the Manuel L. Quezon Education Institution. He passed the bar in 1959, and served as municipal councilor, legal assistant in the office of the Legislative Council of the Philippine Senate, and secretary to Rep. Simeon Valdez.

Present at the oath-taking were Reps. Roque Ablan and Simeon Valdez, Gov. Elizabeth Marcos Keon, Mayors Alfonso Garbido of Bangui, Pedro Alviar of Vintar, Leonardo Velasco of Banna, Generoso Aquino of Piddig, Chito Ruiz of Sarrat, Felicisimo Asuncion of Batac, Angel Bautista of Badoc, Cirilo Quilala of Currimao, Candido Llaquino of Paoay, Napoleon Foz of Dingras, Anselmo Matubi of Marcos, Antonio Bumanglag of Espiritu, Ulpiano Anam of Nueva Era, Irineo Cariaga of Solsona and close relatives and friends of the inductees.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

President's Week in Review: July 16-22, 1971

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

July 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS directed General Manager Roman Cruz, Jr. of the government Service Insurance System to make certain that sites for the massive workers' housing program will be suitable for the purposes of the program.

The President told General Manager Cruz that the criteria for selecting sites for the workers' housing projects are:

1. The land should be located within a radius of 50 kilometers from Manila.
2. The area should be close to main roads and highways.
3. The value of the land should be within reasonable reach of the working man.

In another directives issued during the day, the President asked Commissioner of Public Highways Baltazar Aquino to review the entire road-building program and to expedite completion of on-going constructions.

In his conference with the GSIS official in the morning the President emphasized that most of the homeless workers eyed by the government as beneficiaries of the housing program work in the Greater Manila area and send their children to schools in Manila.

For this reason, the President said, it would be impractical to locate housing projects far from the city, both from the standpoint of economy as well as convenience.

The President added that many housing projects and subdivisions are in out-of-the-way places necessitating special arrangements for transportation facilities. For this reason, he said, housing projects should be within at least walking distance from highways and main roads.

The President issued the directive to Commissioner Aquino upon receipt of complaints from a number of groups of citizens and officials in the provinces on the bad condition of their roads, especially after the typhoons and incessant rains had done their worst.

Among those who complained of poor roads to the President were Gov. Jose C. Estevez of Albay, who was accompanied by Reps. Roberto M. Sabido, Carlos R. Imperial and Amando D. Cope; Gov. Amado B. Almazan of Kalinga-Apayao; and Rep. David M. Puzon of Cagayan.

Earlier, the President received the report of Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata on the progress of negotiations for the US \$65 million long-term loan from Japan.

Virata said that a statement was initialled in Tokyo declaring that the Japanese government would extend a loan on a *concessionary basis* to the Philippine government in the amount of \$65 million.

The statement was initialled by BOI Chairman Vicente Paterno and Central Bank Deputy Governor Amado Briñas for the Philippines, and by Ambassador Sawaki for the Japanese government.

The loan would be as follows: \$40 million as commodity loan, and \$25 million as project loan.

Virata said the loan would be extended at three-and-a-half percent interest, with a grace period of seven years. After the grace period, it may be paid in 13 years, thus allowing a total of 20 years.

July 17—

PRESIDENT MARCOS held his weekly press conference in Malacañang, during which he announced he was calling another special session starting August 2 to consider vital legislation still pending in Congress. The call for another extra meet was requested by the leaders of both Houses of Congress.

Earlier in the day, the President worked on official papers in his private study, breaking off at noon for a luncheon with Paul Miller of the Associated Press.

He was back to paper work later in the afternoon.

In the evening, the President and the First Lady, together with their children Imee, Bongbong and Irene motored to the Cultural Center of the Philippines on Roxas Boulevard to see the presentation of the Pilipino zarzuela, “Walang Sugat.”

July 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, along with the First Lady, spent a couple of hours in the morning and afternoon with his three children while cruising along Manila Bay on board the presidential yacht *Ang Pangulo*.

The President went on a week-end cruise to be able to concentrate more fully on piles of urgent official papers and other important state business. In a statement to the press later in the day, the President emphasized that the Philippines is not laying any claim on any of the Spratley Island group.

The President’s statement was in answer to queries arising from reports that the Philippine government has been misinterpreted abroad as laying a claim to the trust territories comprising the Spratley Island group.

The President said the Philippine position is that these islands are trust territories, and should not be occupied by any country, including the Philippines, except with the approval of the other allied powers.

The President pointed out that the islands on which Philippine troops are stationed, are not part of the Spratley Island group.

The President reiterated that the Philippines has requested for the withdrawal of the Nationalist Chinese garrison on Itu Aba in the Spratley Island group because of its proximity to the Philippines, which considers the presence of foreign troops there as a threat to its security.

On the other hand, the President believes that the withdrawal of Nationalist Chinese troops from the island would not affect the security of that friendly country.

July 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS called Congress to another special session beginning August 2, and certified five vital measures for its consideration. The President called for the special session upon the request of the leaders of both Houses of Congress.

The bills certified were:

1. HB No. 3443—An Act appropriating funds for the operation of the Government of the Philippines during fiscal year 1971-1972, and for other purposes;

2. SB No. ,184—An Act to provide-electoral reforms, amending for these purposes certain sections of the Revised Election Code and inserting new sections therein, and amending further R. A. 3588, as amended;

3. HB No. 1919—A new Election Code of the Philippines;

4.	SB	No.	478
3453—An Act amending R. A. 3844, as amended, other wise known as the Agricultural Land Reform Code, and for other purposes;			

5.	HB	No.	3463
SB No. 633—An Act to accelerate the implementation of the Agrarian Reform Program, creating for the purpose an Agrarian Reforms Special Account in the General Fund providing the necessary funds therefore, and for other purposes.			

The above-mentioned measures were on the agenda of the first special session of Congress which adjourned July 17, but failed to get Congress action due to lack of time.

Earlier, the President directed Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Arturo R. Tanco, Jr. and Acting General Manager Arensenio Abrazaldo of the Rice and Corn Administration to work out a scheme whereby RCA rice could be distributed through the public schools in the Greater Manila area.

The President issued the directive with a view to insuring a more effective distribution of RCA rice, selling at ₱2.10 to ₱2.20 per ganta, such that the cereal would benefit as many households as possible, especially the low-income groups.

The distribution of the RCA rice through the public schools in the Greater Manila area was suggested by Mrs. Polly Cayetano, president of the Chamber of Filipino Retainers (CFR), who called on the President; in the morning, together with other CFR officials. The CFR has offered its services to bring down the price of the cereal.

The President likewise directed Secretary Tanco to confer with Mrs. Magdalena L. Santos, president of the Bulacan Rice Millers Association (BRMA), who has also helped in the distribution of RCA rice, Mrs. Santos' organization has been selling RCA rice through its rolling stores in Manila, with Mayor Antonio J. Villegas providing police security for BRMA's rolling stores.

July 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS was guest of honor and speaker at the induction the elected officers of the Sugar Club of the Philippines, held at "the Philsugin auditorium in Quezon City.

In his speech, the President said that the change in American policy means "that every Asian nation and leader must now review the basis all the agreements between the United States and their respective countries," and must prepare themselves for all eventualities, including the possibility of an American pullout from Asia.

The President said that the new U.S. policies require an overall study for long-range implementation of the military, and possibly economic treaties the Philippines has with the U.S.

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It has also been suggested by some, he said, that the Philippines should plan on the possibility of complete withdrawal of the U.S. from Asia.

The President stated while the U.S. State Department has sent word that President Nixon's visit to Red China does not mean any prejudice to her allies, the President said this alternation in U.S. policy calls for a review of agreements with the United States.

"With these policies of the American government and of Red China anything is possible in Asia, and we must prepare for anything," he said. "We must now predict, no matter how difficult and how hard it may be, what will happen in the next five years, in the next ten years, in the next twenty years."

Before delivering his 45-minute address, the President inducted the officers of the club, led by Antonio Roxas Chua, president.

Also present at the luncheon meeting were Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Arturo R. Tanco, Jr., PHILSUGIN Chairman Luis Tirso Rivilla, Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal, Sen. Ambrosio Padilla, Constitutional Convention Delegate Carlos Ledesma.

July 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS received important personages among other callers, and presided at the ceremony whereby the letters of credence of Ambassador Tiao Khan Hing as new ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Laos to the Philippines were presented.

The new Laotian envoy also presented to the President the letter of recall of his predecessor, Ambassador Leuam Rajasombat, during the ceremony held at the Malacañang Ceremonial Hall.

After the presentation ceremony, the President started receiving callers first of whom were the members of the Korean delegation to the joint conferences in Manila of the Anti-Communist League of Asia and of the World.

Led by 80-year old General Lee Eung-Joon, and accompanied by Korean Ambassador Se Ryun Kun, the Korean group included Admiral Sohn Won-II, Generals Choi Duk-Shin and Shin Hyun-Joon, former Vice Foreign Minister Lee Won-Kyung, Director Hub Baek of the Korean Anti-Communist League and Moon C. Park.

The President took the occasion to request the delegation to convey his best wishes for the success of President Park Chung Hee and his congratulation for the remarkable economic progress and valuable contribution of Korea to the defense of freedom.

He also received the foreign delegates to the recently held conference of the Asian Parliamentary Union who called to say goodbye before leaving for their respective countries.

Those who paid their respects to the President were Delegates Kuo-Chi Yeh Shin-chin and Charles Z. Yeo of China; Yoshiharu Takeno and Yochiro Kubo of Japan; Pheng Shahanikone and Sisisphanh Phoenpradit of Laos; Mr. and Mrs. Suchon Charmpoonod of Thailand; and Nguyen Huy Chien, Chairman of the Asian Development Center, and Tran Ngoc Danh and Tran Do Cung of Vietnam.

The foreign delegations were accompanied by Emmanuel Yap, secretary general of the conference, who informed the President that the APU has included in its agenda a study of the political and economic repercussions resulting from the projected visit of U.S. President Richard Nixon to Red China.

The President said that all the countries of the world are now busy reassessing their own economic, military and political policies in the light of fast moving developments like the adoption of a flexible policy by both the United States and Red China.

After receiving scheduled callers, the President swore into office some 30 new appointees, mostly to the judiciary.

In the afternoon, the President concentrated on office work. Among other actions.

1. Directed the Free Trade Zone Authority to set aside 30 hectares to accommodate a Ford car manufacturing complex, which would turn out Asian Ford cars with a Filipino name starting 1972. The President issued the order after being informed by W. O. Bourke, president of Ford Asia-Pacific, of the project. Bourke made a courtesy call in the morning after his arrival here on a business visit.
2. Proclaimed July 22, a special public holiday in Batangas province and in the cities of Batangas and Lipa, to commemorate the birth anniversary of Apolinario Mabini, the Sublime paralytic.
3. Issued an administrative order requiring Commissioner of Civil Service Abelardo Subido to resign three days from the receipt of the order, otherwise, he would be considered resigned upon the expiration of that period.

The President's order was the upshot of an administrative charge filed against Commissioner Subido by Faustino Tugade, former CSC legal officer, for violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, particularly for entering into contracts grossly disadvantageous to the government.

The Presidential Investigating Committee headed by Dr. Gaudencio Garcia, chairman which was assigned to investigate the case, found Commissioner Subido guilty of the charge.

July 22—

HIGHLIGHTING President Marcos' schedule was his keynote speech at the opening of the joint conference of the World Anti-Communism League and the Asian Peoples' Anti-Communist League, and the presentation of the Order of Malta award, *Colar Pro Merito Malitensa* the highest decoration given by that entity to foreign heads of state.

Briefly, the President's day had the following high points:

1. Presentation of award to the President by Minister Jose Soriano of the Order of Malta.

In his brief remarks, the President said: "I receive this award not only on my behalf," the President said, "but on behalf of the entire people and government of the Republic, since I presume this award has been given in recognition of the good work in which our people and government are engaged."

The President received the award in the presence of several Knights of Malta including Vice Consul Justo Lopez, Ernesto Rufino, Sebastian Ugarte and Daniel Vasquez. Also present were the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez-Marcos, and children Imee, Irene and Bongbong.

2. Courtesy call of Gough Hitlam, opposition leader of Australia, who had come from Red China. Hitlam exchanged impressions with the President on the effects and implications of the change in foreign policy of the U. S. and China.
3. Courtesy call of delegates to the joint conference of the World Anti-Communist League and Asian Anti-Communist League.
4. Courtesy call of representatives of the Filipino Alumni Association of Los Angeles, who requested the establishment of a PNB branch in that city where some 70,000 Filipinos live and work.

They pointed out that the PNB has branches in San Francisco and New York City where there are fewer Filipinos. The President promised to endorse their request to the PNB board. Those who called included Antonio M. San Jose, president; Dr. Lina B. Navarro, crowned Mrs. Philippines of Los Angeles; and Dr. Rolando Navarro, president, Philippine Medical Society of Southern California.

5. Meeting with Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Arturo R. Tanco, Jr. on the rice situation.

6. At 2 p.m. the President addressed the joint conference of the Anti-Communists League at the SSS Building, Quezon City.

Among other actions, the President directed Secretary of Justice Jose Abad Santos to render an opinion on whether the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) can legally make public significant data on all loans and guarantees extended by it since the beginning of his administration on January 1, 1966, as well as those granted under all previous administrations.

The President made this move upon the suggestion of Central Bank Gov. Gregorio S. Licaros, who wrote the President expressing his concern over the trend of congressional investigations of banks, notably the DBP.

The President also took steps to alleviate the critical food situation and arrest the spiralling prices of rice.

In his conference with Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Arturo R. Tanco, Jr. and representatives of other government agencies involved in rice production, the President directed that immediate action be taken to alleviate the rice problem.

The President told Secretary Tanco that provincial governors, city and municipal mayors continue to complain about critical rice deficiencies and soaring prices in their regions.

“Let us do something about this situation,” the President said want a report on the action you have taken.”

In another directive to Secretary Tanco, Secretary of Health Amadeo H. Cruz and the administrator of the Food and Drug Administration, the President ordered that:

1. Henceforth the use of DDT as an insecticide for agricultural crops would be prohibited;
2. No permits would be given to new drugs from abroad for use by the public or for sale in the Philippines unless it is shown that the drug is permitted for public use in the country of origin by the government of that country.

The President ordered a study made as to the essentiality of prohibiting completely the use of DDT.

Among those present in the conference were Director Leonardo A. Paulino of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics; Director Eliseo C. Carandang of the Bureau of Plant Industry; Director Pedro G. Refuerzo of the Bureau of Animal Industry; Commissioner Andres Mane of the Philippine Fisheries Commission; Acting Manager A. B. Abrazaldo of RCA; Deputy Commissioner Francisco G. Rentutar of the Agricultural Productivity Commission; NFAC Deputy Executive Director Domingo Panganiban; Vicente C. de Jesus and R. E. Fronda of NFAC; and Juan A. Mariano and Julian S. Frianeza of the Bureau of Soils.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: July 23-29, 1971

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

July 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS launched his nationwide rural electrification program when he flew to Laoag City to witness the signing of a loan agreement between the Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative Association and the National Electrification Administration (NEA).

In a speech at the Ablan Heroes Memorial Hall, the President said that the putting up of the pilot project marked the beginning of the administration's nationwide program to provide cheap electric power to the rural areas.

The President said the administration has earmarked ₱600 million for the next three or four years for the implementation of the program aimed at providing the whole country with cheap power not only to light up rural communities but also to run cottage industries that will provide incomes to the people.

The signing of the agreement was participated in by officials of the Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative Association and the NEA, and was also witnessed by U. S. Ambassador Henry Byroade and Director Thomas Niblock of the US-AID, the U. S. agency assisting in the electrification program.

Accompanied by the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, and their children Imee, Bongbong and Irene, the President landed at the Gabu Airport shortly before 9 a.m. On hand to welcome them at the airport were city, national, provincial, municipal and barrio officials from Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Isabela and Pangasinan.

The welcomers included Reps. Roque Ablan, Jr. and Simeon Valdez, Gov. Elizabeth Marcos-Keon, Rep. Jose D. Aspiras and Gov. Juvenal Guerrero of La Union, Rep. Rodolfo Albano of Isabela, and Gov. Tito Primicias of Pangasinan.

After military honors at the airport, the President headed a long motorcade to the city cathedral where *Te Deum* was sung. Then he proceeded to the nearby auditorium for the signing ceremony.

Speaking alternately in English, Pilipino and Ilocano, the President said that in the forthcoming election campaign for local officials he would go around the country and ask the electorate to choose between democracy and communism.

In the course of his speech, the President was informed of some of the complaints of his provincemates. He was told that while he keeps on building roads and bridges all over the country, he has neglected his provincemates.

The President forthwith authorized the release of ₱3.5 million for each of the first and second districts of the province for the concrete paving of their dilapidated roads and national highway.

After taking a late lunch at Barrio La Paz, the President motored to different sections of the province to look into the progress of on-going improvement projects.

Before leaving Manila, the President issued a directive to the Police Commission to undertake a comprehensive training program for police forces throughout the country geared towards a nationwide anti-narcotics drive.

The President gave the order after taking note of the reported upsurge in narcotics addiction among the youth, and of the discovery of a number of flourishing marijuana farms.

The President told Brig. Gen. Crispino de Castro (ret.), POLCOM chief, that police forces all over the country should be taught the various techniques of identifying and combatting the grave social menace deriving from narcotics addiction.

In this connection, the President authorized the release to the POLCOM of five prefabricated schoolbuildings for the training program.

Training sites should be immediately put up at strategic points of the country, the President said.

The President also designated Julio A. Sulit, Jr., as acting deputy commissioner of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

Sulit fills in the post vacated by Jose Nepomuceno, who had retired.

July 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, together with the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, left his hometown of Batac where they spent the night, for Vigan, Ilocos Sur where Mrs. Marcos also launched the local chapter of the “Green Revolution.”

Addressing thousands of green uniformed local ladies who converged at the Quirino Memorial Stadium, Mrs. Marcos gave assurance that the Green Revolution is not a political gimmick but a product of the President’s democratic revolution “to change our hearts, our habits of indolence, our weakness as a nation and as individuals of not caring for our fellowmen.”

While in Vigan, the President conferred with local officials headed by Gov. Carmeling P. Crisologo on problems of the province, including the status of local development projects.

In the afternoon, the President crossed over to San Fernando, La Union where he held another conference with local officials on the progress of various on going projects in their respective localities.

On the way to San Fernando, the President made a whistle-stop in Agoo, hometown of Rep. Jose D. Aspiras, to address the townspeople who had lined the route and converged at the town plaza to welcome him.

The President and his family spent the night in Poro Point.

July 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS returned to Manila early in the evening from a three-day swing through the Ilocos provinces where he rallied the people’s support behind the cause of democracy.

In speeches delivered in Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union and Pangasinan, the President declared that the people would be made to choose between democracy and communism in the forthcoming local elections.

“I have come here to warn you that the threat of a bloody revolution to overthrow the democratic government is real and imminent,” the President said in his conferences with provincial, municipal and barrio officials. “The people should decide now whether they would unite behind their democratic institutions before it is too late.”

Accompanied by the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez-Marcos, and children Imee, Bongbong- and Irene, the President left Poro Point in the morning for Lingayen, Pangasinan where a huge rally was held at the local stadium.

Welcoming the presidential party in the province were local leaders from the 48 towns of Pangasinan, both Nacionalistas and Liberals. After discussing, the status of community improvement projects and other local

problems with provincial, municipal and barrio officials in a conference held at the provincial capitol, the President motored to Manila, arriving in Malacañang early in the evening.

July 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Arturo R. Tanco, Jr. to ask the National Economic Council to certify to the importation of 350,000 metric tons of rice as earlier recommended by Tanco himself.

The President took a direct hand in the rice crisis after receiving reports that rice prices all over the country have continued to rise in some places up to ₱3.00 per ganta despite efforts of the Rice and Corn Administration to bring down prices to P2.20. The RCA has attempted to flood the markets with portion of the 110,000 metric tons of rice imported from Taiwan and Thailand and donated rice from Japan.

At the same time, the President instructed RCA Chairman-General Manager Jose D. Drilon, Jr. to explore the possibility of obtaining rice on “thirty-years to pay” terms from Japan and Thailand for the 350,000 metric tons additional rice import.

The President also asked Tanco to call rice merchants all over the country to a meeting to discuss the rice situation with them and to appeal for the lowering of prices.

In the afternoon, while working on state papers, the President created a committee to investigate the complaints lodged by the municipality of Carigara and the Carigara Farmers Cooperative Association against the operations of a logging firm, allegedly being carried out within the proposed Carigara watershed reservation.

Named to compose the committee were a representative each of the U. P. College of Forestry, who will act as chairman; the National Irrigation Administration, the Bureau of Soils, the Bureau of Forestry, and the Bureau of Public Highways, as members. In another Administrative Order, the President reconstituted the membership of the technical committee created to determine the true and correct boundaries of Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Norte and Zamboanga del Sur.

Included as members of the technical committee were the other district land officers and highway district engineers of the Zamboanga provinces.

The President also issued a proclamation reserving for port development purposes (customs zone) a parcel of land in the port area of Davao City.

The site adjoins the pier facilities at Sasa Wharf, Port of Davao and has an area of approximately 115,622 square meters.

July 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS signed into law Senate Bill No. 709 (HB No 3758) fixing the selling price of essential commodities and re-activating the Price Control Council.

Enactment of the new Price Control law was deemed necessary by the President who certified it to Congress during the special session in view of the sharp rise in prices of prime commodities when the old Price Control Law expired on June 30.

The law fixes maximum prices of articles at levels established by the Price Control Council under R. A. 6124 as of June 30, 1971, effective for a period of two years, from the date of its approval up to June 30, 1973.

Earlier in the day, the President was invested all the necessary powers he may need, as titular head of the Nacionalista Party, to lead the party to complete victory in the local elections.

The President was voted these powers by the National Directorate of the Nacionalista Party during its two-hour meeting at the residence of the acting NP president, Senate President Protempore Jose J. Roy, in Quezon City. The vote was taken on motion of NP President and Senate President Gil J. Puyat.

Under this party mandate, the President would have, among others, the power to choose the party election inspectors and representatives, and to initiate the party organization and act on all matters aimed at assuring an NP win in November.

In accepting the mandate of the party, the President appealed to the party rank and file to unite and affirm their faith and loyalty in the party and its leadership by giving the party full support.

July 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS received the 591-man Philippine contingent to the 13th Boy Scouts World Jamboree, who called at Malacañang in the morning to bid farewell before flying to Shizouka Prefecture, Japan for the world jamboree scheduled to be held August 2 to 10.

The President asked the contingent to act as ambassadors of goodwill for the Philippines, and help promote amity, understanding and friendship with other nations.

The President told the contingent that they should be proud of their traditions “because most of the leaders of the country today have a background of scouting.”

The President added that “we look forward to a system by which we can certainly train our young men and women along the ways not only of decency but of spiritual strength and the ancient virtues that: separate the old from the young, virtues that a scout holds dear.

The scouters were headed by Raymundo Crystal and Dominador B. Rañezes, head and deputy head of the BSP contingent, among others.

They were accompanied to Malacañang by Antonio Delgado, vice-president for international affairs of the BSP and vice-chairman of the Boy Scout World Bureau.

After his meeting with the scouters, the President received provincial delegations led by local executives, who apprised him of problems of their constituents.

Toward noon, the President repaired to the Malacañang Maharlika Hall, where he had a luncheon meeting with some 200 members of the NP National Directorate, including senators, representatives and some of the senatorial aspirants.

During the luncheon conference, the President inducted into the Nacionalista Party 19 former Liberal Party leaders, led by former Governor Gregorio Santayana of Quezon, deputy secretary-general of the LP; Vice Governor Virgilio Ramos of Zamboanga del Norte and Severo Abos of Abra, and Antonio Villanueva, chairman of the LP chapter in Ilocos Sur.

July 29—

IN response to the growing public clamor against postal service irregularities which have prejudiced the general conduct of government, President Marcos created a management team to study the problems and deficiencies plaguing the bureau, and to recommend solutions.

Retired Gen. Marte U. Iglesias, director of the bureau of supply, was named chairman of the management team. Designated members were Arcadio Sunga, Washington Solidum and Gerardo Zafra, all of the Management Service of the Budget Commission, and a representative of the Philippine Council of Management (PCM), a private group. The PCM has named Augusto Acoymo, governor and auditor of the organization, as its representative.

The team was instructed to submit its recommendation to the President within one month.

Earlier in the morning, the President received the members of the Joint Philippine-Indonesian Economic Commission who called at Malacañang at the close of their three-day meeting held at the Luna Hall of the Department of Foreign Affairs. They informed the President that they had agreed on specific measures for the effective implementation of projects geared to the realization of the common objectives of the two countries.

In his talk with the members of the commission, the President underscored the need for the mutual assistance among the neighboring countries of Asia in view of the fast changing conditions in this part of the world.

He expressed gratification over the efforts exerted by the Philippines and Indonesia to help one another in attaining their mutual goal of industrial and economic development.

The Philippine panel was headed by Undersecretary of Commerce Eliseo Villamor, while the Indonesian panel was led by Dr. Mohammed Sisman, secretary-general of the Department of Trade. They were accompanied by Ambassador Modesto Farolan, Philippine envoy to Jakarta; and Ambassador Utomo, Indonesia's envoy to the Philippines.

Following the call of the joint commission, the President conferred the Rizal Pro Patria award on Sister Mary Magdala Verhuizen in recognition of her distinguished and outstanding services in the field of education.

The Rizal Pro Patria award is conferred on deserving individuals who have perpetuated the ideals of the national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal, through meritorious and outstanding public service.

The citation was read by Miss Maria Imelda Marcos (Imee), the elder daughter of the President and the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez-Marcos.

Later, the President inducted into office Deputy Commissioner Epifanio Reyes Pangramuyen as acting Civil Service Commissioner, vice Commissioner Abelardo Subido who was considered resigned.

The President, in separate ceremonies, also swore into office Ricardo Galano as judge of the court of first instance of Isabela; Willelmo Fortun as judge of the court of first instance of Zamboanga del Sur; and Josue Bellosillo as judge of the court of agrarian relations of Iloilo.

Present at the induction ceremonies were close friends and relatives of the inductees; officials and employees of the Civil Service Commission, and a large delegation from Ilocos Norte headed by Dona Josefa Edralin-Marcos, mother of the President; Gov. Elizabeth M. Keon and Rep. Roque Ablan, Jr.

The President also received a delegation from the Manila Market Vendors Association which sought his intercession in the improvement of what the group described as deplorable conditions in city market.

Headed by Jose J. Lapid, association president, the delegation complained of uncollected garbage scattered in the public markets which, the group said, had become breeding places of flies which swarm all over the market.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: July 30 - August 5, 1971

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

July 30—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, signed into law House Bill No. 3417 providing for the acceleration of the adjustment of salaries of public school teachers at a ceremony attended by a throng of teachers, school officials, and other interested parties. The author of the bill, Rep. Aguedo Agbayani of Pangasinan, was also present at the signing, held in Malacañang in the morning.

The new law provides a definite salary progression of four steps, effective July 1, 1971, each step being granted automatically after a period of three years of satisfactory service, within a period of 10 years.

After the signing ceremony, the President had a private meeting with Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal, Senators Arturo Tolentino and Dominador Aytona, and Reps. Agbayani and Joaquin Ortega.

Later in the morning, the President motored to Camp Aguinaldo to preside over a meeting of the National Security Council. Among those who attended the meeting were Senate President Gil J. Puyat, Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal, Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, Finance Secretary Cesar E. A. Virata, Agriculture Secretary Arturo R. Tanco, Jr., Senator Gerardo Roxas and Rep. Ramon Mitra, Jr. of the opposition party, Reps. Nicanor E. Yñiguez and Constantino Navarro, NBI Director Jolly Bugarin, Defense Undersecretaries Jose M. Crisol and Efren Plana, and the general staff and chiefs of major commands of the AFP, led by General Manuel T. Yan, chief of staff.

The meeting lasted for more than two hours.

The President, as well as the members of the council, was briefed on foreign policy matters by Foreign Secretary Carlos P. Romulo, and on intelligence and defense matters by Gen. Yan and Gen. Ismael Lapuz (ret.), chief of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA).

Back in Malacañang shortly after 1 p.m., the President rested briefly, then returned to his study for desk work. He issued, among others, a directive to Solicitor General Felix Antonio to coordinate the efforts of the private sector, the schools, the local police agencies and various religious organizations in a massive drive against drug addiction.

The instructions were issued to Antonio in his capacity as chairman of the Citizen's Committee on Order and Justice (CCOJ) created under Administrative Order No. 219 of May 15, 1970.

The President also ordered the Solicitor General to assist the Police Commission in the training of local police forces throughout the country on the techniques of combatting the drug menace.

At 4 p.m., the President sat down with representative of mass media for his regular press conference, during which he announced that on the basis of reports submitted to him by the Department of Foreign Affairs and the military and intelligence authorities during the National Security Council meeting earlier in the day, the Philippines has no alternative but to adopt the two-China policy at the United Nations.

The President said this position would be submitted to the Foreign Policy Council for ratification at its meeting on August 17.

The President emphasized that the Philippine government would oppose any attempt to expel Nationalist China from the United Nations.

Toward evening, the President received some local executives and leaders from Mindanao and Northern Luzon. Among the callers was a delegation from Davao led by Senator Alejandro Almendras and Davao City Mayor Elias Lopez.

In the group were Vice Mayor Manuel Sotto and Councilors Manuel M. Garcia, Pantaleon Pelayo, Jr. and Antonio S. Castillo, all Liberals, who took their oath of affiliation with the Nacionalista Party.

July 31—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a quiet but busy day working on official papers and poring over reports from a number of government agencies.

One of the reports was that of the Police Commission on the peace and order conditions in Cotabato and on the police departments in the province, an assessment undertaken by the POLCOM on orders of the President.

In the report, POLCOM Chairman Crispino M. de Castro said, among others, that “no religious war exists” between Muslim and Christian settlers in the areas covered by the survey.

August 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS made a surprise inspection of the progress of work on the 556-hectare site of the Free Trade Zone in Mariveles, Bataan.

The President disembarked from the *RPS Ang Pangulo* in the morning. He was met at the Mariveles wharf by FTZ Chairman Teodoro Peña, Rep. Pablo Roman, Gov. Guillermo Arcenas and Mayor Carlos Sarreal.

After a briefing on the progress of work by Chairman Peña and other FTZ officials, the President made a tour of the site.

The President was informed by the FTZ officials that some 110 hectares complete with facilities could already be made available for light and heavy industries in the zone.

Noticing the slow pace of progress due to the levelling operations, the President directed Chairman Peña to submit a progress report, presenting all his problems and recommendations.

The President left Mariveles at about 2 p.m. and sailed back for Manila, arriving at Malacañang shortly before 6 p.m.

The rest of his working hours were spent on paper work in his private study.

August 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS certified four additional bills for consideration by the special session of congress, namely:

1. House Bill 3045—An Act preventing and penalizing carnapping

2. House Bill No. 658—An act increasing the penalties for the possession, preparation, use, importation and sale of prohibited drugs; penalizing the cultivation, production, manufacture and certain acts relating to the distribution of such drugs, amending for the purpose the Revised Penal Code, and authorizing the appropriation of funds for the treatment and rehabilitation of victims of drug addiction;

3. House Bill No. 393—An act establishing probation for persons 16 years of age and above who are convicted of certain crimes by the courts of the Philippines, providing probation officers therefor, and for other purposes; and

4. Senate Bill No. 712—An act consolidating and revising the charter of the National Power Corporation.

At mid-morning, the President received Earl Carlson, U.N. adviser on financing and organization of housing and environmental improvement programs, who paid his respects on the President preparatory to his departure for New York after serving as consultant to the Philippine Senate for two years.

Carlson was accompanied to Malacañang by Senator Helena Benitez, chairman of the Senate committee on housing, urban development and resettlement.

After attending to a few other callers, the President and the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, officiated at past noon at a tree-planting ceremony held at the Malacañang grounds in connection with the observance of Arbor Week.

Participating in the rites were members of the Cabinet who each planted a Narra tree around the Palace lawns.

In brief remarks at the rites, the President said that the nation's forests are being denuded at an estimated, rate of 80,000 hectares a year. He warned that at this rate, the country is bound to lose most of its forest cover in 10 years.

It was for this reason, he said, that upon assumption of the Presidency, he immediately declared numerous virgin areas as permanent forests, and would continue setting aside areas not only as permanent forest but also as parks and wildlife sanctuaries.

Early in the evening, the President received superintendents from public and private institutions attending a four-day convention in Manila.

The President was assisted in receiving the conventionists by Mrs. Marcos, who was cited for her many welfare projects.

The conventionists pledged the support of some 330,000 elementary and secondary school teachers, public as well as private, to the President's "Democratic Revolution" and the First Lady's "Green Revolution".

Addressing the superintendents, the President called upon them to pitch in and help indoctrinate the people in such worthwhile projects as the drive against malnutrition, manpower training, food production and population control.

The conventionists were accompanied to Malacañang by Secretary of Education Juan Manuel and Undersecretary Narciso Albarracin.

August 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a busy schedule receiving callers, some of them coming in large delegations, apart from which he also put in an active day attending to important state papers and other official business.

Notable among those who called on the President were:

1. Speaker Hadji Achmad Sjoichu of Indonesia, who made a courtesy call following his arrival for a brief official visit.

2. Yuichi Nishida, Japanese businessman, who plans to invest in a joint venture with Filipinos to put up refrigeration plants and set up shrimp ponds.

3. The Philippine basketball team participating in the Pesta Sukan basketball games in-Singapore. Accompanying the group on the call were Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez and Manila Councilor Lito Puyat.

4. Governors Carmeling P. Crisologo of Ilocos Sur, Elizabeth M. Keon of Ilocos Norte, Teresita Dupaya of Cagayan, Consuelo Calo of Agusan and Salvacion Yñiguez of Southern Leyte, who came to see the President on problems in their constituencies.

5. Gov. Antonio Ortiz of Guimaras and Mayor Jose Oliveras, president of the League of Mayors, accompanied by Mayors Luis Herrera and Abelardo Javellana of Jordan and Buenavista, respectively, who also consulted the President on local problems.

6. Nicanor Sison, who took his oath of office before the President. He is the new judge of the court of first instance of Pasig, Rizal.

7. The officers and members of the Government Prosecutors League, who thanked the President for appointing colleagues to the judiciary. The League officers were inducted by the President.

8. Quezon City Mayor Norberto Amoranto and Vice Mayor Ismael, Jr., who also discussed local problems.

9. A group of mayors from Cavite, who were accompanied by Sen. Helena Z. Benitez. Three of the mayors, former Liberals, took their oath of affiliation with the NP.

In the afternoon, the President directed all government agencies concerned to push the anti-narcotics drive in order to awaken nationwide consciousness on the urgency of solving this grave national problem.

Upon recommendation of the Cabinet, the President:

1. Ordered the director of private schools to call the attention of all heads of private schools, particularly those in the Greater Manila area, to the gravity of this national problem and enlist their participation in the drive;

2. Sought the reactivation of all police units engaged in anti-narcotics operations.

The President also submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation, the nominations of six persons to judiciary posts—three as municipal judges and three as clerks of court. Nominated were:

1. Mariano A. Mendieta, as municipal judge of Meycauayan, Bulacan.

2. Abraham Alagar, as municipal judge of Imus, Cavite.

3. Dominador Ll. Mercado, as municipal judge of Bacon, Sorsogon.

4. Teresita D. Capulong, as branch clerk of court CFI, Manila. Branch XVII.

5. Carmen Zapata Reyes, as branch clerk of court, CFJ, Manila, Branch XI.

6. Renato S. Mercado, as clerk of court, CFI, Sub-province of Quirino.

August 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS again had a heavy schedule of callers some of whom were officials he inducted, and which included a big delegation from Nationalist China.

Notable among the President's visitors were:

1. Rep. Rafael Aquino and Angel Tupaz, who consulted the President on the case of a fugitive mayor, Ricardo de la Camara who had signified his intention to surrender to the authorities. Accompanying the two men were the fugitive's wife and niece.
2. Pasay City Vice Mayor Jesus P. Paredes, former LP who was sworn in as NP.
3. A study group from the 12th War College of Nationalist China which paid its respects to the President.
4. A group of judges and the deputy fisheries commissioner who took their oaths of office. Inducted were Ambrosio M. Dar, as deputy commissioner of fisheries for research and technology; Miguel P. Valera as judge of the Court of Agrarian Relations of Isabela; Benjamin Crisostomo as circuit court judge of Roxas City; Felipe P. de Vera, Bernardo P. Fernandez and Sanbago Tañada as judges of courts of first instance of the cities of Dagupan, Olongapo and Calocan, respectively; and David Lindayag as municipal judge of Hagonoy, Bulacan.
5. The elected officers of the Veterans Federations, who were inducted by the President. They were Col. Simeon Medalla, president; Col. Agustin Marking, executive vice president; Paulino D. Tolentino, Leonardo Cabañero, Vicente Alberto and Tomas T. Nufable, vice presidents; Arsenio R. Fabros secretary-general; Tranquilino Capobres, treasurer general Carlos R. Lardizabal, auditor general; Onesimo Soriano inspector general; Brig. Gen. Dionisio Ojeda and PVA Administrator Atilano R. Cinco, advisers.
6. Several provincial delegations who discussed local problems with the President, including those headed by Reps. Tito Dupaya and David Puzon of Cagayan; Rep. Indanan Anni of Sulu; the Benguet group led by Rep. Andres Cosalan and Gov. Ben' Palispis, and including all the mayors of the province.

In the afternoon, the President proclaimed August 9, Monday a special public holiday in Ilocos Norte and Laoag City.

The day marks the birth anniversary of the late Governor Roque B. Ablan, an outstanding resistance leader of the occupation.

August 5—

PRESIDENT MARCOS started the day quietly with a breakfast in the morning honoring Robert Jackson, senior consultant to the administrator of the United Nations Development Program, at which he and The First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, played hosts.

Also present at the breakfast were Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata, Secretary of Public Works and Communications Manuel B. Syquiao, Secretary of Social Welfare Estefania Aldaba-Lim, Board of Investments Chairman Vicente Paterno, NEC Chairman Gerardo Sicat, PES Director-General Apolinario Orosa, and William Harding, UNDP resident representative here.

Jackson arrived in Manila for talks with top government officials and to survey UNDP assisted projects here. He called at Malacañang upon his arrival here, enroute back to New York after a swing through Southeast Asia.

After this working breakfast, the President conferred with Philippine officials present behind closed doors.

Then he began receiving callers, the first of which was a delegation from Zamboanga del Sur led by Rep. Vicente Cerilles. In the group's wake came former Rep. Luis Hora of the Mt. Province, Gov. Jaime Gomez, Deputy Gov. Alejo Manao and Board Members Alfonso Layog and Jose Dominguez, along with nine town mayors.

Taking time off from visitors, the President signed the gold subsidy bill. Among those who witnessed the signing were Sen. Leonardo B. Perez, Rep. Benjamin Perez, and a number of provincial and municipal officials of Nueva Vizcaya.

Under the new law, the gold subsidy would be given only to gold producing firms 70 per cent owned and held by Philippine citizens, and producing gold as a principal product by itself or through an operating agreement.

Resuming his reception of callers, the President met with a group from Ilocos Norte headed by Reps. Simeon Valdez and Roque Ablan, Jr. and Gov. Elizabeth Marcos-Keon.

The President continued to receive callers the rest of the day in between spells of desk work and brief meetings with officials consulting him on various problems.

Official papers acted upon by the President included those on the promotion of 255 reserve officers (inactive) of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

One of those promoted from captain to major was Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata.

The promotion of the reserved officers was recommended by Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, and was in line with the citizens army build-up program of the AFP as envisioned in the National Defense Act.

Of the officers promoted, six were to the grade of Colonel, 13 to the grade of Lt. Colonel, and 53 to the grade of Major, Lt. Commander.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: August 6-12, 1971

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

August 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS directed the Rice and Corn Administration to devise a scheme whereby cheaper government rice could be distributed through the barrio captains all over the country, with special attention to places with short supply of the cereal.

The President issued the directive to insure that RCA rice selling at from P2.10 to P2.20 per ganta each as many families as possible, especially those of the low-income groups in the rural areas.

The sale of cheaper rice through the barrio captains was suggested by the League of Barrio Captains of Cabanatuan City, members of which called at Malacañang at noon to request the approval of House Bill No. 3294 passed during the special session of Congress. The bill officially recognizes the official standing of 59 Cabanatuan barrios.

Accompanied by Reg. Angel Concepcion, author of the bill, the delegation of barrio captains informed the President that the original charter of Cabanatuan enacted in 1955 had listed only 11 barrios and inadvertently failed to include 59 other barrios which were already existing before the capital town of Nueva Ecija was converted into a city.

Oscar P. Justo, chairman of the League, said that the forgotten barrios have thus been deprived of their rightful share of most of the nationwide rural improvements undertaken by the administration.

The President forthwith signed the measure.

The Cabanatuan group was one of several delegations who called on the President to take up urgent local matters. These were delegations from Cotabato, Lipa City, La Union and Rizal.

Earlier in the morning, the President received a group of young American Civil Air Patrol cadets who arrived in Manila under the auspices of the International Air Cadet Exchange Program. Accompanied by Col. Henry Meider, vice president of the Aerospace Association of the Philippines, the U.S. cadets called at Malacañang to pay their respects.

The group was composed of Lt. Col. Keith Laddie Lysinger, of Boise, Idaho; Cadet Lt. Col. Bruce Kenneth Adams of Des Moines, Iowa; Cadet Lt. Col. Mark Larry Lupfer of Sta. Monica, California; Cadet Lt. Col. Roberto Thomas Lohne of Westminster, Colorado; and Cadet Capt. Kevin M. Carlson of Fremont, Nebraska.

The President spent the rest of the day working on official papers, breaking off once at 4:30 p.m. to hold a general press conference.

August 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS trimmed his scheduled callers to only a few, even as he concentrated more on desk work and other urgent state business.

The President buckled down to paper work shortly after breakfast. Toward noon he received Gov. Petronilo Seares of Abra, who apprised him on matters concerning his constituency, and Judge Serafin E. Camilon whom he inducted as judge of the court of first instance of Negros Occidental, with jurisdiction over the cities of Bacolod, Silay, San Carlos, La Carlota, Bogu and Cadiz.

The induction ceremony was witnessed by the inductee's wife Constancia, brother Benjamin, and Senator Helen Z. Benitez.

The President resumed his paper work in the afternoon, in the process issuing an order creating the Philippine Virginia Tobacco Board which will, among others, serve as an institutional link between the government and the private sectors involved in the Philippine Virginia tobacco industry.

In creating the board, the President emphasized that the preservation, promotion and enhancement of the Philippine Virginia tobacco industry require a vigorous, concerned and integrated planning and programming, and a coordinated implementation of projects relative to the industry.

Named to compose the tobacco board were the chairman/general manager of the Philippine Virginia Tobacco Administration, as chairman, and the following as members:

The commissioner of the Agricultural Productivity Commission, the administrator of the Agricultural Credit Administration, the commissioner of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the directors of the Bureau of Plant Industry and of the Bureau of Soils, a representative elected or designated by the cigarette manufacturers who have a contract with the PVTa to operate trading centers, a representative of tobacco redriers and exporters who have contracts with the PVTa to operate trading centers; an official of the PVTa, to be designated by the PVTa chairman with the concurrence of the board, who will act as executive secretary, and the corporate treasurer of the PVTa, who will be ex-officio treasurer of the board.

August 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS enjoined the officers and men of the Philippine Constabulary to stay out of politics in the elections and to perform their solemn duty to uphold the law without favor to anyone at all.

Addressing the men in khaki and red on the 70th founding anniversary of the Philippine Constabulary at Camp Crame, the President said that "in a very real way, the issue of democracy as against communism rests on your performance as soldiers of democracy and not as minions of a privileged few."

"Our people rely firstly on you to keep the peace and order," the President said, "and you are beholden to no politician, only to our people and to your duty."

"You must prove that although there are a few transgressors, the main body of the constabulary is as it has always been—men dedicated to flag and country, oriented to public service, completely trustworthy and reliable, and in accordance with the highest traditions of command, ready to lay their lives down for the greater good," the President said. (See pp. 6492-6495 for full text of the President's speech.)

Upon arrival at the PC headquarters, the President was given military honors by the Presidential Guard Battalion, after which he and the First Lady proceeded to the grandstand.

After the troops had been presented to him, the President accompanied by Brig. Gen. Eduardo M. Garcia, chief of the PC, and Brig. Gen. Fabian Ver, commanding general of the PGB, trooped the line, and then presented the awards to distinguished officers, enlisted men, units and a civilian employee.

The President then delivered his address, after which the troops composed of two PC brigades from the metropolitan area, passed in review, followed by motorized units including METROCOM, Trafcon, Signal and other units.

After exchanging greetings with other guests, including military top brass from the United States Army and Navy installations, members of the diplomatic corps, and chiefs of commands of the AFP, the President and the First Lady motored to the PC-Police Coordinating Center building for the inauguration.

The President and the First Lady left Camp Crame at 11:45 a.m., arriving at Malacañang exactly 12 noon.

In the afternoon, the President created the Pesticides Control and Research Committee on recommendation of Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Arturo R. Tanco, Jr. to regulate the importation, manufacture, sale, distribution and use of pesticides.

The President created the committee to fill the long felt need for a specific government instrumentality to monitor the use of agricultural pesticides commercially manufactured and distributed in the country in view of the increasing danger of pollution and contamination to public health.

August 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS conferred the Philippine Legion of Honor, degree of commander, on Maj. Gen. George Peckett, Jr., outgoing chief of the Joint U. S. Military Advisory Group, in a ceremony held at Malacañang which was the only break in his usual routine.

Present at the rite were Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Gen. Manuel T. Yan, AFP chief of staff; Maj. Gen. Romeo Espino, vice chief of staff; and Commodore Hilario M. Ruiz, deputy chief of staff.

Following the ceremony, the President inducted members of the Philippine Medical Care Commission headed by Dr. Pacifico E. Marcos, chairman. The composition of the commission was unanimously recommended by a large delegation representing the major medical organizations in the country, which called at Malacañang.

Inducted, aside from Dr. Marcos, were Dr. Jose C. Denoga, administrator and vice chairman; Dr. Ricardo L. Alfonso and Jesus V. Tamesis, as members representing the private sector; and the following *ex-officio* members: Dr. Edgardo Caparas, president of the Philippine Medical Association; Dr. Eliodoro Congco, president of the Philippine Hospital Association; Secretary of Health Amadeo H. Cruz and SSS Administrator Gilberto Teodoro.

The President also administered the oath of affiliation to the Nacionalista Party to several Iloilo leaders headed by Brig. Gen. Alfonso Palencia (ret) chairman of the Liberal Party chapter in the fifth district of the province. The affiliation was witnessed by Rep. Fermin Z. Caram, Jr. and Board Member Heber Catalan.

The President otherwise received callers until 2 p.m., consisted mostly of provincial delegations seeking solutions to local problems. In between the President worked on state papers.

August 10—

ABOARD *RPS Ang Pangulo*, enroute to Tagbilaran City, President Marcos read and worked on official papers most of the day as he sailed in occasionally rough sea on Tagbilaran, Bohol for the proclamation of the NP senatorial candidates.

Also on board were senatorial candidate Mrs. Leonila Garcia and party, including her daughter, Mrs. Linda G. Campos, SSS Chairman Ramon Gaviola, Tomas Toledo and Dr. Antonio Guytingco.

Before leaving for the South, the President instituted the Presidential Citation for Outstanding Humanitarian Services.

The award was instituted to give due official cognizance and gratitude to Filipino citizens, resident foreigners and others who have rendered spontaneous, exemplary and conspicuous service in the areas of social welfare, education, health and national defense undertaken by the government in times of urgent national need.

The award may also be conferred, on the authority of the President by the Executive Secretary and the Secretary of the Department which has initiated special operations in any of the areas mentioned above, during which the awardee rendered meritorious service and assistance.

The Presidential Citation would be conferred in the form of gold, silver and bronze medals.

The line of endeavor in which the awardee has rendered outstanding services would be distinguished thus: a blue ribbon for social welfare, green for education, white for health, and red for national defense.

August 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS arrived in Tagbilaran City at 9:30 a.m. for the proclamation rally in the evening of the Nacionalista Party. He was joined by the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, who flew from Manila.

On hand to welcome the President at the wharf were Gov. Lino Chato, Reps. Pablo Malasarte and Teodoro Galagar, City Mayor Venancio Inting and other East Visayan leaders who had converged in the city.

After full military honors at the wharf, the President and his party proceeded to the St. Joseph Cathedral for *Te Deum*. Then he held a conference with local officials who reported on the progress of improvement projects and advised him of the further needs of their constituents.

The conference was held after the luncheon tendered by national, provincial and municipal officials at the Bohol Cultural Center.

The President urged the local officials to take the initiative in providing the necessary leadership in the implementation of the food production program of the administration.

In a talk with newsmen later in the afternoon, the President announced he had ordered a ceasefire in Cotabato to last until all efforts to find a peaceful solution are exhausted. He said his order covers the area around Buldon, adding however that government troops have orders to secure their positions,

At the rally in the evening, the President issued a challenge to the Liberals on four points, based on the issues of graft and corruption, peace and order and communism, as he drew the battlelines for the election campaign.

The President challenged the Liberals to:

- 1) Present a concrete, coherent and harmonious platform of government to electorate;
- 2) Authorize him to declassify intelligence and police records regarding politicians and candidates linked to subversive elements;
- 3) Agree to the opening to the public by the Bureau of Internal Revenue of all documents pertaining to the payment of income taxes, inheritance and investments of all candidates and political leaders, including himself;
- 4) Authorize all banks to disclose all accounts kept by candidates running for office.

The President said the NP stands squarely on the issue of nationalism, the reorganization of government to remove the corrupting influence of the rich, and the restructuring of society for public welfare.

The President said the people must choose between control of private ownership as advocated by the Nacionalista Party and outright abolition of private ownership as advocated by the communists.

August 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS conferred with PC and army commanders, provincial political leaders of Cotabato on the peace and order situation in said province.

Upon request of Rep. Salipada K. Pendatun the President, during the conference, wired Senators Mamintal Tamano and Leonardo B. Perez, requesting them to conduct negotiations with Mayor Bangon Aratuc of Buldon for a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Cotabato.

Rep. Pendatun assured the President that the mayor of Buldon was willing to meet the President or his representative if given a safe conduct by the government troops.

In a series of directives issued during the conference, the President ordered:

1. Brig. Gen. Eduardo M. Garcia, PC chief; and Brig. Gen. Domingo Tutaan, Fourth PC Zone commander, to lift the August 15 ultimatum for armed Muslims fighting government troops to surrender;
- 2 The two PC generals to stop all aggressive action in the area, but for government troops to dig in and stay put in their positions;
3. The armed forces to hold their artillery fire on Muslim positions to prevent destruction of life and property; and
4. The PC to gather all evidence against known leaders of the *Ilagas* and to file corresponding charges.

Present at the meeting were Gen. Manuel T. Yan, AFP chief of staff; Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Eimle and Undersecretary Efren Plana, Brig. Gen. Rafael Ileta, Philippine Army commander; Gen. Garcia Brig Gen. Juan B. Cruz of the Fourth Brigade Gen. Tutaan former Rep. Blah Sinsuat, CNI Commissioner Mama Sinsuat Gov Simeon Datumanong, Mayor Udtog Matalan Jr. of Pikit, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Mayors Emma Gaddi of Kidapawan, Bonifacio Tejada of M'lang, Conrado Buencamino of Isulan, Sansalona Rivera of Parang, Balakat Sangki of Ampatuan, Michael Sinsuat of Upi, Ricardo Ipong of Makilala; and Lt. Col. Adolfo Bringas, Cotabato provincial commander.

Arriving in Iligan City at 9:30 a.m., after an overnight voyage from Tagbilaran City aboard the *RPS Ang Pangulo*, President Marcos motored direct to the local airport where he boarded a plane for Cotabato for the meeting with military officials and provincial and political leaders in the province.

From Cotabato, the President proceeded to Davao where the President and the First Lady attended another rally in the evening to proclaim the NP senatorial bets.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: August 13-19, 1971

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

August 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS conferred with his emissaries in Davao City, who came back in the afternoon and reported to him that Mayor Bangon Aratuc of Buldon was willing to meet him in Manila.

The President stayed the whole day in Davao and waited for the return of the intermediaries, namely, Chairman Raul Beloso of the Small Farmers Commission, Mayors Sansalona Biruar of Parang and Michael Sinsuat of Upi, and Bongsar Tumaui. While waiting for the return of the intermediaries, the President conferred with local executives on improvement projects and worked on official papers.

Following his 30-minute meeting with the intermediaries, the President ordered the Department of Health to send medical and health teams to Buldon as soon as possible, and the NB1 and other civilian investigation agencies to send investigators to look into the grievances which Mayor Aratuc and others would bring to his attention.

The President also sent back the intermediaries to inform Mayor Aratuc of the actions he had taken, and to continue further negotiations.

Mayor Aratuc had told the emissaries that he was ready to explain to the President the circumstances leading to the outbreak of hostilities between the Muslims and the government troops, and that he was willing to turn over authority over the municipality of Buldon to anyone except the military on condition that his people would not be harmed.

Because of his inability to return to Manila, the President asked Labor Secretary Bias F. Ople to deliver for him his message at the opening ceremonies of Linggo ng Wikang Pambansa, held at the Malacanang Maharlika Hall in the morning.

In his prepared speech in Pilipino, the President said that obstacles notwithstanding, efforts toward the development of a Pilipino language would continue.

“We believe that this language will remain alive and healthy and strong enough to enable it to overcome the difficulties in the way to full development,” the President said.

When the Pilipino language shall have fully flowered, the President said, every Pilipino will take pride in using his own language and the unity of the country will have come true, “a unity brought about by a consensus on a national language.”

The President stated that among the reasons for the slow development of the Pilipino language were the efforts wasted in endless debates on such matters as purism, the lack of technical and scientific terms, and regionalism.

He said however that the drive toward the “development and propagation of the Pilipino language is moving ahead,” and has in fact gone a long way.

August 14—

IMMEDIATELY upon arriving at Malacañang at about 10:30 a.m. from his three-day trip to the South, the President focused on urgent state business, including important state papers.

He did not receive callers to be able to concentrate on desk work preparatory to another trip to the North, for proclamation rallies of the senatorial bets of the Nacionalista Party.

August 15—

Accompanied by the NP senatorial candidates, President Marcos arrived in Laoag City at 10 a.m. for the start of the proclamation rallies in the Ilocos region.

The Laoag noontime rally was attended by delegations from Ilocos Sur, Abra, La Union and Pangasinan.

After the Laoag rally, the President and his party crossed over to the Cagayan Valley where even larger delegations from Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Ifugao, Kalinga-Apayao and Benguet had converged.

In his speeches in Laoag and Tuguegarao, the President rallied the support of the traditional “Solid North” behind the Nacionalista Party in the November senatorial and local elections.

The President also took occasion to berate opposition leaders for raising such political issues as high prices, peace and order, reforms in government, while failing to offer alternative programs to solve the nation’s problems.

He also charged that certain members of the opposition are in league with communist elements, to the extent of giving them sanctuary and financial support.

“The threat against our democratic institutions is real and imminent,” the President warned. “In this election, the people will also be asked to choose between democracy and communism.”

August 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had two major conferences, one in the afternoon with Tumatic Aratuc, son of Buldon Mayor Bangon Aratuc, and the other in the evening with members of his Fiscal Policy Committee.

It was quite a busy day for the President, following his return to Manila in the morning from the North where he presented the NP senatorial candidates in huge rallies in Laoag City and Tuguegarao, Cagayan.

Before meeting with Aratuc’s son, who was sent by the Buldon mayor to relay his message to him, the President worked on official papers in his private study.

Tumatic Aratuc, who was accompanied by his wife Nelly, Senators Mamintal Tamano and Leonardo Perez, Rep. Constantino Navarro and Judge Lau Tan of Buldon, transmitted to the President a complaint from Mayor Aratuc that nine houses belonging to Muslims were burned in a barrio of Buldon by “men in uniform.”

He also informed the President that no food or medicine have arrived in Buldon despite the President’s orders for immediate delivery of same.

In the course of his meeting with Tumatic, the President communicated directly by telephone with Brig. Gen. Domingo Tutaan, Fourth PC Zone commander. He directed Gen. Tutaan to pull out the 543rd PC company and all other Ilongo elements from the Buldon area, the presence of which was deemed the main irritant to the Muslims.

The President also ordered Gen. Tutaan to conduct a full-dress investigation of the burning of the nine Muslim houses, and to-maintain active patrolling in the area, with special attention to armed men who may attempt to destroy or sabotage the peaceful settlement of the factional differences in the province.

The President likewise ordered Gen. Tutaan to expedite the delivery of food and medicine and the deployment of civilian doctors aid social workers to Buldon.

In another directive, the President ordered Brig. Gen. Fabian Ver, chief of the Presidential Security Unit, to furnish Mayor Aratuc with a single sideband radio set and two operators to enable the mayor to communicate with Malacañang any time.

At the end of the conference, the President requested Tumatic and his wife to return to Buldon immediately so that they could help facilitate the delivery to and distribution of food and medicine among the evacuees, and to convey his desire to confer with Mayor Aratuc in Malacañang on the measures which should be taken to maintain peace and order in the area.

The President met with the members of the Fiscal Policy Committee in the evening to assess the effects of U.S. President Nixon's decision to suspend the gold conversion of the dollar.

The Council agreed that the "floating" of the dollar would have no adverse effect on the Philippine economy.

On the other hand, it was agreed that since the government had more liabilities than deposits in dollars in the U.S., the new policy might favor the Philippine Government.

The same situation, it was agreed, would obtain for the private sector.

Present at the meeting were Central Bank Governor Gregorio Liqaros, Finance Secretary Cesar Virata, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melehor, NEC Chairman Gerardo Sicat, DBP Chairman Leonides Virata, SSS Administrator Gilberto Teodoro, Board of Investments Chairman Vicente Paterno, GSIS General Manager Roman Cruz, Jr., Veterans Bank President Esteban Cabanos, and Press Secretary Francisco S. Tatad.

August 17—

PRESIDENT MARCOS was back to his regular schedule after his trip to the provinces, and as usual he received visitors in between stints at his desk.

Among those who called in the morning were Minister William Thorpe of New Zealand, who completed a 3-year tour of duty in this country. He called to say goodbye, prior to returning home for reassignment as high commissioner of Samoa.

Later in the morning, the President was regaled by the call of young singing ambassadors from Japan, Taipei and South Korea, composed of children's choirs.

The First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, joined the President to listen to the youngsters sing a few songs. Accompanying the children was Rev. Walter C Libre, who presented the three groups to the President on behalf of Mayor Antonio J. Villegas of Manila. A particular hit was the rendition by the Taipei choir of "Dahil Sa Iyo."

A large delegation from Mindanao was received by the President soon after. The Muslim group sought assurance that marriage rituals of non-Christians would continue to be in force despite the expiration of the law which authorized these rites. The President, to reassure them, re-enacted the signing of R.A. 6268, which restored the exemption retroactively to June 19, 1969, when the original law expired.

In the afternoon the President devoted most of his time to his desk work and other state matters.

Early in the evening, the President and the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, received Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives and Mrs. Carl Albert.

Speaker Albert arrived in Manila in the afternoon at the head of a 23-man congressional delegation conducting an Asian tour.

The Alberts were accompanied to Malacañang by Speaker and Mrs. Cornell T. Villareal, Rep. Jose D. Aspiras of La Union, and Ambassador and Mrs. Henry Byroade.

The U. S. congressional delegation arrived from Taipei via Hongkong at 4:40 p.m. and were met at the Manila International Airport by members of Congress led by Speaker Villareal, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. and Ambassador Henry Byroade.

Among the papers signed by the President in the course of the day was a proclamation declaring August 19, a special public holiday in Quezon province, Lucena City and Quezon City.

The day marks the birth anniversary of the late President Manuel L. Quezon.

August 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, accompanied the visiting 23-man congressional delegation of the United States, led by Speaker Carl Albert, in a tour of historic Corregidor and Bataan.

The First Couple and the visiting American solons and their ladies boarded the *RPS Ang Pangulo* at 7:30 a.m. at Pier 15 and sailed for Corregidor first, arriving on the “Rock” some two hours later.

Boarding the busses, the President and the First Lady guided the American ‘visitors in a tour of historic sites, among them the battery or big gun emplacements and the Malinta tunnel. Also shown them was the Pacific War Memorial.

During their three-hour stay on the erstwhile fortress, the visitors were shown the documentary film entitled “The Flame and the Sea,” depicting the war in the Pacific.

They reboarded the *RPS Ang Pangulo* at 12:30 p.m. for lunch while the ship sailed for Mariveles, Bataan where they boarded PAF helicopters for the “Dambana ng Kagitingan” on Mt. Samat.

After touring the national shrine, the First Couple and the American visitors helicoptered back to Mariveles where they reboarded the *RPS Ang Pangulo* for the trip back to Manila.

With the First Couple in showing the American visitors around in Corregidor and Bataan were Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal, Rep. Macacuna Dimaporo and Senators Ambrosio Padilla and Emmanuel Pelaez.

Shortly after his return from Bataan, the President met with Mayor Bangon Aratuc of Buldon, Cotabato and hammered out a six-point formula to restore peace and order in Buldon. The President met the Bul-don mayor for 30 minutes at the Pangarap.

The peace formula agreed upon between the President and Mayor Aratuc includes:

1. The rehabilitation of the town of Buldon, and its conversion into a pilot project.
2. The peaceful surrender and registration of all firearms followed by the pull-out of all PC troops from the area.
3. The possible transfer of Christian settlers from the EDCOR settlement in Buldon to Alamada, and the transfer of Muslims from Alamada to Buldon.
4. The reorganization of the army and PC units with the total elimination of Ilongos from them.
5. The prosecution and punishment of all guilty parties in accordance with law, after an impartial investigation is conducted by investigators not from the Cotabato PC command.
6. The immediate clearing of the roads in order to allow the harvest of standing rice crops in Buldon.

Upon request of Mayor Aratuc, and the recommendation of Sen. Mamintal Tamano and Reps. Ali Dimaporo of Lanao del Norte and Constantino Navarro of Surigao del Norte, the President promised to order the immediate rehabilitation of Buldon with the construction of roads and bridges, and the setting up of a dispensary.

It was also agreed that two days after the return of the mayor to Buldon, all firearms will be surrendered and registered in the poblacion, after which the mayor would assume full responsibility for the peace and order in the town and the PC would be pulled out

August 19—

HIGHLIGHTS of today's activities of President Marcos included:

1. Receiving, along with the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, the visiting delegation of U.S. Congressmen and their ladies, who were earlier honored with luncheon by Speaker and Mrs. Cornelio T. Villareal at Nayong Pilipino.

2. A brief meeting with former Dean Dioscoro Umali of the U.P. College of Agriculture in Los Baños, who came to say goodbye before leaving for Bangkok to assume his new post with the UN as Assistant Director General for Asia and Far East Affairs of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

Dean Umali, who has been with the UP College of Agriculture since 1949, also served for some time as undersecretary of agriculture.

3. A conference with Reps. Jose Alberto of Catanduanes, Eduardo Cojuangco of Tarlac, Teodulo Natividad of Bulacan, Rafael Aquino of Sorsogon and Frisco San Juan of Rizal, all of whom took up local problems with the President.

In the afternoon, the President worked as usual on official papers and at 8 p.m., he and the First Lady, were hosts at dinner for the U.S. Speaker and Congressmen and their ladies, at the Maharlika Hall of Malacanang.

Shortly before the dinner, the President received Mayor Bangon Aratuc of Buldon, who informed him that a peace rally would be held in the town plaza at 10 a.m. Wednesday (August 25) for the purpose of surrendering the loose firearms for registration and ballistic examination to determine those responsible for the recent killings in the area. Mayor Aratuc also emphasized to the President his desire to have the guilty persons brought to justice and duly punished.

During the day, the President commissioned 59 officers into the armed forces upon recommendation of Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile and General Manuel T. Yan, AFP chief of staff, in line with the citizen's army build-up program of the country.

Of those commissioned, one was a major, three were first lieutenants, 26 were second lieutenants and 29 were ensigns in the Philippine Navy.

A crowded schedule forced the President to ask Acting Undersecretary of Labor Adrian Cristobal to deliver for him his speech before the members of the Philippine Trade Union Congress gathered at the Selecta Restaurant for their 12th biennial convention.

In his speech, the President strongly supported the move to bring labor into social activism and political action, saying that this involvement "is crucial to labor's efforts to achieve meaningful gains."

In enlarging its role in Philippine society, labor, the President said, could offer an alternative to the programs of the two leading political parties.

"A labor party, it is believed, would make for a more desirable pluralism in the body politic," the President said.

There are those, however, the President observed, “who would denigrate labor’s attempts at political undertakings.” These are the people, he said, who are wont to sneer and ask: “But is there a labor vote?”

This cynicism, he said, derives from the so-called “labor jinx,” with which organized labor has been tagged for perennially failing to elect a labor secretary aspiring for the senate.

“Whether the so-called labor jinx should be attributed to the aspirant of the labor movement is debatable however,” the President remarked.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: August 20-26, 1971

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

August 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS received the credentials of a new ambassador, to the Philippines, which along with his signing of House Bill No. 3520 (S. N. 555) authorizing the sweeping rehabilitation of the government railway firm were the only deviations from his usual routine of callers and desk work.

The President received the letters of credence of the new Greek ambassador, at formal ceremonies held in Malacañang. Attending the rites were Cabinet members headed by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo.

In the presence of a large group of Philippine National Railways officials, the President signed the bill authorizing the complete rehabilitation of the troubled railway. Present at the signing were a large delegation from the PNR headed by General Manager Nicanor Jimenez; Salvador Villa, chairman of the board; and Macario Roque, chairman of the Federation of PNR labor unions;

Senators Dominador Aytona and Magnolia W. Antonio, Reps. Roberto Sabido, Carlos Imperial and Amando Cope of Albay; Felix Fuentabella of Camarines Sur, Fernando Pajarillo of Camarines Norte, Rafael Aquino of Sorsogon, Emilio Espinosa of Masbate, Andres Cosalan of Benguet, and Joaquin Ortega and Jose D. Aspiras of La Union.

The President also proclaimed several provincial candidates, including those for governor, mayor, mostly from the Bicol Region. Leading the NP candidates was Pepita Baltazar-Aquino, wife of the highways commissioner, and the NP official bet for governor of Albay.

The rest of the President's day was divided between callers, mainly delegations from the provinces who came to consult him on local, problems, and state matters requiring his attention. He worked later in the afternoon steadily at his desk.

He issued two proclamations, one declaring August 23, the "Cry of Pugad Lawin Day" in the cities of Caloocan and Quezon, and the other declaring August 30, a special public holiday in Mandaue City.

August 23, marks the 75th anniversary of the first Filipino uprising against Spain which led to the Philippine Revolution, while August 30 is the anniversary of the founding of the city of Mandaue.

August 21—

FOLLOWING receipt and confirmation of reports on the bombing of the Liberal Party rally in the evening at Plaza Miranda, President Marcos, among others, directed the National Bureau of Investigation, the Metrocom and the Armed Forces to use their special demolition squads and investigate the nature and sources of the explosives used in the bombing. He likewise summoned acting Mayor Felicisimo Cabigao of Manila to make a report on the incident.

In a statement he issued, the President said:

We condemn the bombing of the Liberal Party rally at Plaza Miranda tonight as an unmitigated crime against the entire Filipino nation and people.

It is a crime against every Filipino who believes in democracy as a way of life and who believes that democracy draws its vitality and strength from the spirit of peaceful political competition. This is certainly a day of shame for the Filipino people.

The government will spare no effort and will use all its resources in going after those responsible for this barbaric act and in seeking justice for those who suffered injuries and those who lost their lives.

I appeal to every person who has any information on this heinous crime or who has any clue to the identity of the persons guilty to cooperate with the government in tracking them down.

I have directed the NBI, the Metrocom and the Armed Forces to use their special demolition squads and investigate the nature and sources of the explosives used in the bombing.

I have also summoned the acting mayor of Manila to make a report on the incident.

This to me is a national tragedy which we must bear with sorrow and compassion for the victims. Mrs. Marcos joins me in expressing our deepest condolence to the victims.

Earlier in the morning, the President had a three-hour conference with both Muslim and Christian leaders of Cotabato on the peace and order condition in that province.

In accordance with the leaders' recommendations, the President ordered a shift from the use of the military to civilian authority in the peace and order campaign in Mindanao, particularly in Cotabato.

The governor, the congressman, the mayors and the barrio captains were reactivated to perform their duties and may call upon the military for support only when necessary.

Present at the conference were Sen. Leonardo Perez, Reps. Salipada Pendatun of North Cotabato and Constantino Navarro of Surigao del Norte, former Rep. Blah Sinsuat, Mayor Michael Sinsuat of Upi, Maj. Gen. Romeo G. Espino, AFP vice chief of staff; Brig. Gen. Eduardo M. Garcia, PC chief; Brig. Gen. Fidel Ramos, Deputy Chief of Staff for Home Defense Activities; and Col. Valentin S. Mayuga of intelligence, AFP; Lt. Col. Carlos Cajelo, former PC provincial commander and Delegate Roseller T. Lim of the Constitutional Convention.

The President devoted the whole afternoon to desk work, during which he submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation the nomination of Conrado Sanchez, Jr. as member of the Board of Investments.

At the time of his designation by the President to the BOI, Sanchez was vice president of Fil-Hispano Ceramics and Monja Estate, Inc.

August 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent most of his time working on official papers in his private study, and attending to other urgent state business.

Among other actions, the President ordered a moratorium on the campaign of the Nacionalista Party senatorial ticket following the Plaza Miranda bomb attack, until the two political parties have met and decided "what should be done under the circumstances."

The President said "democracy as a way of life, rather than the Liberal Party candidates, was the object of the bomb attack at Plaza Miranda, and it is now time for the two parties to meet and decide how this naked attack shall be met."

August 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS went on radio and television to announce the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus in the government effort to deal with subversive elements in rebellion against constituted authority.

This capped the President's activities, which included the induction of David Consunji as acting secretary of public works and communications.

Present at the induction held at Malacañang at noon were Mrs. Freddie Almeda Consunji, the new secretary's wife; their sons Isidro, 22 and Victor, 21; and officers of the Philippine Contractors Association headed by Ricardo P. de Leon, association president.

Consunji, who succeeded former Secretary Manuel Syquiao, was once PCA president and chairman of the board of examiners for contractors.

Following the induction, the President conferred with Senate President Gil J. Puyat and Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal.

The President also had conferences with Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, Acting Mayor Felicisimo Cabigao of Manila and Col. Gerardo Tamayo, chief of the Manila Police Department. These officials reported on the progress of the investigation to determine responsibility for the bombing of the Liberal Party rally at Plaza Miranda.

About 1 p.m. the President administered the oaths to officials of Roxas City who affiliated with the Nacionalista Party. The new affiliates were Mayor Mabini S. Altavas, Vice Mayor Miguel B. Albao, and Councilors Juana B. Javier, Socorro B. Alvarez, Esmeraldo Caldeo, Roberto Amesco and Felipe Ignacio. Also taking their oath with the group were Mrs. Altavas, wife of the city mayor, and Matilde S. Belo.

Then the President repaired to the Malacañang State Dining Hall where he announced to the nation, through radio and television, and in the presence of representatives of various news media, the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus.

In his statement, the President said that after making available to his office the best tempered and most judicious counsel, and after consultations with national leaders, he had as of midnight of Saturday, August 21, suspended the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

He read Proclamation No. 889, dated August 21, 1971, suspending the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus "for the persons presently detained, as well as all others who may be hereafter similarly detained for the crimes of insurrection or rebellion, and all other crimes and offenses committed by them in furtherance or on the occasion thereof, or incident thereto, or in connection therewith. (See pp. — for text of the President's statement)

August 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS focused on desk work, disposing of urgent state papers and going over reports from various government agencies.

In the evening, the President delivered another radio-television address from the Malacañang State Dining Hall, during which he made an impassioned plea to subversive elements to refrain from pushing through their plans of terrorizing the country.

The President said that although the armed forces are capable of meeting any eventuality, such violence would only mean the senseless loss of lives and property, and the dislocation of the economy.

The President showed with the aid of a chart how the subversive activities of lawless elements had progressively increased during the last five years, as he justified his suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus.

He said that the increase in the tempo of incidents, which started in 1968, "was due to the fact that in December 1968, Jose Maria Sison organized a new communist party and also due to the fact that some politicians brought the leaders of the New Communist Party together with Commander Dante and thus strengthened it."

The President said that from 81 incidents or engagements between AFP troops and subversives at the end of 1968, these rose to 173 at the end of 1969, and 244 at the end of 1970. The 1970 incidents exacted 126 casualties on government forces.

The President said however that as of June 1971 the casualties (killed and surrendered) inflicted by the armed forces totalled 1,294 or almost treble that of the casualties inflicted on government troops.

During the press interview that followed his address, the President, among others, exhibited an M-1 carbine equipped with telescopic sight, one of the firearms which, he said, was supplied by a leading member of the opposition party to Huk commanders.

On fears expressed by certain quarters on possible abuse in the exercise of the power under the writ suspension, the President said, among others, that no one would be apprehended unless the evaluation of evidence against any person has been thoroughly reviewed and his apprehension has been approved by the Secretary of National Defense, and that only the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and the agents of the Department of Justice or the CIS may make arrests.

August 25—

IN A CONFERENCE with justice and defense departments officials, President Marcos ordered the Department of National Defense and the Department of Justice to conduct a public hearing of charges concerning Sen. Benigno S. Aquino, Jr.'s alleged link with communist elements in the country.

This was one of the important conferences the President held with government officials, in the course of a working day which for the most part followed his regular schedule.

The President, however, gave specific instructions to Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos and the military not to arrest Sen. Aquino at this stage.

The President directed that the hearing be initiated as soon as possible allowing Sen. Aquino to confront and cross-examine witnesses and contest any evidence that may be presented.

Present at the meeting were Secretary Abad Santos, Undersecretary of National Defense Efren I. Plana, Solicitor-General Felix Antonio, Undersecretary of Justice Catalino Macaraig, Gen. Manuel T. Yan, AFP chief of staff; and Chief State Prosecutor Emilio Gancayco.

The President also received as many callers as his busy schedule could accommodate, including:

1. Ambassador Chitamy Amatayakul of Thailand, who called to say goodbye after completing his tour of duty here. He has been reassigned as Thai ambassador to Rome, and will leave on the first week of September for his new post.
2. Mayor Amelia Gordon of Olongapo City, who came to consult the President on city problems.
3. Rep. Romulo Lumaig of Ifugao, who accompanied the faculty of the School of Deaf-mutes led by Mrs. Florencio Castro, principal. Also with the group were a number of students and their parents, including Jose de la Cruz, president of the senior class. The group saw the President to request the release of the P100,000 earmarked for the school. The President immediately approved the request. De la Cruz thanked the President in sign language, adding that the students pray "the communists will not succeed" in imposing their will on the Filipinos.

In the afternoon, the President administered the oath of office to seven officials, including three judges of courts of first instance, a provincial treasurer, a city fiscal, a register of deeds and a municipal judge.

Inducted by the President in the presence of a number of senators and representatives, friends and close relatives of the inductees were:

1. Judge Florentine Villanueva, as judge of the court of first instance of Laguna, with station at Siniloan.
2. Judge Ramon D. Jabson, as judge of the court of first instance of Rizal, with station at Pasig.
3. Judge Alberto Gampona, as judge of the court of first instance of Cagayan and Batanes, with station at Tuao.
4. Dioscoro Soberano as provincial treasurer of Nueva Vizcaya.
5. Atty. Bienvenido Salamanca as assistant city fiscal of Manila.
6. Josue Beimudez as register of deeds of the sub-province of Quirino, Nueva Vizcaya.
7. Judge Eugenio Labitoria, as municipal judge of Bamjbang, Nueva Vizcaya.

The President worked at his desk the rest of the day, through evening.

August 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS presided over the meeting of the National Security Council, held at Camp Aguinaldo, to assess the internal security situation following the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus. The meeting which lasted from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., was also attended by chosen representatives of the Constitutional Convention.

Apart from a report of an attack by communist elements on two military helicopters in Isabela in the morning, no new major insurgent action was reported to the council.

During the meeting, the President answered questions on the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus from the convention delegates, notably from the chairman of the committee on political and civil rights of the convention.

In this question and answer period, the President assured the delegates that the suspension of the privilege of the writ was a matter of necessity rather than of convenience; that it was a choice between national security and the safety of the population on one hand, and his personal popularity on the other: that the suspension would last as long as necessary, but not a minute longer.

The President also assured the delegates that no indiscriminate or mass arrests would be made under the suspension order; that arrests would be made only by authorized national police agencies and only after a long, careful and competent process involving an exhaustive evaluation of evidence by three impartial panels. The President emphasized that no arrest would be made under the suspension order without having gone through this process, and without having been finally approved in writing by the Secretary of National Defense.

In order to assure the public that arrests under the suspension order are limited to the crimes of rebellion, insurrection, and other crimes in furtherance or on the occasion thereof or incident thereto, or in connection therewith, the President directed the military to make public the names of persons detained under the suspension order.

At the same time, the President issued Executive Order No. 333 creating a Presidential Administrative Assistance Committee, which would handle complaints arising from the suspension order.

Named to compose the committee were Justice Undersecretary Catalino Macaraig, Jr., as chairman, and Defense Undersecretary Efren Plana, and Romaldo B. Zaniara of the Executive Secretary's Office, as members.

Present at the NSC meeting were: Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal, House Majority Floorleader Marcelino Veloso and Rep. Constantino Navarro; Sen. Leonardo Perez; Secretaries Carlos P. Romulo of Foreign Affairs, Vicente Abad

Santos of Justice, Juan Ponce Enrile of National Defense, Cesar E. A. Virata of Finance and Arturo R. Tanco, Jr. of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Press Secretary Francisco S. Tatad;

Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Undersecretaries of National Defense Manuel Q. Salientes and Efren I. Plana, Solicitor General Felix Antonio, Chief State Prosecutor Emilio Gancayco, Chairman Vicente Paterno of the Board of Investments, Gen. Manuel T. Yan, AFP chief of staff; Maj. Gen. Romeo Espino, AFP vice chief of staff; Brig. Gen. Fidel Ramos, and the following delegates to the Constitutional Convention:

Delegates Edmundo Cea, Gregorio Purugganan, Leocadio ignacio, Reynaldo Villar, Carlos Valdez, A. Pacificador, Cirilo R. Montejo, Mangu-tawan B. Guzo, Fidel Purisima, Antonio Olmedo, Jesus T. Garcia, Vicente dela Cerna, Leonardo Syguion-Reyna, Romuldo Mendiola, Magtanggol Gunigundo, and Alfredo Abueg.

In another move in connection with the writ suspension order, the President later in the afternoon ordered that public hearings be conducted also on charges against all other persons detained in connection with insurrection or rebellion.

While attending to other state business, the President submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation the nominations of live foreign affairs department officers to Chiefs of Mission Class III. Nominated were Jose S Estrada, Julia L. Palarca, Rolando A. Garcia, Manuel A. Viray and Ireneo Cornista.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: August 27 - September 2, 1971

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

August 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS as usual received numerous callers, while also doing his regular stint at his office desk and holding conferences on various matters with public officials.

Among those who called early in the morning at Malacañang was Msgr. Carmine Rocco, papal nuncio here. He called to say goodbye as he prepared for a two-month vacation.

Also making a farewell call was Ryoichi Sasagawa, Japanese Philantropist, who left at 2 p.m. for Tokyo shortly after he saw the President. Sasagawa offered to donate Y60 million worth of medical equipment to the Philippines, and also expressed his desire to help in the anti-communist campaign.

The President asked Dr. Pacifico E. Marcos, chairman of the Medical Care Commission, to prepare a list of medical equipment needed by medicare to form-the basis of the donation.

At mid-morning, the President conferred with Gov. Delfin N. Montano of Cavite and Lino Bocalan, an aspirant for the governorship of that province. The meeting was held to avert violence in the election in the province. Another meeting was set to resolve the issue.

A large group of customs collectors, led by Customs Commissioner Rolando Geotina, next saw the President to pay their respects following the close of the group's conference.

Others callers through the day included:

1. Rep. Antonio M. Diaz of Zambales and Mayor Amelia Gordon of Olongapo City, who consulted the President on local problems.
2. Rep. Herminio Teves of Negros Oriental, who accompanied officials of two cooperatives formed by displaced workers in Bais.

In connection with the call, the President issued Administrative Order No. 298, which constituted a committee to study the problem of excess workers in sugar plantations, with an eye to resettling and rehabilitating them. The President named the secretary of labor as chairman of the committee, with the Land Authority governor as vice chairman.

Named members of the committee were a representative of the Agricultural Credit Administration, the executive, director of the Cottage Industries Development Enterprises, the director general of the Manpower and Youth Council, the PNB president, the director of the Bureau of Soils, and the administrator of the PHILSUGIN.

The cooperatives are the La Paz Hangyad Workers Cooperative (LAPAHAWA) headed by Baldomero Suligan, and consisting of 84 families; and the Bato-Naronbon Marketing Association (BANAMA) headed by Nerio Millas, and consisting of 215 families.

3. A delegation from Ilocos Norte led by Rep. Roque Ablan, Jr., Gov. Elizabeth M. Keon and former Gov. Jose Evangelista. The President played host at lunch to the delegation.

During the day, the President also inducted Ulpiano Ramas, a lawyer, as assistant provincial fiscal of Zamboanga del Sur. Witnessing the induction was Rep. Vicente Cerilles of that province.

In the evening, the President swore in two new flag officers in the Armed Forces of the Philippines, namely, Col. Felino M. Mallari and Capt. Ernesto R. Ogbinar, as Brig. General and Commodore in the AFP, respectively.

August 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS was guest of honor and speaker at the induction of officers of Lions International, District 301-C, held at noon at the Malacañang Maharlika Hall.

In his extemporaneous speech, the President expressed his determination to stamp out the communist movement in the country.

Tracing the history of communism in the country, the President said that communism was never really arrested completely since it became active in 1946. It may have subsided for some time but it was never really stopped, he said.

“I intend to dismantle the communist apparatus while it can still be dismantled in this country,” the President declared. “I have decided that now is the time and I assume full responsibility for this decision. The Constitution definitely and specifically places upon the shoulder of the President the responsibility for such a decision and I assumed it. No One else is responsible,” the President added.

In an open forum which followed his speech, the President took occasion to answer some of the charges being aired by administration critics, particularly in connection with the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus.

The President debunked claims that the suspension of the writ was intended to stifle criticisms against the administration. He said that the same atmosphere of criticism pervades, through the radio, television and the newspapers. He stated that although these criticisms are sometimes malicious and libelous, dissent will be allowed to continue provided they are not connected with rebellion or insurrection.

The President worked on official papers in the afternoon, in the process signing, among others, an executive order creating the Coconut Coordinating Council, which will supervise, coordinate and evaluate the implementation of the coconut self-sufficiency program of the government.

He also submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation the nominations of 22 government officials and others to various posts in the government.

In the evening, the President received Prime Minister Sirik Matak of Cambodia, who called at Malacañang to pay his respects. The Prime Minister arrived in Manila in the afternoon for an overnight stopover enroute back to Cambodia from a state visit to the United States.

With Prime Minister Matak in calling on the President were Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Joun Wick and Brig. Gen. Sak Sutsakan, deputy chief of staff of Cambodia.

August 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS led the nation in commemorating National Heroes Day, even as he motored to the “Libingan ng mga Bayani” in Fort Bonifacio in the morning to officiate at the wreath-laying ceremonies.

In his brief remarks, the President vowed that the Filipino people will not waiver in their determination to fight off the new danger facing their country.

Addressing the Unknown Soldier, the President said: “As your Republic once again faces this new danger, a test of courage confronts the Filipino people. We have come to pledge anew, as we pledged in the past together, that we shall wage war against this new despotism. We shall, like you, not hesitate, we shall not waiver, we shall not

compromise, we shall not surrender, and if the price for the safety and the survival of this your Republic, is the same price you paid, we shall pay it and gladly.”

Among those present at the rites were Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Undersecretary of National Defense Efren I. Plana, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Manuel Collantes, General Manuel T. Yan, AFP chief of staff; Maj. Gen. Romeo C. Espino, AFP vice chief of staff; Brig. Gen. Rafael M. Iletto, PA Commander, Commodore Dioscoro Papa, PN flag-officer-in-command; and Brig. Gen. Jesus Singson, PAF commander.

Upon returning to Malacañang later in the morning, the President worked on state papers, in the course of which he addressed a memorandum to the Philippine Virginia Tobacco Administration ordering the immediate preparation of an up-to-date register of farmers and producers of fluecured Virginia tobacco to help insure closer government supervision in the trading of the commodity.

The President also issued an executive order designating the Bureau, of Customs as the certifying agencies of the government authorized to issue certificates of origin of products exported under the UNCTAD Generalized Scheme of Preferences (GSP).

The President said that preference-giving developed countries had indicated their willingness to implement their respective schemes of general preferences and it would be beneficial for the Philippines to participate and take advantage of the trade opportunities under these schemes.

August 30—

IN VIEW of doubts expressed as to the scope of the proclamation (No. 889) suspending the privilege of the *writ of habeas corpus*, and to further limit any possibility of abuse in the implementation of said proclamation, President Marcos amended his proclamation of Saturday, August 21.

In another move, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., on authority of the President, issued Memorandum Circular No. 500, urging all concerned to encourage aggrieved citizens to wire complaints and grievances to the Presidential Administrative Assistance Committee.

According to the Circular, any citizen who has any grievance to report in connection with the implementation of the proclamation suspending the writ privilege may send his complaint by telegram, through the Bureau of Telecommunications, to the PAAC at the Department of Justice building. The telecom bureau would transmit the complaint wire at a nominal charge of ten centavos per 50 words.

Secretary Melchor also instructed the Director of Telecommunications to accommodate any and all citizens who may wish to avail of the telecom bureau facilities in sending their complaints, should there be any abuse in the implementation of the suspension of the *writ of habeas corpus*.

The President was in his private study most of the day disposing of piles of state papers and going over reports from various government agencies.

August 31—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had an interesting morning, as he received a report on the downtrend in rice prices, the start of the production of inexpensive local corned beef, and the smooth handling of the arrests in connection with the roundup of subversives.

Among the first to see the President was a group composed of Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Arturo R. Tanco, Jr. and Undersecretary Jose D. Drilon, Jr., concurrent RCA chairman, and a number of congressmen.

Tanco briefed the President on the current project to tin corned beef, under the Bonanza label, a joint undertaking of the department and of the Delta Food Co. The corned beef would be sold at prices almost three times lower than the imported variety.

Next to sit down with the President was the three-man Presidential Administrative Assistance Committee, which reported on the response so far to the government's invitation to citizens to report any abuse in connection with arrests made under the present emergency, with the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus* temporarily suspended.

The committee, chaired by Undersecretary of Justice Catalino Macaraig and with Undersecretary of National Defense Efren I. Plana and Malacañang Assistant Ronaldo Zamora as members, reported that so far only one complaint had been received. Plana said that he would take action on the complaint.

The President also inducted in the morning the officers of the Philippine Chamber of Insurance and Surety. Inducted were Prima Cruz, president; Greg Derigo, first vice president; Cecilio Caponpon, secretary; Felipe Castro, treasurer; Emeterio Roa, Jr., auditor; Reynaldo de Dios, PRO; and Marciano Agana, Jr., Jose Abeleda, Romeo Cruz, and Eduardo Echauz, directors.

In the afternoon, the President received a number of visitors, most of them officials who came to consult the President on various problems. Most of the time, he concentrated on his desk work.

He directed the Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources to institute certain basic changes in the policies and procedures of the department, and several bureaus under it, such as to ensure optimum conservation and utilization of the country's natural resources.

The President's action was based on the report of the Performance Audit Team which surveyed the DANR two months ago.

Among the basic changes recommended by the audit team were the amendment of the Public Land Act and the Mining Act; the computerization of the land titling and patenting processes; and an experiment on aerial seeding for massing reforestation.

September 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS received pledges of unqualified support in his fight against communism from some 2,000 provincial, city and municipal officials from all over Luzon, who presented him a resolution endorsing the suspension of the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus*.

The endorsement came as a complete surprise to the President who called the meeting for another purpose. Concerned that most of the on-going public works and rural improvement projects would not be completed before the 45-day ban in connection with the elections takes effect, the President invited the local executives to Malacañang to thresh out problems and bottlenecks.

The President also took occasion to discuss with the local executives the prohibitions embodied in the new Election Code which were not in the old Code.

The President enjoined his fellow Nacionalistas to "adhere openly to the fact of radical reform in our society; that our society needs new movement, new causes, new projects, one of the basic projects of which is the overhaul of the electoral system to remove the primacy of the wealthy and the candidates of the wealthy."

During the day, the President issued an executive order creating a Medical Assistance Program Task Force with the main objective of extending "medical care to all residents in an evolutionary way within our economic means and capability as a nation."

In establishing the “Task Force,” the President underscored the need to make available the benefits of medical science to all the people, especially those in the remote and isolated areas of the country.

In another order, the President directed the various agencies of the government concerned with the country’s export and import activities to fully adhere to the guidelines on the shipment of import and export samples prescribed by the National Export Coordinating Center (NECC).

The President stressed the need for strict adherence to the guidelines “to stop the violation of Customs and Central Bank rules and regulations” governing exports and imports.

September 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had several important conferences, which added to the brisk pace of his activities. He also continued to receive scheduled callers.

Meeting with a delegation of Knights of Rizal, the President ratified the deed of conveyance of a 1,200 square meter lot on Bonifacio Drive, Manila, with the Knights of Rizal, recipients. The deed was signed by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. on behalf of the government and Supreme Court Justice Claudio Teehankee, supreme commander of the Knights of Rizal.

Among those present at the signing were Councilor Sofronio T. Veloso of San Juan, Rizal, Knight of Rizal supreme pursuivant; Dr. Manuel Lim, Justice Jose Paredes, Adolfo Santos, Santiago de la Cruz, Esteban de Ocampo, and other officials and members of the Knights of Rizal.

In expressing gratitude and appreciation on behalf of the group, Justice Teehankee assured the President that the land would be utilized to perpetuate the ideals and objectives of the national hero, pointing out that the solutions to the many problems facing the nation may be found in Dr. Rizal’s teachings and ideals and his spirit of sacrifice.

The President expressed the hope that the occasion would mark the beginning of a partnership between the public and private sectors for the perpetuation of the ideals of the national hero.

The President next sat down for a closed door conference with Sen. Gerardo Roxas and Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal. Sen. Roxas was wheeled to the President’s study by his son, Manuel A. Roxas II.

The President asked the opposition Liberal Party to take a common stand with the ruling Nacionalista Party in waging war against insurgent communist elements in the country and all other enemies of the state.

The President also:

1. Asked that the two major political parties adopt common efforts to implement the new electoral reform code limiting expenditures in the elections.
2. Proposed that lines of communications be kept open between him and the LP president at all times, in order to ensure continued, maximum consultation between the two leaders and their respective parties.
3. Offered to take the LP president and other select opposition leaders into the confidence of the President on the nature of intelligence fund expenditures. (The law provides for the utmost secrecy in the disposition of intelligence funds.)
4. Briefed the LP president on the latest developments in the investigation of the August 21st Plaza Miranda bombing incident, with the understanding that such information be for the moment classified as highly confidential in nature, and not for publication or dissemination.

After this meeting, the President signed the Election Code of 1971, passed by Congress during the special session.

The new law, which will govern the election of all public officials except those of the barrios, and plebiscites, broadened the powers of the Commission on Elections.

Present at the signing were Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal, Senators Gerardo Roxas and Lorenzo Teves, Reps. Andres Cosalan of Benguet, Aguedo Agbayani of Pangasinan, Jose Alberto of Catanduanes, Fermin Z. Caram, Jr. of Iloilo, AH Dimaporo of Lanao del Norte, Fernando Pajarillo of Camarines del Norte and Godofredo M. Tan of Quezon.

His other conference was with Quezon City officials, on local problems. Present were Mayor Norberto Amoranto and Vice Mayor Ismael Mathay, Councilors Tino Lapuz, Rafael Mison, Jr., Jesus Perlas, Jr., Fred Montilla, Hermogenes Caluag, Eddie Paredes and Romulo Lucasan; and Noli Rodriguez.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: September 3-9, 1971

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

September 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS conferred in the afternoon with the Christian and Muslim leaders of Lanao del Sur on the peace and order situation in the province.

During the conference, the President ordered Gov. Arsenio Quibranza to stay put in the province in order to be able to discharge his primary responsibility of maintaining peace and order in his province and to allay the fears of the people who are evacuating. The President also directed Quibranza to gather all the mayors and inform them of their responsibility for the maintenance of peace and order in their respective municipalities.

The President said he would send a task force to disarm and apprehend all unauthorized persons carrying firearms in the province.

After hearing the charges and counter-charges hurled by Rep. Ali Dimaporo and Gov. Quibranza against each other's men, the President observed that it was similar to the case of South Cotabato.

"I am going to organize a task force and this task force will go after anybody, whether Nacionalista or Liberal, Christian or Muslim, and anybody who disturbs the peace and order will be apprehended and prosecuted," the President said.

The President scheduled a conference in Baroy, Lanao del Norte with all local officials, and civic and religious leaders of the province, and asked Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile to preside on his behalf.

Present at the conference, which lasted for almost two hours, were Defense Undersecretary Efren I. Plana, Vice Governor Malamit Umpa, Board Members V. Janial, Sheik Ampang and M. Bartolome; Delegate to the Constitutional Convention Francisco Abalos, and Mayors J. Perez of Tubod, S. Fernandez of Baroy, N. Solimbangon of Lala, P. Tawantawan of Salvador, M. Lobe of Kapatagan, J. Umpa of Sugod, L. Mutia of Tangcal and others.

Earlier in the day, the President received scheduled callers, including the participants in the seminar on modern land distribution and titling, who called at Malacañang in connection with the 70th anniversary of the Bureau of Lands.

In his remarks, the President said that "the government is at present undertaking radical and massive land distribution program," which he described as "the only kind of positive and constructive revolution that is legitimate in the country."

The group was accompanied to the President by Lands Director Vicente A. Valdellon.

The President then inducted into office four new brigadier generals and one commodore in the Armed Forces of the Philippines, in the presence of members of Congress led by Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal, military top brass headed by General Manuel T. Yan, AFP chief of staff, and friends and close relatives of the inductees.

Sworn in were Brig. Gen. Wilfredo Encarnacion, commander of Task Force Pagkakaisa and deputy commander of the 4th PC Zone; Brig. Gen. Constante Ma. Cruz, commandant of the Command and General Staff College, AFP; Brig. Gen. Jose G. Syjuco, president of the National Defense College, AFP; Brig. Gen. Emilio E. Alcoseba, commanding general of the Third Army Brigade, Camp Lapu-Lapu; and Commodore Romulo M. Espeldon, vice commander of the Philippine Navy.

September 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS received callers only in the morning, devoting the whole afternoon and early evening to paper work.

Among those who met with the President were officials of Quezon City led by Mayor Norberto Amoranto and Vice Mayor Ismael Mathay.

The President also administered the oath of allegiance to the Filipino flag to Rev. Fr. James P. Moran, the first foreign-born Jesuit to be granted Filipino citizenship.

Fr. Moran was granted Filipino citizenship by special act of Congress (House Bill No. 3692) on August 11, which was finally approved by the President on September 2.

In renouncing his American citizenship and adopting the Filipino citizenship, Fr. Moran said it was to him “the crowning gift of the work of a lifetime,” and the “greatest gift within the beneficence of the Filipino people to give.”

Already 73 years old and infirm, Fr. Moran volunteered for work in the Philippines while only about 23 years old, and even after his return to the United States to be ordained, he once more volunteered to work in the Philippines which was then still a colony of the United States.

As a priest, Fr. Moran devoted 42 years of service as a professor of Latin and Theology, librarian, writer and retreat master and spiritual director of the Catholic community.

Among those present at the oath-taking ceremony held at the Malacañang Reception Hall were the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, Mr. and Mrs. Ramon Cojuangco, Francisco Ortigas, Jr., Macario Palanca, and representatives of the Assumption, Holy Spirit, St. Theresa, St. Paul and Carmelite convents.

September 5—

PRESIDENT MARCOS was closeted in his private study most of the morning and afternoon working on official papers and going over the final draft of his book entitled “Today’s Revolution: Democracy.”

At about 3 p.m., he disengaged from his paper work to receive the crew members of the London-Manila Pilipino Express, who called at Malacañang following the successful completion of their trip.

The President told the 16-man crew that they had not only promoted tourist trade but had successfully demonstrated the road-worthiness of Philippine-assembly vehicles.

The Express, composed of two teams, the *Silangan* (American) and *Kanluran* (Asian), each team with a crew of eight, used for the trip the typical jeep and the sakbayan assembled by local firms.

The crew members who called on the President were Loy Martinez captain; Freddie Masigan, co-captain; Boots Viola, Tom Boria Pilo Garcia, Gus Villanueva, and Apolinario Bagamaspad of the Silangan Team; and Romy Pasola, captain; Ramon Achero, co-captain; Willie Ingles, Benrus Pascual, Romy Riel, Enrique Gonzales, Willie Anla, and Tirso Aguilar of the Kanluran Team.

They were accompanied to Malacañang by D. Guevara, Michael Poliakoff, local manager of Air France, one of the sponsors; and Salvador Peña, executive director of the Philippine Travel and Tourist Association.

September 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS continued to concentrate on desk work, with his schedule of callers limited only to three out-going foreign ambassadors, whom he presented with the Order of Sikatuna, rank of Datu, at midmorning.

Decorated were Ambassadors Chintamye Amatayakul of Thailand, Rhurum Khan Panni of Pakistan, and Haji Daacob Bin Mohamed of Singapore.

The foreign envoys were cited for their “exceptionally meritorious service” in the field of international relations, and their contribution to the success of the 4th Foreign Ministerial Meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the 6th Ministerial Conference of the Association of Southeast Asia and Pacific Council (ASPAC). The envoys were prime movers in the standing committees of the two conferences held in Manila.

The three ambassadors expressed their profound thanks and gratitude for the cordiality, understanding and warm friendship of the Filipino people which they experienced during their tour of duty in the country, both as officials and as private persons.

September 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a tight schedule which included a meeting with public works engineers, a conference with constabulary top brass, and meetings with a number of callers, led by UN Adviser Torsten Eriksson.

Among the President’s activities today were:

1. Courtesy call: Torsten Eriksson, inter-regional adviser, UN Social Defense Research Institute, who was accompanied by Secretary of Social Welfare Estefania Aldaba-Lim. Eriksson has been in the Philippines for a week looking into the penal system and conducting seminars on penology.

2. Induction of officers:

- a) Officers of the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, led by Miguel Arambulo, Jr., president; Justiano Montano, Jr., Wigberto Clavecilla, Eduardo Echauz, Ricardo Nicolas, Eduardo Escobar, Jr., and Ramon Pedrosa, vice presidents; Benito F. Madalla, secretary-treasurer; R. de la Cuesta, assistant secretary-treasurer; Directors Teodoro Kalaw, Jr., Esteban Cabanos, Gabriel Ambrosio, Cristino Concepcion, Buenaventura Loberiza, Jose R. L. Orosa, Francisco J. Nicolas, Benjamin Guingona.

- b) Officers of-the Radio-TV Federation of the Philippines led by P. Talastas, president, and Juan Basa, vice president.

- c) Officers of the Reserve Officers Legion of the Philippines: Lt. Col. Antonio M. Mendoza, president; Lt. Col. Henry M. Cuyong, executive vice president; 1st Lt. Juan P. Bañaga, national secretary; Col. Vicente Malapitan, treasurer; Lt. Col. Efigenio Bautista, Capt. Felix C. Codilla and Maj. Godofredo L. Kaamiño, vice presidents; and the following directors—Capt. Juan Cesar D. Adapon, Maj. Felimon L. Claudio, Lt. Col. Alfredo P. Quiazon, Capt. Carlos B. Beñegas, Maj. Sabas Edades, Lt. (SG.) Arturo T. Velasco and 1st Lt. Ernesto de las Armas.

The President then received the members of the District and City Engineers League, who called in connection with the group’s annual convention.

The President exhorted the engineers to maintain their professionalism and discipline during the elections and keep away from partisan activities.

He also called on the group to carry on the program of development as mapped out by the administration.

As new problems come up, he said, it would be remembered that old program exists and remains valid, particularly in the infrastructure program.

“We have a program,” the President said, “which is correct and true, and historically appreciated, and therefore we must continue with it.”

This program, he said, must be carried on even after he ceases to be President, adding that despite controversy and criticism, the program is basic to the development of the nation.

Later in the morning, the President conferred with Brig. (Jens. Eduardo M. Garcia and Domingo Tutaan, PC chief and 4th PC Zone commander, respectively, who reported on the peace and order condition in Davao del Norte, and on the conference with local officials and civic and religious leaders in the town of Baroy. A big delegation of provincial, city and municipal officials of Agusan del Norte and Butuan City also called on the President to express their endorsement of his suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus.

“In these times when lawless elements are poised to overthrow the duly constituted authority, it is the wisest course of action to effectively arrest their evil activities for the security of the country and the people,” the Agusan and Butuan local officials said in a joint letter they presented to the President.

Among the signatories to the joint letter were Mayor Silvestre M. Osin of Butuan City, Board Member Vicente C. Rosales of Agusan del Norte, and Mayors Felixberto C. Dagoni of Cabadbaran, Alex C. Luison of Kitcharao, Cayetano E. Amoroso of Buenavista, David Q. Sandalo of Tubay, and Eufonio V. Rosales of Las Nieves.

September 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS constituted the board of trustees of the newly-created Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS).

Designated to compose the board were Felimon Zablan, who would also act as acting chairman; Brig. Gen. Sergio Isada (ret.), as acting vice chairman; Antonio Locsin and Silvestre Payoyo, acting members.

Brig. Gen. Isada was also named general manager of the new water works agency.

Under the law creating it, the MWSS would have supervision and control only of the water systems of Manila, Pasay, Quezon and Caloocan cities, and the towns of Antipolo, Cainta, Las Piñas, Makati, Malabon, Mandaluyong, Marikina, Montalban, Navotas, Parañaque, Pasig, Pateros, San Juan, San Mateo, Taguig, and Taytay in Rizal, and Valenzuela, Bulacan.

All other waterworks and sewerage systems then under the NWSA would be transferred to their respective provinces, cities or municipalities, while the Wells and Springs Department of the abolished entity would be absorbed by the Bureau of Public Works.

Earlier in the day, the President received Undersecretary of Agriculture Jose D. Drilon, Jr., concurrent RCA chief, who reported on the negotiations for the purchase of 10,000 metric tons (179,000 cavares) of Japanese rice.

The RCA chairman and general manager, who arrived from Tokyo, informed the President that he had already signed the agreement for the purchase of Japanese rice on a deferred payment plan at \$137 (47,320 yen) per ton F.O.B. stowed.

In the afternoon, the President administered the oath to Undersecretary Adrian E. Cristobal as acting secretary of labor.

Following his induction, the President designated Secretary Cristobal as chief of the Philippine delegation to the Third Asian Labor Ministers' Conference to be held in Seoul from September 27 to October 2.

Designated members of the delegation were Ambassador Benjamin T. Tirona, Philippine envoy to the Republic of Korea; Jaime Ranases of the Office of Manpower and Development; and Crescencio M. Siddayao, chief, ILO Affairs Secretariat of the Department of Labor, with the following as alternate delegates:

Jose J. Hernandez, general secretary of the Philippine Trade Unions Council; Democrito Mendoza, president of the Philippine Confederation of Trade Unions; Juan C. Tan, president of the Federation of Free Workers; Andres Dinglasan of the Pinagbuklod na Manggagawang Filipino; and Crispin C. Uy, president of the Philippine Council of Management.

September 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, together with the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos and some government officials, boarded the *RPS Ang Pangulo* in the morning for Limay, Bataan for the commissioning of the Bataan Thermal Plant of the National Power Corporation.

However, the commissioning ceremonies, which were supposed to be held at the BTP compound, had to be scrapped when the *RPS Ang Pangulo* was delayed and a heavy downpour disrupted preparations made in the compound. The ceremonies were held instead on board the presidential yacht,, which docked at the ESSO pier at 12:30 p.m.

While the ship was maneuvering, a huge crowd which had gathered at the wharf waved at the President and the First Lady, who were later joined by daughters Imee and Irene, and sang happy birthday songs.

The chiefs of diplomatic missions, members of the Cabinet, NPC officials and employees and other officials led by Gov. and Mrs. Guillermo Arcenas Rep Pablo Roman, Mayor and Mrs. F. Roxas Chairman and Mrs Manuel Barretto and General Manager and Mrs. Ramon Ravanzo boarded the *RPS Ang Pangulo* for the commissioning ceremonies.

In his brief speech, the President said the completion of the thermal plant proved that while the Philippines has succeeded in insuring its security, it was also moving forward in social and economic development. He said that the failure of attempts at subversion in the country was not So much to the strength of the military as it is to the fundamental acceptance by the program of development he enunciated in 1965. The President also announced:

1. The release of f 12 million for the completion of the infrastructure projects in the Foreign Trade Zone in Mariveles;
2. The release of funds for the completion of the Bataan-Manila highway; and
3. The conduct of studies on the proposed coastal road linking Manila with the Foreign Trade Zone in Mariveles and the reclamation of portions of Manila Bay for the purpose.

Following his speech, the President signed into law a bill amending the charter of the National Power Corporation by increasing the ceiling of its borrowings to \$200 million, to give new life and strength to the NPC.

The President then sailed back for Manila, arriving in Malacañang at past 4 p.m.

After a brief rest, the President buckled down to paper work till early evening.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: September 10-15, 1971

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

September 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS signed into law Senate Bill No. 478 (H. No. 3453), providing omnibus amendments to the Agricultural Land Reform Code (R.A. 3844); and Senate Bill No. 633 (H. No. 3463), providing for an Agrarian Land Reform Special Fund.

The signing was done at the Malacañang grounds in the presence of a big group of farmers, including delegations from the Agricultural Cooperative League of the Philippines (ACLP) and the Federation of Free Farmers led by its president, Jeremias Montemayor.

Also present were the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal, senators, congressmen, provincial governors, and city and municipal mayors from the Visayas and Mindanao.

In his brief remarks during the ceremony, the President said that the amendments to the Land Reform Code was made in response to the insistent clamor of the nation for a more dynamic land program.

He said that the new laws represent the accumulated experience in the implementation of the Code since its enactment in 1963.

Earlier in the morning, the President met with some 2,500 provincial, city and municipal mayors and other officials from the Visayas and Mindanao, at the Malacañang Maharlika Hall.

The President asked the local officials to demonstrate their support for the objectives of the Nacionalista Party in the November elections, such that the "irrevocable fight against communism" would become a deep commitment of the people.

The President was swamped with resolutions adopted by provincial boards and municipal councils pledging support to the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus.

Upon the suggestion of the President, the local officials also adopted unanimously a resolution pledging to comply with the provisions of the Electoral Reform Bill (now R.A. 6388) which, the President said, is part of the Nacionalista Party reform program.

Another group, the United Disabled Veterans Association of the Philippines, presented the President with a resolution endorsing the suspension of the writ privilege.

In their resolution, the disabled veterans led by Ben S. Florentino, president, said that they "have complete faith and trust in His Excellency, President Marcos, and believe that His Excellency's decision to suspend the privilege was the result of a dispassionate and careful examination of intelligence documents, facts and evidence which he alone was in a position to assess."

On the eve of his birthday, the President granted executive clemency to 191 prisoners, upon the recommendation of the Board of Pardons and Parole.

Of the prisoners extended executive clemency, five were granted absolute pardon, five special absolute pardon, on[^] conditional pardon, with voluntary deportation, 128 conditional pardon with parole conditions, and 5.7 commutation of sentence.

September 11—

THOUSANDS of well-wishers converged at Malacañang as President Marcos marked his 54th birth anniversary. Unlike in previous years, no previous announcements were made for the day as the President and the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, had expressed their intention to observe the day quietly with a few close relatives and friends.

In deference to the wishes of the First Couple, the armed forces had dispensed with the traditional loyalty parade at Camp Aguinaldo on the eve of the birth anniversary of their commander-in-chief.

However, as early as 8 a.m., the Palace grounds started swarming with people who sought audience with the First Couple to greet the President on his natal day.

The President started the day working on urgent state papers in his private study.

At about 11:30 a.m., the First Couple emerged from the study, and was promptly swallowed by the big crowd of admirers which jam-packed the spacious reception hall. Among the well-wishers was Mrs. Josefa Edralin Marcos, the President's mother. The President and the First Lady cheerfully acknowledged the greetings as they inched their way to the ceremonial hall where Mass was said.

The "Mass of the Holy Spirit with Special Thanksgiving" was said by Fr. James Donelan, S.J., assisted by Fr. Juan Bautista, chaplain of the Presidential Guard Battalion, and the Sto. Domingo Boys Choir.

Following the Mass, the President and the First Lady repaired to the Heroes Hall downstairs where lunch was served for their guests.

The affair ended at 3 p.m. after a musical program where members of the Cabinet and the Armed Forces and their ladies took turns in presenting surprise numbers to the delight of the First Couple and their guests. Other participants in the program included members of the Bayanihan Dance Troupe and a choral group of cadets from the Philippine Military Academy who gave snappy renditions of Happy Birthday songs.

During the day, the President received hundred of wires from chiefs of state from all over the world, national and local officials, civic and religious organizations, and prominent and plain citizens felicitating him on his birthday.

Later in the afternoon, the President addressed a letter to Acting Mayor Jose Luciano of Makati (Rizal), advising him that he had lost all rights to act as mayor upon the filing of his certificate of candidacy for the position of mayor of the town.

The President told Luciano that he was considered resigned from office as councilor upon the filing of his certificate of candidacy and, having ceased as such, had lost all his rights to act as mayor.

The President cited Section 24 of the Electoral Reform Code of 1971 (R.A. 6388), which provides that "any elective provincial, sub-provincial, sub-provincial, city, municipal, or municipal district officer running for an office other than the one which he is holding in a permanent capacity shall be considered *ipso-facto* resigned from his office from the moment of the filing of his certificate of candidacy."

September 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS as usual utilized some of his Sunday waking hours disposing of urgent state papers and acting on other state business.

Official papers acted upon included those on the grant of executive clemency to 124 more prisoners, on recommendation of the Board of Pardons and Parole. This second batch of pardoned prisoners brought to 315 the

total number of prisoners given the traditional executive clemency in connection with the observance of the President's birth anniversary.

September 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS signed into law House Bill No. 2306 separating the subprovince of Quirino from Nueva Vizcaya and constituting it into a regular province.

The signing was witnessed by a delegation of barrio captains and Mayors at Malacañang headed by Sen. Leonardo B. Perez, Rep. Benjamin B. Perez, author of the measure, and Mayor Dionisio A. Sarandi of Maddela, Nueva Vizcaya, official NP candidate for governor of the proposed province.

The President continued receiving provincial delegations who reported on the progress of various improvement projects in their respective localities.

The delegations included those from Isabela headed by Gov. Samuel F. Reyes and Rep. Rodolfo Albano, Surigao del Norte led by Rep. Constantino Navarro, Zamboanga del Sur led by Rep. Vicente Cerilles, and Binangonan, Rizal headed by Vice Mayor Antonio Antiporda.

September 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a comparatively quiet day, enabling him to concentrate more on state matters and paper work.

Of the few visitors, among the most prominent were Ambassador Hadji Bin Mohamed of Singapore and his wife, who called to say goodbye to the President before enplaning for Singapore for reassignment following the completion of his tour of duty here.

Belated birthday best wishes continued to reach the President, including the receipt of a plaque expressing birthday felicitations from the municipal and barrio officials of Batac, Ilocos Norte.

The President received a few other visitors, mostly officials who came to consult him on local matters. Most of the time, he worked at his desk with his aides. He signed, among others, the appointment of Prof. Estelito P. Mendoza as *ad interim* undersecretary of justice.

Mendoza filled the post vacated by former Undersecretary Ramon Fernandez, who had been appointed associate justice of the Court of Appeals.

September 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS conferred in the evening with the heads of the investigating agencies of the government working on the Plaza Miranda bombing incident.

In reporting on the progress of the investigation, the chiefs of the investigating agencies assured the President and the general public that they were doing everything within their capacities and capabilities to solve the case, contrary to speculations that they had failed and were not doing anything about it.

Among those who met with the President were NBI Director Jolly Bugarin, Brig. Gen. Gerardo Tamayo, MPD chief; Col. Prospero Olivas, CIS chief; and Col. Enrique Morales, MPD Detective Bureau chief.

The President had other conferences earlier in the day, mostly with local executives on local development projects.

He also received the officers of two organizations—the Lawyers League for Better Philippines led by Victor G. Nituda, and the District and City Engineers League (DACL) led by Augusto F. Perez who presented resolutions reiterating their support of the President's decision suspending the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus.

The President, however, vowed not to curtail freedom of speech but to let all speak out their minds so that the democratic dialogue would continue since “the suspension of the privilege of the writ does not alter the democratic atmosphere but only the relations between the rebels and traitors, who are few and far between, and the great majority who believe in democracy and freedom.” In accepting the resolutions, the President said “these strengthen my will and resolve that, over and above anything, we must continue to take all steps necessary to protect our democratic way of life.”

Earlier, the President inducted into office the officers of the DACL, in the presence of the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, Senators Rene Espina, Lorenzo Teves and Mamintal Tamano, and Highways Commissioner Baltazar Aquino.

Inducted by the President were Augusto F. Perez, president; Felino C. Manalo and Pacifico T. Aranas, vice presidents; Fernando C. Montes, secretary; Laureano S. Mendiola, treasurer; Alfredo P. Torres, auditor; Romulo M. del Rosario, PRO; and the members of the board of directors.

September 16—

Except for a couple of department and bureau heads who took up with him matters concerning their respective offices, the President did not receive any other callers. He concentrated instead on desk work the rest of the day.

In the course of his paper work, the President approved a resolution of the National Economic Council recommending the Philippine policy on the devaluation of the dollar and the revaluation of the yen, in connection with the computation of the balance of Japanese reparations payments to the Philippines.

The Philippine stand was adopted following the official announcement made by the United States and Japanese governments that their respective currencies had been allowed to float which, in effect resulted in the devaluation of the dollar and the revaluation of the yen.

The NEC observed that Article I of the Reparation Agreement between the Philippines and Japan signed on May 8, 1956, provides that Japan shall supply the Philippines with the services of the Japanese people and the products of Japan “the total value of which shall be so much in yen shall equivalent to US \$550 million at present computed at Y198 billion.”

“In view of the devaluation of the U.S. dollar and the revaluation of, the Japanese yen, and in order to protect the interests of the Philippines in the remaining balance of the Japanese reparations payments, it is necessary that an interpretation be made on the said proviso,” the NEC stated in its resolution.

The NEC forthwith resolved to interpret this proviso in the reparations agreement, to mean as a “one-way hedge only against a possible devaluation of the yen and did not contemplate any situation where the United States dollar would be devalued in respect to the yen.”

Meeting as an executive committee on September 9, the NEC unanimously resolved that “should there be any upward adjustments in yen value, it is the yen valuation without reference to the value of the U.S. dollar which shall be the applicable currency in the Japanese reparations payments to the Philippines.”

In adopting the council resolution as the Philippine stand, the President directed government officials and agencies concerned to take the necessary steps to protect Philippine interest in this regard.

Among other actions, the President issued an executive order prohibiting the carrying firearms outside residence, except by those who are authorized to carry or who may be issued permit to carry as provided in Executive Order No. 56 dated December 29, 1966, as amended by Executive Order No. 231 dated May 7, 1970.

The President issued the order “in the interest of peace and order. Violation of the order shall be ground for confiscation of the firearm.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

Official Week in Review: September 10 – September 15, 1971

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In their resolution, the disabled veterans led by Ben S. Florentino, president, said that they “have complete faith and trust in His Excellency, President Marcos, and believe that His Excellency’s decision to suspend the privilege was the result of a dispassionate and careful examination of intelligence documents, facts and evidence which he alone was in a position to assess.”

On the eve of his birthday, the President granted executive clemency to 191 prisoners, upon the recommendation of the Board of Pardons and Parole.

Of the prisoners extended executive clemency, five were granted absolute pardon, five special absolute pardon, on[^] conditional pardon, with voluntary deportation, 128 conditional pardon with parole conditions, and 5.7 commutation of sentence.

September 11—

THOUSANDS of well-wishers converged at Malacañang as President Marcos marked his 54th birth anniversary. Unlike in previous years, no previous announcements were made for the day as the President and the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, had expressed their intention to observe the day quietly with a few close relatives and friends.

In deference to the wishes of the First Couple, the armed forces had dispensed with the traditional loyalty parade at Camp Aguinaldo on the eve of the birth anniversary of their commander-in-chief.

However, as early as 8 a.m., the Palace grounds started swarming with people who sought audience with the First Couple to greet the President on his natal day.

The President started the day working on urgent state papers in his private study.

At about 11:30 a.m., the First Couple emerged from the study, and was promptly swallowed by the big crowd of admirers which jampacked the spacious reception hall. Among the well-wishers was Mrs. Josefa Edralin Marcos, the President's mother. The President and the First Lady cheerfully acknowledged the greetings as they inched their way to the ceremonial hall where Mass was said.

The "Mass of the Holy Spirit with Special Thanksgiving" was said by Fr. James Donelan, S.J., assisted by Fr. Juan Bautista, chaplain of the Presidential Guard Battalion, and the Sto. Domingo Boys Choir.

Following the Mass, the President and the First Lady repaired to the Heroes Hall downstairs where lunch was served for their guests.

The affair ended at 3 p.m. after a musical program where members of the Cabinet and the Armed Forces and their ladies took turns in presenting surprise numbers to the delight of the First Couple and their guests. Other participants in the program included members of the Bayanihan Dance Troupe and a choral group of cadets from the Philippine Military Academy who gave snappy renditions of Happy Birthday songs.

During the day, the President received hundred of wires from chiefs of state from all over the world, national and local officials, civic and religious organizations, and prominent and plain citizens felicitating him on his birthday.

Later in the afternoon, the President addressed a letter to Acting Mayor Jose Luciano of Makati (Rizal), advising him that he had lost all rights to act as mayor upon the filing of his certificate of candidacy for the position of mayor of the town.

The President told Luciano that he was considered resigned from office as councilor upon the filing of his certificate of candidacy and, having ceased as such, had lost all his rights to act as mayor.

The President cited Section 24 of the Electoral Reform Code of 1971 (R.A. 6388), which provides that "any elective provincial, sub-provincial, sub-provincial, city, municipal, or municipal district officer running for an office other than the one which he is holding in a permanent capacity shall be considered *ipso-facto* resigned from his office from the moment of the filing of his certificate of candidacy."

September 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS as usual utilized some of his Sunday waking hours disposing of urgent state papers and acting on other state business.

Official papers acted upon included those on the grant of executive clemency to 124 more prisoners, on recommendation of the Board of Pardons and Parole. This second batch of pardoned prisoners brought to 315 the total number of prisoners given the traditional executive clemency in connection with the observance of the President's birth anniversary.

September 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS signed into law House Bill No. 2306 separating the subprovince of Quirino from Nueva Vizcaya and constituting it into a regular province.

The signing was witnessed by a delegation of barrio captains and Mayors at Malacañang headed by Sen. Leonardo B. Perez, Rep. Benjamin B. Perez, author of the measure, and Mayor Dionisio A. Sarandi of Maddela, Nueva Vizcaya, official NP candidate for governor of the proposed province.

The President continued receiving provincial delegations who reported on the progress of various improvement projects in their respective localities.

The delegations included those from Isabela headed by Gov. Samuel F. Reyes and Rep. Rodolfo Albano, Surigao del Norte led by Rep. Constantino Navarro, Zamboanga del Sur led by Rep. Vicente Cerilles, and Binangonan, Rizal headed by Vice Mayor Antonio Antiporda.

September 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a comparatively quiet day, enabling him to concentrate more on state matters and paper work.

Of the few visitors, among the most prominent were Ambassador Hadji Bin Mohamed of Singapore and his wife, who called to say goodbye to the President before enplaning for Singapore for reassignment following the completion of his tour of duty here.

Belated birthday best wishes continued to reach the President, including the receipt of a plaque expressing birthday felicitations from the municipal and barrio officials of Batac, Ilocos Norte.

The President received a few other visitors, mostly officials who came to consult him on local matters. Most of the time, he worked at his desk with his aides. He signed, among others, the appointment of Prof. Estelito P. Mendoza as *ad interim* undersecretary of justice.

Mendoza filled the post vacated by former Undersecretary Ramon Fernandez, who had been appointed associate justice of the Court of Appeals.

September 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS conferred in the evening with the heads of the investigating agencies of the government working on the Plaza Miranda bombing incident.

In reporting on the progress of the investigation, the chiefs of the investigating agencies assured the President and the general public that they were doing everything within their capacities and capabilities to solve the case, contrary to speculations that they had failed and were not doing anything about it.

Among those who met with the President were NBI Director Jolly Bugarin, Brig. Gen. Gerardo Tamayo, MPD chief; Col. Prospero Olivas, CIS chief; and Col. Enrique Morales, MPD Detective Bureau chief.

The President had other conferences earlier in the day, mostly with local executives on local development projects.

He also received the officers of two organizations—the Lawyers League for Better Philippines led by Victor G. Nituda, and the District and City Engineers League (DACEL) led by Augusto F. Perez who presented resolutions reiterating their support of the President's decision suspending the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus.

The President, however, vowed not to curtail freedom of speech but to let all speak out their minds so that the democratic dialogue would continue since “the suspension of the privilege of the writ does not alter the democratic atmosphere but only the relations between the rebels and traitors, who are few and far between, and the great majority who believe in democracy and freedom.” In accepting the resolutions, the President said “these strengthen my will and resolve that, over and above anything, we must continue to take all steps necessary to protect our democratic way of life.”

Earlier, the President inducted into office the officers of the DACEL, in the presence of the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, Senators Rene Espina, Lorenzo Teves and Mamintal Tamano, and Highways Commissioner Baltazar Aquino.

Inducted by the President were Augusto F. Perez, president; Felino C. Manalo and Pacifico T. Aranas, vice presidents; Fernando C. Montes, secretary; Laureano S. Mendiola, treasurer; Alfredo P. Torres, auditor; Romulo M. del Rosario, PRO; and the members of the board of directors.

September 16—

Except for a couple of department and bureau heads who took up with him matters concerning their respective offices, the President did not receive any other callers. He concentrated instead on desk work the rest of the day.

In the course of his paper work, the President approved a resolution of the National Economic Council recommending the Philippine policy on the devaluation of the dollar and the revaluation of the yen, in connection with the computation of the balance of Japanese reparations payments to the Philippines.

The Philippine stand was adopted following the official announcement made by the United States and Japanese governments that their respective currencies had been allowed to float which, in effect resulted in the devaluation of the dollar and the revaluation of the yen.

The NEC observed that Article I of the Reparation Agreement between the Philippines and Japan signed on May 8, 1956, provides that Japan shall supply the Philippines with the services of the Japanese people and the products of Japan “the total value of which shall be so much in yen shall equivalent to US \$550 million at present computed at Y198 billion.”

“In view of the devaluation of the U.S. dollar and the revaluation of, the Japanese yen, and in order to protect the interests of the Philippines in the remaining balance of the Japanese reparations payments, it is necessary that an interpretation be made on the said proviso,” the NEC stated in its resolution.

The NEC forthwith resolved to interpret this proviso in the reparations agreement, to mean as a “one-way hedge only against a possible devaluation of the yen and did not contemplate any situation where the United States dollar would be devalued in respect to the yen.”

Meeting as an executive committee on September 9, the NEC unanimously resolved that “should there be any upward adjustments in yen value, it is the yen valuation without reference to the value of the U.S. dollar which shall be the applicable currency in the Japanese reparations payments to the Philippines.”

In adopting the council resolution as the Philippine stand, the President directed government officials and agencies concerned to take the necessary steps to protect Philippine interest in this regard.

Among other actions, the President issued an executive order prohibiting the carrying firearms outside residence, except by those who are authorized to carry or who may be issued permit to carry as provided in Executive Order No. 56 dated December 29, 1966, as amended by Executive Order No. 231 dated May 7, 1970.

The President issued the order “in the interest of peace and order. Violation of the order shall be ground for confiscation of the firearm.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1971). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 67(38), cccxxvii-cccxxxi.

President's Week in Review: September 24-30, 1971

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

September 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS in a memorandum asked Budget Commissioner Faustino SyChangco “to strive at all time to emphasize” the release of funds for infrastructure and other development projects rather than for operating expenditures.

The President further said that efforts should always be exerted to maintain a balanced budget, adding that if the general revenue is not adequate to provide essential operations of the government, arrangements should be made to borrow from non-inflationary sources.

The President's memo to Commissioner Sy-Changco was only one of the directives issued by the Chief Executive in the course of his desk work on board the *RPS Ang Pangulo* while en route to Iligan City.

Among other actions, the President appointed Ramon C. Aquino as member of the Presidential Investigating Committee created under Administrative Order No. 50 of April 18, 1967.

The committee, headed by Dr. Gaudencio Garcia, was empowered to investigate cases assigned to it by the President.

September 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS issued Proclamation No. 889-C lifting the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus in Mindanao and Sulu, with the exception of the two Lanao provinces and Cotabato.

Covered by the proclamation were the provinces of Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao Oriental, Bukidnon, Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Misamis Oriental, Misamis Occidental, Camiguin, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, and Sulu; and the cities of Surigao, Davao, Butuan, Cagayan de Oro, Gingoog, Ozamis, Oroquieta, Tangub, Dapitan, Dipolog, Zamboanga, Basilan and Pagadian.

The President issued the proclamation on the advise of military and civilian officials that requirements of public safety and national security could be met by the normal exercise of governmental powers.

The Chief Executive conferred with the military and civilian officials on board the *RPS Ang Pangulo* shortly after arriving in Iligan City at 8 a.m.

During the four-hour conference, Iligan and Lanao del Norte civic and school officials recommended the withdrawal of Gov. Arsenio Quibranza and Vice Gov. Malamit Umpa from the gubernatorial race in favor of a common candidate. Although both agreed in principle, Quibranza asked for time to consult his leaders.

After his meeting with the military and civilian authorities the President ordered:

- 1) The transfer of the entire 26th Battalion Combat Team from Zamboanga to Lanao del Norte, to be under Brig. Gen. Wilfredo Encarnacion;
- 2) That raids be conducted in installations and establishments in the province for firearms;
- 3) The army to go after armed men, whether Christians or Muslims. Reports indicated four armed bands roam in unpatrolled areas;

- 4) The Rice and Corn Administration to reroute to Iligan and Lanao del Norte the rice intended for other areas;
- 5) The Department of Social Welfare to sent food and medicine to evacuation centers;
- 6) The Civil Aeronautics Administration and the Department of Public Works and Communications to finish Ozamis airport as an emergency undertaking, even as he directed the Budget Commission to release immediately ₱100,000 for said airport.

Among those present at the conference were Acting Secretary of National Defense Efren I. Plana, Gen. Manuel T. Yan, AFP chief of staff; Brig. Gen. Eduardo M. Garcia, PC chief; Brig. Gen. Wilfredo Encarnacion; Brig. Gen. Domingo Tutaan, Fourth PC Zone commander; Col. Jimmy Bangcola, Lanao del Norte PC provincial commander; Col. Cirilo Bueno, Task Force Pagari commander; and all provincial commanders of Mindanao and Sulu.

At 4 p.m., the President and the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, sailed for Ozamis City to look into the plight of the evacuees from Lanao del Norte.

September 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS officiated at the inauguration of the Misamis Oriental Rural Electric Service Cooperative (MORESCO) at Lagindingan, Cagayan de Oro, which he described as an important milestone in the country's history.

He said the MORESCO is one of the administration's pilot projects in the cooperative movement which has gained momentum throughout the country.

Among those present at the inaugural rites were Senator Emmanuel Pelaez, some members of the diplomatic corps and their ladies, Rep. Pedro N. Roa, General Manager Ramon Ravanzo of the National Power Corporation, National Electrification Administrator Pedro Dumol, and Henry Baker and Philip Parker of the US-AID.

In another meeting on the situation in Lanao del Norte with the political, civic and religious leaders of the province, held on board the *RPS Ang Pangulo*, the President succeeded in persuading Gov. Arsenio Quibranza and Vice Gov. Malamit Umpa to withdraw from the gubernatorial race to pave the way for the restoration of peace and order in that province.

The parties concerned signed an agreement which also made Brig. Gen. Wilfredo Encarnacion the common candidate upon the suggestion of the civic groups. Sen Emmanuel Pelaez, LP Mayor Camilo Cabili and other political and religious leaders of the province were present.

Later, the President and the First Lady visited some 23,000 people from Lanao del Norte who had evacuated to Ozamis City, to bring relief and urge them to return to their homes.

At the gathering at the parochial hall, the President announced, among others, that:

- 1) He had assigned the 26th BCT to Lanao del Norte with enough troops for every town and with orders to go after the armed bands.
- 2) CIS teams are conducting raids to ferret out arms from suspects.
- 3) He had released ₱150,000 for the repair of Ozamis airport to make it operational.
- 4) He would release ₱100,000 from the calamity fund to help rehabilitate burned homes of evacuees.

The President also distributed ₱50,000 through the Department of Social Welfare and Red Cross for the purchase of the needs of evacuees and 100 boxes of medical kits.

The party returned to the yacht past 9 p.m. after which it weighed anchor for Cagayan de Oro.

September 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, disembarked at Tacloban City at 8 a.m. for an overnight stopover in Ulot, Tolosa en route back to Manila.

While in Leyte, the President:

- 1) Surveyed the agricultural and fisheries development project in the province, including the RP-Japan Rice Experimental Farm in Alang-Alang.
- 2) Looked into the coconut research project and the medical research on schistosomiasis *Japonica* at the United Nations Research Center in Palo.
- 3) Looked into the progress of the work on the Pan-Philippine Highway, particularly the bridge to span the San Juanico Strait.

In the course of his work on official papers at the resthouse in Ulot, the President issued an order- for the immediate stopping of disbursement of public works fund, in consonance with the 45-day ban under the Electoral Code.

The President issued the directive through the secretaries of finance and of public works to all treasurers, disbursing officers, engineers and other officials responsible for expenditures of public works fund.

To insure strict compliance, the President also ordered the officials concerned to submit balance sheets of spent and unspent public works funds released to them.

September 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, left the resthouse in Ulot, Tolosa at 9 a.m. for Tacloban where they reboarded the *RPS Ang Pangulo* for the resumption of their trip to Manila.

The President took advantage of his sailing time to dispose of piles of urgent state papers in his cabin.

In an interview aboard the ship with the Voice of the Philippines, the President announced his intention to meet with the Cabinet on the various development projects, including the workingmen's housing program, the industrial development of areas around Manila, and reports on the peace and order situation in Cotabato and Lanao del Norte.

September 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS returned from a week-long inspection trip to the South.

Before disembarking from *RPS Ang Pangulo*, which docked at Pier 15 at about 11 a.m., the President had an interview with TV reporters, during which he said that the trip was "most unusually successful inasmuch as we have been able to attend to the twin problems of security and development."

Following the interview, the President motored direct to Malacañang where he immediately conferred with Palace aides on urgent state business.

The President spent the whole afternoon working on official papers in his private study.

September 30—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had two major conferences; one with the Cabinet and the other with the political and civic leaders of Sulu.

Among the major items taken up at the Cabinet meeting, which lasted from 9:30 to 11:30 at the State Dining Hall, was the problem of rice distribution, particularly in places of scarcity.

The President mobilized the government machinery towards solving this particular problem, saying that the government should utilize all powers, including confiscation of hoarded stocks to normalize the flow of the staple into the market, especially in the rural areas.

He created a committee composed of the Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources, as chairman, and the Secretary of Commerce and Industry, the chairman of the Board of Investments, and the Acting Secretary of Public Works and Communications, as members, to study and recommend immediate solutions to the problem.

The President then instructed the Secretary of Justice to assist the committee in devising ways of counteracting hoarding, even to the extent of confiscating hoarded stocks.

During the meeting, the heads of departments and agencies concerned reported on other government projects, such as on rural electrification, mass housing, cottage industries, fisheries, cattle and swine dispersal, and other projects designed to provide rural employment.

On mass housing, the President directed the Government Service Insurance System, the Social Security System, the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation and the National Housing Corporation to coordinate their respective activities in the implementation of the administration's housing program.

On cattle dispersal, the President urged the department heads concerned to get some action done at lower levels. He directed as well that artificial insemination centers be set up in every big barrio. The President said expenses for these centers should be minimized through the construction of bamboo buildings instead of the costly concrete affairs being set up by the Bureau of Animal Industry.

Following the Cabinet meeting, the President repaired to his study where he signed House Bill No. 229 appropriating the sum of ₱590,000 to indemnify the heirs of the victims of the January 30, 1970 student riot, and for other victims of a public demonstration, rally, protest march, assembly or mass action occurring after January 1, 1970.

The bill, which was sponsored in the House by Rep. Alfredo G. Lamen of Mt. Province and in the Senate by Sen. Mamintal Tamano, was signed by the President in the presence of the heirs and relatives of the six deceased victims of the January 30 mass action.

Of the amount appropriated, ₱90,000 would be paid as compensation to the heirs of mass demonstration victims Ricardo Alcantara, Fernando Catabay, Felicisimo S. Roldan, Bernardo Bausa, Jesus Mejia and Leopoldo Inelda, who were killed during the mass demonstration of students on January 30, 1970.

The President then met with the political, civic and religious leaders of Sulu on the peace and order condition in that province.

During the conference, the President ordered the strict implementation of the firearms ban and the screening of members of the police department in the province, so that only qualified men may be authorized to carry guns.

The President reminded all Jolo leaders that policemen and provincial guards could no longer act as bodyguards for candidates and officials under the new election code.

Among those present at the conference were Sulu Gov. Murphy Sangkula and former Secretary of General Services Sali Ututalum contending gubernatorial candidates; Rep. Indanan Anni, Mayor Aminkadra Abubakar of Jolo, Dr. Miguel Cuevas, president of the Sulu Lions; Maj. Fernando Villamor (ret.) of the local Knights of Columbus; Mrs. Lily Cid, president of the Catholic Women's League; Acting Secretary of National Defense Efren I. Plana, Brig. Gen. Eduardo M. Garcia, PC chief; and Brig. Gen. Domingo Tutaan, IVPCZ commander and Lt. Col. Rogacion Espiritu, Sulu provincial commander.

The President attended to some individual callers the rest of the afternoon, and then worked on urgent official papers till early evening.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: October 1-7, 1971

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

October 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, in a move to normalize the supply and distribution of the nation's most important cereal, prevent the excessive spiralling of prices of rice and other essential commodities by profiteering and hoarding, and enable the government, civic and welfare agencies to carry out their relief operations effectively, declared a state of calamity in nine additional provinces in Luzon and Mindanao.

Heavy damage to rice crops in these areas were wrought by intensive *tungro* infestation, typhoon and drought.

The provinces embraced by the proclamation were Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Pangasinan, Isabela, Albay, Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte, Cotabato and South Cotabato.

The President had previously declared the Greater Manila area, Rizal, Bataan, Bulacan, Pampanga, Zambales, Batanes and Laguna as calamity areas in separate proclamations, due to extensive damage from typhoon "Yoling" in 1970.

The President directed the National Disaster Control Center (NDCC) to expand its scope of responsibility of overseeing, coordinating and directing rescue and relief operations of the Armed Forces, other government agencies and the private sector in the affected areas.

He likewise designated the Price Control Council to implement the provisions of the proclamation, empowering it to order the seizure of any commodity or material or merchandise of prime necessity, to sell it to the public at authorized prices, and to reimburse to the owner of the same its legal price.

In the course of the day, the President met twice with Lanao del Norte officials and civic leaders regarding the proposal to have Brig. Gen. Wilfredo Encarnacion as a common candidate for governor of the province.

The President, however, scheduled another meeting in view of the inability of Gov. Arsenio Quibranza to attend the conference.

During the two conferences, the President directed Acting Defense Secretary Efren I. Plana to seek declaratory relief on behalf of Gen. Encarnacion as well as the two candidates—Quibranza and Vice Gov. Malamit Umpa—who had agreed to withdraw.

The President also asked the Lanao officials and civic leaders to submit another list of prospective candidates for governor should Gen. Encarnacion be declared as not qualified.

In another conference aimed also at the maintenance of peace and order, the President effected an agreement between the two warring factions in Ilocos Sur designed to stop further bloodshed in that province.

Those who met with the President were Gov. Carmeling Crisologo and her son Vincent, a candidate for mayor of Vigan, and their political rivals led by Luis "Chavit" Singson, his brother Evaristo, also a candidate for mayor of Vigan.

Aside from these conferences, the President received several scheduled callers, including the officers of the UP Vanguard Fraternity whom he inducted into office.

In brief remarks following the induction rite, the President rallied the group to a full commitment to the Flag, even as he warned that the communists would use every tactic and strategy to take over the government through peaceful or violent means.

Inducted were Senator Mamintal Tamano, national commander; and Agriculture Undersecretary Jose Drilon, Jr., Brig. Gen. Eduardo Garcia, Luis Beltran, Ramon Dumaul, Mars Espino, Sonny Ventura, Ted Javier, Jimmy Cortez, Col. Bienvenido Castro, and Lt. Col. Rodolfo Villoria, members of the board of governors.

In the afternoon, the President inducted Jose Campos as judge of the court of first instance of Pasay City, following confirmation of the latter's nomination by the Commission on Appointments.

Campos, and his appointment to the judiciary, was a law professor at the University of the Philippines and a successful business executive.

The President also issued an administrative order creating an ad hoc Cabinet committee to inquire into the various problems arising out of the rice situation and to recommend appropriate solutions therefor.

The President's order formalized a decision arrived at during the Cabinet meeting for the creation of such a body to inquire into the feasibility of adopting effective counter-measures to prevent rice shortages in the country.

Named to the committee were Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Arturo R. Tanco, Jr., as chairman, and Secretary of Public Works and Communications David M. Consunji, Acting Secretary of Commerce and Industry Troadio T. Quiazon, Jr., Acting Secretary of National Defense Efren I. Plana, Acting Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, Chairman Vicente Paterno of the Board of Investments, and Undersecretary of Agriculture Jose D. Drilon, Jr., as members.

October 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS addressed the special convention of the National Labor Unity Congress at the GSIS auditorium, which was convened to enable the labor ranks to determine the most qualified candidates for senator.

All the 16 senatorial candidates, both Nacionalistas and Liberals, President Marcos and Senator Benigno Aquino, Jr. of the Liberal Party had been invited but only the President and candidates Bias F. Ople, Alejandro Almendras and Ernesto Maceda showed up at the convention.

In his address before the huge assembly, the President accused the opposition of trying to deceive the electorate, and challenged the Liberal candidates to put up a platform of government for the country.

The President also challenged the opposition to define its stand on the question of communism and private ownership, the suspension of the privilege of the writ "Of habeas corpus, and many other issues.

In the afternoon, the President met with the leaders of Lanao del Norte for the third time on two days to find solutions to the peace and order problems in the province.

The President reiterated his decision to maintain law and order in the province and warned that any further outbreak of lawlessness in the area would be met with force. The President, however, said he would exhaust all means to seek a political solution to the peace and order problem in the province.

In the meantime, the President directed all government agencies to reorient the entire civic action efforts of the government in Lanao del Norte, and the Department of National Defense to provide transportation facilities for the return of Muslim evacuees to their homes.

The President also directed Brig. Gen. Eduardo Garcia, PC chief, to pull out and replace all CIS agents sent to the province who were living with partisan families, as well as all PC officers and men suspected of harassment.

Rep. Dimaporo reported that some CIS agents sent to the province were living in the house of Governor Quibranza and that an officer and some enlisted men of the 441st PC Company had harassed his brother, Rep. Macacuna Dimaporo of Lanao del Sur, although he had identified himself properly to them.

On the suggestion of the civic leaders that the President impose "selective martial law" in areas where there is disorder, particularly where the people had left their homes, the President said he would "not consider this casually" because "it requires serious and careful study."

The President said he was afraid innocent civilians would suffer should this happen, but promised that he would send even up to a whole division to maintain the majesty of the law in the province.

Present at the conference were Senators Emmanuel Pelaez and Lorenzo Teves, Reps. Ali Dimaporo and Constantino Navarro, Vice Gov. Malamit Umpa, Iligan City Mayor Camilo Cabili, Dr. Angelo Maralo of the Concerned Citizens Movement, Salvador Nosce of the Bankers Club, Jose Siy of the Association of Schools and Colleges, Manuel Laurel of the Ozamis City Civic and Religious Organizations, Sebastian Cortes and Perfecto Rival of the CCM, Pafs Mejia of the Cursillo Movement, Raul Sepulveda of the Citizens Social Action Committee, Saturnino Chan of Iligan Chamber of Commerce, and Judge Michael Adeva.

The President convened the meeting- at past 12 noon and adjourned it at 2 p.m., to meet other government officials who took up with him matters converging their respective departments.

October 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS motored out of Malacañang at mid-morning for Quezon City to address the 18th annual convention of the Free Farmers Federation (FFF), held at the Divine Word Mission Seminary gymnasium.

In his speech, the President assured the farmers of the country that the administration will continue to initiate and extend all-out support to measures designed to ameliorate their living conditions.

He also announced two basic measures designed to help the small farmers and the farm workers, particularly in the sugar industry, namely, the formulation of a basic land distribution policy and the creation of a sugar council to administer the special amelioration fund.

The President directed Secretary of Agrarian Reform Conrado F. Estrella to draft, in collaboration with the secretary of agriculture and natural resources, the commissioner of the Small Farmers Commission, and the directors of land and of forestry, an administrative order setting down the basic policy.

He lauded the FFF as a kind of movement that would be helped by the government and by every Filipino because, he said, it "is carrying the banner of democratic revolution in the countryside."

The President was back at Malacañang in time for lunch. He took some rest afterward, and then worked on state papers later in the afternoon.

October 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS signed the national budget for the fiscal year 1971-1972 totalling P4,169,732,780.

The budget represents an increase of P453,516,943 over that of the previous one. The increase was due to expanded public services, especially in health and education, salary adjustments, and the creation of new offices necessary for a developing economy.

Congress appropriations also had an increase from P94,842,000 to P110,780,012 or a difference of P15,956,012.

The President also signed a message on the vetoed items, consisting mostly of new appropriations for the executive department.

In another major action, the President issued Proclamation No. 889-D lifting the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus in seven more provinces and four more cities of Luzon.

The President lifted the suspension of the writ privilege in the provinces of Cagayan, Cavite, Mountain Province, Kalinga-Apayao, Camarines Norte, Albay and Sorsogon, and in the cities of Cavite, Tagaytay, Trece Martires and Legaspi.

The President started the day disposing of urgent official papers in his study.

At noon, he received the officers of the League of Women Voters of the Philippines, whom he inducted into office. Inducted were Paz Veto Planas, president; Remedios Gatmaitan, 1st vice president; Felicidad Calip, 2nd vice president; Agustina Rosete Navarro, secretary; Catalina M. Evangelista, assistant secretary; Felicidad Soller, treasurer; Consolacion Ilagan, auditor; and Pacita Catolico, Adelina Rodriguez and Beatriz Ronquillo, board members.

They were accompanied to Malacañang by Mrs. Josefa Edralin-Marcos, mother of the President and adviser of the organization.

The President resumed his desk work later in the afternoon, during which he signed into law House Bill No. 3559, which divides the province of Lanao del Sur into the provinces of Lanao del Sur and Maranaw.

As provided in the bill, Lanao del Sur would include the municipalities of Lumbatan, Butig, Binadayan, Bayang, Tubaran, Madalum, Madamba, Bacolod Grande and Balindong. The Province of Maranaw would consist of the municipalities of Masiu, Poona-Bayabao, Wao, Tamparan, Marantao, Kapai, Bubong, Ragain-Ditsaan, Mulondo, Saguilaran, Piagapo and Taraka.

October 5—

PRESIDENT MARCOS once more concentrated on official papers and other urgent state business.

The President started his desk work at 9:30 a.m., breaking off at way past noon for lunch and a brief rest. He was back at his private study at 3 p.m. for the resumption of his paper work, which lasted till early evening.

October 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS was pinned down in Malacañang by a full range of state business, including a ceremonial, meetings with officials, and callers which ranged from a group of weight lifters to a delegation of horse jockeys and trainers.

Notable among the conferences the President had on serious matters were the meetings with Caloocan Mayor Macario Asistio; and with GSIS General Manager Roman Cruz, Jr. and SSS Administrator Reynaldo Gregorio.

The former conference was held to examine the causes of the violence in Caloocan City during the two student demonstrations. The President ordered Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos to look into the two violent incidents which resulted in the death of three and injuries to many.

The President directed that two investigators, preferably from the Office of the State Prosecutor, be assigned to the case, “to determine who started the shooting and explosions.”

He said it was necessary to pinpoint responsibility for the incidents because of claims that both the demonstrators and the group that tried to disperse the demonstrators were armed.

With Asistio in meeting with the President were Col. Celestino Rosea, Caloocan City police chief; and Brig. Gen. Mariano C. Ordonez, chief of METROCOM.

The latter meeting with the GSIS and SSS officials was to discuss the housing program of the government, with an eye to accelerating the pace of house construction.

Earlier in the morning, the President received at proper ceremonies the credentials of the new ambassador of Singapore, Cheam Kim Seang, who expressed the hope that the Philippines and the island nation would continue to be partners in developing Southeast Asia.

Ambassador Cheam said that his country attaches greater value to her relationship with the Philippines, as a fellow member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and out of common aspirations for peace and security, as well as for stability and for the dynamic progress of the region.

In reply, the President stressed the need for “close cooperation and sincere intensification of efforts” by all countries and peoples in Southeast Asia on important issues that serve to contribute to the peace and prosperity of the region and to success in varied fields of mutually beneficial endeavors.

Among those who attended the ceremony were Acting Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs Jose D. Ingles, Secretary of General Services Constancio Castaneda, and Secretary of Public Works and Communications David Consunji.

The weight lifters belonged to the Asian teams participating in the First Asian Weight Lifting Competition “here. They came to pay a courtesy call on the President.

The leaders of the delegations were Chang Shin of Korea, Noshe Edelstein of Iran, Bob Henderson of Australia, Shigeru Akimene of Japan and Eetanislao Carbungco of the Philippines.

They were accompanied to the President by Elpidio Doroteo, president of the Philippine Weight Lifting Association; Capt. Santiago Yangwas, first vice president; Cesar Gallegos, second vice president; and Brig. Gen. Jose Syjuco, overall chairman.

The racing people belonged to organizations of jockeys, horse trainers and owners, who discussed with the President the resumption of the Manila Jockey Club operations.

The President told them that the fitness of the club should be affirmed first before it could get back to business.

October 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS received the first East German to visit the Philippines under the liberalized policy of the administration with regard to visitors from communist countries. The visitor was Ulrich Makosch, Asia correspondent of the Television Network of the German Democratic Republic (East Germany).

Mr. Makosch interviewed the President on various topics. He was accompanied in his Philippine visit by his cameraman, Fritz Hemmerling. Most of the rest of the President’s working day was confined to desk work.

Among other actions, the President issued an executive order creating the Presidential Investigation and Recovery Commission, and an administrative order reconstituting the Telecommunications Development Board. The President created the commission in order to avert the prospect of the government incurring huge losses for lack of an efficient mechanism to investigate and enforce collection of the receivables of various government agencies.

The commission would look after collections and the recovery of all collectible and recoverable funds, monies and properties pertaining to the government.

Named to compose the commission were the secretary of justice, as chairman; the chairman-general manager of the Rice and Corn Administration, as vice chairman; and the undersecretary of industry, a representative of the auditor general, and a representative of the Philippine National Bank, as members.

The Telecommunications Development Board was reconstituted by the President by naming a new chairman of the body and adding another member.

The board was originally created under Administrative Order No. 130 of June 18, 1968, with the undersecretary of transportation and communications as chairman.

Named as new chairman was Brig. Gen. Ceferino S. Carreon (ret.), one time commanding officer of Philcag V, and a member of the board of administrators of the National Electrification Administration.

Designated as additional member was the president of the Philippine Chamber of Communications.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: October 8-15, 1971

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

October 8—

REACTING to a wire dispatch from Cairo quoting President Moammer El-Kaddafi as saying that Libya would be forced to "assume its responsibilities" if the "extermination campaign" supposedly being mounted against Muslims in the Philippines continues, President Marcos directed the Department of Foreign Affairs to verify the exact text of the Libyan President's statement.

The President likewise ordered the DFA to use all its facilities abroad to clarify reports about the situation in Muslim areas in the country.

He expressed concern over the manner the real situation in the Muslim areas in the Philippines had been misreported in the foreign media, especially in Muslim countries.

A few days earlier, the President had occasion to stress that the fights between Muslims and Christians in the South were feuds and vendettas which had existed in Mindanao since time immemorial. But then he said the government was able to come between the two groups.

The President further said that the people who had been complaining about "genocide" did not seem to understand what the term means. They also had been falsifying and distorting stories to make it appear that the government troops were the ones killing the Muslims, he added.

Except for the video-taping of a television interview in his study shortly before noon, the President otherwise had a quiet but busy day going over state papers.

In the course of his desk work, the President signed a proclamation declaring October 9, Saturday, a special public holiday to give unregistered voters the opportunity to register, and thus enable them to exercise their right of suffrage in the November elections. October 9 is the last day for registration of voters, as provided in Republic Act No. 6388, otherwise known as the Election Code of 1971.

October 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS led well-wishers in seeing off the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, who left early in the evening on a combined diplomatic-cultural mission to Iran.

The First Lady took a Qantas Fokker plane which took off from the Manila International Airport at 6 :30 p.m.

In addition to attending the 2,500th anniversary of the founding of the Iranian dynasty under Cyrus the Great, Mrs. Marcos was scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of India, during which she would pursue discussions on the establishment of the Asian Cultural Association which she had earlier proposed, and would want to be organized as soon as possible.

Shortly before boarding the plane, the First Lady said that she had been asked by the President to undertake the mission to attend the Iranian anniversary rites.

"On this important occasion in Iran's history," the First Lady said, "we are called upon, not only by our existing formal ties but also by the special bond existing between that country and our Muslim brothers in the South, to make a genuine expression of amity and goodwill."

At the “Meet the Press” television interview later in the evening, the President said that in-depth studies were being made on all military and economic agreements of the Philippines with the United States so as to determine “our own intentions and our own national interest” on these matters.

Covered by such studies, he said, were such questions as:

1. Are the U.S. bases necessary?
2. How much longer they should stay?
3. Should they not be taken over by Filipinos, and if so, when and how?

The President was tied down to his desk most of the morning and afternoon because of the pressure of paper work.

October 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS mobilized all government relief agencies for the extension of immediate assistance to areas affected by typhoons “Barang” and “Krising.”

In a memorandum, the President directed:

1. The Department of Social Welfare to deploy relief teams to the ravaged areas and minister to the needs of the typhoon victims;
2. The Department of Health to attend to the medical requirements of the victims, and to take steps to prevent the possible outbreak of epidemics in the affected areas;
3. The Department of National Defense to assist in the relocation of homeless families in temporary evacuation centers and to help local police forces in the maintenance of peace in the paths of the destructive typhoons; and
4. The Department of Public Works and Communications to attend to the immediate repairs of broken down roads and bridges for the purpose of restoring normalcy in the regions as early as possible.

The President directed the relief agencies to submit reports on the extent of the damage and other requirements of the typhoon victims.

In another move, the President asked his lawyers to prepare for the filing of criminal and civil libel suits against Senator Benigno Aquino, Jr. and the Manila Times Publishing Company in connection with allegations contained in a story appearing in the Manila Times issue of the day, referring to supposed particulars of the President’s alleged wealth.

The President denied all the allegations, describing them as “malicious fabrications.”

“In the interest of truth, in the best public interest, it becomes necessary that we file this suit now, and open to public scrutiny these long-tolerated allegations,” he said.

Most of the President’s working day was devoted to state papers.

October 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS met with Manila Mayor Antonio J. Villegas, who called at Malacañang in the morning to submit a progress report on the Plaza Miranda incident.

Also present at the conference were MPD Chief Gerardo Tamayo, NBI Director Jolly Bugarin, Col. Prospero Olivas, CIS chief; and Major Felicisimo Lazaro, MPD District 5 commander.

Just before the conference started, the President through Director Bugarin, commended the nine NBI agents who were responsible for putting an end to the outlaw activities of Leonardo Manecio alias "Nardong Putik."

Manecio was killed in a gunbattle with the NBI agents along the national highway in Kawit, Cavite.

The President received other callers in the afternoon, among them Acting Mayor Cesar Alzona of Makati and Chairman Crispino de Castro of the Police Commission, who took up with him matters concerning their respective offices.

October 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS summoned Agriculture Undersecretary and concurrent RCA Chairman Jose Drilon, Jr. to Malacañang following receipt of reports that commercial rice had disappeared from the market and that unless a steady supply of the cereal is maintained the price of the cereal might unduly go up.

The President inquired into the general rice situation, particularly in view of the series of typhoons which hit the country the past few days.

Secretary Drilon informed the President that the typhoons had hampered RCA operations causing a reduction in the volume of RCA rice injected into the market as well as slowed down the unloading from the ships of imported rice.

Two vessels with a shipment of 320,000 cavans of Thai rice had arrived but could not be unloaded immediately because of the strong winds.

The President directed Secretary Drilon to watch closely the unloading of the imported rice from the ships and to get the cereal to the consumers as fast as possible.

Among other actions, the President released P600,000 from the calamity fund for relief and rehabilitation of typhoon ravaged provinces.

In releasing the amount, the President also directed Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. to expedite the disbursement of the share of Isabela province, which was reported as the worst hit by the typhoons.

The other places that benefitted from the fund release were the Greater Manila area, Baguio City, and the provinces of Bataan, Zambales, Occidental Mindoro, Cavite, Batangas, Camarines Sur, Bulacan, Palawan, Rizal, Nueva Vizcaya, Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur.

During the day, the President received some national and local officials, among whom were Senator Helena Benitez, Mayor Macario Asistio of Caloocan City, and Public Service Commissioner Filomeno Kintanar.

October 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS continued giving priority attention to the problem of rice distribution in view of reports that rice dealers were withholding commercial rice from the public, a practice that usually induce a price spiral.

He called the ad hoc committee on rice to a meeting in Malacañang in the morning on the general rice situation, in the course of which he ordered the Rice and Corn Administration to keep a steady flow of RCA rice to the market, and the Price Control Council to flush out hoarded commercial rice and to enforce strictly the prices set by the council.

Acting Secretary of Commerce and Industry Troadio Quiazon, Jr., concurrent vice chairman of the Price Control Council, informed the President that PCC agents were preparing cases against 16 rice dealers who were suspected to have passed off RCA rice as commercial rice.

Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Arturo R. Tanco, Jr., who arrived from a country-wide survey of rice harvests, briefed the conferees on the need to formulate of palay trading program as soon as possible.

Present at the conference' besides Secretaries Tanco and Quiazon were Agriculture Undersecretary and concurrent RCA Chairman-General Manager Jose D. Drilon, Jr., Chairman Vicente Paterno of the Board of Investments, Secretary of Public Works and Communications David Consunji, Defense Undersecretary Efren I. Plana, and Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes.

Among other actions, the President issued an executive order setting the procedure for the disposition and disbursement of the proceeds from the sale of the rice donated to the Philippines by Japan.

The Japanese government, in the wake of the rash of disastrous typhoons which hit the country in 1970, donated 10,000 metric tons of rice in assistance to the relief and rehabilitation operations undertaken by the private and public sectors here.

Specific objectives and allocations of the proceeds from the said sale were proposed by the Philippines through Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs Jose D. Ingles, and were approved by Ambassador Toshio Urabe of Japan, as follows:

1. Food and agricultural development	P4,500,00
2. Repair and construction of school houses in typhoon-damaged areas	3,000,000
3. MEDICARE Program	1,000,000
4. Relief from previous and future typhoons	500,000
	P9.000.000

Included under food and agricultural development were price stabilization measures, a livestock and poultry program, an intensified vegetable program, joint RP-Japan pilot farm projects, the Corn Downy Mildew program, manpower development, a nutrition program, fingerlings production and disposal, and expanded radio communications.

The President designated the Rice and Corn Administration as the custodian agency for the rice donations and the proceeds from the sales.

The President received some callers in the morning. He spent most of the afternoon and early evening on state papers.

October 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS limited his callers to a few government officials who had urgent matters to take up relative to their respective agencies, even as he focused once again on desk work.

In the course of the day, the President designated Secretary of Public Works and Communications David M. Consunji as executive director of the Presidential Committee on Housing and Urban Resettlement with a view of effecting closer coordination in the implementation of the government's, housing program.

As such, Secretary Consunji assumed the executive functions of the Committee, including those exercised by the committee's action officer, who become a member of the committee.

Among other actions, the President directed the Price Control Council to take an official stand on the directive of Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Arturo R. Tanco, Jr., suspending for a period of 10 days the price ceiling on rice set by the PCC in five Mindanao and Visayan provinces.

At the same time, the President ordered that Secretary Tanco's directive be frozen pending official action on the matter by the PCC.

Secretary Tanco was reported to have suspended the rice price ceiling in Cebu on the promise of the rice traders that they would dump all their stocks into the market.

The President issued the order to prevent possible conflict of policy between the PCC and the Presidential Committee on Rice.

October 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS directed the Presidential Economic Staff and the Department of Finance to prepare a massive rural employment plan aimed at alleviating the unemployment and underemployment problem in the rural areas.

The President issued the order during his meeting with Finance Secretary Cesar E. A. Virata and PES Director-General Apolinaric, Orosa, who were among government officials, delegations and individual callers who called on the President.

Called the national rural employment program, the plan would integrate the efforts of all government agencies concerned with generating more jobs into a single program of action. Among these were manpower training and development, cottage industries development, cattle and hog dispersal, rural improvement, workmen's housing program, and intensive farming similar to the Magalang pilot farm project.

During his call on the President, Secretary Virata also reported on the result of his talks with the officials of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the U.S. government, Latin American central banks and Japanese financing institutions. While in the United States, Secretary Virata also secured an exemption for Philippine oil from the 10 percent surcharge slapped by the U.S. government on imports.

The finance secretary presented to the President the draft of an agreement prepared by Japanese financing officials whereby they would extend some 65 million concessionary loans to the Philippines for priority projects and commodity purchases.

Also present at the conference was Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., who also arrived from an official mission abroad.

Among the delegations received by the President were those composed of some 60 scouts and scout leaders and officers of the Council of Health Agencies of the Philippines (CHAP).

The scouts and scout leaders, led by Dr. Vitaliano Bernardino, president and chief scout, called on the President in connection with the observance of Boy Scouts Week from October 25 to 31.

In brief remarks, the President underscored the vital role that scouting plays in the building of a "strong and progressive nation," and called on all the people to lend support to the scouting movement in the country. The President also paid tribute to the leaders as well as to every level of the citizenry who, quietly in their own way, had contributed to the success of the scouting movement in the country.

In the group were explorer, rover, cub and boy scouts from the Greater Manila area, Superintendent Alfredo J. Andal, vice president for local council operations; Judge Josias K. Guinto, international commissioner; Prof. Vicente Escasa, deputy commissioner for program, Godofredo P. Neric, national scout executive; Supt. Conrado de los Reyes, Capt. Florentine Casanova, Deputy National Scout Executive Alfredo T. Sanchez Isaias Bolivia, chief of training; Manuel L. Sison, chief of program; and Ulderico Santos, program executive.

Following the call of the scouts and scout leaders, the President presented awards of merit to a member-organization of the Council of Health Agencies of the Philippines, and three outstanding individuals. The awardees were:

- 1) The Philippine Medical Women's Association, for being the most active member-organization of CHAP;
- 2) Dr. Joaquin Maranon, for conducting valuable research on health needs;
- 3) Dr. Rosita Tivera Ramirez, for civic health work; and
- 4) Dr. Pedro Siojo of the Philippine Mental Health Association, for valuable contributions to the CHAP.

The President also inducted the officers of CHAP, namely: Lourdes T. Echauz, chairman; Dr. Helen P. Abundo, vice-chairman; Juana Reyes, secretary; Dr. Procopio Reyes, treasurer; Felix Pestanas, auditor; Gonzalo Santos Rivera, counsel; Mamerto Banatin, PRO; and Dr. Jesus Azurin, Leticia O. Canoy, Paz M. Catolico, Dr. Eliodoro D. Congco, Ines P. Gatmaitan, Dr. Elpidio Panganiban, Carmen F. del Rosario, Winnie Luzon, Dr. Pedro Siojo, Helen Sanchez and Dr. Primo Gonzales, members of the board.

In the afternoon, the President issued a proclamation (No. 923) declaring the existence of a state of public calamity in the province of Cagayan. Typhoon "Dadang" had wrought heavy damage to crops and property in the province

The President issued the proclamation to prevent the excessive increase in the prices of rice and other essential commodities due to profiteering and hoarding, and to enable the government and civic, relief and welfare agencies to carry out their objectives effectively.

The President attended to other important state papers from mid-afternoon till early evening.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: October 16-22, 1971

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

October 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS addressed the opening of the 13th biennial convention of the Philippine Coconut Producers Association, held at mid-morning at the Malacañang Maharlika Hall. In his speech, the President appealed for the release by the coconut producers of their ₱1 million counterpart so that the coconut research, similar to that conducted on rice by the International Rice Research Institute, could be stated.

Under an agreement between the government and the coconut producers, a ₱2 million fund would be set up for the intensified research into various and new uses of coconut, with the government putting up ₱1 million and the producers contributing another ₱1 million counterpart fund.

The President expressed the hope that in the same way the IRRI produced the “miracle rice,” the coconut research project should also be able to produce the “miracle coconut.”

The President said the coconut industry accounts for roughly one-fourth of the country's total dollar earnings, thus making it one of the major pillars of the Philippine economy. For this reason, he said, he had always sought to preserve it and maintain its position as a major industry.

The President, in the course of his speech, ordered the release of the ₱1 million government's share in the project.

The President was introduced by Maria Clara Lobregat, president of the federation.

After addressing the convention, the President returned to his study where he received coconut planters from Leyte and Samar, who paid him their respects, as well as a few other scheduled callers, among whom were Rep. Teodulo Natividad and nine mayors of the first district of Bulacan, who reported on the heavy damaged wrought by floods in their areas of jurisdiction.

The President mobilized the major relief agencies of the government to extend relief and rescue operations to the flood victims. He also ordered Acting Secretary of National Defense Efren Plana to make a survey of the disaster areas with Rep. Natividad to determine the extent of the damage.

The President worked on official papers and attended to other urgent state business in the afternoon and early evening. He issued, among others, a proclamation declaring October 26 a special public holiday in Catanduanes to enable its residents to observe the 25th anniversary of their province with fitting and appropriate ceremonies.

October 17—

PRESIDENT MARCOS conferred with Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Arturo R. Tanco and Undersecretary Jose Drilon, Jr., concurrent chairman of the Rice and Corn Administration, on the status of palay crops throughout the country.

Secretaries Tanco and Drilon reported to the President that palay harvests in Panay Island, the Bicol region and South Cotabato were good.

The President gave Secretaries Tanco and Drilon the go-signal for the start of the government palay buying program at the support price of ₱22 per cavan.

The palay buying program would help rice growers, especially the small farmers, who were often compelled to dispose of their produce to unscrupulous middlemen at reduced prices. The elimination of middlemen would also serve to stabilize the price of the cereal and keep it within the reach of low-income groups.

The President directed Tanco and Drilon to avail of the ₱180 million proceeds from the sale of imported rice for the palay buying program

The President concentrated again on desk work in the afternoon.

October 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS continued' concentrating on urgent official papers.

Except for a few officials of the executive department who consulted him on matters concerning their respective agencies, the President did not receive any other callers.

October 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a full schedule of callers, most of whom were foreign businessmen, rural bankers, and local officials.

Among the first to be received by the President were Mitchell L. Werbell III and Huge McWhinne, American businessmen, who paid him a courtesy call.

They were followed by the officers of the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines, who took their oaths of office before him. Those inducted were Oscar Ravanera, president; Edgardo Reyes, Rhium Sanchez and Modesto Buenaflor, vice presidents for Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, respectively; Dr. Isagani Sayo, secretary; Guillermo Narvaez, treasurer; Jose O. Desiderio, Jr. and Cesar Ocampo, consulting directors for legal and public relations affairs; and Jose Bullas, Ponciano Rivera, Jr., Francisco German, Sergio Montinola, Ramon Melencio, Amando Buhain, Amando R. de Jesus and Saturnino Abesamis, directors.

The President told the rural bankers that the government would extend all the necessary help to the rural banking system which, he said, plays an important role in economic development.

The rural bankers informed the President that they would require an initial additional capital of ₱25 million from the Agricultural Guarantee Loan Fund. They said that a ₱56 million fund provided for the rural banks from the AGLF in a bill submitted to Congress "was lost along the way to the approval of the bill."

The President expressed the hope that he would be able to talk to Congress leaders "in more sober terms" after the November elections.

Present at the oath-taking ceremony were Honesto O. Francisco and Mariano Gimenez, director and associate director, respectively, of the Central Bank Department of Rural Bank.

At past noon, the President administered the oath to Ernesto Pilares as acting vice mayor of Quezon City, vice Ismael Mathay, Jr. who resigned to run for mayor of the city.

The President was guest at the TV program "Impact" in the evening

October 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS was guest of honor and speaker at the opening of the 8th General Assembly of the Asian Broadcasting Union (ABU), held at the Malacañang Ceremonial Hall in the afternoon. Before addressing the regional gathering, the President received the delegates and observers from 56 member-countries and United Nations agencies, as well as chiefs of the diplomatic missions in the Philippines who graced the affair.

In his speech, the President reminded radio and television broadcasters of their responsibility in enlarging the consciousness of the public and giving it an idea as to its identity and direction. He said that no other medium quite parallels the reach and impact of radio on the lives of so many, adding that not even print approximates the immediacy of broadcasts methods or the speed of their transmission of news and information to their audiences.

In the Philippines, the President said, "mass media have been a strong force in keeping our citizens aware of national issues and directions, despite the diversity and fragmentation of our geography."

"In Asia," he said, "media plays an indispensable role in nation building so that it must be preeminently social in its outlooks which must be progressive."

Yoshinori Maeda, president of the Japanese Broadcasting Corporation and of the ABU, who spoke for the delegates and delivered the opening remarks, thanked the President and the Filipino people for hosting the convention. He expressed confidence on the ability of the ABU to continue promoting the interests of its member nations.

Following the opening rites, the President received the delegates at cocktails held at the Palace Reception Hall.

The President attended to urgent state papers and other state business in the morning.

Toward noon, he had an interview with Elmer Lower; president of the American Broadcasting Corporation.

Early in the afternoon, the President received the parents of two non-participant young victims of the violence that attended the Caloocan demonstration on October 5, and another wounded youth who came with his mother.

Accompanied by Mayer Macario Asistio, those who called on the President concerning the misfortune that befell their sons were Abelardo Antonio and Ernesto de Lara, Sr., whose sons died from injuries suffered during the demonstration.

The wounded victim who came with his mother was Segundino Fernando. He was still nursing wounds on both legs and came to Malacañang in crutches.

The President commiserated with the parents of the victims, and asked them to inform him of any help he could extend to them.

October 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS received callers in the morning only, and devoted the whole afternoon and early evening to paper work and other urgent state business.

Among those received by the President were officials of Chemical Bank of New York and of Sanyo, Ltd., who called at Malacañang to pay their respects following their arrival in the course of a tour of branch offices in the Far East.

The bank officials were Charles W. Carson, Jr., executive vice president and in charge of the international division and W. Donald Brown, senior vice president. They were accompanied by Paul Mayers and Charles Sherwood III, local representatives of the bank, and Ernesto Rufino. The Sanyo official was T. Kimura.

During the day, the President addressed a letter to Mrs. Benito L. Prieto extending his and the First Lady's condolence on the death of the president of the Manila Times Publishing Company.

He paid tribute to Prieto as a gentleman "devoted to life itself, who valued and enriched friendships; and who stood steadfast in his beliefs."

The President also received a Deed of Donation from a philanthropist from Barotac Nuevo, Iloilo, who offered to donate to the peace campaign in Mindanao one year's produce or income from his land in Bukidnon, which has an area of some 10 hectares.

The donor was Teodulo Padernal, who expressed in his deed of donation his desire to contribute to the peace campaign in Mindanao," initiated by the Office of the President.

October 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS summoned the heads of the government investigating agencies looking into the Plaza Miranda rally bombing incident of August 21 to clarify news reports that the arrest and detention of Antolin Oreta, brother-in-law of Senator Aquino, was a frame-up, that he was implicated by a witness who was third degree by the Manila police, and that he was not allowed to confront witnesses against him.

Summoned to Malacañang were General Manuel T. Yan, AFP chief of staff, who was accompanied by Brig. Gen. Fidel Ramos and Col. I. I. Paz; Col. Prospero Olivas, chief of the PC Criminal Investigation Service; Col. Jolly Bugarin, director of the National Bureau of Investigation; and Col. Gerardo Tamayo, chief of the Manila Police Department.

Col. Tamayo reported that immediately after the Plaza Miranda bombing, the MPD picked up a man who, when investigated, admitted having sold hand grenades to a certain person connected with an official from Central Luzon. Further investigation, he said, showed that the person who had entered allegedly into the transaction on the sale of Armalites, hand grenades, explosives and other firearms had these weapons delivered to subversive elements in Central Luzon and Laguna.

"Since this had something to do with, subversion and rebellion and is covered by Proclamation No. 889," Tamayo said, "we turned him over to the national government investigating agencies." He also said that the MPD did not employ third degree methods, but used the normal method of police interrogation and investigation.

The President told the officials to inform him of the developments because he was sometimes caught by surprise by newspaper reports, adding that "it would be to the interest of everybody if we are informed of the results of the investigation."

In a statement he issued after the conference, the President said that the government was determined to solve the bombing incident in accordance with due process and without trampling upon the civil rights of anyone.

He, however, pointed out that nobody, whether the relative of a politician or not, should be exempt from investigation if the evidence indicates that such person has committed the crime, of subversion, insurrection or rebellion.

"But", the President said, "I assure everyone, whether Liberal or Nacionalista, that fairness and justice will reign in all investigations and I shall see to it that the investigating agencies will not frame anyone or employ third degree or intimidate witnesses."

Earlier in the day, the President received callers, among whom were Don Manalo Elizalde, Jose Africa, and Mrs. Chito Serrano.

He also had a video-taping session with Bob Stewart and Leon O. Ty of Channel 7.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: October 23-28, 1971

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

October 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS met anew with Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Arturo R. Tanco, Jr. and Undersecretary Jose Drilon, Jr., concurrent chairman-general manager of the Rice and Corn Administration on the rice situation throughout the country.

To ensure continuous supply of rice in the Greater Manila area and other parts of the archipelago, the President ordered:

1. Rolling stores in Greater Manila doubled from 106 to about 200;
2. Brig. Gen. Eduardo Garcia, PC chief, to assign one PC trooper to each of the rolling stores to prevent blackmarketing and diversion of the cereal;
3. The Price Control Council to meet with major women's clubs in order to get some 200 women vigilantes from the private sector who would serve as undercover agents in public markets and report violations to the FCC;
4. The PCC to intensify surveillance of 400 miller-wholesaler bodegas throughout Manila and Central Luzon, padlock bodegas of violators, and prosecute those guilty of hoarding.
5. Secretary Drilon to investigate reports that RCA warehousemen, PNB representatives, and GAO auditors were collecting a tong of PI per bag from retailers withdrawing rice from RCA bodegas.

The President also called a meeting in Malacañang of all 3000 rice retailers in the Greater Manila area, rolling store operators in Luzon and all millers and rice merchants.

During the conference, Secretaries Tanco and Drilon reported that rice prices were down to as much as ₱2.30 and ₱2.50 in South Cotabato, Zamboanga, Negros Occidental, Iloilo and the entire Panay region, the whole of Bicol, and most of Cagayan Valley.

The President directed the Rice and Corn Administration to conduct full-scale price-support (buying) operations in places where palay prices threaten to go below the cost of production to the detriment of the farmers.

Earlier in the day, the President received well-known comedian Danny Kaye, who called at Malacañang to pay his respects following his arrival in the course of a four-week mission of goodwill to 19 countries for the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

Before leaving, Kaye promised the President that he would come back in 1972 to hold a concert for the UNICEF and a similar project of the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos.

Kaye was accompanied to Malacañang by Secretary of Social Welfare Estefania Aldaba-Lim; Paul Edwards, UN information officer in New York; Anthony E. Meager, UNICEF representative in the Philippines, and Wilfred Binns, director of the local UN information center.

On another aspect of UN activities the President announced the completion of a \$20 million "Philippine Country Programme Proposal for United Nations Development Programme Assistance" from 1972 to 1976.

In his foreword to the proposal, the President pledged the Philippine Government's support for the full implementation of the program. He also expressed pride "in the knowledge that with its submission the Philippines becomes one of the first countries to undertake country programming of UNDP assistance."

The President said "utilization of the assistance will be guided above all by the Government's keen awareness of the need to combine the highest possible rate of material growth with active promotion of social justice."

In the evening, the President motored to the DZBB-Channel 7 station in Quezon City, where he was interviewed by Leon O. Ty and Bob Stewart in their "What The People Want To Know" program.

During the question and answer session, the President lengthily discussed subjects ranging from the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus to the rice situation. The program lasted from 9 to 10 p.m.

October 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS motored to Camp Crame early in the evening in response to the request of some of the persons detained under Proclamation 889 to see him, and to find out what they wanted.

The five detainees who had signified their desire for a direct dialogue with him were Radio-TV commentator Roger Arienda, Nemesio Prudente, PCC president; Teodosio Lansang, PCC professor; and Julius Ballesteros and Bayani Alcala, PCC instructors.

The President informed the detainees of the basic charges against them, and gave them the opportunity to answer off-hand those charges. He likewise informed them of the summary examination he had ordered, wherein they could confront witnesses and produce evidence on their own behalf.

The President ordered the release of Ballesteros when he found out that evidence in the hands of government prosecutors against him was the least serious. He issued the release order on condition that Ballesteros' parents guarantee his appearance in court when required and that he would not go into hiding.

Among those present at the President's meeting with the detainees were Col. Tagumpay Nanadiego, JAGO; Col. Prospero Olivas, CIS chief; Brig. Gen. Bruno Balancio, deputy PC chief; and Lt. Col. Nicolas Camello, PC chief of staff.

The President left Camp Crame for Malacañang at 8:30 p.m.

Earlier in the day, the President was closeted most of the time in his private study attending to paper work and other urgent state business.

October 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS cleared the deck for formal inquiry into the subversion cases of persons detained under Proclamation No. 889, as amended. The inquiry was set to start Thursday.

The President transmitted to Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos a letter dated October 24, 1971 of the acting secretary of national defense reporting that there was prima facie basis for prosecuting the persons listed therein for acts of subversion.

In a memorandum to Secretary Abad Santos, the President said:

“You are to constitute a panel of investigators to be headed by Chief State Prosecutor Emilio A. Gancayco, to conduct an inquiry for the purpose of determining whether the persons listed should be brought to court or not on the basis of available evidence. The investigating panel should be guided as follows:

1. Notify the persons listed that they can be present and represented by counsel;
2. Such persons listed or their counsel shall have the right to cross-examine the witnesses against them and to adduce evidence in their defense; and
3. The hearing must be summary in nature and shall as far as practicable be terminated at the earliest possible time.

“On the basis of the findings of the panel of investigators you shall submit appropriate recommendations.”

Later in the evening, the President contacted Muslim leaders of Lanao del Norte to get their views on the situation in the province, and to ask them to cooperate by exerting their influence in the maintenance of peace and order in that province.

The President has been informed that a platoon of A Company of the 26th Infantry Battalion stationed at Magsaysay, Lanao del Norte was attacked by armed bands.

It was also reported that a reenforcement sent to Magsaysay was ambushed four kilometers before reaching the town proper, resulting in the killing of three officers and 14 enlisted men.

The President focused on desk work the whole morning and part of the afternoon.

In a message he issued earlier on the occasion of United Nations Day, the President said:

“Today 131 member nations commemorate United Nations Day.

“This is an affirmation of faith in the fact that while the United Nations may not have completely fulfilled all’ hopes for peace of our human community, majority of the world’s nations find in the United Nations a viable instrument for strengthening the foundation of international understanding, cooperation and security.

“While the United Nations remains until now a forum where, one hears all expressions of disappointment about its supposed failure to enforce peace in many sensitive and troubled areas in the world, it; also remains the same forum where hopes for a better future for mankind continue to be raised and heard by all.

“For all its deficiencies, the United Nations constitutes a sturdy framework in which international cooperation in all fields of human development may be pursued by nations large and small, with equal voice and opportunity. It is but fitting, therefore, that on this day, the Filipino people rededicate themselves to the ideals that have made the United Nations the last sanctuary of our hopes, particularly in times of instability, grave peril, or war itself.”

October 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered the Philippine Army to take over the job of maintaining peace and order in Lanao del Norte, even as he sent Brig. Gen. Rafael Ileto to the province to assess the situation. “If necessary, I will bring the army strength in the province to division level to maintain peace and order there,” the President said.

The President had been informed that four armed bands operating in the province had been identified and that operations were being conducted against them.

Because of the pressure of work, which necessitated his presence in the Palace, the President was not able to attend the Second Regional Convention of the Asian and Australia Hotel and Restaurant Association, held at the Hotel International in the morning.

He asked Tourism Commissioner Gregorio Araneta II to read for him his prepared speech for the occasion.

In the afternoon, the President had an interview with Teddy Locsin, Jr. of the Philippines Free Press. He also met briefly with Malacañang newsmen.

The President's interview with Locsin centered mostly on fiscal and economic matters, while his talks with the Malacañang newsmen focused on the entry of Red China into the United Nations and the peace and order condition in Mindanao, particularly in Lanao del Norte.

In connection with the admission of the People's Republic of China into the U.N. and the expulsion of the Republic of China (Taipei) from the world organization, the President made the following statement:

"The Philippines will continue to have fruitful and friendly relations with Nationalist China, which is recognized by 59 other states, 56 of whom are members of the United Nations. At the same time, we will now have to study in greater depth the prospects, opportunities and problems of increased contacts with the People's Republic of China.

"If Communist China accepts membership in the United Nations and enters it with a conciliatory and cooperative attitude, the prospects of solving certain vital problems before the U.N. would be greatly enhanced. International cooperation for economic and social development could likewise benefit from the contributions and experience of Communist China. Furthermore, Communist China could provide a constructive and effective leadership to the so-called third world."

October 27—

ANOTHER meeting on the rice problem and a welcome reception on the arrival of the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, from her trip abroad, highlighted the President's day which was comparatively a busy one for him.

In the morning, after a brief stint at his desk, the President met with the local officials and leaders of Cotabato on the peace and order condition in that province.

The President then repaired to the Maharlika Hall for the meeting with rice traders, millers, retailers and market vendors from Manila and the neighboring provinces on the problem of the "disappearing rice" in Manila and suburbs. Also present at the meeting were officials of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources and of the Rice and Corn Administration led by Secretary Arturo R. Tanco, Jr., and Undersecretary Jose Drilon, Jr., concurrent RCA chairman; Secretary of Commerce and Industry Troadio Quiazon, concurrent chairman of the Price Control Council (PCC); and Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes.

In the course of the conference, the President suspended temporarily the implementation of the ceiling prices fixed for commercial rice by the PCC on condition that no rice would be sold at over ₱3 per ganta.

At the same time, the President directed the RCA to maintain a regular daily injection of 21,000 cavans of rice in the Greater Manila area, which had a normal requirement of only 18,000 cavans a day.

The President ordered the suspension of the PCC price ceiling when the rice traders and millers promised that they would mill their palay flood the market with commercial rice at ₱2.80.

During the open forum, the President received numerous complaints on alleged inefficiency and red tape on the part of RCA people. The President asked the RCA management to gather all the complaints and to investigate them, and to submit a report to him.

At 3:30 p.m. the President motored to the Manila International Airport to meet the First Lady, who arrived at 4:00 p.m. from a 16-day diplomatic mission abroad, which included meetings with Prime Minister Indira Ganhi of India and President Richard Nixon of the United States and attendance on behalf of the Philippines at the 2,500th foundation anniversary celebration of the Persian empire.

While in the United States, Mrs. Marcos also attended the inauguration of new wing of the Institute of Arts of the University of Michigan. Among the welcomers were some members of the Cabinet, diplomatic corps and Congress, and their ladies.

Back in Malacañang at 5 p.m., the President sat down with some local officials from northern Luzon, who discussed matters affecting their respective constituencies.

In the evening, the President was guest at the “Straight from the Shoulder” television program of Evening News columnist Luis Beltran. The TV interview was broadcast from the Malacañang Music Room.

October 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a long list of callers, notable among whom were Senator Arturo Tolentino and Rep. Ali Dimaporo, with whom he conferred privately; top officials of the First National City Bank of New York; and officials of labor unions of government corporations.

Later in the day, the President received a group of mayors from Pampanga, led by Gov. Francisco Nepomuceno. The meeting was also held privately.

Throughout the day congressmen and governors were received by the President. Among them were Reps. Constantino Navarro of Surigao del Norte, Jose Puyat, Jr. of Surigao del Sur, and Marcelino Veloso of Leyte; Governors Julian Pacificador of Antique, Gualberto Lumauig of Ifugao, and Recaredo Castillo of Surigao del Sur.

The FNCB officials who called on the President to pay their respects were Walter B. Wriston, chairman and chief executive; William J. Spencer, president; and Samuel Eastabrook, vice president. They flew into town for a joint meeting here of the FNCB board of directors and trustees, the first to be held outside the U.S. mainland.

They were accompanied to Malacañang by Central Bank Governor Gregorio S. Licaros and Ramon Orosa, FNCB resident vice president.

The delegation of the Confederation of Unions in Government Corporations (CUGCO) was led by Antonio Ancheta of the Government Service Insurance System.

The union officials assured the President that they were not planning to strike as reported in the newspapers but that they merely wanted to take their problems to the President and enlist his assistance in solving them.

Ancheta and his group said they were protesting the issuance of a circular by OEC Administrator Eduardo Rodriguez requiring managements of government corporations to first consult him before entering into agreements with the unions.

The President directed Secretary of Labor Adrian Cristobal and Administrator Rodriguez to sit down with the CUGCO officials and chart the way toward the preservation of industrial peace in government corporations.

The President continued to see visitors throughout the day whenever he was not busy with other state problems.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: October 29 - November 4, 1971

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

October 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a crowded morning schedule, topped by conferences with officials on certain projects of the government, and with political leaders on the November 8 elections.

The President started the day with a meeting with SSS Administrator Gilberto Teodoro and GSIS Chairman-General Manager Roman Cruz, Jr. on the government's housing projects.

This was followed by private conferences with Senator Jose J. Roy, acting Nacionalista Party president, and Sen. Arturo Tolentino; and later with NP senatorial candidates Ernesto Maceda, Blas F. Ople, Alejandro Almendras, Tito Primicias and Leonila Garcia.

Also received by the President were Reps. Fermin Caram of Iloilo Constantino Navarro of Surigao del Norte, Lamberto Macias and Jose Pro. Teves of Negros Oriental, who discussed local problems with him.

The President finished receiving callers at past 2 p.m. After a belated lunch, the President took a brief rest and then attended to paper work the rest of the afternoon.

He directed Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. to issue a proclamation declaring November 1 a special public holiday, and a memorandum order creating a committee to take charge of the reception, as well as the funeral arrangements and interment of the late Col. Jesus Villamor hero of World War II.

The President declared November 1 a special public holiday to give the people full opportunity to observe All Saints' Day with the proper religious spirit.

In his order creating the committee to handle funeral arrangements and interment of Col. Villamor, the President noted that the hero "demonstrated the highest tradition of Filipino valor and patriotism when he single-handedly opposed the Japanese "zeros" at the outbreak of the Pacific War in 1941."

The President said it is fitting that a proper reception be given his remains and funeral arrangements be accorded Col. Villamor, "in grateful recognition of his indomitable courage and willingness to offer his life that all of us may live in peace and freedom."

The President named Brig. Gen. Jesus Z. Singson, PAF commanding general, as chairman of the committee, with CAA Director Epifanio Raymundo as vice chairman, and the following as members: Col. Agustin Marking; a representative of the US Armed Forces; Judge Florencio Villamor, representing the hero's family; and Col. Miguel Villamor of the AFP.

In the evening, the President and the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, tendered a dinner at the Maharlika Hall in honor of the visiting directors and trustees of the First National City Bank of New York, during which he conferred the Golden Heart Presidential Award on FNCB chairman Walter B. Wriston.

Wriston was cited for his outstanding services to the country through the "determined application of the progressive policies which have made the institution he heads not only an international company but a real and productive part of the development of nations."

Present at the conferment ceremony, held at the Maharlika Hall, were FNCB officials, heads of government financing institutions, representatives of the Bankers Association of the Philippines and the Senate and House committees on banking.

October 30—

PRESIDENT MARCOS held a confrontation meeting with military top brass and civic authorities of Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur and convinced them that the only way to end violence in the two provinces was by cooperating with one another.

With the approval of other top officials, and civic and religious leaders from the two provinces, the President forged an agreement for the solution of the peace and order problem obtaining there.

The President warned that should the formula fail, it was “my intention to organize a special unit to operate in Lanao del Norte immediately after the elections, with the active participation of Muslims, especially in local governments.”

After the two-and-a-half hour conference, during which both sides expressed mutual recriminations and blamed each other for the outbreak of violence, the President ordered:

1. The establishment of a liaison group to clarify any misunderstanding between the two groups for the apprehension and arrest of all outlaws, whether Muslims or Christians.
2. The assignment of Muslim officers in joint commands with Christian officers in the PC command in Lanao del Norte.
3. The withdrawal of any troops not belonging to the regular PC unit from the province of Lanao del Sur.
4. The release of ₱100,000 for the relief and assistance to be extended to evacuees from Lanao del Norte and had gone to Lanao del Sur.
5. The study of the need to postpone elections in Lanao del Norte where it was reported that there are many ghost towns.

The President also announced that he was offering rewards for the capture, or for information leading to the capture of leaders or members of outlaw bands, or of the surrender of firearms:

He asked Rep. Ali Dimaporo, Brig. Gen. Mamarinta Lao ret. and Vice Gov. Malamit Umpa to meet immediately with Undersecretary of National Defense Efren I. Plana, Gen. Manuel T. Yan, AFP chief of staff, Brig. Gen. Rafael Iletto, PA commander, to work out a joint operations plan.

This joint operations plan would be carried out jointly by the military and the Muslim communities against all outlaws, with the Ilagas as priority targets as well as Muslim outlaws.

Among those present at the conference which ended at 2:30 p.m. were Senators Mamintal Tamano and Leonardo B. Perez, who is chairman of the Senate committee on national defense; Undersecretary Plana; Gen. Yan, Maj. Gen. Romeo Espino, vice chief of staff; Gen. Iletto, Brig. Gen. Domingo Tutaan, Cols. L. T. Penares, G. A. Pecache, C. C. Campos and I. de los Reyes; Lt. Col. M. B. Bangcola; Rep. Dimaporo, Vice Gov. Umpa, Gov. Mandangan Dimakuta, former Gov. Madki Alonto, former Rep. Amir Mindalano, Gen. Lao, Datu Asis Mindalano and Rev. Robert McKinnie of Lanao del Sur.

Earlier in the morning, the President received some callers, most of whom were mayors and barrio captains who discussed local matters with him.

The President devoted the rest of the day to other urgent matters of state and paper work.

October 31—

WITH NO scheduled callers to attend to President Marcos had; all the time for important desk work in the morning and afternoon.

The President started working on official papers at mid-morning, knocking off at 12:45 p.m. for lunch and rest. He resumed his paper work at about 3 p.m., in the course of which he signed, among others, the designation of Vicente P. Rodriguez, project director of the Bureau of the Treasury, as acting national treasurer.

Rodriguez succeeded Ubaldo Carbonell, who died on October 28 following a heart attack.

November 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS took advantage of the holiday to catch up with his paper work.

In the course of the day, the President also received briefings from some party leaders on the status of the election campaign.

November 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS received scheduled callers in the morning, among them Michael V. Stolen, outgoing vice-president of the First National City Bank of New York, on whom he conferred the Golden Heart Presidential Award.

The President conferred the award on Stolen “in recognition of his signal service to the nation during his stewardship of the FNCB of New York in which he manifested a sincere concern for the country’s development and a friendship for the Filipinos.”

Present at the award ceremony, which was held at the President’s study, were Sen. Lorenzo Teves, Central Bank Gov. Gregorio S. Licaros, Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, who read the citation, and FNCB officials led by incoming Vice President Eastabrooks and Ramon Orosa, resident vice president.

The President spent the rest of the afternoon and early evening working on piles of official papers in his private study.

November 3—

The President had another day devoted mostly to desk work and important matters of state.

The only scheduled callers received by the President were two ranking Indonesian military officers, who made a courtesy call following their arrival for a round of talks with their counterparts in the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Those who called on the President were Major Gen. Tjokropranolo and Brig. Gen. Sofjar, chairman and manager, respectively, of the Indon Union Army Foundation which looks after the welfare of veterans, their widows and orphans.

The two generals, who were accompanied to Malacañang by Ambassador Modesto Farolan, had conferred earlier with Gen. Manuel T. Yan, AFP chief of staff.

Early in the afternoon, the President flew to Pangasinan and La Union to assess the political situation with NP leaders of the two provinces. He Was back in Malacañang before sundown.

November 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS continued concentrating on desk work and important state business.

He was closeted in his private study after breakfast at 9 a.m., working on state papers and going over progress reports from the different agencies of the government.

The President followed the same work scheduled in the afternoon and early evening.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: November 5-11, 1971

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

November 5—

PRESIDENT MARCOS reviewed with defense and military officials the peace and order situation in the country.

Present at the conference were Acting Secretary of National Defense Efren I. Plana, Gen. Manuel T. Yan, AFP chief of staff; Brig. Gen. Rafael Iletto, Philippine Army commander; Brig. Gen. Jesus Z. Singson PAF commander; Brig. Gen. Eduardo M. Garcia, PC chief; Brig. Gen. Felizardo Tanabe, First PC Zone commander; and Commodore Dioscoro Papa, Flag Officer-in-command, Philippine Navy.

During the conference, the President gave the military officers guidelines to observe and follow in connection with the November 8 elections, to wit:

1. To put themselves at the disposal of the Commission on Elections, and give the COMELEC all possible support it needs to ensure a clean, orderly, peaceful elections; and
2. To prevent any disorder that may disrupt the voting.

Among other actions, the President promoted 1st Lt. Ramon P. Maddela to the rank of captain for the capture of Silvestre Mate y Abad, a Forbes Park kidnapper, less than 24 hours after the airborne escape of the latter.

Lt. Maddela was head of a team of jungle fighters of Task Force "Lawin" who tracked down and cornered Mate in Sitio Paitan, Maguisguis, Botolan, Zambales.

In promoting the PC officer, the President waived the provision of Circular No. 2 of GHQ which requires that a commissioned officer should have one year time in grade in the rank he is occupying prior to the promotion.

The President himself placed the shoulder board of a captain on Maddela in the presence of Gen. Manuel T. Yan, AFP chief of staff; Brig. Gen. Eduardo M. Garcia PC Chiefs, and Brig. Gen. Felizardo Tanabe, First PC Zone commander.

Earlier in the morning, the President received Dame Margot Fonteyn, prima ballerina, who made a courtesy call.

The President also issued a proclamation declaring Saturday, November 6, and Tuesday, November 9, special public holidays.

Under the Election Code of 1971, the day of the election has been moved from the second Tuesday to the second Monday of November of the election year.

The proclamation was issued by the President to give personnel of the government and of private firms the opportunity to return to their respective provinces and exercise their sovereign right of suffrage.

Reports received by the President during the day included one on the capture by the PC of a commander of the National People's Army operating in Northern Luzon.

Captured was one commander Abrino Aydinan, who reportedly confessed to being the head of the organization department of the NPA in Northern Luzon.

Captain Santos Tutaan of the Ifugao PC, who reported the capture to the President, described Aydinan as half Ifugao and half Tarlakeño, and 20, years old.

November 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS led the nation in paying last homage to the late war hero, Col. Jesus Villamor, who was laid to rest at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Fort Bonifacio at high noon.

The President left Malacañang at 11 a.m. and joined the funeral cortege at the gate of the Libingan at 11:30 a.m., together with other high ranking officials, representatives of the U.S. government led by Ambassador Henry Byroade, comrades in arms, close relatives and friends of the deceased.

As soon as the procession reached the burial site, the band played the Philippine National Anthem, a squadron of PAF jet fighters made a fly-by, and a PAF light plane sprayed the cortege with flowers.

The President then took the flag which had been carefully folded by the honor guard, and gave it to the tearful widow.

After the last rites, the casket was slowly lowered into the grave to the sound of muffled drums and “taps” and three volleys of musketry.

Back in Malacañang at about 12:30 p.m., the President and the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, honored at luncheon Malacañang house guest Dame Margot Fonteyn.

Among those present at the luncheon were Australian Ambassador James Charles Ingram, members of the Australian Dance Company, and heads of local dance troupes.

November 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent the day working on state papers in his private study and keeping tab of the overall situation in the country, it —being eye of election day.

Throughout the day, the President received reports from leaders from North to South, who assured him that they were doing everything to insure clean and orderly elections, in cooperation with the Commission on Elections and other instrumentalities.

In an election eve message, the President asked every Filipino to “make of record, and to sanctify with the ballot, his own choice of men and women who should . . . be entrusted with some of the powers of government.”

“I ask our people to affirm their faith in our own capacity to stand together and work united under any circumstance, and to advance the cause of peace and progress instead of violence and hate,” the President said.

November 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS left Malacañang at 8 a.m. for the Manila International Airport where he boarded a light plane for his hometown of Batac to vote.

As in previous years, the President cast his vote at the town’s Precinct No. 11-A, located in a small industrial shop of the Batac Central Elementary School, across the street from the Marcos’ residence.

He was assigned Ballot No. 3777 and was the 72nd elector to cast his vote, out of a total 154 voters registered in the precinct.

Interviewed by media men upon emerging from the polling place, the President said that every election, especially after being elected to public office, he had taken every available means of transportation to reach his hometown, regardless of where he happened to be at the time.

He said he would like to hold it as a symbol for the Filipino people to appreciate the value of the right to vote.

Landing at the Gabu airport in Laoag at 9:35 a.m. aboard a light "Kingaire" plane, the President was met by local leaders headed by Gov. Elizabeth Marcos-Keon, Reps. Roque Ablan, Jr. and Simeon Valdez, Laoag City Mayor Eulalio Siazon and Mayor Feliciano Asuncion of Batac.

From the airport, the President motored direct to Batac, some 17 kilometers away, and upon arrival, he first dropped at the town church to offer a brief prayer, a ritual he had followed for years before proceeding to the nearby schoolhouse to vote.

The President was in the polling place for 10 minutes. With him was his mother, Mrs. Josefa Edralin-Marcos, who was assigned the next ballot, No. 3778. The President was listed down as No. 13 in the voters' registry and his mother No. 14.

The President was back in Malacañang at 2 p.m. After a belated lunch, the President rested briefly and then worked on official papers in his private study.

Toward evening, the President followed the trend of voting as reported by various television election programs.

November 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS conferred with United States Secretary of Treasury John B. Connally who called at Malacañang during a brief stopover in Manila enroute from Indonesia to Japan.

Following his two-hour meeting with the visiting U.S. secretary, the President said he had been assured by Secretary Connally that:

1. The United States had no intention of abandoning Taiwan;
2. Economic relations between the Philippines and the United States will continue to be for mutual advantage;
3. Philippine quota exports are exempted from the surcharge;
4. American aid to developing countries would continue; and
5. The United States would keep her presence in Southeast Asia as long as the peoples of Southeast Asia want her to.

Secretary Connally explained that President Nixon's projected visit to Peking was intended to prevent any miscalculation on the part, of the two big powers which might end in war and to ease the tension in Asia arising out of the confrontation between the United States and China.

Secretary Connally assured the President that economic relations between the Philippines and the United States would continue to their mutual advantage, pointing out that the Philippines was given a special and additional privilege in the matter of the 10 per cent surcharge on all U.S. imports.

The U.S. Treasury Secretary and his party arrived in Malacañang at 2:20 p.m. and were received by President and Mrs. Marcos.

While Secretary Connally was having a conference with the President and his fiscal advisers, Mrs. Connally and the other ladies in her party were received by the First Lady at the Music Room.

Present at the conference were Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., PES Director-General Apolinario Orosa, NEC Chairman Gerardo Sicat, BOI Chairman Vicente Paterno and Central Bank Governor Gregorio S. Licaros;

U.S. Ambassador Henry Byroade, Deputy Assistant Secretaries of State William H. Sullivan and Herman Barger, Director of Bilateral Assistance Edgar Gordon, Minister William C. Hamilton, AID Director Thomas C. Niblock and Economic Counsellor Terrell E. Arnold.

After the conference, the President and the First Lady entertained the visiting U.S. officials at merienda.

Secretary Connally and his party left Malacañang at past 4:30 p.m. after bidding goodbye to the President and the First Lady.

The President attended to state papers and other urgent state matters the rest of the afternoon and early evening.

November 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS worked on official papers almost the whole morning and afternoon.

At 5:30 p.m., the President held a press conference at the State Dining Hall, during which he called for unity and cooperation from all sectors.

In his opening statement, the President also expressed satisfaction over the “exemplary conduct of our people in the elections of the 8th” which, he said, was a tribute to the capability of the Filipino people.

“It is an achievement of everyone, not just of any particular party or any group of men or any office or agency in government,” but of the entire Filipino people, he said.

The trend of the unofficial tallies at the time indicated that a majority of the new senators belong to the Opposition party, while on the local front about two-thirds to 70 per cent of all the local leaders or executives belong to the Nacionalista Party.

“My reading of the results of the elections,” the President said, “is to the effect that while the Constitution and our laws and traditions demand that I assume responsibility for decisions, policies, and their implementation for and on behalf of the party that is in power, because the Nacionalista Party still controls the majority in both chambers of Congress, the House of Representatives and the Senate, it is now-necessary that I consult every sector of our society, especially the political opposition. I hereby announce that I invite all the presidents of all political parties, including of course the Liberal Party, to accept the membership in all the various councils, especially in the Security Council, in the Foreign Policy Council, in the Council of Leaders, in the Development Council, and various other groups which I shall indicate in detail later on.”

Following the one-hour press conference, the President resumed his paper work.

November 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had another day devoted almost exclusively to desk work.

He was closeted in his private study from 9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., and then from 2:20 p.m. till way past 5 p.m., when he took a breather for a round of golf at the Malacañang Park.

In the course of his afternoon paper work, the President addressed a letter to Acting Secretary of National Defense Efren I. Plana, commending the ROTC cadets for their splendid performance during the November 8 elections.

He hailed the ROTC cadets, including the women's auxiliary, as "exemplary young people, highly aware of their responsibility and obligation to our country."

The President said that their high ideals, splendid incorruptibility and courage did much to inspire in turn most of the people, who voted with calmness and prudence.

"I daresay their presence at the polling place in many parts of our country served both to reassure our people and to compel them to carry out their own obligation with continence and self-confidence," he said.

In saluting the ROTC cadets, the President also thanked all of those "who did their work well," adding that "they shine as fine examples of our youth."

The President asked Secretary Plana to convey his message to all concerned.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: November 12-25, 1971

President's Week in Review: November 26 - December 2, 1971

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

November 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS presented to the Philippine Marine Battalion the Presidential Unit Citation Badge of the Republic of the Philippines for outstanding service and exceptional gallantry and fidelity.

The Philippine Marine Battalion was cited for:

1. Outstanding participation in operations against dissidents in Luzon and pirates and outlaws in the Visayas and Mindanao;
2. Sincere participation in the government's socio-economic program;
3. High sense of courage and steadfast devotion to duty; and
4. Consistent manifestation of loyalty to the government.

The citation added that because of the firm conviction of the members of the unit in the tightness of their missions, they were able to discharge their tasks with courage and integrity, whenever called upon to undertake hazardous missions.

The unit was also lauded for its integrity and fidelity to duty when it helped police the polls, and participated in the socio-economic program, thus contributing in bringing the government closer to the people.

In presenting the citation, the President said that the Philippine Marine battalion had demonstrated the capability not only of the entire organization but of the individual officers and men, and therefore can be considered as a model for all the units in the entire armed forces.

The President personally pinned the citation badge on Capt. Rodiardo Brown, the unit commanding officer, while the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, placed the citation ribbon on the battalion colors.

Among those present at the Malacañang ceremony were Commodore Dioscoro E. Papa, PN flag-officer-in-command, and Commodore Gregorio Lira, Philippine Military Academy commandant and former commander of the Philippine Marines.

After the award ceremonies, the President received a few callers, and then repaired to his private study to work on state papers, in the course of which he:

- 1) Signed the designation of Social Security Commissioner Israel Bocobo as acting Undersecretary of Labor.

Commissioner Bocobo fills the post vacated by incumbent Secretary of Labor Adrian E. Cristobal.

- 2) Appointed five more Liberal Party nominees to vacancies in provincial boards and city councils, in accordance with the decentralization law.

The appointees replaced LP provincial board members and city councilors, who had resigned to run for other elective positions.

Named to provincial boards were Nicholas Baggao (Isabela) and Gregorio Awisan (Mt. Province), while Isidro Rubio (Pagadian City), Conrado Bueno (Baguio City), and Jose Buñi (Roxas City), were appointed city councilors.

November 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, after consultations with the Foreign Policy Council at a meeting in Malacañang in the morning, authorized Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo to sign the declaration of the foreign ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) at Kuala Lumpur on the neutralization of Southeast Asia.

The declaration, which was signed by the five foreign ministers of ASEAN at 11:30 a.m. in Kuala Lumpur, would be ratified by the respective heads of government of the member-countries of ASEAN.

At the same time, the President created a committee that would take charge of preparations for the summit conference scheduled to be held in Manila about the middle of March 1972. Named to compose the committee were the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, as chairman, and the Department of Foreign Affairs, as secretariat, and the following as members:

Chairman Vicente Paterno of the Board of Investments, for economic matters; the chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, on military matters; Senator Gerardo Roxas or his representative, the chairmen of the committees on foreign relations of both Houses of Congress or their representatives, the President of the Constitutional Convention or his representative, and all heads of the political parties or their representatives.

Present at the meeting were Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs Manuel Collantes, Secretary of National Defense Efren I. Plana, Undersecretary of Commerce Eliseo Villamor, Undersecretary of Justice Estelito Mendoza, Undersecretary of Finance Alfredo Pio de Roda, PES Director-General Apolinario Orosa, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, BOI Chairman Vicente Paterno, Press Secretary Francisco S. Tatad;

Senators Gerardo M. Roxas, Emmanuel Pelaez and Lorenzo M. Tañada, former Secretaries of Foreign Affairs Narciso Ramos and Felino Neri, Hans Menzi of the *Manila Daily Bulletin*, Sebastian Ugarte and Manuel Abad Gaerlan of the *Philippines Herald*; Eddie Monteclaro of the *Manila Times*, Emilio Aguilar Cruz of the *Daily Mirror*, J. Amado Araneta of the *Weekly Nation*, Leon O. Ty of the *Examiner*, Gregorio Brillantes of the *The Leader*, Andrew Velasco Go of the *Daily Star* and Neal H. Cruz of *PACE Magazine*.

Gen. Manuel T. Yan, AFP chief of staff; Brig. Gen. Ernesto Singson, PAF chief; Commodore Dioscoro E. Papa, PN flag-officer-in-command; Brig. Gen. Felizardo Tanabe, acting PC chief; and Brig. Gen. Teodorico Almuete, PA Second Brigade commander, acted as resource persons.

In the course of his desk work in the afternoon, the President signed the designations of six labor officials to top posts in several bureaus and offices of the Department of Labor.

Appointed were Rachel E. Fidelino, as acting chairman of the Wage Commission; Edmundo T. Cabal, as acting director of the Bureau of Labor Relations; Cleto T. Villatuya, as acting associate commissioner of the Wage Commission; Diego P. Atienza, as acting director of the Bureau of Labor Standards; Eugenio I. Sagmit, Jr., as acting associate commissioner of the Workmen's Compensation Commission; and Angelita Alberto-Gacutan, as acting associate commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Standards.

November 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS followed his weekend routine schedule of desk work.

In the course of the day, the President acted on a recommendation of Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos and State Prosecutor Jesus R. de Vega for the dismissal of an assistant city fiscal of Manila.

He issued an administrative order dismissing Assistant City Fiscal Salvador M. Gaa for grave misconduct in office and conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service.

Secretary Abad Santos and Prosecutor De Vega found that the respondent fiscal had acted with “questionable bias and partiality” and recommended his removal from office “with prejudice to Reinstatement in any branch of the government.”

The President also named five more nominees of the Liberal Party to seats in three municipal boards left vacant by LP city councilors who had resigned to run for other elective positions.

Appointed by the President in accordance with the Decentralization Law and on recommendation of Sen. Gerardo M. Roxas, LP president, were Drs. Feliciano Vergara and Marius Abesamis, as members of the municipal board of Cabanatuan City; Vittorio Arnaldo and Ricardo Dorado, as members of the municipal board of Roxas City; and Eduardo Cartagena, as member of the city council of Basilan.

November 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS received at breakfast General Robert Partridge (ret.), general manager of the National Rural Electrification Cooperatives Association (NRECA) of the United States, who arrived in the course of an inspection tour of NRECA-assisted countries.

During the call at Malacañang in the morning, the President underscored the crucial role of cooperatives in economic development, especially to a country with limited resources like the Philippines.

Gen. Partridge, in turn, assured the President that the NRECA would continue extending all-out support to the government’s rural electrification program designed to provide electric power and light up the outlying areas of the country.

Also present during the call were Col. Pedro Dumol of the National Electrification Administration, William Wenner, head of the NRECA team in the Philippines; Philips Parker, William Robert and Philips Costas, team members; Thomas Venables, coordinator, international programming division of the US-AID; and Terry Arnold, counselor for economic affairs of the U.S. embassy.

Toward noon, the President conferred with his top fiscal advisers on the government’s housing program for low-income employees.

The President instructed his advisers to map up ways by which small wage earners may be provided with adequate low-cost housing.

While engaged in desk work, the President signed an administrative order creating a special committee that would take charge of all arrangements in connection with the commemoration of Rizal Day on December 30.

He also ordered Secretary Estrella to set down the integrated targets of land reform, particularly on loans to small leaseholders, the acquisition of lands for subdivision and lease, and the opening of settlement projects.

The President received several callers up to 1 p.m., most of whom were local officials. He worked on state papers most of the afternoon.

In the evening, the President swore into office Social Security Commissioner Israel Bocobo as acting undersecretary of labor.

Present at the oath-taking held at the Malacañang Reception Hall were officials of the Department of Labor headed by Secretary Adrian E. Cristobal and Undersecretary Amado G. Inciong, close friends and relatives of the inductee

led by his wife, and labor leaders, including Cipriano Cid of the PAFLU, Johnny Tan of the Federation of Free Workers, Themistocles Dejon of the Pinagbuklod na Manggagawang Pilipino-MPTUC, and Wage Commissioner Gerry Quadra.

December 2—

AMONG the first visitors to Malacañang was Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, who arrived from the ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting held in Kuala Lumpur from November 25–27.

Secretary Romulo submitted to the President a comprehensive report on the meeting which discussed the subject of neutralization of Southeast Asia and agreed to hold an ASEAN summit conference in Manila on or about the middle of March 1972.

On the basis of the secretary's report, the President expressed the belief that the ASEAN should undertake all initiatives to form a firm and lasting foundation for regional responsibility for the security and development of the region.

Shortly after the call of Secretary Romulo, the President received U. S. Ambassador Henry Byroade, with whom the President discussed matters of mutual interest to the Philippine and United States governments.

The President asked the U. S. government, through the ambassador, to support, as a further extension of the Nixon doctrine, the initiatives taken by the Southeast Asian countries for regional action and responsibility for security and development.

The Nixon doctrine promulgated in Honolulu envisaged a progressive assumption by the Asian countries of the responsibility for their own security.

Accordingly, the President has asked that negotiations on the Philippine-US military bases agreement be finalized and the respective negotiating panels set a date for the termination of such negotiations.

Also notable among the early morning callers was the group of 40 delegates of the 15 countries participating in the one-week Sixth Asian Electronics Conference.

The President told the group that the conference could help maintain peace and amity among nations by establishing strong ties through wider communications inter-linking the Asian nations.

The delegates, who were accompanied to Malacañang by Dr. Wigberto Clavecilla, head of the Clavecilla Radio Network, were headed by their respective chief delegates, namely:

L. M. Harris of Australia, Minister Hien-chu Fang of the Republic of China, V. Rajayanogama of Ceylon, J. San Agustin of Guam, M. G. K. Menon of India, Nayer Nouri of Iran, General Soelharjono of Indonesia, Minister Mokomoto of Japan, Mr. Oh of Korea, Mohammad Hassan of Malaysia, Brig. Gen. Godofredo Carreon of the Philippines, Tadao Inami of the Ryukyus, Sutjon Sattabuysa of Thailand and Pham Hun Hief of Vietnam.

Just before noon, the President saw Dr. Paterno Millare, mayor-elect of Bangued, Abra, who requested assistance in securing an SSS loan for a modern market for the town, to replace their obsolete market; and to request national government help in rehabilitating the town's water system.

From noontime to about 2 p.m., the President continued to receive callers, among them:

1. Governor-elect Lino Bocalan and Vice Governor-elect Dominador Camerino of Cavite, who came with Sen. Helena Benitez. They discussed the projected development of Sangley Point to make it productive for the people of the province.

The President, on his part, appealed to the new Cavite officials productive for the people of the province.

2. Sen. Mamintal Tamano, National Integration Commissioner Mama Sinsuat, and Cotabato Governor-elect Carlos Cajelo. Again the President focused on the restoration of peace and order in the region. Sen. Tamano indicated that he and Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez were working to bring together the leaders of Mindanao and Sulu and forge a united effort to make a hard and fast peace in the region.

3. Speaker Protempore Jose Aldeguer, Reps. Fernando Veloso of Samar, Lamberto Marias of Negros Oriental, Pablo Malasarte of Bohol, Antonio Villar of Pangasinan, Antonio Diaz of Zambales, Teodulo Natividad of Bulacan, Pedro Medalla of Mindoro Occidental, and Jose Neri of Camiguin.

With the group were Governor-elect Aguedo Agbayani of Pangasinan, Gualberto Lumauig of Ifugao, Jaime Gomes of Mt. Province, Jose Roño of Western Samar, and other provincial officials, who discussed local problems with the President.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: December 3-9, 1971

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

December 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS as usual had a busy day of callers and desk work, not to mention conferences and special concerns.

The President first received Takahiro Yamauchi, president of the Daiwa Securities of Tokyo, who paid a courtesy call. Yamauchi arrived on a business survey.

Then he met with representatives of the Cement Association of the Philippines, led by A. Diokno, president, on the problems of the industry.

During the meeting, the President took steps to help the cement industry and at the same time to protect the government's investment in the industry. He directed:

1. The Presidential Economic Staff to review the cost studies submitted by the various cement manufacturers and determine the merits of their petition for an increased price ceiling, and to submit its recommendations so he could confer with Acting-Secretary of Commerce and Industry Troadio T. Quiazon, Jr., concurrent chairman of the Price Control Council.

2. Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. to meet with Chairman Leonides S. Virata of the DBP, which has large investments in the industry, and representatives of the Cement Association, with the view to authorizing the DBP to regulate the production, sale and/or exportation of cement.

The President, at the same time, assured the group that the government would do everything to save the industry while also protecting DBP loans extended to the industry.

He also asked PES Director-General Apolinario Oroso to prepare a memorandum study on the Free Trade Zone (FTZ) in order to speed up its completion.

The President expressed concern over the slow pace of development in the FTZ, even as he stressed that it should not be engaged by lack of funding because it is tied to the government policy[^] of creating a strong export trade.

Others received by the President included:

1. NBI Director Jolly Bugarin, who reported on his trip to Canberra where he attended an international conference on illegal drugs; and

2. Rep. Indanan Anni, who came with former Gov. Arzad Salih. They took up the unstable peace and order situation in Mindanao with the President.

The President received visitors up to early afternoon, but devoted the rest of the day to his desk work.

December 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS presided over the initial meeting in the morning of the reinvigorated Development Council.

During the meeting, the body decided to continue with the program of a balanced agro-industrial economy so that agriculture could be given emphasis in financing and in the employment of the country's limited resources.

The advisory body, which took up the updated four-year development plan and various sectoral plans for the period from 1972 to 1975, was briefed by NEC Chairman Gerardo Sicat on the overview of the four-year development program.

Under the updated plan, the country is divided into ten regions with specific objectives and targets for development for each particular region.

The body decided to continue with the program of a balanced agro-industrial economy so that agriculture could be given emphasis in financing and in the employment of the country's limited resources.

The Council also took up the rural employment program, which includes the whole gamut of agricultural activity like cattle dispersal, fisheries, backyard poultry, piggery, large scale farming through cooperatives, and others.

The Council, aside from Chairman Sicat's briefing, was also oriented by Joselito Gallardo of the Presidential Economic Staff on the fiscal and stabilization program; Roberto Fronda of the National Food and Agriculture Council on the need for nutrition; Chairman Vicente Paterno of the Board of Investments on the rural employment program; Sen. Helena Z. Benitez, SSS Administrator Gilberto Teodoro and GSIS General Manager Roman Cruz, Jr. on housing; and Rep. Ali Dimaporo and Constitutional Convention Delegate Francisco Abalos on peace and order.

Aside from its regular members, the meeting was also attended by local government officials, members of Congress and the Constitutional Convention, whom the President invited. They were asked by the President to go over the sectoral development plans pertaining to their respective regions and to submit their recommendations.

Present at the conference were Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal, Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez, Rep. Lorenzo Sarmiento of Davao; Delegates Benjamin Campomanes, Julian Locsin, Artemio Lobrin, Domingo Guevarra, Honesto Mendoza, Celso Gangan, Lamberto Mardeno, Miguel Matsura, William Claver, Floro Bugnosen, Infante Calaycay, Fanny Cortez-Garcia of the Constitutional Convention;

Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Secretaries Cesar E. A. Virata of Finance, Juan L. Manuel of Education, Efren I. Plana of National Defense, Amadeo H. Cruz of Health, David Consunji of Public Works and Communications, Estefania Aldaba-Lim of Social Welfare, Constancio E. Castañeda of General Services, Conrado F. Estrella of Agrarian Reform; Administrator Eduardo Rodriguez of the Office of Economic Coordination; Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco;

PES Director-General Apolinario Orosa, Central Bank Gov. Gregorio S. Licaros, DBF Chairman Leonides S. Virata, PNB President Eusebio Villatuya, National Power Corporation Chairman Ramon Ravanzo, Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, Undersecretary of Commerce Eliseo Villamor, Press Secretary Francisco S. Tatad, Angel Yoingco of the Tax Commission;

Governors Vicente Alberto of Catanduanes, Lino Chatto of Bohol, Teresita Dupaya of Cagayan, Virgilio Lacaya of Zamboanga del Norte, Murphy Sangkula of Sulu and Jose Sering of Surigao del Norte;

Julio Francia of the Chamber of Industries, Miguel Arambulo of the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Yao Shiong Shio of the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce, Jose Fernandez of the Bankers Association of the Philippines, Lorenzo Mariano of the Rural Bankers Association, Jose Ma. Soriano of Atlas Mining and Development, Antonio Infante of the Business for Social Progress, Greg Timbol of the Chamber of Small Industries, Cesar Zalamea of the Monetary Board, Manolo Elizalde, Francisco Cristobal of the Federation of Free Workers, Cipriano Cid of the Philippine Association of Free Labor Unions, and Themistocles Dejon of the Pinagbuklod Na Mga Manggagawa ng Pilipinas.

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a day free of the usual callers but buckled down to desk work and other important state business.

Among other actions, he issued an administrative order amending the composition and functions of the Telecommunications Development Board, as follows:

The Secretary of Public Works and Communications, as chairman; the representative of the National Economic Council, as vice chairman; and the representative of the Public Service Commission; the Director of Telecommunications; the chief, Communications-Electronics of the AFP; representative of the Philippine Domestic Carrier; representative of the Philippine International Carrier; an official of the Philippine Chamber of Communications, Inc.; and a representative of the Radio and Television Broadcasting Association, as members.

The board was empowered to:

1. Study and plan the integration of the existing facilities and development program of the public and private sectors operating telecommunication services thereby insuring an orderly and economic development of the country;
2. Advise the Public Service Commission on effective rules and regulations on technical and operational standards conforming to Consultative Committees on International Telecommunications' recommendations for proper coordination of services in accordance with Section 13 and 16(b) of the Public Service Act.
3. Extend technical assistance and advice to government banking institutions in assessing technical aspects of loan applications for telecommunication services development to ensure the economic usage of funds granted and to avoid duplication of service facilities;
4. Maintain a complete record of technical facilities and equipment in the Philippines and of traffic data for national and international services;
5. Undertake such other duties as required by the President; and
6. Submit recommendations on matters of national importance pertaining to decisions of the board, as well as semi-annual reports to the President.

December 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS met with the officials concerned on the implementation of government projects, among them the Foreign Trade Zone, and on ways of speeding up their completion.

Present at the conference were Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., PES Director-General Apolinario Orosa, DBP Chairman Leonides Virata, OEC Administrator Eduardo Rodriguez, REPACOM Chairman Anacleto Mangaser, and FTZ Commissioners Dioscoro Manrique and Eugenia Banzon Jose.

During the meeting, the President ordered:

1. That plans for the 500-hectare trade zone be immediately¹ updated and studies made on how all government departments and agencies could be mobilized to help in successfully promoting the project;
2. Administrator Rodriguez to prepare for the implementation of a Cabinet decision to dispose of the shipbuilding facilities of the NASSCO within the FTZ. The Cabinet has decided that NASSCO facilities in the zone be leased or sold to the private sector on condition that a shipbuilding complex be set up in the area;

3. Director-General Orosa to submit a list of all industries that were receiving incentives but were not moving along satisfactorily;
4. The Reparations Commission to participate in the development in FTZ and other development projects;
5. The National Economic Council, the Board of Investments, the Presidential Economic Staff and the Reparations Commission to get together and undertake studies on how and where private industries and investments could be helped by the Reparations Commission;
6. That plans be drawn for the establishment of a copper smelting plant in the country; and
7. Coordination of all departments in the formulation of legislative proposals, including the proposed abolition of the Rice and Corn Administration and the setting up of rice and corn price levels.

After the conference, the President attended to a few scheduled callers, among whom were Governor-elect Carlos Cajelo of Cotabato, and Mayors Amando Laurel of Talisay, Batangas, and Lucio Gutierrez of Malabon, Rizal.

Cajelo informed the President of the need for some kind of reorganization of the military in the province. He said morale has gone down because of past incidents, indicating lack of trust in the military.

Mayors Laurel and Gutierrez apprised the President of the need of their towns for some urgent infrastructures.

At 5:30 p.m., the President motored to the studios of Channel 13 where he was guest at the “Vigilantes” TV program. The interview lasted for two hours.

December 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS received two foreign delegations which paid courtesy calls following their arrival on separate missions here.

The President also received two local delegations which came to pledge their support to the administration, particularly to the intensified tax collection drive.

The first delegation to call on the President was a group of Norwegian manpower and labor-management relations experts invited to lecture at a two-day seminar under the joint sponsorship of the International Labor Organization and the Norwegian Agency for International Development in Quezon City, December 8 and 9.

Accompanied by Labor Undersecretary Amado G. Inciong, the delegation included Campbell Balfor of the United Kingdom; Lars Bjorheim, director of the Cooperation Council of the Norwegian Federation of Trade Unions and Norwegian Employers Confederation; Harry Oevar Hansen, teacher of Norwegian Trade Unions Residential School for shop stewards; Jon Rikard Ivarson, ILO expert; Nils Johan Schjander, general manager of Norwegian Institute for Personnel Management; and B. N. Datar, ILO Asian regional officer.

The second delegation which called on the President was a Mexican commercial mission headed by Eliseo Mendoza Berrueto, undersecretary of industry and commerce. The group was accompanied by Ambassador Pablo Padilla Ramirez.

The Mexican delegation informed the President that the purpose of its visit here was not only to promote closer commercial ties between the Philippines and their country, but also to look into the possibility of entering into joint economic ventures with Filipino entrepreneurs.

The delegation also offered to supply the Philippine National Railways with rolling stocks and spare parts.

The President told the delegation that he was glad they had come all the way across the Pacific to initiate trade ties and that the common history of the Philippines and Mexico should lead to better cooperation between the two countries.

The Mexican delegation also presented the President with a replica of a Mexican sombrero preserved in silver alloy and two Mexican shirts.

Other members of the delegation were Jose Bravo, assistant director of the Bank of International Industries; Luis Bravo, assistant director of finance; Jose Terrones, president of the Chamber of Industries and Transformation; Roberto Villa, economic assistant of the Chamber of Industries; Hector Menchaca of the National Board of Science and Technology; Joaquin Gamboa of the Board of Workers; and Francisco Lopez, secretary to Berrueto.

Bishop Macario Ga of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente called to pay his respect following his elevation to the post of *Obispo Maximus* of the IFI, after the death of Bishop Isabelo de los Reyes.

As new head of the IFI, Bishop Ga pledged the support of his church and those of his followers to the policies and future undertakings of the President and the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos.

The Chamber of Cigarette Manufacturers, on its part, pledged support and cooperation, through the chamber president, Ralph Nubla of Crown Tobacco, who called at Malacañang, to the President's campaign aimed at intensifying tax collections.

December 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, following a three hour meeting with the Foreign Policy Council that started at mid-morning, announced that the Philippines would adhere to a policy of "strict neutrality" in the India-Pakistan conflict.

The Council discussions centered on the conflict resulting in the Philippine position which, the President said, was "in accordance with our traditional position that we would like to stay clear of any hostilities and with the Constitutional mandate in which we renounce war as an instrument of national policy."

The conference also took up, among others, the proclamation of a state of emergency in South Korea and Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo's report on the recent conference of ASEAN foreign ministers in Kuala Lumpur. Secretary Romulo reported on the national emergency in Korea and on the latest development in the Thailand change of government.

Present at the Council meeting, held at the Malacañang State Dining Room, were Senate President Gil J. Puyat, Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal, former President of the Republic and Constitutional Convention President Diosdado Macapagal, Senators Lorenzo M. Tañada, Gerardo M. Roxas and Emmanuel Pelaez;

Speaker Protempore Jose Aldeguer, House Majority Floor Leader Marcelino Veloso, Rep. Nicanor Yñiguez; Secretaries Cesar E. A. Virata of Finance, Efren I. Plana of National Defense, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr.; Press Secretary Francisco S. Tatad; Chairman Vicente Paterno of the Board of Investments;

Undersecretaries Jose D. Ingles and Manuel Collantes of Foreign Affairs, and Estelito Mendoza of Justice; Ambassador Vicente Singian and Minister Armando Manalo of the Department of Foreign Affairs; former Secretaries of Foreign Affairs Raul S. Manglapus, Felino Neri, Narciso Ramos and Salvador P. Lopez; Sebastian Ugarte of the *Philippines Herald*, Hans Menzi of the *Manila Daily Bulletin*, Joaquin P. Roces and Eddie Monteclaro of the *Manila Times*, Neal H. Cruz of *PACEMagazine*, Manuel Benitez of the *Daily Star*, Luis Mauricio of the *Graphic*, Benjamin Campomanes of Manila Rotary Club and Miguel Arambulo of the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines.

Before presiding over the Council meeting, the President presented certificates of appreciation to four American heart specialists as an official recognition of their contribution to furthering knowledge of cardiovascular diseases. Awarded certificates of appreciation in the presence of their wives were:

1. Dr Forrest Adams, president of the American College of Cardiology (AGC) and professor of pediatric cardiology, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA);
2. Dr. Eliot Corday, ACC past president and clinical professor of medicine, UCLA;
3. Dr. William Likoff, ACC past president and clinical professor of medicine, Hahnemann University, Philadelphia; and
4. Dr. C. Walton Lillehei, ACC past president and professor in surgery, Cornell University, New York.

In presenting the awards, the President conveyed the appreciation and gratitude of the Filipino people for the assistance given them by the members of the American College of Cardiology, who concluded their 25th course which benefited some 1,200 Filipino doctors.

Dr. Mariano Alimurung of the University of Santo Tomas, Filipino governor of the American College of Cardiology, also received a certificate of appreciation for outstanding service as physician and surgeon, and for his positive leadership in the field of medicine.

Among those present at the presentation ceremony were Drs. Maria Grajo, Helen Abundo and Fr. Gabriel Pastrana, regent of the UST College of Medicine.

After the ceremony, the President conferred with some 25 delegates from Mindanao and Sulu to the Constitutional Convention in an effort to speed up the restoration of peace and order in that area.

After hearing the report and recommendations of the MINSUPALA delegates, through Delegate Roseller T. Lim, the President said that the basic problem still was the establishment of some kind of sanity in the area disturbed by outlaw bands.

He turned over the report and recommendations to the Presidential Economic Council and requested the delegates to consult with that office on the long range plan of developing Mindanao.

During the conference, the President also reiterated his proposal to establish security hamlets or villages where Muslim and Christian settlers could take refuge in case of attack and avail of the protection of the military and civil defense units.

Present at the conference were Delegates Sergio Toca, Antonio Velasco, Mike Matsura, Sandiale Sambolawan, Midpantao Adil and Anacleto Badoy, and Datu Duma Sinsuat of Cotabato; Maria Clara Lobregat, Roseller T. Lim, Antonio Geniza and Ramon Blancia of Zamboanga del Sur; Mariano Badelles and Francisco Abalos of Lanao del Norte; Eri-berto B. Misa, Fanny C. Garcia of Surigao; Antonio Olmedo of Davao Oriental; Jesus Matas of Davao del Sur; Lamberto Mordeno of Agusan del Sur; Edelmiro Amante of Agusan del Norte; Fidel Purisima of South Cotabato; Augusto Saguin and Adolfo Azcuna of Zamboanga del Norte; Tating Sangkula of Sulu; Alfredo Lagawon of Bukidnon; Pedro Romualdo of Camiguin ; and Julio Ozamis of Misamis Occidental.

December 9—

It was another crowded day for President Marcos in the way of visitors. Among the notable callers was a group composed of fellows of the White House, Washington, D.C., who arrived in Manila in the course of an Asian tour to learn first-hand about conditions in this part of the world.

Those who called on the President were Lt. Col. Richard E. Stephenson, U.S. Army; Majors Rober A. Day of the Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army; and John S. Grinald and Robert C. McFarlane of the U.S. Marine Corps; Glen R. Kendall of Dartmouth College; John M. Maurice of Boise Cascade Corporation; Brandon W. Cweitzer of McKinsey and Company, and Arthur E. Dewey, director of the Presidential Commission on White House Fellows. They were accompanied by John David Forbes, second secretary of the United States Embassy in Manila.

A visiting Italian official, Luigo Martelli, turned over to the President a donation of \$10,000 from his government, to help the victims of Typhoon Yoling.

The President had two conferences, one behind closed doors with Speaker Protempore Jose Aldeguer, and the other with Customs Commissioner Rolando Geotina who reported that customs collections have again scaled upward.

The President also received several delegations, among them:

1. A group of incoming provincial officials of Quirino province, along with Senator Leonardo Perez and Rep. Benjamin Perez, who witnessed the swearing in of the elected officials: Gov. Dionisio C. Sarandi, Vice-Gov. Silverio L. Pascua, and Board Members Nolasco S. Mandac and Epitacio Ugoban.
2. Governor elect Juan Frivaldo of Sorsogon, accompanied by Rep. Rafael Aquino, who made representations for the early completion of the Philippine National Railways extension line to that province from Guinobatan, Albay to Matnog, Sorsogon, a distance of 163 kms. Gov. Frivaldo noted that the right-of-way for the line has been acquired and that a foreign firm has offered to undertake the project in two years on a turn-key basis.
3. Bukidnon Gov. Carlos Fortich who sought the early settlement of a land dispute in the province. The President referred the case to the proper agencies with instructions to expedite the disposal of the problem.

Other officials who called included Gov. Elias Lopez of Davao Oriental, Reps. Artemio Mate of Leyte, Fermin Caram of Iloilo and Lucas Cauton of Ilocos Sur. The solons consulted the President on local problems.

While engaged in desk work in the afternoon, the President directed Chairman Crispino de Castro of the Police Commission to submit a detailed and comprehensive report on all police organizations in the country. He also informed the POLCOM chairman that he was going over the recommendees for POLCOM associate commissioners in order that that body could effectively carry out police reforms.

Among other actions, the President certified to the Court of Industrial Relations the four-month labor dispute at the Victorias Milling Company.

Undersecretary of Labor Amado G. Inciong recommended certification of the dispute after conciliation efforts had failed.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: December 10-16, 1971

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

December 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS addressed the Second Annual Conference on Business Prospects for 1972, held at The Plaza in Makati, Rizal by leading business leaders of the country.

In his address, the President told the business community of the bright prospects for business for the ensuing year.

The President, at the same time, called on the private sector for cooperation, pointing out that while the President could provide the plans and the necessary incentives and encouragement, much of the vital work and the funding must come from the private sector.

From the conference site, the President and the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, motored to the Manila International Airport to welcome General and Madame Ne Win of Burma, who made a brief stopover enroute to Rangoon from Tokyo.

The First Couple arrived at the MIA at 2 p.m. and had to wait up to 3:20 p.m. when the jetliner of the Burma Airlines landed.

As soon as the plane taxied to the MIA apron to refuel, the President and Mrs. Marcos, accompanied by Ambassador Maung Maung of Burma and other Philippine officials, proceeded to the ramp to wait for the two distinguished visitors.

The First Couple greeted the General and his wife and took them to the VIP kiosk where they exchanged amenities for some 30 minutes.

At 4:15 p.m., the First Couple escorted the visiting Burmese general and his wife to their plane, which took off 10 minutes later.

The President and the First Lady were back in Malacañang at about 5 p.m.

In the course of his paper work later in the day, the President signed the appointments of two more nominees of the Liberal Party to vacancies in provincial and city boards, as well as three individuals to posts in the government.

Appointed to local boards were Teodoro Calizo, as member of the provincial board of Aklan; and Nemesio C. Monton, as member of the city board of Tagbilaran City.

Other appointees were Felipe H. Pads, as branch clerk of court of the Court of First Instance of Rizal, Caloocan branch; Eufemiano M. Asuncion, as municipal judge of Burgos, Isabela; and Lamberto Flores, as provincial treasurer of Oriental Mindoro.

December 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS put in a full measure of desk work, receiving only a couple of department officials who took up with him- matters concerning their offices.

Early in the evening, the President received the member of the Malacañang Press Corps.

Asked to comment on the unanimous decision of the Supreme Court upholding his suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus, the President declined to make any statement saying he has not received any official report on the matter.

December 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS conferred with defense and military leaders, and representatives of government agencies involved in the peace and amelioration work in the Cotabato and Lanao provinces.

After an extended briefing on the various activities in the area, the President directed that:

1. All possible measures be adopted to encourage the evacuees to return to their old homes;
2. Payment of reparations should be limited to actual casualties and properties destroyed as a result of the military operations; and
3. A plan be worked out to provide employment to the evacuees and for the prompt restoration or reactivation of paralyzed public services.

During the meeting, the President also directed:

1. Maj. Gen. Romeo Espino, vice chief of staff; Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. and PES Director-General Apolinario Orosa to get together and prepare a long range plan for the economic and social development of the area;
2. Secretary Melchor and Director-General Orosa to submit a check list of economic activities which had been disrupted and which should be restored to normalcy, as well as the various government agencies that should get involved in such effort;
3. The Department of Social Welfare to conduct a physical count of the refugees which may form the basis for long range government planning, and to import the 10,000 to 13,000 metric tons of wheat donated by Australia to the Philippines for the use in the amelioration work in the Lanao and Cotabato provinces;
4. The Department of Public Works and Communications to move in equipment and men to repair the bad roads in the provinces in question to facilitate the return of the evacuees and the economic development of the people; and
5. The military to proceed with the establishment of security centers, particularly in Lanao del Norte where, according to Brig. Gen. Domingo Tutaan, 97,000 farmers, both Muslims and Christians, had left their farms and homes.

The President also directed Secretary Melchor to request the Envelopment Bank of the Philippines to set aside funds for small crop loans and to set up a temporary lending office right in the farming area in Kapatagan.

Present at the conference which lasted for about two hours, were: Undersecretary of National Defense Efren I. Plana, Undersecretary for Home Defense Jose M. Crisol, Undersecretary of Social Welfare Petra de Joya, Rep. Ali Dimaporo of Lanao del Norte, Gen Manuel T. Yian, AFP chief of staff; Brig. Gen. Rafael Iletto, PA commander; Brig. Gen. Crispino de Castro, chairman of the Police Commission; Brig. Gen. Eduardo M. Garcia, PC chief; Brig. Gen. Domingo Tutaan, 4th PC zone commander; Commodore Dioscoro E. Papa, PN flag-officer-in-command; Brig. Generals Fidel Ramos and Wilfredo Encarnacion, and Col. Bienvenido Castro and A. N. Venadas.

The whole afternoon, was spent by the President on urgent desk work.

December 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS conferred with Admiral John S. McCain, Jr., commander in chief of the U. S. armed forces in the Pacific, during the monthly meeting of the RP-US Mutual Defense Board at Camp Aguinaldo at noon. The American admiral and Gen. Manuel Yan, AFP chief of staff, are the co-chairmen of the board.

Admiral McCain, who used to be represented in the meetings of the board by Rear Admiral George A. Muse, was asked by the President to be personally present at the meeting so that the admiral could brief him on conditions in the Pacific area.

At the meeting, the President assured the Americans of the determination of the Philippines “to dismantle the Communist apparatus in our country.”

He said that the principal threat against the Philippines continues to be internal subversion.

Aside from members of the board, present at the meeting were Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, U.S. Ambassador Henry Byroade and Acting Secretary of National Defense Efren I. Plana.

Back in Malacañang at about 4 p.m., the President spent the rest of the afternoon and early evening going over state papers. Among others, he signed a proclamation authorizing the Center for Educational Television, Inc. to conduct an educational and fund campaign for a period of six months, from January 1 to June 30, 1972.

In his proclamation, the President pointed out that the center, in its program stage, has demonstrated that television is a valid medium of instruction and has educational and pedagogical advantages, including the presentation of high quality instruction to widespread student audiences, the modernization of the curriculum, advanced in-service training and substantial in-class aid for teachers; the introduction of audio-visual aids into classrooms; and stimulating innovations in school curricula.

December 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had greater opportunity to concentrate on his desk work, with callers not heavy as usual.

In the morning, he had only two ceremonies to attend to, one, the presentation of credentials by the new envoy from Finland, Ambassador Aarno Eino Karliho, a non-resident diplomatic representative of his country to the Philippines. At the rites, the President expressed the hope that the two countries would work more closely in attaining common goals. Ambassador Karliho conveyed his country’s hopes for the continuing growth and progress of the Philippines, while affirming his country’s policy of strict neutrality in world affairs.

Present at the ceremony were Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos, Secretary of Agrarian Reform Conrado F. Estrella, Secretary of General Services Constancio E. Castañeda; and Undersecretaries of Foreign Affairs Jose D. Ingles and Manuel Collantes.

Later in the morning, the President inducted Judge Arsenio Solidum as the presiding judge of the court of first instance of Albay and Legaspi City.

Present at the induction were high government officials and close friends and relatives of the inductee, among them: Sen. Lorenzo Teves, Reps. Jose Alberto of Catanduanes, Constantino Navarro of Surigao del Norte and Carlos Imperial of Albay; Gov. Vicente Alberto of Catanduanes, and Mrs. Aurora Solidum, wife of the inductee.

The President had no other callers of note the rest of the day except for a group of mayors from Rizal province, who consulted him on peace and order problems and made representations for the release of barrio improvement funds to the municipality of the province.

Among those who called on the President were Mayors Florencio Bernabe of Paranaque, F. del Rosario of Navotas, F. Aguilar of Las Piñas, M. Tanyag of Taguig, E. Flores of Pateros, A. C. Esguerra of Taytay, Osmando de Guzman of Marikina, N. Roxas, of San Mateo, T. Rodriguez of Montalban, F. Felix of Cainta, B. Fenesa of Baras, L. Aquino of Pililla, F. Javier of Mandaluyong, A. Natividad of Teresa; Mayors-elect S. Tiongson of Angono, C. Yonasco of Binangonan, Jose Cruz of Malabon and F. Pasay of Cardona.

The rest of the work day was spent by the President at his desk, where he went over state papers and considered and acted on other government business.

December 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS met with the bipartisan Foreign Policy Council at the Malacañang State Dining Room, on the question of establishing diplomatic and trade relations with some socialist countries including Soviet Russia and the People's Republic of China.

During the meeting, a consensus had been reached within the bipartisan Council that the Philippines establish formal diplomatic and trade relations with some Eastern European Socialist countries.

No decision however had been arrived at in the case of Soviet Russia and the People's Republic of China because of, among others, the Indian, Pakistani conflict, which threatened to involve the major powers.

Present at the conference held from 10 a.m. "to 12 noon were former President of the Republic and Constitutional Convention President Diosdado Macapagal, Sen. and LP President Gerardo M. Roxas, Acting Speaker Jose Aldeguer, Senators Lorenzo M. Tañada and Emmanuel Pelaez; House Majority Floorleader Marcelino Veloso, Rep. Nicanor Yñiguez;

Secretaries Carlos P. Romulo of Foreign Affairs and Cesar E. A. Virata of Finance, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr.; Press Secretary Francisco S. Tatad; Chairman Vicente Paterno of the Board of Investments;

Undersecretaries Jose Ingles and Manuel Collantes of Foreign Affairs, Efren I. Plana of National Defense, and Estelito Mendoza of Justice; Ambassador Vicente Singian, former Secretaries of Foreign Affairs Felino Neri, Narciso Ramos and Salvador P. Lopez; Joaquin P. Roces of the *Manila Times*, Manuel Abaci Gaerlan of the *Philippines Herald*, Benjamin Rodriguez of the *Manila Daily Bulletin*, Neal H. Cruz of *PACE Magazine*, Antonio V. Roces of the *Daily Star*, Luis Mauricio of the *Graphic*, Benjamin Campomanes of Manila Rotary, Miguel Arambulo of the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines and Julio Francia of the Chamber of Industries.

Following the Council meeting, the President addressed the members of the Philippine Muslim Lawyers League who called at Malacañang shortly afternoon, at the opening of their second national conference.

The President appealed to all Muslim leaders to participate actively as concerned citizens in the restoration of peace and order in the troubled areas in Mindanao.

Introduced by Sen. Mamintal Tamano, league president, the President expressed hope that the four-day convention of the league would come up with specific recommendations and offer workable solutions to the Mindanao problem.

Later, the President issued a provincial circular urging provincial governors, city mayors, municipal mayors and other local officials, to conduct a campaign discouraging temporarily local folk from emigrating to settlements in Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur and Cotabato.

He issued the circular "in view of the unsettled peace and order condition in those provinces arising from animosities between Christians and Muslims directly resulting from controversies and conflicts over land."

Upon learning of the death of I. P. Soliongco later in the day, the President issued the following message of condolence:

I am deeply grieved to learn of the sudden demise of Mr. I. P. Soliongco of the *Manila Chronicle*.

The nation has lost in his passing a distinguished man of letters, a leading journalist and a dedicated nationalist.

Through four decades of writing for the Philippine press, he represented to all of us the best in the life of the intellectual. He brought to his work learning, compassion and a consuming interest in the larger concerns of our society. And among his many legacies, he taught many of us the meaning of pride and self-esteem.

To the very last, he was this kind of unfailing witness among us, and we can only regret the void that this tragedy now leaves behind.

To his bereaved kin, and to the *Manila Chronicle*, my family and I extend our deepest sympathy and condolence.

The President attended to official papers and other urgent state matters in the afternoon.

December 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, together with their son Ferdinand, Jr. (Bongbong) played Santa Claus in the afternoon to thousands of indigent children, who were special guests at the “Maligayang Pasko 71”, the children’s festival in Malacañang.

The children came from the different orphanages and slum communities in the Greater Manila area.

Santa Claus in person regaled the young guests when he descended on the Palace grounds in a helicopter.

In brief remarks welcoming the children, Ferdinand, Jr., who arrived from England for the Christmas holidays, conveyed the greetings of the season on behalf of his family.

The First Couple and Bongbong mingled freely with the children, and obviously enjoyed the afternoon as much as the youngsters.

Earlier in the day, the President met with some 1,000 incumbent and newly-elected national, provincial, city and municipal officials, including Nacionalistas, Liberals and the uncommitted, as well as chiefs of police and Philippine Constabulary officers.

During the two-hour meeting held at the Maharlika Hall, the President called particular attention to the establishment of “rural sanctuaries by the subversives from which they plan to expand their influence through politicalization and para-military operations to pave the road for the actual Communist take-over.”

Citing Isabela and other provinces where subversive activities have been on the increase, the President said “it is now quite obvious that they are implementing the original program of the Communist Party of the Philippines to erode the faith and confidence of the people in their leaders and the government so that they will no longer resist Communists.”

He mentioned Ilocos Sur, Mt. Province, Kalinga-Apayao, Benguet, Ifugao, Cagayan, Central Luzon, Laguna and Camarines Sur as the other areas.

The President said there would be no compromise in the fight against criminality and the full protection of the law would be accorded to peace officers in the performance of their duties in the drive against crime.

Present at the conference were Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Defense Secretary Efren Plana, Public Works Undersecretary Baltazar Aquino, PACD Officer-in-Charge Rosendo Marquez, Senator Helena Benitez, Reps. Rodolfo Albano of Isabela, Jose D. Aspiras of La Union and Vicente Cerilles of Zamboanga del Sur;

Gen. Manuel T. Yan, AFP chief of staff; Brig. Gen. Eduardo Garcia, chief of the PC; Brig. Gen. Felizardo Tanabe, I PC zone commander; Brig. Gen. Zosimo Paredes, II PC zone commander; Brig. Gen. Tomas Diaz, Task Force Lawin commander; Cols. Tomas Karingal, and Celestino Rosea, chiefs of police of Quezon and Caloocan, respectively and Col. James Barbers, Deputy chief of the Police Department.

After attending to few scheduled callers toward noon, the President and the First Lady honored at luncheon Governor and Madame Ali Sadikin of Jakarta. Governor Sadikin arrived in Manila to receive the Ramon Magsaysay Award for government service for 1970.

As usual the President devoted the rest of his working hours to official papers and other state business.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: December 17-23, 1971

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

December 17—

PRESIDENT MARCOS received numerous provincial delegations and business groups.

First to be received by the President was the group representing the National Federation of Sugarcane Planters led by its president, Carlos Ledesma, and accompanied by Ambassador Ramon Nolan and Sugar Quota Administrator Jose Unson.

During his meeting with the sugar planters, the President extended the life of the social amelioration program of the sugar industry indefinitely until Congress shall have passed an alternate measure.

He told officials of the National Federation of Sugarcane Planters that he would like to make the social amelioration program, which was started in 1968, a continuing scheme in the absence of legislation that will give the sugar workers a fair share of the profits of the industry.

Because of the failure of Congress to establish a social amelioration fund for the sugar industry, the President directed the Sugar Quota Board to extend the collection of the ₱1 levy per picul indefinitely.

At the same time, the President told the sugarcane planters to request sugar millers indebted to the Philippine National Bank to pay their amortizations on time to enable the PNB to extend more crop loans to the sugar planters.

Among those who called on the President, aside from Carlos Ledesma, were Jaime Dacanay, M. Bagabaldo, Roberto Lian Tada, Marino Rubin, Rosendo Coruña, Desideria Miranda, Jose Montalbo, Erwin Bautista, and Enrique Rojas.

Following his meeting with the sugarcane planters, the President repaired to the Maharlika Hall where he received a number of provincial delegations which included:

1. The Albay delegation, which sought assistance in the form of operational funds, repair of public works facilities, the Manila South Road, avid support for the peace and order drive in the Bicol region.
2. The Marawi City delegation, headed by Mayor Omar Dianalan, which consulted the President on the economic and social development program for Lanao and Cotabato provinces. The group was accompanied by Pauti Terico, DBP branch manager in Ozamis City.
3. The group from Ilocos Sur, led by Acting Gov. Antonio Villanueva and Governor-elect Luis "Chavit" Singson, who accompanied to Malacañang Marina Salibo, whose husband, the late Mayor Marciano Salibo of San Emilio, was ambushed December 6 while enroute home from Vigan. They called to request national government aid in the early apprehension of the ambushers believed to be members of the New People's Army.

Acting on their request, the President directed Brig. Gen. Eduardo M. Garcia, PC chief, to send a special team to Ilocos Sur to verify reports of increased activity by members of the NPA in the province; and also to check on the reports that they had something to do with the ambush killing of the mayor and to apprehend the perpetrators after filing the proper charges in court.

Among others received by the President was Mayor-elect Nemesio Yabut of Makati, Rizal, who presented a check in the amount of ₱10,000 for the Maligayang Pasko 71.

For the rest of his workday, the President concentrated on his desk work.

December 18—

Notable among the few callers of the President were Bolivia's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Madame Mario Gutierrez who called at Malacañang to pay their respects.

The President and the Bolivian official compared notes on the communist problem facing both the Philippines and Bolivia, while the First Lady, Imelda P. Marcos, and Madame Mary Reese de Gutierrez exchanged pleasantries in the Music Room.

The Bolivian couple, who were later presented Christmas gifts by President and Mrs. Marcos, were accompanied to Malacañang by Monico Vicente, Department of Foreign Affairs protocol director.

The President devoted most of his time during the day on desk work.

Early in the evening, the President had an interview with newsmen covering Malacañang, during which he said, among others, that he:

1. Asked milk importers, who threatened to close shop unless the Price Control Council (PCC) stops pegging the price ceiling on milk and milk components, to wait for the decision of the PCC before undertaking any drastic action which would prejudice public interest.
2. Was surprised on the report that Karomatan in Lanao del Norte had been taken over by Muslim Barracudas while the troops looked on as the settlers fled. The President said that he could not believe that the report was one coming from responsible sources because Karomatan is from 80 to 85 per cent Muslim town and that it need not be invaded by Muslims.

Probably, the President added, the settlers fled because the task force commander, Col. Bienvenido Castro, was reassessing the situation in Kapatagan Valley and was organizing the area into a "security center."

3. Ordered defense and military officials, particularly Secretary of National Defense Efren I. Plana and Gen. Manuel T. Yan, AFP chief of staff; and the military intelligence to make themselves available for briefing various elements of society on the growing communist menace.

He issued the directive in the wake of claims by opposition leaders of the administration efforts to "build up justification for the imposition of martial law."

The President told the newsmen that the fear expressed by Sen. and LP President Gerardo M. Roxas and other LP members had no basis.

He said that reports that the towns of San Emilio, Lidlidda and other towns, including Vigan, in Ilocos Sur had already been infiltrated by NPA elements are now being checked and verified.

December 19—

The absence of the usual heavy schedule of callers enabled the President to devote more time on desk work.

He signed, among others, an order granting executive clemency to 281 prisoners, in connection with the yuletide season.

Of the prisoners extended executive clemency, ten were granted absolute pardon, one special absolute pardon, 222 conditional pardon with parole conditions and 48 commutation of sentence.

The President granted the executive clemency on the recommendation of the Board of Pardons and Parole.

December 20—

The President continued concentrating on paper work, even as he trimmed his scheduled callers to a few officials of the executive department who consulted him on projects of their respective agencies.

He was closeted most of the morning and afternoon in his private study going over official reports and disposing of urgent state papers.

December 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS was guest of honor in a parade and review at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City in connection with the observance of Armed Forces Day.

In his speech during the morning ceremonies, the President decried attempts to undermine the people's confidence in the Supreme Court which, he said, "our Constitution has established as the court of last resort in our system of government."

The President said "it is unfortunate that partisan politics and blind zealotry have inveighed against even the high tribunal simply because its judgment ran counter to their own views and their own narrow objectives."

He was introduced by Gen. Manuel T. Yan, AFP chief of staff.

Accompanied by the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, and their daughter, Imee, the President left Malacañang about 9 a.m. He was met by an honor guard formed by a contingent of Philippine Military Academy cadets behind the reviewing stand.

The anniversary rites was highlighted by the presentation of awards and decorations to two civilians and seven military men for distinguished services. The awardees were:

1. Maj. Jose P. Santos, Jr. of the PC—gold cross medal for gallantry in action in the face of heavily armed men during an encounter with dissidents;
2. First Lieutenants Roberto I. Sabularse and Conrado G. Tanabe (deceased), both of the PAF—gold cross medal for gallantry in action as pilots, who ferried the first wave of troops during combat operations of the Task Force Lawin in Tarlac. Tanabe's award was received by his widow, Mrs. Josefina Reyes Tanabe.
3. Second Lt. Arsenio L. Tecson of the PA, platoon leader of 'A' company, 26th Infantry Battalion—gold cross medal for successfully defending Magsaysay, Lanao del Norte when attacked by outlaw bands;
4. Vero Perfecto of the Voice of the Philippines—Legion of Honor Award for having been instrumental in the surrender of Lapiang Malaya Supremo Valentin de los Santos in 1967;
5. M/Sgt. Carlos Rodriguez of the PAF, as Enlisted Man of the Year;
6. Seawoman First Class Arabella O. Diangson of the PN, as Enlisted Woman of the Year;
7. Cdt. Lt. Col. Mariano A. Angeles of the UP Army ROTC, as ROTC Cadet of the Year; and
8. Dominador A. Nuñez, as Civilian Employee of the Year.

Following the President's speech, contingents from all the major AFP services, including the Women's Auxiliary Corps, PMA and ROTC cadets, marched in review as Philippine Air Force jet fighter planes made a fly-by.

Then the First Lady, assisted by daughter Imee, distributed "Maligayang Pasko" gift bags to hundreds of children of enlisted men.

After the ceremony, the guests repaired to the nearby Officers' Club where the President inducted the new set of officers of the PEFTOK Veterans Association, headed by Brig. Gen. Fidel Ramos, president.

Back in Malacañang shortly before noon, the President received scheduled callers, including Guillaume Georges Picot, president of the French Far East Committee on Organization of Employers and Industrial Firms, who paid a courtesy call following his arrival on a business survey.

The President also received a delegation from Ilocos Sur composed of municipal mayors, who had signified their desire to resign because of threats against their lives.

During his meeting with the group led by Acting Gov. Antonio Villanueva and Vincent Crisologo, the President ordered the Criminal Investigation Service of the PC to submit its findings on the peace and order situation in Ilocos Sur.

Those who called at Malacañang to confirm the reports of NPA activities in the province were acting Board Member Juanito Tolentino, Mayon Gonzalo P. Lazo and Councilor Elias Laureta of Tagudin, Mayors Roberto Pati of San Idefonso, Benjamin Sanidad of Sto. Domingo, Antonio Cabaldon of Caoayan, Maria Porte of Bantay, and Canuto Fariñas of Magsingal; Vice Mayor Pablo Arde and Councilor Jack Aquino of Vigan.

December 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS worked at his desk as usual and received visitors according to schedule.

Notable among the callers who trooped to the President's study were:

1. Washington Sycip and Dr. Daniel Vasquez, who had a private audience with the President.
2. Caltex executive John I. Wolahan and Francis Ablan, who discussed business matters.
3. Gov. Antonio Villanueva of Ilocos Sur who led other leaders of the province in threshing out with the President the disruptions in the region.

During the two-hour confrontation meeting between the Villanueva-Crisologo faction, on one hand, and the group of Governor-elect Luis "Chavit" Singson and his brother Evaristo, mayor-elect of Vigan, on the other, the President forged an agreement and prevailed upon the contending political factions of the province to join hands in the fight against communisms and in the preservation of peace and order in Ilocos Sur.

The two factions agreed to the President's proposals that:

- A. They would help in fighting communism by putting their own men side by side with the Philippine Constabulary units against the NPA;
- B. They would cooperate in the investigation of violent incidents by trained intelligence investigators; and
- C. The municipal police forces would be screened, trained and then armed by the PC in order to be able to help preserve peace and order.

At the same time the President directed Brig. Gen. Eduardo M. Garcia, PC chief, to submit a report on which police forces would be given priority in training and arming, and to replace the original PC unit in the province with fresh officers and men. He also told Gen. Garcia to assign Lt. Col. Honorio Balanon as provincial commander, and to provide him with a good deputy.

D. Senators Mamintal Tamano and Ambrosio Padilla; Reps. Marcelino Veloso, the House majority floorleader; Godofredo Tan of Quezon, Emerito Calderon of Cebu, Antonio Villar of Pangasinan; and Governors Ignacio Santiago of Bulacan and Tito Primicias of Pangasinan. They discussed problems of their constituencies with the President.

In the course of his desk work, the President signed an executive order redefining the functions and powers of the Medical Assistance Program Task Force, which was created under Executive Order No. 337 issued on September 1, 1971. He redefined the task force's function to obviate the duplication of functions of the Philippine Medical Care Commission created by virtue of Republic Act No. 6111, approved on August 4, 1969.

As redefined, the functions and powers of the task force are:

1. To advise the Commission on policies that would lay the groundwork for Program II of Republic Act No. 6111;
2. To suggest ways and means of providing medical care benefits to non-beneficiaries of Program I of the same republic act;
3. To advise the Commission on factual conditions in the rural areas relevant to the evolvement of Program II;
4. To recommend to the Commission the implementation of policies, plans, and action programs as formulated from the time or organization; and
5. To advise the Commission on pertinent changes and revisions of action programs as may be deemed necessary.

In the evening, the President and the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, honored cabinet members and other ranking officials at dinner.

December 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS met with Ilocos Sur officials led by Acting Gov. Antonio Villanueva and Mayor Benjamin Sanidad of Sto. Domingo, chairman of the Ilocos Sur Mayors League.

During the conference at Malacañang, the President appealed to the incumbent and newly-elected officials of the province to effect a peaceful and orderly turnover of authority and join hands in the peace and order and social and economic development programs.

In his appeal, the President asked the outgoing and incoming governors, as well as the chairman of the Ilocos Sur Mayors League to meet with all incumbent mayors and those elected to succeed them and map out an orderly and peaceful turnover of authority on December 30.

The President also:

1. Requested Gov. Villanueva and Mayor Sanidad to recommend on who of the policemen, including those of the Vigan police force, should be armed by the PC;
2. Turned down anew the suggestion of Gov. Villanueva that martial law be imposed in the province; and expressed the belief that the PC is still capable of meeting any subversion threat in that province;

3. Announced that in connection with the Four-Year Economic Development Plan, under which the country is divided into ten regions, each with its own peculiar and specific programs and targets, the government planners would visit the province;

4. Directed Lt. Col. G. F. Cuaresma, PC provincial commander who will retire in January and will be replaced by Col. Honorio Balanon, to make sure that the PC in Ilocos Sur discharge its duties without fear or favor; and

5. Reminded those present that under the agreement forged in the previous meeting, the leaders of the warring factions and their men will fight side by side with PC in the event that the New People's Army become active in the province.

Present at the conference were Vincent Crisologo, son of Gov. Carmeling P. Crisologo, Governor-elect Luis "Chavit" Singson and his brother, newly-elected Mayor Evaristo Singson of Vigan, Mayors Antonio Cabf.l-don of Caoayan and George Cabacungan of Sinait; Acting Board Member Juanito Tolentino; Mrs. Canuto Farinas representing her husband who is the mayor of Magsingal.

In the afternoon, the President closetted himself in his private study and worked continuously until late in the evening.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: December 24-30, 1971

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

December 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS met with his Cabinet to review and assess the administrations performance during the year about to end, and to find out its failings and problems.

The meeting started with the President thanking the members of the Cabinet for their full support and cooperation, saying, "more than anybody else, I am aware of the credit that should be extended to each and everyone of you who helped a lot in the face of the many calamities, both natural and man-made, that beset us.

During the meeting, which "was the last for the current year and attended by members of the Financial and Fiscal Policy Committee and some other heads of offices and agencies, the President:

1. Asked for formal reports from the various departments for incorporation in the state-of-the-nation and budget messages;
2. Ordered the increase of funds for the procurement of local palay at not less than P22 per cavan;
3. Directed that expenditures for normal government operations be cut to the minimum so that funds for capital outlays and investment could be increased;
4. Instructed the various government financing institutions to make more credit facilities available for agriculture and industries;
5. Created a three-man committee to map out a program to salvage the cement industry.

The committee is composed of NEC Chairman Gerardo P. Sicat, as chairman, with Chairmen Leonides S. Virata of the DBP and Vicente Paterno of the Board of Investments, as members.

6. Ordered the various departments to submit legislative proposals to be recommended to Congress when it meets in regular session next month.

Toward the end of the meeting, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, after conveying the best wishes of the other members of the Cabinet to the President, expressed the hope that "we can continue supporting you in facing the crises that may come".

Prior to the Cabinet meeting, the President received a briefing from the Financial and Fiscal Policy Committee on the effects of the dollar devaluation on the Philippine currency as well as on the nation's economy.

Present at the four-hour meeting were Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Secretaries Conrado F. Estrella of Agrarian Reform, Constancio E. Castaneda of General Services, Efren I. Plana of National Defense, Arturo R. Tanco, Jr. of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Vicente Abad Santos of Justice, Troadio T. Quiazon, Jr. of Commerce and Industry, Adrian E. Cristobal of Labor, Juan L. Manuel of Education, Carlos P. Romulo of Foreign Affairs, Amadeo H. Cruz of Health, Cesar ,E. A. Virata of Finance;

Chairmen Leonides S. Virata of the Development Bank of the Philippines, Vicente Paterno of the Board of Investments and Gerardo P. Sicat of the National Economic Council; Administrator Eduardo Rodriguez of the Office of Economic Coordination, Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, Director-General Apolinario Orosa of the Presidential Economic Staff, Commissioner Mama Sinsuat of National Integration, Undersecretary of Social Welfare Petra de Joya;

Press Secretary Francisco S. Tatad, Gov. Gregorio S. Licaros of the Central Bank, Philippine National Bank President Eusebio Villatuya, Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, GSIS General Manager Roman A. Cruz, Jr. and SSS Acting Administrator Reynaldo Gregorio.

Earlier in the day, the President received Admiral and Mrs. Samuel E. Morrison who called to pay their respects following their arrival early in the morning.

Admiral Morrison, the world's foremost living historian-adventurer, was tracing the 40,000-mile round-the-world route taken by Ferdinand Magellan who came to the Philippines in 1521.

Later, the President discussed with Secretary of Labor Adrian E. Cristobal matters affecting the latter's department; and with Rep. Tito Dupaya of Cagayan the problems of his constituencies.

The President devoted most of his time in the afternoon and early evening to desk work.

As it was the eve of Christmas day, the President issued the following message:

"As we celebrate Christmas this year, we find our nation in dire need of greater unity, faith and hope. The fabric upon which is woven the strength and oneness of our people is increasingly strained by new forces of enmity and discord, we are called upon to rededicate ourselves to the constructive labor of human goodwill, charity and sacrifice.

"In a society menaced by social, political and economic opportunism and unrest, it is oftentimes necessary to speak of total rebirth in order to attain our objectives. Let us, on this occasion, afford ourselves a deeper reflection on this.

"If we need to build a more lasting solidarity and oneness, let us now build it.

"If we need to keep a strong faith, as well as a higher sense of duty to ourselves, let us now work for it.

"The true meaning of Christmas would be lost, if it does not bring us to a deeper consciousness of the duties that we bear towards our neighbors, our families and the future of our human community. For every single one of us who is fortunate and has much to thank for and celebrate this Christmas, there are thousands upon thousands, in our country and outside, who are hungry and deprived.

"I ask the more fortunate among us to share the spirit of Christmas with the less fortunate.

"At the same time I ask our people to now unite in one common resolve and end all petty quarrels and disputes that detract from our national goals. Our society must progress without internal dissidence or civil strife, we must build a more lasting society of our own and more effectively join the rest of the world in putting an end to the conflicts that divide nations and peoples.

"I especially appeal to our own Christian and Muslim brothers in the South to find new ways of productive cooperation so that they may continue to live harmoniously together, not merely as Muslims and Christians, but as Filipinos bound to a common destiny under a common flag.

"Our country and our people will be strong so long as we know the meaning of hard work, dedication, and sacrifice. I, therefore, ask our people to forge on this occasion, a new covenant among themselves based on hard work, dedication, and sacrifice.

"Merry Christmas to you all."

December 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS did not received any callers. Christmas day notwithstanding, he went on with his usual desk work, reviewing reports submitted to him by various government departments and agencies.

He also signed two executive orders—one providing for the organization of the Department of Agrarian Reform; and the other designating the new department as trustee of the special fund for assistance to the country's land reform education program.

The organization of the new Department was in accordance with Republic Act No. 6389, otherwise known as the Code of Agrarian Reforms of the Philippines; and upon the recommendation of the special committee created under Special Order No. 11 of the Land Reform Project Administration, and the Commission on Reorganization created under Republic Act No. 5435.

The executive order defined the functions, powers, duties and responsibilities of the Secretary and Undersecretary of Agrarian Reform including those of the various units of the department.

In that same executive order, the President required the Budget Commissioner to effect the orderly reallocation of funds and other transitional actions relative thereto, to enable the department to be fully operational within 60 days following the issuance of the order.

The Budget Commissioner was likewise required to reflect in full the provisions of Republic Act No. 6389 and the executive order or parts thereof in the budget for the next succeeding fiscal year, and thereafter, except as may otherwise be more specifically provided.

The designation of the Department, of Agrarian Reform, which was embodied in another executive order, was agreed upon by the Philippine and the United States governments when the latter made available to the former the special fund.

The special fund, in the amount of 11,281,935, was appropriated by the U.S. government from the Special Fund for Education, U.S. Public Law No. 8894, known as the Land Reform Education Fund.

As agreed upon by both the Philippine and U.S. governments, the Land Reform Education Fund will be established as a permanent trust fund, the income of which will be used to finance the land reform education program in the country.

As trustee of the special fund, the Department of Agrarian Reform will perform the following functions, subject to the approval of the President;

1. Formulate the general policy for the Fund, and make decisions on the use of the funds, income and capital gains, including final action on appropriation for grants and research projects;
2. Formulate and adopt an assistance program based on educational programs which have been set forth in the agreement on the use of the fund; extending preference to projects which are enduring or self-sustaining, or which incorporate counterpart financial agreements;
3. Approve programs and projects to be undertaken by the Philippine Land Reform Center for Continuing Education which shall implement such programs and projects out of the earnings of the fund;
4. Obtain professional counsel and services for the wise and prudent management of the fund entrusted to it through an Investment and Financial Manager; and
5. Employ staff personnel, advisers and consultants to assist in the educational program, planning and implementation.

In the evening, the President in a wire condoled with the bereaved family of the late Secretary of Health Amadeo H. Cruz, who succumbed to heart attack at 5:50 a.m., on Christmas Day.

In extending condolence, the President called Secretary Cruz a dedicated public servant, who spent a lifetime in the service of his people.

IT WAS another day of desk work for President Marcos, as his usual schedule of callers for the day was clear.

Among the official matters he acted upon was the recommendation of the Monetary Board, contained in a resolution it passed at a recent meeting, which would authorize the Financial and Fiscal Policy Committee (FFPC) to make an over-all review of allocation, expenditure, investment and lending of government resources, and the economy as a whole.

In an executive order, the President authorized the FFPC to create executive committees and such other sub-committees as may be necessary for it to effectively carry out national objectives, achieving this by means of balanced and integrated fiscal, monetary and economic policy; and of coordinating and synchronizing the borrowing and lending activities of government financial institutions.

The Financial and- Fiscal Policy Committee was reconstituted on April 21, 1970 under Executive Order No. 225 in order to integrate into one body all functions pertaining to fiscal, financial and government investment policies.

As reconstituted, the committee is composed of the Secretary of Finance, Commissioner of the Budget, Chairman of the National Economic Council, Governor of the Central Bank, Administrator of the Office of Economic Coordination, Chairman of the Board of Investments, Chairman of Vie Development Bank of the Philippines, General Manager of the GSIS, President of the PNB, Administrator of the SSS and Director-General of the Presidential Economic Staff.

In the evening the President, together with the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez-Marcos and their three children, Irene, Bongbong and Irene, motored to Nichols Air Base in Pasay City where they boarded the presidential fokker plane for Baguio City.

December 27—

THE PRESIDENT met with leaders of the two warring factions in Ilocos Sur, headed by Acting Gov. Antonio Villanueva and Vincent. P. Crisologo, on one hand; and Governor-elect Luis Singson and his brother, Evaristo, mayor-elect of Vigan, on the other.

Meeting them at the guesthouse in Bagnio City, the President persuaded the said officials to surrender their followers who were wanted by the law.

He directed them to prepare their respective lists of followers and asked them to submit the same to Brig. Gen. Felizardo Tanabe, First PC Zone commander, who was also present at the meeting for verification with the warrants of arrest in the hands of the PC.

Crisologo and Singson assured the President that they will surrender their respective followers against whom warrants of arrest had been issued not later than January 15.

Earlier in the morning, the President flew to Vigan in order to preside over the scheduled meeting of incumbent and newly-elected officials of the province to ensure a smooth turn-over of authority on December 30.

However, because of inclement weather the President could not land in Vigan and instead landed at Poro Point from where he motored back to Baguio City. Upon arrival in the city, the President summoned the Ilocos Sur political leaders to the Pines City for the conference.

The political leaders arrived in the city later in the afternoon. They were accompanied by General Tanabe, Lt. Col. J. F. Cuaresma, PC provincial commander; and the following mayors of the province:

Benjamin Sanidad of Sto. Domingo, chairman of Ilocos Sur Mayors League Antonio Cabaldon of Caoayan, Porfirio Rapanut of Sta. Catalina, George Cabacungan of Sinit, Fely Quilala of San Juan, Juanito Tolentino of Magsingal,

Juanito Langiten of Sugpon, Vice Mayor Pablo Arde of Vigan, and Mrs. Marciano Salibo, widow of the late mayor of San Emilio.

Also during the day, the President designated Undersecretary of Health Clemente Gatmaitan as officer-in-charge of the Department of Health.

The designation was issued by Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes on order of the President, in view of the sudden passing of Secretary Amadeo H. Cruz, who succumbed to a stroke the other day.

December 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, in a tape-recorded speech aired over three radio stations “in Vigan, Ilocos Sur, appealed to the people of the province to forget political differences.

The President told the province’s folk to “forget political squabbles, unite, cooperate, and face the greater challenges of nation-building.

The President called on the people of Ilocos Sur to stand united against the problems of peace and order now that the “elections are over and that we should respect the electorate’s will in the last elections.”

The President’s speech, tape-recorded in Baguio City was broadcast over the radio stations because of the cancellation of his scheduled Vigan trip.

The President, through Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., issued a proclamation declaring Tuesday, January 4, a special public holiday in the Bicol region. The day marks the anniversary of the execution of the 15 martyrs of the Bicol in 1897.

December 29—

STILL in Baguio City where he is spending the holidays, President. Marcos, during an interview with newsmen covering him, promised that after the New Year, there will be “surprising revelations” on the August 21 Plaza Miranda bombing incident, even as he assured that the government will be able to solve the crime.

During that interview at the Mansion House, the President also:

1. indicated that he had no intention of restoring the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus within the foreseeable future in areas, including the Greater Manila, where it remained suspended;
2. Revealed the extent of Communist infiltration in government, including some offices in Malacañang; and
3. Disclosed an alleged tie-up between the Communists and some underworld characters in the recent commission of some crimes within the Greater Manila area.

Also from the Pines City, the President issued the following message on the eve of the 75th anniversary of the martyrdom of Dr. Jose Rizal:

“It is the essential activism of Dr. Jose Rizal that specially comes to mind today as we commemorate the 75th year of his martyrdom.

“He was a man rare in his and in our time; yet even in this exemplary life, there is much that links him to everyone of his countrymen who seeks to address his talents and energies to the service of our country.

“Rizal’s activism sprung from the same abiding compassion that animates many of us today, and it realized for us the greatest good in ways that continue to serve us to this day.

“We can make no more fitting tribute to the man than that three quarters of a century after his death today, his vision and his example continue to attend our efforts in meeting the challenges of our time.”

December 30—

THE PRESIDENT tarried in Baguio City. He put off his plan to return to Manila, and summoned the provincial officials of Ilocos Norte led by Governor Elizabeth Marcos-Keon, for a functional meeting, to discuss the problems and economic development needs of the province.

At a meeting with Manila newsmen covering him, the President reviewed the administration performance during the past year, and predicted that the coming new year would be a “year of bitter debate on fundamental problems, and also of critical decisions.

He cited the work being undertaken by the Constitutional Convention which would soon be up for debate among the populace; and the rapidly changing political situations in the whole world particularly in the Southeast Asia, and the move toward the neutralization of the region.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: December 31, 1971 - January 6, 1972

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

December 31—

AS THE YEAR comes to end, President Marcos flew early in the morning from Baguio City to Laoag City in Ilocos Norte, his home province, for the traditional reunion with relatives and friends.

Accompanied by Leyte Gov. Benjamin Romualdez, the President enplaned at 8:15 after reviewing an honor guard composed of Philippine Military Academy cadets. He was seen off by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos and Baguio City officials led by Mayor Luis Lardizabal. She later boarded another plane direct to Manila.

Half an hour later at the Laoag airport, the President was met by delegations from different towns of Ilocos Norte and nearby provinces. The welcomers were headed by Mrs. Josefa Edralin-Marcos, the President's mother, Gov. Elizabeth Marcos-Keon, Reps. Roque Ablan, Jr. and Simeon Valdez.

From the airport, the President led a long motorcade to the city church where a *Te Deum* was sung. Then he inducted the newly-elected and reelected officials of the province, city and municipalities of Ilocos Norte.

In brief remarks following the induction ceremony, the President pleaded for national unity which, he said, is the only means of saving the country from its enemies.

"Only a united nation can find sufficient strength to defend itself against its enemies," he declared.

The President then motored to Batac, his hometown, where he had a brief reunion with kin and friends.

He then returned to Laoag where he enplaned back to Manila, arriving in Malacañang at 2:30 p.m. The President took a short respite, before he buckled down to work.

Among others, he granted executive clemency to 192 convicted persons, upon recommendation of the Board of Pardons and Parole, in connection with the observance of New Year.

Of the prisoners granted clemency, eight were for absolute pardon, two conditional pardon, 155 conditional pardon with parole condition, and 27 commutation of sentence.

Later in the day, the President announced the lifting of the suspension of the writ of the privilege of habeas corpus in the entire country, to take effect upon the resolution by Judge Vicente Ericta of the Quezon City Court of First Instance of the subversion cases.

The President also issued the following New Year message:

"At the end of 1971 and the beginning of the new year, we see our nation enriched by experience and ready to move on towards the challenges of the future.

"We see our people committed to a new policy of dynamic change, all seeking to articulate their individual aspirations and all seeking to find their own individual places in the collective national endeavor.

"Throughout the past year, we saw ignorance, apathy and indifference being fought, renounced and condemned in all levels of our society, in favor of involvement, commitment and activism.

“In that period of great awakening, we witnessed the unleashing of energy from the various sectors of our community, in the free and militant discussion of ideas and issues that govern the conduct of our national life.

“Indeed, we have seen during the year just past, where our strength and our weaknesses lie, we have shown to ourselves how from a multitude of tongues and voices, we can distill the voice of reason to rule our collective life.

“As we enter the new year, it is my hope that the same vigor and enthusiasm, involvement and reason will continue to dominate the forums of free speech and the councils of our democratic institutions so that we may continue to pursue with increased faith, the efforts we have begun.

“Our government is determined that during the year 1972 security and development shall remain the twin primary objectives to which shall relate all our positive efforts.

“We are determined that the fears and shadows of the past shall not weaken our course, but rather that new faith, greater vision and a new sense of purpose shall govern it.

“In cooperation with the various sectors of our society, we shall continue to seek a better life for all our people, but in so doing, we shall ask our people to give us their abiding faith, their unstinted support and cooperation.

“We have much to achieve and work for during the new year. Let us not expect that government will achieve this in isolation, but rather, let us expect government to achieve it with the good wishes and the support of all.

“A Happy New Year to All”

January 1, 1972

PRESIDENT MARCOS started the new year by receiving the Junior Diplomats of the United States, composed of American newspaper boys currently on a tour of Hawaii and the Far East.

Talking to the young ambassadors, who were led by Mr. and Mrs. Max Milians, director and house mother, respectively, the President expressed the hope that they will have a very fruitful tour and that someday he will read their names in their country's economic, political and social hierarchy.

The young envoys' tour is sponsored by the Hearst Newspapers, in cooperation with Trans-World Airways, Hilton Hotels, Thai International Airways and the tourist bureaus and associations of host countries.

Those who called on the President were Paul R. Noseworthy, Paul Hoss, Louis Manzi, George Agustin, Jr. Paul H. Jones, William Connors, Paul C. Ornoski, John Andrew Frye, Daniel Wm. Dickison, William Ross Harris, Alvin Go, Jon Michael Borm, James Puhek, David Paul Mitchell, Roy Lee Tomlin, Gregory John Mellberg and Martin Joseph Young.

They were accompanied to Malacañang by Executive Director Salvador C. Peña of the Philippine Tourist and Travel Association.

After the call, the President closetted himself in his study and worked on his desk until early afternoon and evening.

Leaving his desk work for a while late in the afternoon, the President inducted into office Col. Carlos J. Cajelo as governor of Cotabato. Present at the oath-taking ceremony were the inductee's relatives and friends led by his wife and children.

January 2—

AS USUAL on a Sunday, President Marcos' schedule of callers was clean. Thus he was able to concentrate on urgent state business. Among others, the President:

1. Appointed retired Associate Justice Arsenio Solidum of the Court of Appeals as associate commissioner of the Oil Industry Commission; and
2. Extended the designation of Epifanio Rey Pangramuyen as acting Commissioner of Civil Service until the appointment of a permanent commissioner.

January 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS did not receive callers, but instead worked steadily on his desk until late in the afternoon.

Early in the evening, the President received Mayor Ramon D. Bagatsing who paid a courtesy call at Malacañang, following his assumption of office as the new city mayor of Manila.

The President and Mayor Bagatsing briefly discussed the problems affecting the city, among which are: low finances, relocation of squatters, garbage collection, dredging of esteros, housing and flood control.

The President pledged national government support to the city government and immediately directed:

1. Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco to release P500,000 for the purchase of much-needed equipment of the Manila Metropolitan Police in support of the peace and order drive in the City;
2. Secretary of Public Works and Communications David M. Consunji and Commissioner of Public Highways Baltazar Aquino to allocate road-building equipment for the repair and improvement of city streets; and
3. Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata to release amounts representing shares of the city government in income taxes which had been frozen due to an indebtedness of the city to the Central Bank totalling P40 million.

The President also assured Mayor Bagatsing that the cooperation of both national and city governments would be maintained for the early solution of the Plaza Miranda bombing case.

The Manila mayor was accompanied on the call by Col. James Barbers, deputy chief of police of Manila.

Also during the day, the President condoled with the bereaved family of the late Delegate Felino Nevi, who died yesterday.

In his message, the President described the former Secretary of Foreign Affairs as "an able and dedicated public servant and an energetic business and civic leader."

January 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS inducted former Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, who has been reappointed to the same position.

The oath-taking ceremony held at Malacañang in the morning was witnessed by Armed Forces of the Philippines top brass headed by Gen. Manuel T. Yan, AFP chief of staff.

After the induction, the President conferred with the retiring AFP officers, during which he informed them:

1. Of plans to organize a commercial corporation to absorb retiring AFP officers and enlisted men for gainful employment; and

2. That he instructed Secretary Enrile and Gen. Yan to work out a plan for the organization of a veterans bureau. The bureau will have a corporate and commercial arm which will keep the veterans occupied in gainful pursuits.

Present at the meeting aside from Secretary Enrile and Gen. Yan, were Maj. Gen. Romeo Espino, AFP vice chief of staff; the chiefs of major commands and services, PC zone and PA brigade commanders, and other top AFP officials.

The rest of the President's day was devoted to desk work.

January 5—

PRESIDENT MARCOS' morning schedule was free from callers. He concentrated on urgent official business until early evening.

The President designated Undersecretary of Commerce Eliseo V. Villamor as acting general manager of the Rice and Corn Administration, vice former RCA chief Jose D. Drilon, Jr. who resigned last December 31. Villamor holds the position in a concurrent capacity.

January 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS asked the heads of tax collecting agencies to redouble their efforts, while expressing the hope that these agencies could still improve on their past performance.

The President gave the injunction after going through reports on revenues and tax collections including that of Customs Commissioner Rolando Geotina, which stated that actual collections in the Bureau of Customs from July to December, 1971 showed an increase of about 11 per cent over the revised estimates; that the increase in collections for December (1971) alone was only 17 per cent more than that of the same month in 1970, and only 9.6 per cent than the projected estimates.

"Better and higher collection of revenues will be very vital for the implementation of the administration program the President said.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: January 7-13, 1972

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

January 7—

“THE PRAYER for peace becomes more urgent and the demands for greater labor to attain it by the leaders of mankind more exacting,” thus declared President Marcos in an exchange of toast with heads of diplomatic missions led by Msgr. Carmine Rocco, dean of the diplomatic corps in the Philippines, during the traditional New Year reception held at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang, where the President and the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, received New Year well-wishers.

“As we look around us,” continued the President, “we see more and more the expressions and demonstrations of disparity between the ‘ advance and progress of natural sciences on the one hand and political science on the other. We see man move forward not only within our small sphere, the earth, but, into the space that once was referred to as a strange and unknown world but which has now been moved into as a new frontier by man’s ingenuity, talent and daring.

“However, as we move forward to other worlds we seem to have retrogressed in the efforts of man himself to harness his heart, his emotions and his feeling and, thus, we witness all around us the conflicts and disagreements, often violent, between races and peoples, factions and governments, and all to no purpose apparently except to satisfy certain prejudices, biases and preconceived notions and desires.”

Thousands of well-wishers had gathered as early as 8:30 a.m. at the Malacañang grounds for the start of the reception which was delayed because of the breakfast tendered by the First Couple in honor of visiting Senator Barry Goldwater and Rep. Barry Goldwater, Jr. who were enroute to Sydney, Australia.

The long queue of well-wishers was spearheaded by the Senate group led by Senate President and Mrs. Gil J. Puyat, followed by members of the House of Representatives led by Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal, Justices of the Supreme Court led by Chief Justice Roberto Concepcion, members of the Cabinet headed by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, and the chiefs of diplomatic missions led by Msgr. Carmine Rocco, papal nuncio to the Philippines.

The reception was interrupted for a while when the President had the traditional exchange of toasts with diplomats, and after which the President and the First Lady resumed receiving well-wishers. These included the generals of the armed forces, led by Gen. Manuel T. Yan, AFP chief of staff; representatives of the press, personal friends of the First Family, personnel from the Office of the President, and other government officials.

In the afternoon, the President was guest of honor and speaker during the presentation of awards held at the Malacañang ceremonial hall honoring the three most outstanding model barrios chosen under the PACD-SEATO Model Community Development Contest for 1970-1971.

The President paid tribute to a lady barrio captain who was an awardee, pointing out that her accomplishment indicated the fact that “sometimes man may dream big but it takes a woman to really implement and bring it down to the level of comfort and living that development and beauty really mean.

In presenting the plaque of merit to the barrio captains, the President particularly noted the achievements of Mrs. Juana de Dios of Barrio San Jose, Binalbagan, Negros Occidental, winner of the third prize, as “indicative of a woman’s touch.

The Chief Executive assured the barrio officials that he will continue to support the contest and see to it that proper emphasis will be placed to the achievements “of our leaders in the barrios.”

The ceremony was witnessed by the officials of sponsoring agencies led by Rosendo Marquez, PACD officer-in-charge; Jose Panganiban of the SEATO; and Mrs. Leticia R. Shahani of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

January 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS asked Immigration Commissioner Edmundo Reyes to await the opinion of the Department of Justice before acting on the case of Japanese nationals being eyed for possible “violation of their visa conditions.”

The President ordered the immigration commissioner to “desist from issuing orders for the deportation of Japanese nationals in the Philippines until the issue concerning their deportation and other legal issues shall have been decided by the secretary of justice.”

He issued the order following reports that Commissioner Reyes had told 38 Japanese nationals acting as liaison officers for many Japanese firms in the Philippines to leave the country within 10 days.

January 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS devoted most of his time in the morning and early afternoon going over state papers. Later in the afternoon he was guest of honor and speaker at the inauguration of the Metropolitan Broadcasting Company’s Channel 11 studios in Quezon City.

In his remarks, the President underscored the identical objectives of media and government, pointing out that these are “compossible” and not “conflicting,” as they both seek the people’s well-being and the national welfare. (For full text of the President’s speech *see* pp. 390-394).

The President was accompanied by the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, who officiated at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

January 10—

URGENT state papers on high priority development projects of the government during the current year served as starter of President Marcos’ schedule during the day. He worked on his desk till early afternoon, and broke off only to meet with Manager Roman A. Cruz, Jr. of the GSIS, Director Vicente Valdellon of the Bureau of Lands, and Chairman Teodoro Q. Pena of the Foreign Trade Zone Authority.

The President directed Pena to make a survey of all big corporations which are interested in operating in the area for inclusion in the FTZA’s plans and projections.

He also instructed Chairman Pena to begin with manufacturing firms in the country which, the President said, should be given a first crack to operate in the zone, and later, those of neighboring countries which produce machineries and other products, principally for export.

Chairman Pena briefed the President on development plans for the 1,231 hectare zone, which the latter had previously ordered updated and that studies be made on how other agencies and departments of the government could be mobilized to help successfully in promoting the project

During the conference, the President also directed:

1. Director Valdellon to accelerate the titling of lands in Bataan, particularly those in and around the FTZA area, defining the concept, for the issuance of land patents to applicants who had complied with all legal requirements. The President emphasized that titles should be issued to those who had applied for land³ for development purposes only and not for speculation.

2. General Manager Cruz to undertake studies on how the GSIS could help establish a low-cost housing project for low-income workers in the zone.
3. Director Jose Viado of the Bureau of Forestry to expedite the classification as disposable and alienable of forest lands in the vicinity of the zone. The President was informed that some two-thirds of the Mariveles area consisted of still unclassified forest lands. He pointed out that development and possible expansion of the zone would be difficult unless these forest lands are classified as early as possible.

The President stressed the high priority being given to the FTZA project, because it is tied up to the government's policy of expanding the export trade.

Late in the afternoon, the President administered the oath of office to Undersecretary of Commerce Eliseo V. Villamor as concurrent chairman of the Rice and Corn Administration.

Villamor filled the post left vacant by the resignation of Jose D. Drilon, Jr., who resigned.

January 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS started on his day's work by issuing two executive orders, one creating the Philippine Committee for the Establishment of the Asian Handicraft Center, and the other creating consumer cooperatives and consumer unions throughout the country.

The President created the committee on handicraft center upon recommendation of the Philippine Committee on ECAFE Matters.

As created, the Committee is charged with, among others, the determination of all requirements for the establishment of the Center in the Philippines, and implementation of the various matters taken up during the Second Preparatory Meeting held at Bangkok, on November 8 to 12, 1971.

The creation of consumer cooperatives and consumer unions was embodied in Executive Order No. 363, attested to and issued by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr.

The order provided that the local cooperatives and unions "shall be composed of residents of specific areas in the cities, municipalities and municipal districts."

The Rice and Corn Administration is to coordinate the cooperatives program, and submit a list of nominees of the officials who shall be formally charged with the responsibility of implementing the policy.

At mid-morning, the President broke off from his desk and conferred with Nacionalista members of the Senate and House, and a number of NP Governors to discuss the administration's legislative proposals for the incoming regular session of Congress.

Matters taken up at the conference held at the Pangarap Guesthouse included the funding for major government programs such as: peace and order, rice and corn, land reform, housing, electrification, infrastructure, including flood control, typhoon damages, cooperatives, rural employment, population control, postal services. Also discussed were plans for government reorganization, and how to achieve maximum efficiency of the government's tax collecting machinery.

The Chief Executive appealed to members of both houses of Congress to support plans which he intends to present for legislation in order to secure the necessary funding for government programs. He informed the legislators that he will submit plans to upgrade both the Philippine Constabulary and local police forces, underscoring the need to strengthen the PC, modernize its equipment, and rid local police forces of misfits and corrupt elements.

The President also appealed to those present, and through them to the public, to help the government support its various programs by paying their taxes faithfully and promptly.

Among those present at the meeting were Senate President Gil J. Puyat, Senate President Protempore Jose J. Roy, Senate Majority Floorleader Arturo M. Tolentino, Senators Helena Z. Benitez, Rene Espina, Ernesto M. Maceda, Ambrosio Padilla, Emmanuel Pelaez, Leonardo B. Perez, Lorenzo Teves and Magnolia W. Antonino, some 52 members of the House of Representatives, led by Speaker Cornelio T. Viliareal and House Majority Floorleader Marcelino Veloso, and some 26 provincial governors.

Later in the evening, the President signed Proclamation No. 890, lifting the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus throughout the country, and emphasized that “the idea is to bring about normalcy as much as possible.”

The President’s proclamation was in accordance with his statement on New Year’s day, when he first announced the imminent restoration of the writ privilege throughout the country.

January 12—

FREE from his usual schedule of callers, the President presided over the joint meeting of the National Security Council and the Foreign Policy Council, held at the AFP general headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo. The joint meeting discussed the matter of relations between the Philippines and Socialist and/or Communist countries.

In line with the new trend in Philippine foreign policy to open ties with Socialist and/or Communist countries, the Foreign Policy Council unanimously decided that steps now be taken to establish diplomatic relations initially with Rumania and Yugoslavia.

Present at the meeting were Senate President Gil J. Puyat, Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal, Constitutional Convention President Diosdado Macapagal, Senate President Protempore Jose J. Roy, Senate Minority Floorleader and LP President Gerardo M. Roxas, former Senator and NCP President Lorenzo M. Tanada, former Secretaries of Foreign Affairs Raul S. Manglapus and Salvador P. Lopez; Speaker Protempore Jose Aldeguer, Reps. Constantino Navarro and Nicanor E. Yñiguez, chairmen of the House committees on national defense and foreign relations, respectively; Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos, Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata, Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Arturo R. Tanco, Jr. Executive Sec’etary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Press Secretary Francisco S. Tatad;

Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, Defense Undersecretaries Efren Plana and Jose Crisol, Foreign Affairs Undersecretaries Jose D. Ingles and Manuel Collantes; Julio Francia, Jr. and Miguel Arambulo, presidents of the Philippine Chamber of Industries and the Chamber of commerce of the Philippines, respectively;

Sebastian Ugarte of the *Philippines Herald*, Hans Menzi of the *Manila, Daily Bulletin*, Ben Penaranda of the *Manila Chronicle*, Leon O. Ty of the *Examiner*, and military top brass led by General Manuel T. Tan, AFP chief of staff.

After the joint meeting, the President had lunch together with AFP general officers, who were soon to be retired from the military service.

Back in Malacañang late in the afternoon, the President worked on state papers. He signed a proclamation declaring a state of public calamity in Leyte, in view of the widespread destruction to property and loss of lives in the province.

The proclamation was issued upon recommendation of Leyte Governor Benjamin Romualdez, to prevent the excessive increase in the prices of essential commodities in the area due to profiteering and hoarding by those who control the supply thereof and also to enable the government and civic, relief and welfare agencies to carry out their objectives effectively.

In another proclamation, the President fixed the period from June 19, 1971 to December 31, 1976 as the time for the filing of free patent applications and for the judicial confirmation of imperfect, or incomplete titles in the whole archipelago except in the provinces of Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Cotabato, South Cotabato, Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur, Davao City, Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao Oriental, Sulu, Mountain Province, Benguet, Kalinga-Apayao and Ifugao.

Issuance of the proclamation was recommended by the Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and pursuant to the provisions of Sections 45 and 46 of Commonwealth Act No. 141, which was amended by R. A. No. 6236.

January 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS received a number of callers early in the day. His visitors included National Integration Commissioner Mama Sinsuat and a number of senators, representatives and governors who took up local problems in their respective jurisdictions.

Commissioner Sinsuat called to request approval of the release of P402,000 for the purchase of small tractors and other farm equipment for the CNI settlements in Lake Sebu, Surallah, South Cotabato, saying that these will be for the use of Bilaan, Tiruray, Manobo and Muslim settlers.

Other received by the President were Senators Lorenzo Sumulong, Ambrosio Padilla and Leonardo B. Perez; Reps. Dupaya of Cagayan, Leopoldo Diaz and Angel Concepcion of Nueva Ecija, Vicente Cerilles Of Zamboanga del Sur, Rafael Legaspi of Aklan, and Constancio Maglana of Davao Oriental;

Governors Cornelio Villareal, Jr. of Capiz, Ignacio Santiago of Bulacan, Jose B. Legaspi of Aklan, Arsenio Villarosa of Mindoro Occidental, Alfonso Umali of Mindoro Oriental, Salvador P. Socrates of Palawan, Jaime Gomez of Mt. Province, Elizabeth Marcos-Keon of Ilocos Norte.

Later in the day, the President motored to the residence of Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal to attend a caucus of NP congressmen.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: January 14-20, 1972

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

January 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS met with a long list of callers throughout the day.

First to be received by the President was Senate President Protempore Jose J. Roy, with whom he had lengthy discussions on legislative proposals which the administration would present to the regular session of Congress.

Later, the President received M. C. Kunz, who called to pay his respects.

Then the President welcomed Mrs. Anna Chennault, widow of the famed commander of the Flying Tigers of World War II, the late Gen. Claire Chennault.

Mrs. Chennault, on a brief visit here, relayed a message from Mayor Sam Yorthy of Los Angeles, in connection with the inaugural cargo service of the Flying Tiger Airline. She was accompanied by Vicente Faustino, head of the local airline's office.

Also received by the President were the officials of the Private Investment Company for Asia, headed by Dr. Willen A. Van Ravestaijn, PICA president. The group was assured by the President of the receptiveness of the government to foreign investment in development areas of the economy.

In the group were Yoshizane Iwasa, chairman; Colin Syme, vice chairman; Peter Wodtke, executive vice president; Harutsuga Makita, vice president; Hinoyuki Tamagawa, Mark C. Feer, A. O. Hartmann, Addison H. Kermath, Tadayoshi Yamada, James G. Bickford, John Hopkins, Makoto Yoneda, Louis C. Louvet, L. E. C. Letts and R. L. Hedrick.

Another group the President received consisted of the officials of the North Trek Organization who called to pay their respects.

Composed of young professionals from the Visayas, the group launched a 'North Trek' program, aimed at encouraging local tourists to know more of the Philippines, and to demonstrate that the RP-Japan Friendship Highway is safe.

The group plans to negotiate the RP-Japan Friendship Highway by car in four days, starting from Zamboanga City on February 2.

The President endorsed the North Trek project and enjoined government agencies to extend the necessary assistance and support to the 16-man team behind it.

The North Trek officials who called were Joey Garcia, president; Tony Dumo, chairman; Rene Cortes, Salvador Escudero, Manuel Bautista and Manuel Timonera.

In the evening, the President administered the oath of office to Gen. Romeo T. Espino as chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, vice Gen. Manuel T. Yan who retired from the military service.

The President also inducted Maj. Gen. Rafael Iletto, former Philippine Army commander, as vice chief of staff of the AFP, succeeding Gen. Espino in that post.

The oath-taking ceremonies were witnessed by Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, Gen. Yan, Brig. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, PC chief; Brig. Gen. Rafael Zagala, the new Philippine Army commander; Commodores Dioscoro E. Papa and Hilario Ruiz, outgoing and incoming PN flag-officer-in-command, respectively; Brigadier Generals Jesus Z. Singson and Jose L. Rancudo, outgoing and incoming Philippine Air Force commanders, respectively; other ranking officers of the four major AFP commands, and the inductee's kin.

January 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS devoted the entire day to desk work going over reports and recommendations coming from the different government agencies.

Through Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, the President issued Memorandum Circular No. 528, which enjoined all government offices and agencies to procure their supplies and equipment from the Cottage Industries Development Enterprise (CIDE) and the registered producers of the National Cottage Industries Development Authority, thru the latter.

January 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS did not receive callers during the day, except Secretary of Labor Adrian E. Cristobal, who reported on the reorganization which he undertook in the Bureau of Workmen's Compensation.

The President commended Secretary Cristobal for instituting a complete revamp of the bureau, which the labor chief initiated following the apprehension of one of its officials for alleged extortion.

The President concentrated on desk work until evening.

January 17—

HAVING no scheduled callers in the morning, President Marcos worked on state papers. He signed the appointments of 10 municipal judges and one clerk of court.

On recommendation of Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos, those appointed with their corresponding station of assignment were Gideon G. de Pedro for Malay, Aklan; Alfredo A. Rosero for Cambusao, Camarines Sur; Ligaya E. Lazaro for Noveleta, Cavite; Solomon A. Macoy for Aloguinsan, Cebu; Lucio G. Tan for San Isidro, Northern Samar; Benedicto N. Morton for Unisan, Quezon; Melecio L. Yap for San Ricardo, Southern Leyte; Perfecto D. Gatarman for Tomas Oppus, Southern Leyte; Simon D. Encinas for Barcelona, Sorsogon; and Fidel G. Candari for Navas, Aklan.

Appointed clerk of court of the Court of First Instance in Negros Oriental, Bayawan branch, was Felipe T. Torres.

Towards noon, the President disengaged from his desk work to receive New York Secretary of State John P. Lomenzo, who called to pay his respects.

The President was informed by the New York official that he was highly impressed by the economic potentialities of the Foreign Trade Zone in Mariveles, Bataan which he had visited.

Secretary Lomenzo was here on a combined official and business tour of Southeast Asian countries. He was guest at luncheon later in Malacañang.

Also during the day, the President called upon the men of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to "be prepared to meet any insurgency which threatens to rob us of our freedom and to undermine lawful authority, and ultimately to bring about the downfall of the duly constituted government."

The President issued the call in a speech read for him by Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, at the graduation exercises of the Philippine Constabulary-METROCOM Counter-Urban Guerilla Course at Fort Magsaysay in Laur, Nueva Ecija.

January 18—

THE USUAL string of callers on President Marcos was not visible during the day. This enabled him to go over the letters of resignations so far received by the Chief Executive, preparatory to a thorough overhaul of the executive department and some offices under it.

Letters of resignations received by the President as of this day are those from the members of the Cabinet, top officials of government-owned corporations, including the members of its respective boards.

The President also issued a proclamation declaring certain days of this year as special public holidays in specific places.

Declared special public holidays in connection with the observance of the centennial anniversary of the martyrdom of the three Filipino priests—Fathers Mariano Gomez, Jose Burgos and Jacinto Zamora, in the places indicated are the following:

1. January 20 (Thursday), in the province of Cavite and cities of Cavite, Tagaytay and Trece Martires. This day marks the Revolt of 1872, known as the Cavite Mutiny.
2. February 9 (Wednesday), in Vigan, Ilocos Sur. The day is the 125th birth anniversary of Fr. Jose Burgos.
3. February 17 (Thursday), in the entire country. It is the 100th anniversary of the execution of the three priests.
4. August 2 (Wednesday), in Bacoor, Cavite. The day is the 173rd birth anniversary of Fr. Mariano Gomez.
5. August 14 (Monday), in the city of Manila. It marks the 137th birth anniversary of Fr. Jacinto Zamora.

January 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a private breakfast with former Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi of Japan, who came here to attend the inauguration of the Philippine-Japan Society headquarters in Caliraya, Quezon. Kishi is the president of the society.

Earlier, the President and the Japanese visitor played a round of golf at the Malacañang Park golf course.

After the breakfast, the President administered the oath of office to Roberto S. Benedicto as Philippine ambassador to Japan, vice former-Ambassador Jose S. Laurel III, who had resigned.

Among the hundreds present at the induction were high government officials, local business and industrial leaders, friends and close relatives of the inductee, including the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, Senate President Gil J. Puyat, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, Ambassadors Ramon Nolan and Gregorio Abad.

Also present were former Prime Minister Kishi and the members of his party composed of Ambassador Kiochi Azakai, Setsuroso Kobayashi, Seiki Tozaki, and Wataru Mori.

Later in the afternoon, the President met with Bureau of Internal Revenue regional directors and collectors. The group called on the Chief Executive in the course of their annual convention.

He commended the BIR personnel for “establishing a record in tax collection which cannot be considered as something to be ashamed of, but rather something to be proud of.”

Even as the President lauded their remarkable accomplishment, he exhorted the conferees to “please always remind ourselves and our men in the field that the same enthusiasm, dedication, and discipline which are required in public service, is still demanded of us.”

Those who attended the conference were Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata, Commissioner Misael Vera, BIR Deputy Commissioners Ambrosio M. Lina and Conrado P. Diaz, BIR Assistant Commissioner Bernardo D. Carpio, and 20 regional directors.

January 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a busy day with callers, which included the officers of the Rural Broadcasters Association of the Philippines (RBAP) and the Pulp and Paper Manufacturers Association (PPMA), whom he inducted in separate ceremonies.

In brief remarks before the RBAP officers, the President enlisted the organization’s assistance in the formation of at least one producers’ and consumers’ cooperative in every barrio.

The President said that funds for the program will be included in the budget proposal.

The pulp and paper manufacturers group informed the President that they can now produce all the paper needed by the country and 30 per cent of pulp requirements.

The PPMA officers was headed by Zoilo M. Estrella, association president, while the new set of RBAP officers led by Paquito “Rey” Pacheco, RBAP chairman.

After the induction ceremonies, the President received Prime Minister Chow Shu-Kai of the Republic of China who paid a courtesy call. The Chinese official was on a brief stopover enroute from an official mission to European and African countries.

Minister Chow, conveyed to the President and the Filipino people the felicitations and gratitude of President Chiang Kai-shek and the people of his country, particularly for the Philippine support behind Taiwan in the councils of the United Nations.

He also assured the President of his government’s policy to remove all sources of irritants in the close relations between his country and the Philippines.

The President sent his best wishes to President Chiang and expressed the hope that the Chinese leader will continue to lead his people towards peace and prosperity. The President also took the occasion to discuss with the visiting minister the problem of the overstaying Chinese.

Minister Chow was accompanied to Malacañang by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, Ambassador to Taipei Pelayo Llamas and Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Patrick Pichi Sun.

Through afternoon and evening, the President worked on state papers.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: January 21-27, 1972

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

January 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS started the day working on state papers, and in the process signed the *ad interim* appointment of Gen. Manuel T. Yan, as Chief of Mission, Class III, and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Philippines.

Gen. Yan retired recently as chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

At midmorning, the President disengaged himself from deskwork to receive the credentials of His Excellency Said Kassim Rishtya as the new non-resident ambassador of Afghanistan to the Philippines.

In presenting his credentials, Ambassador Rishtya said that although the Philippines and Afghanistan are far apart geographically, the two Asian nations share many things in common which bring them together, and that both countries have undergone "long and unrelenting struggle in maintaining and safeguarding national independence" and are "firm supporters of world peace and good understanding among nations."

Responding to the new envoy's remarks, President Marcos noted "that the existing bonds of friendship between our two peoples have strengthened through the years and that this has been made possible by our common aspirational determination to safeguard and uphold the ideals of liberty, fraternity, and independence."

"My administration," the President stressed, "looks forward to the intensification of cooperative efforts between our two countries in the field of cultural, trade, and commercial relations."

Among those who attended the ceremony were Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Manuel Collantes, and Acting Secretary of Health Clemente S. Gatmaitan.

In another ceremony later, the President conferred the Order of Sikatuna, rank of Lakan, on Executive Director Virgilio Barco of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development in simple award ceremonies at Malacañang.

Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, read the citation which lauded Dr. Barco for his "work in promoting better relations between the Philippines and Latin American countries" and his esteemed services to the government and people of the Republic of the Philippines," in his capacity as executive director of the IBRD, International Finance Corporation, and International Loans Association representing the Philippines, Colombia, Brazil, Ecuador, and the Dominican Republic.

After the ceremonies, the President tendered a luncheon in honor of Barco.

Present at the rites were Secretaries Cesar E.A. Virata of Finance, David M. Consunji of Public Works and Communications and Arturo R. Tanco, Jr., of Agriculture and Natural Resources; General Manager Roman Cruz, Jr. of the Government Service Insurance System, Governor Gregorio S. Licaros of the Central Bank, Chairman Leonides S. Virata and Governor Leon O. Ty of the Development Bank of the Philippines, and Chairman Vicente T. Paterno of the Board of Investments.

In the evening, the President tendered a formal dinner in honor of Dr. Takishi Watanabe, president of the Asian Development Bank.

January 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS started the day going over urgent state papers. He asked Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo to read for him a prepared prayer at the “Presidential Prayer Breakfast.”

In that prayer, the President said:

“To see men of different faiths and persuasions gathered thus under the same house, and to know that they are brought together by hopes and concerns they share in common, is to realize the extent to which we truly are one mind in one house, regardless of the diversity and differences of our individual creeds.

“Today, we live in a world wracked by doubt and conflict; and increasingly we are confronted with the terrible realization that serenity and happiness seem to recede farther away as our science and technology bring us closer to our material wants.”

The President concluded that “prayer is an education in fortitude as well as in hope, for it is in faith that we derive much of our energy and inspiration in the successful pursuit of our highest and greatest endeavors.”

The President ended the prayer by asking those gathered to share in from the Book of Common Prayer:

“Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil, and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice among men and nations.”

Later in the afternoon, the President inspected the Manila International Airport which was gutted by a dawn fire of still unknown origin.

In the course of his 45-minute inspection, the President appointed retired Brig. Gen. Jesus Singson, as civil aeronautics administrator and directed him to immediately take steps to normalize operations at the Manila International Airport.

Accompanied by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, the President was met and briefed by airport and aviation officials, including Acting Civil Aeronautics Administrator Epifanio Raymundo, MIA Manager Luis Tabuena and Brig. Gen. Jose Rancudo, PAF chief; and Director Jolly Bugarin of the National Bureau of Investigation.

Following the briefing, the President ordered:

- 1) The National Bureau of Investigation, the Metropolitan Command and the Civil Aeronautics Administration as well as the Pasay Police Department to assign their investigating arms to look into the arson angle.
- 2) The Department of Public Works and Communications to survey the damage as soon as the building cools off, determine the extent particularly of the damage to communications facilities, and to survey possible sources of replacements.

The President left the MIA for Malacañang at about 4:35 p.m.

January 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS did not receive any callers today but instead closeted himself in his private study to put the finishing touches to his State-of-the-Nation Message.

Early in the evening, the President broke off from his study to hear Mass at the Malacañang chapel.

January 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS in his address on the State-of-the-Nation before a joint session of Congress at the opening of its 100-day regular session, presented a 12-point priority program for an all-out drive against crime and stepped-up economic development.

The President said that the 12 bills, together with other specific legislation that he outlined, are aimed at giving meaning to his democratic revolution.

In his 55-minute speech, during which he reviewed what he called the “battalia of crises” which griped the country last year, the Chief Executive also expressed confidence that the nation will “not only stand but will also prevail.”

“This nation stands, tested by adversity and deriving strength from it, summoning a fresh will from the continuing challenge that are the historical legacy of all struggling nations,” the President said.

But the President added that the international and local developments were moving so fast as was the case 1971—that the Philippines would have to keep pace with developments if it was to survive.

(See pp. 852-914 for full text of the President’s State-of-the-Nation message.)

Earlier, the President received a Congress committee composed of Senators Mamintal Tamano, Genaro Magsaysay and Lorenzo Teves, and Reps. James Chiongbian, Calixto Zaldivar, Jr. and Joaquin Roces who informed him that the legislative body had convened and was ready to receive his message.

Accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, and the Congress committee, the President arrived at the session hall at 11 a.m. as scheduled.

The President and the First Lady were given a standing ovation. They were escorted in by Senate President Gil J. Puyat and Sneaker Cornelio T. Villareal.

Among the top government officials present the session hall were Vice President Fernando Lopez; members of the Cabinet, the Judiciary, the diplomatic corps, and their ladies. Also present were Mrs. Josefa Edralin-Marcos, the President’s mother, and some provincial, city and municipal officials.

The President and the First Lady were back at Malacañang about 12:30 p.m.

January 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS as usual engaged himself in his private study going over state papers needing his utmost attention, and only broke off to receive the members of the Japanese Economic Cooperation and Reparations Mission who paid their respects following their arrival.

The mission came to evaluate the effects of the Japanese government’s economic cooperation program here and see in what way it can be further improved. It will also confer with government and private officials on all aspects of economic cooperation, including technical and financial assistance, reparations payments, direct loans and suppliers’ credit.

During the call, the President conveyed through the group the gratitude and appreciation of the Philippine government and people to Japan for:

- 1) The credit assistance extended by Japan to the Philippines, particularly in the construction of the EP-Japan Friendship Highway, and for the commodity loan.

2) Japan's quick response to the Philippines' call for support and her leadership in the Consultative Group Meeting held in Paris last April, resulting in the immediate grant of the commodity loan to the Philippines.

3) Japan's donation of 10,000 tons of rice for the typhoon victims last year.

The President expressed the hope that the level of assistance of Japan to the Philippines be not only continued but increased under softer terms.

The Japanese mission was accompanied to Malacañang by Ambassador Toshio Urabe of Japan.

The meeting with the Japanese was attended by Finance Secretary Cesar E.A. Virata, Public Works and Communications Secretary David Consunji, Central Bank Governor Gregorio S. Licaros, Chairman Gerardo Sicat of the National Economic Council, Director General Apolinario Orosa of the Presidential Economic Staff, Acting Reparations Commissioner Anacleto Mangaser, Chairman Leonides S. Virata of the Development Bank of the Philippines, and Ambassador to Australia Gregorio Abad, the former chairman of the REPACOM.

The President then conferred with officials of the executive department present at the previous meeting and told them to be deadline conscious about the various economic and social projects under their respective jurisdiction. The President said that each department should be able to establish target dates for the completion of particular projects and to meet such deadlines set by them.

In this connection, the President ordered:

1. The Presidential Economic Staff to draw up a list of all projects previously approved by him and to report on the status of each immediately;
2. Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. to check and report on the performance of the groups created sometime ago to supervise the planning and implementation of projects by various departments and offices.

The President went back to his private study to continue on paper work. He issued a proclamation declaring Wednesday, January 26 a special public holiday in the provinces of Lanao and Sulu, and in the cities of Iligan, Marawi and Basilan.

January 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and the First Lady Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos attended in the morning the funeral of the late Ambassador Estela Romualdez Sulit, an aunt of the First Lady.

The First Couple returned to Malacañang before noon arriving just in time for the President's luncheon engagement with Senator Mamintal Tamano.

In the afternoon, the President met with his legislative advisers.

The President pushed his announced drive against crime another step forward by sending to Congress a number of proposed laws to curb widespread criminality.

The bills seek to provide stiffer penalties for illegal possession of firearms or parts thereof and ammunition, and for violation of crimes relative to opium and other prohibited drugs; remedy the inadequacy of present laws on carnapping; include members of the Armed Forces as among those to whom licenses for the possession of firearms may be exhibited when called up to do so; and provide for free transmission of all mail matter involving data or information on crime, from provincial commanders to the Chief of Constabulary.

With respect to the proposed law increasing penalties for selling or administering opium, the President pointed out that the crime is particularly “heinous because the victims include students, minors and young women, many of whom, because of the drugs, are forced to live a life of shame, misery and criminality.”

The President worked on official papers in the evening.

January 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS as usual started the day going over state papers. At mid-morning he interrupted his studies to confer the Order of Sikatuna (rank of datu) on Speaker Paik Too Chin of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea.

The President honored the Korean dignitary for his “service to international relations as a worthy spokesman of his people,” and which, as a result, helped strengthen the friendly ties between the Philippines and Korea and promoted greater understanding through the exchange of mutually beneficial ideas.

In accepting the decoration, Speaker Paik credited his colleagues at home and said that the visit here of Korean solons would help strengthen the friendly ties between the two countries so that the two peoples “will achieve the common goals they are presently pursuing.”

The entourage of Speaker Paik who also attended the conferment ceremony included Kim Chae Kuoang, Moon Tai Joon, Hyon Oh Bong, Lee Jung Suk, You Tark Kim, Park. Oang Yull, Chung Je Ho, and Lee Kwan Seuh, who are all members of the Korean National Assembly.

Also present at the ceremony were Senate President and Mrs. Gil J. Puyat, officials of the South Korean Embassy led by Ambassador Se Ryun Kim, Ambassador Narciso G. Reyes to the United Nations, Ambassador Benjamin T. Tirona to Korea; and Monico Vicente, DFA chief of protocol.

After the award ceremony, the President receive Francisco Ugale, president of the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, who came here to help promote Philippine export trade with Hawaii.

Ugale informed the President that he was looking into the possibility of exporting locally manufactured fish products, among others.

He also recommended the establishment of a Philippine National Bank branch in Honolulu to serve over 100,000 Filipinos residing there, many of whom are successful businessmen and industrialists.

Following his meeting with Ugale, the President conferred with head of key departments and agencies involved in development and infrastructure projects, and called on them to coordinate closely to speed up completion of such projects.

In the afternoon, the President met with his legislative advisers.

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The President worked on official papers in the evening.

The President also ordered that an inventory be made of all infrastructure and development projects, listed by category, so that the proper priority ratings could be determined for budget funding purposes.

During the 30-minute meeting, he was informed that:

- 1) Only 50% per cent of P109 million intended for financing the “palagad” rice program had actually been loaned out to farmers by the rural banks.
- 2) The land reform program was suffering from lack of funds, particularly in Nueva Ecija where *tungro* destroyed the rice crops.
- 3) The release of 4,700 additional irrigation pumps was snagged by the lack of coordination between the National Irrigation Administration and the Irrigation Service Unit.

The President ordered a study on the possibility of merging the NIA and ISU in order to prevent overlapping of functions, and at the same time speed up the distribution of pumps.

The conference was attended by Secretary of Finance Cesar E.A. Virata, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Arturo R. Tanco, Jr., Secretary of Agrarian Reform Conrado Estrella; Chairman Gerardo Sicat of the National Economic Council, Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, Director General Apolinario Orosa of the Presidential Economic Staff, Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, and Public Works Undersecretary Baltazar Aquino.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

President's Week in Review: January 28 - February 3, 1972

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

January 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, with only a few scheduled callers, had the opportunity to concentrate on his desk work this day. He issued a proclamation, amending Proclamation No. 952, to include the province of Southern Leyte under the declaration of the existence of a state of calamity in the province of Leyte due to typhoon "Asiang."

The President said that extensive destruction to life and property had similarly been wrought upon the province of Southern Leyte by typhoon "Asiang," thus it was just and proper to include the province of Southern Leyte in the calamity area.

The President signed as well an executive order creating the Philippine committee on the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

In creating the committee, the President noted that the Philippines is an active member of the UNCTAD and that the country's participation in conferences of this body should be made more effective.

As created, the Philippine committee is composed of the Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs, as chairman; and a representative each from the Departments of Commerce and Industry, and of Finance; the National Economic Council, the Central Bank of the Philippines, the Presidential Economic Staff and the Board of Investments, as members.

In a separate action the President directed Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco to release additional funds for the economic rehabilitation of displaced settlers, both Christians and Muslims, in Mindanao.

The President's directive was in response to representation made by Governors Carlos Cajelo of Cotabato and Sergio Morales of South Cotabato, who requested that priority be given to basic needs such as food, clothing and medicines, which should be immediately dispatched to their provinces. The duo informed the President that hunger was forcing Muslim evacuees to forage for food, resulting in violent clashes with Christian settlers who do not want to lose their animals and crops.

January 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS started this day going over state papers in which he:

1) authorize the transfer of administration and custody of the Aguinaldo Mansion in Kawit, Cavite from the National Museum to the National Historical Commission; and

2) revised the membership of the Executive Committee charged with the observance of the 30th anniversary of the Fall of Bataan and Corregidor. As amended, the committee members include the governor of Bataan province, the deputy commissioner of the Budget, and the national commander of the Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor.

January 30—

PRESIDENT MARCOS put in a full measure of desk work by first of all designating the members of the Philippine delegation to the first meeting of the Association for Science Cooperation in Asia (ASCA), with Chairman Florencio A. Medina of the National Science Development Board as leader.

The President also vested the members of the delegation with full power and authority to meet and confer with their counterparts from other governments represented in the meeting, and who are invested with like power and authority.

Other representatives in the Philippine delegation are Dr. Juan Salcedo, Jr. of the National Research Council of the Philippines, Director General Apolinario Orosa of the Presidential Economic Staff, Mrs. Lefcicia Ramos Shahani of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Bienvenido Villavicencio of the National Economic Council, Jose Torres of the Philippine Atomic Energy Commission, and Dominador O. Reyes who will also serve as adviser.

The President worked on his desk till late in the evening.

January 31—

PRESIDENT MARCOS started this first working day of the week by busying himself early enough, attending to urgent state papers. He broke off only later to receive the directors of Renault International, Inc.

In meeting the Renault group, the President reiterated the country's basic policy to encourage the entry of foreign capital, especially on a joint venture, and said that "we are very happy that Renault is here in the Philippines and we are also very glad to see the interest of France in the investment field in the Philippines." He took particular interest on the fact that Filipinos are in control of Renault (Philippines) Inc.

The directors of Renault International visited the country to submit their proposals for the expansion of their automotive investments in the Philippines.

The party who called on the President was headed by Pierre Revol, French ambassador to the Philippines, leader of the delegation.

At a meeting with Director Gabriel Carreon of the Philippine General Hospital later in the afternoon, the President released a total of ₱2.8 million for the hospital.

He authorized the fund release on being informed of the conditions in the hospital by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez-Marcos, who made an ocular inspection of actual conditions obtaining therein and inquired into the hospital problems.

Checks covering the fund releases were handed to Director Carreon who was accompanied by Acting Secretary of Health Clemente Gatmaitan on the call at Malacañang.

February 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS signed the nominations of seven persons to fill vacancies in municipal courts, in line with the determined campaign of the government against criminality and lawlessness.

At mid-morning the President broke off from his usual early deskwork to confer with representatives of the two feuding political factions in Iloilo City, headed by Rep. Fermin Caram and City Mayor Rodolfo Ganzon.

Emphasizing his concern for peace and order which he said "leads the agenda of government through the remainder of my Administration," the President asked the protagonists to "settle their differences."

Others who attended the conference were:

Solicitor General Felix Antonio; Director Jolly Bugarin of the National Bureau of Investigation; Colonel Luis Amor, III PC zone commandor; Col. Prospero Olivas, CIS chief; Col. Emilio Narcise, Iloilo PC provincial commander; Ex-

Vice Mayor Arturo Dican; Ex-Vice Mayor Godofredo Quimsing; Ex-Congressman Pascual Espinosa; Ex-councilor Neil Hechanove; Vice Mayor Francisco Garganera; Councilors Remy Jacomille, Flor Gallon, Francisco Divinagracia, Reuben Duron, Federico Abadiano, Edclie Ledesma, Edgar Gil, Romeo Hibionada, and Assistant Chief of Police Teodolfo de la Cruz.

After the conference, the President received Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Lotuza, and Letty Formoso, representing the Filipino community in Stockton, California, who came to say good-bye before returning to their adopted homes.

Next to call on the President was Rev. Macario Ga of the Philippine Independence Church, who offered the PIC's assistance in the promotion of the people's welfare. The President asked the Bishop to leave the proposal with him for further study.

Other callers who saw the President were Governors Lino Bocalan of Cavite, Aguedo Agbayani of Pangasinan, and Mayor Omar Dianalan of Marawi City, all of whom consulted the President on the problems of their respective constituencies.

Later in the day, following a 30-minute briefing on the operations of the Department of Social Welfare, the President called for an integrated approach by all government and agencies concerned with the implementation of the program of socio-economic development, to prevent overlapping of functions and the thin dispersal of government resources.

The agencies involved in this program are the Department of Social Welfare, Presidential Assistant on Community Development, Agricultural Productivity Commission, Agricultural Credit Administration, National Food and Agriculture Council, National Cottage Industries Development Authority, Manpower and Youth Training Council, and the various offices under the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

After the briefing on the disaster relief operations, the President directed Secretary Estefania Aldaba-Lim of social welfare to draw up a realistic estimate of the calamity fund needed for the year, based on her own experience, so that he could recommend to Congress a more realistic and adequate calamity fund.

February 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, as usual, started the day going over state papers which call for his urgent attention and only took time out to receive his scheduled callers.

First to see the President was Congressman Lester Wolff of New York who paid his respects in the course of a brief stopover from his world observation tour. Mr. Wolff was accompanied to Malacañang by William Fiorito, an American industrialist who proposed to launch a tourist program designed to drum up interest among more European and American travellers to visit Southeast Asia. The Chief Executive requested Fiorito to confer with Commissioner Gregorio Araneta of the BTTI.

Next to call on the President were Reps. Ramon Durano, Manuel Zosa, and Eduardo Gullas of Cebu; Mariano B. Peñaflorida of Iloilo; Teodulo C. Natividad of Bulacan; Felipe J. Abrigo of Eastern Samar; Felipe B. Almazan of Kalinga-Apayao; Rafael B. Legaspi of Aklan; Jose G. Puyat of Surigao del Sur. They discussed local matters with the President such as the appointment of judges and prosecutors, the installation of pre-fabricated schoolhouses, and the construction of roads rendered impassable by rains and typhoon.

Other callers included Senator Leonardo Perez who accompanied the governor, vice governor, and board members of Kalinga-Apayao; Vice Governor and Mrs. Francisco Rabat of Davao Oriental, accompanied by Mayor Thelma Almario, Vice Mayor Jesus Abear, councilor Afrodesio B. Andrada, Gervasio Valenteros, Hansel Magno, Ellen Andrada of Davao Oriental, who likewise presented the problems of their constituencies.

At past noontime, the President conferred privately with Bishop Mariano Gaviola, Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal, Delegate Estanislao Fernandez of the Constitutional Convention, Chief of Police Roland Siquijor of Pasay City, and retired General Emilio Zerrudo.

February 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, free from his usual schedule of callers, devoted most of his time going over state papers. Among others, he issued:

1) an executive order redefining the functions and duties of the Medical Assistance Program Task Force, which was created earlier under Executive Order No. 337, dated September 1, 1971.

The President amended the functions of the task force in order that its activities will not overlap and duplicate the responsibilities and duties of the Philippine Medical Care Commission.

As modified, the functions and powers of the task force will be recommendatory and advisory to the commission.

2) an administrative order creating a special committee on narcotics.

In his order, the President stated that narcotic addiction had increasingly become a major social problem and it threatens to corrupt and degrade the youth and student population, undermine society and the economy as well.

“There is an urgent need to formulate and adopt preventive, curative, rehabilitative and developmental measures to repel and contain this social menace before it gets out of control, to the detriment of our national interest and public welfare.”

The special committee is composed of: secretary of Justice as chairman; the solicitor general, as vice chairman; the secretary of health, secretary of education, secretary of social welfare, secretary of finance, commissioner of the budget, and the chief of constabulary, as members.

The President, from time to time have to leave his private study to attend to unscheduled callers especially his fiscal and legislative advisers.

The Chief Executive worked lengthily on his desk in the afternoon and until late in the evening.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Official Week in Review: January 21 – January 27, 1972

January 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS started the day working on state papers, and in the process signed the *ad interim* appointment of Gen. Manuel T. Yan, as Chief of Mission, Class III, and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Philippines.

Gen. Yan retired recently as chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

At midmorning, the President disengaged himself from deskwork to receive the credentials of His Excellency Said Kassim Rishtya as the new non-resident ambassador of Afghanistan to the Philippines.

In presenting his credentials, Ambassador Rishtya said that although the Philippines and Afghanistan are far apart geographically, the two Asian nations share many things in common which bring them together, and that both countries have undergone “long and unrelenting struggle in maintaining and safeguarding national independence” and are “firm supporters of world peace and good understanding among nations.”

Responding to the new envoy’s remarks, President Marcos noted “that the existing bonds of friendship between our two peoples have strengthened through the years and that this has been made possible by our common aspirational determination to safeguard and uphold the ideals of liberty, fraternity, and independence.”

“My administration,” the President stressed, “looks forward to the intensification of cooperative efforts between our two countries in the field of cultural, trade, and commercial relations.”

Among those who attended the ceremony were Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Manuel Collantes, and Acting Secretary of Health Clemente S. Gatmaitan.

In another ceremony later, the President conferred the Order of Sikatuna, rank of Lakan, on Executive Director Virgilio Barco of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development in simple award ceremonies at Malacañang.

Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, read the citation which lauded Dr. Barco for his “work in promoting better relations between the Philippines and Latin American countries” and his esteemed services to the government and people of the Republic of the Philippines,” in his capacity as executive director of the IBRD, International Finance Corporation, and International Loans Association representing the Philippines, Colombia, Brazil, Ecuador, and the Dominican Republic.

After the ceremonies, the President tendered a luncheon in honor of Barco.

Present at the rites were Secretaries Cesar E.A. Virata of Finance, David M. Consunji of Public Works and Communications and Arturo R. Tanco, Jr., of Agriculture and Natural Resources; General Manager Roman Cruz, Jr. of the Government Service Insurance System, Governor Gregorio S. Licaros of the Central Bank, Chairman Leonides S. Virata and Governor Leon O. Ty of the Development Bank of the Philippines, and Chairman Vicente T. Paterno of the Board of Investments.

In the evening, the President tendered a formal dinner in honor of Dr. Takishi Watanabe, president of the Asian Development Bank.

January 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS started the day going over urgent state papers. He asked Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo to read for him a prepared prayer at the “Presidential Prayer Breakfast.”

In that prayer, the President said:

“To see men of different faiths and persuasions gathered thus under the same house, and to know that they are brought together by hopes and concerns they share in common, is to realize the extent to which we truly are one mind in one house, regardless of the diversity and differences of our individual creeds.

“Today, we live in a world wracked by doubt and conflict; and increasingly we are confronted with the terrible realization that serenity and happiness seem to recede farther away as our science and technology bring us closer to our material wants.”

The President concluded that “prayer is an education in fortitude as well as in hope, for it is in faith that we derive much of our energy and inspiration in the successful pursuit of our highest and greatest endeavors.”

The President ended the prayer by asking those gathered to share in from the Book of Common Prayer:

“Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil, and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice among men and nations.”

Later in the afternoon, the President inspected the Manila International Airport which was gutted by a dawn fire of still unknown origin.

In the course of his 45-minute inspection, the President appointed retired Brig. Gen. Jesus Singson, as civil aeronautics administrator and directed him to immediately take steps to normalize operations at the Manila International Airport.

Accompanied by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, the President was met and briefed by airport and aviation officials, including Acting Civil Aeronautics Administrator Epifanio Raymundo, MIA Manager Luis Tabuena and Brig. Gen. Jose Rancudo, PAF chief; and Director Jolly Bugarin of the National Bureau of Investigation.

Following the briefing, the President ordered:

- 1) The National Bureau of Investigation, the Metropolitan Command and the Civil Aeronautics Administration as well as the Pasay Police Department to assign their investigating arms to look into the arson angle.
- 2) The Department of Public Works and Communications to survey the damage as soon as the building cools off, determine the extent particularly of the damage to communications facilities, and to survey possible sources of replacements.

The President left the MIA for Malacañang at about 4:35 p.m.

January 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS did not receive any callers today but instead closeted himself in his private study to put the finishing touches to his State-of-the-Nation Message.

Early in the evening, the President broke off from his study to hear Mass at the Malacañang chapel.

January 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS in his address on the State-of-the-Nation before a joint session of Congress at the opening of its 100-day regular session, presented a 12-point priority program for an all-out drive against crime and stepped-up economic development.

The President said that the 12 bills, together with other specific legislation that he outlined, are aimed at giving meaning to his democratic revolution.

In his 55-minute speech, during which he reviewed what he called the “battalia of crises” which griped the country last year, the Chief Executive also expressed confidence that the nation will “not only stand but will also prevail.”

“This nation stands, tested by adversity and deriving strength from it, summoning a fresh will from the continuing challenge that are the historical legacy of all struggling nations,” the President said.

But the President added that the international and local developments were moving so fast as was the case 1971—that the Philippines would have to keep pace with developments if it was to survive.

(See pp. 852-914 for full text of the President’s State-of-the-Nation message.)

Earlier, the President received a Congress committee composed of Senators Mamintal Tamano, Genaro Magsaysay and Lorenzo Teves, and Reps. James Chiongbian, Calixto Zaldivar, Jr. and Joaquin Rocas who informed him that the legislative body had convened and was ready to receive his message.

Accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, and the Congress committee, the President arrived at the session hall at 11 a.m. as scheduled.

The President and the First Lady were given a standing ovation. They were escorted in by Senate President Gil J. Puyat and Sneaker Cornelio T. Villareal.

Among the top government officials present the session hall were Vice President Fernando Lopez; members of the Cabinet, the Judiciary, the diplomatic corps, and their ladies. Also present were Mrs. Josefa Edralin-Marcos, the President’s mother, and some provincial, city and municipal officials.

The President and the First Lady were back at Malacañang about 12:30 p.m.

January 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS as usual engaged himself in his private study going over state papers needing his utmost attention, and only broke off to receive the members of the Japanese Economic Cooperation and Reparations Mission who paid their respects following their arrival.

The mission came to evaluate the effects of the Japanese government’s economic cooperation program here and see in what way it can be further improved. It will also confer with government and private officials on all aspects of economic cooperation, including technical and financial assistance, reparations payments, direct loans and suppliers’ credit.

During the call, the President conveyed through the group the gratitude and appreciation of the Philippine government and people to Japan for:

- 1) The credit assistance extended by Japan to the Philippines, particularly in the construction of the EP-Japan Friendship Highway, and for the commodity loan.

2) Japan's quick response to the Philippines' call for support and her leadership in the Consultative Group Meeting held in Paris last April, resulting in the immediate grant of the commodity loan to the Philippines.

3) Japan's donation of 10,000 tons of rice for the typhoon victims last year.

The President expressed the hope that the level of assistance of Japan to the Philippines be not only continued but increased under softer terms.

The Japanese mission was accompanied to Malacañang by Ambassador Toshio Urabe of Japan.

The meeting with the Japanese was attended by Finance Secretary Cesar E.A. Virata, Public Works and Communications Secretary David Consunji, Central Bank Governor Gregorio S. Licaros, Chairman Gerardo Sicat of the National Economic Council, Director General Apolinario Orosa of the Presidential Economic Staff, Acting Reparations Commissioner Anacleto Mangaser, Chairman Leonides S. Virata of the Development Bank of the Philippines, and Ambassador to Australia Gregorio Abad, the former chairman of the REPACOM.

The President then conferred with officials of the executive department present at the previous meeting and told them to be deadline conscious about the various economic and social projects under their respective jurisdiction. The President said that each department should be able to establish target dates for the completion of particular projects and to meet such deadlines set by them.

In this connection, the President ordered:

1. The Presidential Economic Staff to draw up a list of all projects previously approved by him and to report on the status of each immediately;

2. Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. to check and report on the performance of the groups created sometime ago to supervise the planning and implementation of projects by various departments and offices.

The President went back to his private study to continue on paper work. He issued a proclamation declaring Wednesday, January 26 a special public holiday in the provinces of Lanao and Sulu, and in the cities of Iligan, Marawi and Basilan.

January 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and the First Lady Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos attended in the morning the funeral of the late Ambassador Estela Romualdez Sulit, an aunt of the First Lady.

The First Couple returned to Malacañang before noon arriving just in time for the President's luncheon engagement with Senator Mamintal Tamano.

In the afternoon, the President met with his legislative advisers.

The President pushed his announced drive against crime another step forward by sending to Congress a number of proposed laws to curb widespread criminality.

The bills seek to provide stiffer penalties for illegal possession of firearms or parts thereof and ammunition, and for violation of crimes relative to opium and other prohibited drugs; remedy the inadequacy of present laws on carnaping; include members of the Armed Forces as among those to whom licenses for the possession of firearms may be exhibited when called up to do so; and provide for free transmission of all mail matter involving data or information on crime, from provincial commanders to the Chief of Constabulary.

With respect to the proposed law increasing penalties for selling or administering opium, the President pointed out that the crime is particularly “heinous because the victims include students, minors and young women, many of whom, because of the drugs, are forced to live a life of shame, misery and criminality.”

The President worked on official papers in the evening.

January 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS as usual started the day going over state papers. At mid-morning he interrupted his studies to confer the Order of Sikatuna (rank of datu) on Speaker Paik Too Chin of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea.

The President honored the Korean dignitary for his “service to international relations as a worthy spokesman of his people,” and which, as a result, helped strengthen the friendly ties between the Philippines and Korea and promoted greater understanding through the exchange of mutually beneficial ideas.

In accepting the decoration, Speaker Paik credited his colleagues at home and said that the visit here of Korean solons would help strengthen the friendly ties between the two countries so that the two peoples “will achieve the common goals they are presently pursuing.”

The entourage of Speaker Paik who also attended the conferment ceremony included Kim Chae Kuoang, Moon Tai Joon, Hyon Oh Bong, Lee Jung Suk, You Tark Kim, Park. Oang Yull, Chung Je Ho, and Lee Kwan Seuh, who are all members of the Korean National Assembly.

Also present at the ceremony were Senate President and Mrs. Gil J. Puyat, officials of the South Korean Embassy led by Ambassador Se Ryun Kim, Ambassador Narciso G. Reyes to the United Nations, Ambassador Benjamin T. Tirona to Korea; and Monico Vicente, DFA chief of protocol.

After the award ceremony, the President receive Francisco Ugale, president of the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, who came here to help promote Philippine export trade with Hawaii.

Ugale informed the President that he was looking into the possibility of exporting locally manufactured fish products, among others.

He also recommended the establishment of a Philippine National Bank branch in Honolulu to serve over 100,000 Filipinos residing there, many of whom are successful businessmen and industrialists.

Following his meeting with Ugale, the President conferred with head of key departments and agencies involved in development and infrastructure projects, and called on them to coordinate closely to speed up completion of such projects.

In the afternoon, the President met with his legislative advisers.

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The President worked on official papers in the evening.

The President also ordered that an inventory be made of all infrastructure and development projects, listed by category, so that the proper priority ratings could be determined for budget funding purposes.

During the 30-minute meeting, he was informed that:

- 1) Only 50% per cent of P109 million intended for financing the “palagad” rice program had actually been loaned out to farmers by the rural banks.
- 2) The land reform program was suffering from lack of funds, particularly in Nueva Ecija where *tungro* destroyed the rice crops.
- 3) The release of 4,700 additional irrigation pumps was snagged by the lack of coordination between the National Irrigation Administration and the Irrigation Service Unit.

The President ordered a study on the possibility of merging the NIA and ISU in order to prevent overlapping of functions, and at the same time speed up the distribution of pumps.

The conference was attended by Secretary of Finance Cesar E.A. Virata, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Arturo R. Tanco, Jr., Secretary of Agrarian Reform Conrado Estrella; Chairman Gerardo Sicat of the National Economic Council, Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, Director General Apolinario Orosa of the Presidential Economic Staff, Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, and Public Works Undersecretary Baltazar Aquino.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1972). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 68(5), xxxi-xxxvi.

Official Week in Review: February 4 – February 10, 1972

February 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, with only one scheduled caller, started the day early going over state papers. In the process he issued Executive Order No. 369 modifying the rates of import duty on certain imported articles as provided under the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines.

At about mid-morning, the President broke off from his desk work and administered the oath of office to:

- 1) Col. Carmelo L. Agbayani as acting commissioner of the Police Commission.

Agbayani's designation fills the vacancy created by the expiration of the term of office of former Commissioner Jose Lukban.

- 2) Miss Rora H. Navarro as Foreign Service Officer (Class IV) and Vice-Consul of the Philippines.

After the induction ceremonies, the President resumed his study of urgent state papers uninterruptedly until late in the evening.

February 5—

PRESIDENT MARCOS as usual started early on the day going over urgent state papers.

Among others, the Chief Executive:

- 1) Issued a proclamation designating the period from February 15 to June 15 for the 1972 national membership and educational fund campaign of the Philippine Mental Health Association, Inc.
- 2) Signed the nominations for one original appointment and four promotional transfers in station assignment of judges of the Court of First Instance.

He then submitted the nominations to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation.

The President also issued a directive to the Philippine Constabulary, "to employ all available and necessary force" to keep the peace in Lianga, Surigao del Sur. He issued the directive at a conference in Malacañang attended by officials of the justice and labor departments, the PC and of the province of Surigao del Sur. The President had summoned these officials to work out solutions to the labor dispute in the area.

Present at the conference were: Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos, Undersecretary of Labor Amado G. Inciong, Reps. Jose G. Puyat, Jr. of Surigao del Sur and Roberto M. Sabido of Albay, Fiscal Vicente Murillo of Surigao del Sur, and Commodore Hilario M. Ruiz, PN flag-officer-in-command.

February 6—

FREE from his usual schedule of callers, President Marcos devoted the whole day to desk work. He issued a proclamation declaring Saturday, February 19, a special public holiday in Bago City. The day marks the anniversary of the city's organization.

Interrupting his desk work at about noontime, the President met with some members of his Cabinet who come to consult him on problems affecting their respective departments.

The President worked on his desk till late evening.

February 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS certified to Congress the urgency of Senate Bill No. 543, a bill seeking to provide for closer supervision over the dispensation of dangerous drugs, and imposing stiffer penalties on those who illegally traffic in prohibited drugs. In certifying the bill, the President pointed out that drug addiction had aggravated the peace and order problem, and that it is especially dangerous because it destroys the fabric of morality.

In the afternoon, the President presided over the meeting of the Foreign Policy Council which discussed the matter on the Philippine recognition of the new state of Bangladesh (East Pakistan).

However, upon request of national and local Muslim leaders whom the President invited to the meeting, the Council deferred action on the matter “at least until after Indian troops had pulled out of the territory.”

The President told the Muslim delegation headed by Sen. Mamintal Tamano that he would bring up their request at the next Foreign Policy Council meeting.

The Muslim delegation which saw the President included Rep. Indanan Anni of Sulu, Mayor Omar Dianalan of Marawi City, Governor-elect Tarhata Lucman of Lanao del Sur; and Governors Carlos Cajero of Cotabato and Virgilio Lacaya of Zamboanga del Norte.

After the meeting, the President resumed his paperwork the rest of the afternoon and evening.

He signed the designations of:

1) Ronaldo B. Zamora as assistant executive secretary for legal affairs. Secretary Zamora filled the post vacated by former Assistant Executive Secretary Ponciano G. A. Mathay, who was appointed chairman of the Oil Industry Commission.

2) Manuel T. Mañosa, Jr. as member of the Board of Examiners for Architects, to succeed Tomas Arguelles whose term of office in that Board had expired.

February 8—

THIS IS a red letter day in the country’s history, as it brings back to memory the promulgation of the fundamental law of the land. In commemorating the event, the President issued the following message:

“We mark Constitution Day this year amid a unified national effort to write a new Constitution that will best embody our hopes and aspirations for a better life.

“Although the new Constitution should certainly carry features different from the original document, I am sure, at the very core, the new Constitution will pay allegiance to the same virtues, the same ideals, and the same principles that give life to our free Republic and our democratic way of life.

“We have reason to be particularly proud in the fact that whereas in other countries, Constitutions are disrupted and modified after the shedding of blood, peaceful order and democratic ceremony attend our present Constitutional effort.

“It is best perhaps that on this occasion our thoughts should turn to those who gave us present Constitution, while our prayers and good wishes go to the men and women who are trying to give us a new one. “It is also fitting that our people unite to support their efforts.”

The President's activities for the rest of the day hewed close to schedule, with the morning devoted to desk work. Among others, he signed his Budget message to Congress, covering his proposal for the FY 1973 general appropriations.

The President devoted the afternoon to receiving callers.

Among his visitors were:

1) R. F. Johnson, president and managing director of Caltex (Phil.) who succeeded J.J. Wolahan as head of the gasoline firm. Accompanying Johnson on the call were Caltex officials led by Wolahan and Francis Ablan.

2) Mayor Silvestre Boma and the councilors of the new town of Imelda, Camarines Norte who sought financial assistance for their municipal projects, such as for the construction of a municipal building, roads and other public works, and for the purchase of firearms and ammunitions for the local police force.

In the evening, the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, were hosts at cocktails, honoring the surviving delegates to the 1934 Constitutional Convention.

February 9—

WITH a few scheduled callers, the President started the day early attending to urgent slate papers. In separate actions he:

1) Ordered Commissioner Misael P. Vera of the Bureau of Internal Revenue to make public the latest income tax returns of the top 100 individual and corporate taxpayers in the country;

2) Signed the designations of three officials in the Bureau of Public Schools, and of the acting chairman of the Board of Examiners for Civil Engineers; and

3) Issued a directive requiring that any contract for the reconstruction of the Manila International Airport terminal building should comply with guidelines he spelled out in a similar order we sent to Secretary of Public Works and Communications David Consunji.

Later in the morning, the President disengaged from his desk work to meet officials of the United Nations Development Programme. He discussed with them the projected establishment of a Philippine Coconut Research Institute in the Philippines.

The UNDP is offering to provide the Institute with the equipment needed to train coconut scientists, especially in conducting leaf analyses of all coconut palms to ascertain fertilizer needs.

Senator Emmanuel Pelaez, chairman of the Senate committee on agriculture, accompanied the UNDP officials to Malacañang.

The other UNDP officials in the group were Tom Unwin, Dr. Horst Gueting, and Dr. W. V. D. Pieris. Others in the group were NSDB Chairman Florencio Medina; D. Juan T. Carlos, Jr., Philcorin director; and Miss Cherie Palileo, secretary to the NSDB Board of Trustees.

Another caller of the President was Shinzo Ohya, president of the Teijin (Ltd) of Japan. Ohya informed the President that his company had granted 10 two-year scholarships abroad for Filipino college graduates.

The President thanked Ohya, who is also chairman of the Japan Textile Federation, for the scholarships and assured him that the Department of Education will see to it that only the worthy and most qualified nominees would be chosen for the scholarships.

Ohya was accompanied by his wife, Masako Ohya; Kuniaki Matsumoto, Carlos Palanca, Jr., Jesus Yujuico, P. L. Lim, Yoichi Watanabe and Cesar Concio.

February 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS made two important decisions while going over state papers needing his immediate attention.

1) He issued Executive Order No. 373, designating the Department of Commerce and Industry as the agency to take over and finish the business operations of the Board of Industries.

2) He directed the implementation of Article 2186 of the Civil Code of the Philippines.

The said article provides: “Every owner of a motor vehicle shall file with the proper government office a bond executed by a government-controlled corporation or office, to answer for damages to third persons.”

At about 10 a.m., the President held a caucus with leaders of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The Chief Executive said during the meeting that facilities and projects boosting production would be given top priority in the matter of fund releases.

The President said it was extremely necessary to program the funds available because of the meager resources and the great demand for funds to boost production.

Among those who called on the President were Reps. Vicente Cerilles of Zamboanga del Sur, Lamberto Macias of Negros Oriental, Armando Cope of Albay, Antonio Diaz of Zambales, Ramon Durano and Manuel Zosa of Cebu, Rafael Legaspi of Aklan, Andres Cosalan of Benguet, Godofredo Tan of Quezon, Ali Dimaporo of Lanao del Norte, Macacuna Dimaporo of Lanao del Sur and Felipe Almazan of Kalinga-Apayao.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1972). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 68(7), xlv-xlvi.

President's Week in Review: February 11-17, 1972

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

February 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS motored to Sta. Rosa, Laguna early in the morning for the inauguration of the Filipinas Synthetic-Fiber Corporation plant where he was also the guest speaker.

In his speech the President said that “the genius of private enterprise and the assistance and encouragement of government” made possible “the manufacture of polyester fiber in the Philippines.”

He stressed anew what he has always maintained, “that the future of industry is best assured by the system that gives full scope of the genius of private enterprise, and that the government’s place in this effort is not to displace the entrepreneur but to encourage, support, and assist him in this endeavor.”

The new plant, a first in the country, was to produce polyester, described as “the fiber of our time.” Incorporated on July 22, 1958, Filsyn is a 60 per cent Filipino and 40 per cent Japanese joint venture, with a ₱50 million authorized capital stock.

The President said that the “hopes of the government are great that the project will meet with success.”

Prominent among those present at the inauguration were Japanese Ambassador Toshio Urabe; Shinzo Ohya, president of Teijin Limited and Chairman of the Japanese Textile Federation; Mrs. Masako Ohya; Bishop Pedro Bantigue of San Pablo City, who officiated at the blessing; and Filsyn executives and their wives, including Jesus Yujuico, chairman; Seiichiro Watanabe, vice-chairman.

After the inauguration ceremonies, the President partook of lunch with the company executives and thereafter, he motored back to Manila arriving in Malacañang at 3 p.m.

After a brief rest, he worked on official papers. In the process, he issued Executive Order No. 368, which certified as a preferred pioneer industry the production of polyester fibers, and entitled the product to post-operative tariff protection.

The President continued his desk work until evening.

February 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS presided over the meeting of the Foreign Policy Council in the morning.

During the meeting, the Council decided to open trade relations with all countries including Socialist and Communist countries, but excluding those under United Nations embargo such as Rhodesia and South Africa.

The President said that the decision to establish trade relations with all countries would push forward the frontiers of the country’s diplomatic and trade relations in accordance with the plans of the Council.

He said that under this policy, trade will be carried on all levels, whether between individuals or firms, and between corporations.

At the same time, the Council deferred action on the question of recognition of Bangladesh (East Pakistan).

The Council's action was in response to the appeal of Muslim leaders led by Sen. Mamintal Tamano who urged a more cautious attitude towards recognition.

The meeting was attended by Senate President Gil J. Puyat, Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal, Senate President Protempore Jose J. Roy, Senators Mamintal Tamano, Arturo M. Tolentino, Lorenzo Teves and Emmanuel Pelaez, former Sen. Lorenzo M. Tanada; Reps. Nicanor Yñiguez, Ali Dimaporo, Macacuna Dimaporo, and Jose Aldeguez;

Secretaries Carlos P. Romulo of Foreign Affairs, Vicente Abad Santos of Justice, Cesar E. A. Virata of Finance, Arturo R. Tanco, Jr. of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Juan Ponce Enrile of National Defense, and Troadio T. Quiazon, Jr. of Commerce and Industry; Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Press Secretary Francisco S. Tatad, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Jose D. Ingles, Commissioner Mama Sinsuat of National Integration;

Constitutional Convention Delegate Raul S. Manglapus, Roman Pedrosa of the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Benjamin Campomanes of the Rotary Club, U. P. President Salvador P. Lopez, Ambassador to the United Nations Narciso G. Reyes, Governors Carlos Cajelo of Cotabato and Linang Mandangan of Lanao del Sur.

Earlier, the President conferred with Senate and House leaders with whom he discussed the administration's legislative proposals.

In the afternoon, the President devoted his time working on state papers and reviewing reports submitted to him by various government officials.

While going over the reports, the President ordered the immediate preparation of a comprehensive system of rotation and assignment of government personnel to achieve full utilization of their talent, training, capability or expertise in the interest of national development.

Toward this end, he organized a committee to prepare the rotation plan, with Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes as chairman.

Named members of the committee were Angelita Ofilada of the Presidential Economic Staff, Carmel C. Perfecto of the Commission on Reorganization, and Filemon U. Fernandez of the Civil Service Commission.

The committee was directed to review the memoranda of agreement submitted by the various government departments, and to incorporate the same into the comprehensive rotation plan.

He also ordered the committee to submit the final draft of the Comprehensive Plan and the schedule of implementation within 30 days after receipt of all memoranda of agreement from the various departments.

February 13—

SUNDAY is usually a day free of callers, so President Marcos had ample time to review important reports submitted to him by various officials regarding government projects.

At about 4:35 in the afternoon, the President, together with the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, motored to the Manila International Airport to welcome President Soeharto of Indonesia who arrived for a three-day state visit.

Upon the arrival of President Soeharto on board an Indonesian Garuda Airways plane, which touched down at 4:55 p.m., the President and Mrs. Marcos approached the ramp to meet the Indonesian chief of state, who was accompanied by Madame Soeharto.

The Indonesian leader was given the traditional 21-gun salute and full military honors.

From the airport, the Philippine and Indonesian presidents headed a long motorcade that brought them to Malacañang. They arrived at the Palace at 5:45 p.m.

President Soeharto's party included: Adam Malik president of the United Nations General Assembly and concurrently Indonesian foreign minister; Dr. Widjojo Nitisastro, minister for national development; Gen. Umar Wirahadikusumah, chief of staff of the Indonesian army; maj. Gen. Soedharmono, secretary of State; Brig Gen. Soetikno Loekitodisastro, presidential secretary; R. B. I. N. Djajadiningrat, director-general for political affairs of the Indonesian foreign ministry.

Prominent among the welcomers of President Soeharto were Vice President and Mrs. Fernando Lopez, Constitutional Convention President and Mrs. Diosdado Macapagal, Senate President and Mrs. Gil J. Puyat, Speaker and Mrs. Cornelio T. Villareal, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo and Undersecretaries Jose D. Ingles and Manuel Collantes, members of the diplomatic corps, the Cabinet, the Senators and the House of Representatives, and the Indonesian community in the Philippines.

In the evening, President and Mrs. Marcos tendered a state dinner in, honor of President and Mrs. Soeharto.

In their after dinner remarks, both the host and the honoree reaffirmed the existing cordial relations between the Philippines and Indonesia.

The President also noted the invaluable contributions of President Soeharto to the enhancement of the friendly and fraternal relations between the Philippines and Indonesia.

In response, the Indonesian President assured President Marcos of the continuing brotherly and friendly sentiments of the entire people of Indonesia towards the Filipinos.

February 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had breakfast and private talks with the visiting Indonesian, chief of state, President Soeharto.

Official talks were also conducted by the two Presidents, wherein also present were the top officials of the Philippine and Indonesian governments. These included Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Soraudo, Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Ambassador Narciso G. Reyes, Philippine envoy to the United Nations; Gen. Romeo Espino, AFP chief of staff; and Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Manuel Collantes on the Philippine side; and on the Indonesian side were Foreign Minister Adam Malik, Ambassador Kusno Utomo, Minister Widjojo Nitisastro of national development; Gen. Umar Wirahadikusumah, chief of staff; Maj. Gen. Soedharmono, secretary of state; and R. B. I. D. Djajadiningrat, secretary-general for political affairs of the Indonesian foreign ministry.

Aside from his talks with the visiting President, the Chief Executive also received a number of callers.

Notable among the callers was Dr. Malcolm Mackay, minister of the Australian Navy, who paid his respects. Dr. Mackay was accompanied to Malacañang by Australian Ambassador to the Philippines James C. Ingram and Gregorio Abad, Philippine envoy to Australia.

At noon, the President joined the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, at the Nayong Pilipino where they hosted at a luncheon in honor of visiting President and Madame Soeharto of Indonesia.

In the afternoon, the President resumed his regular schedule of desk work and received callers in-between.

February 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS gave President Soeharto and his party an overview of the Philippine economic development program in a one-and-a-half-hour briefing held in the morning at the Malacañang Music Room. The President was assisted by his advisers at the briefing.

The briefing supplemented the working sessions of Philippine officials headed by Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata and Chairman Vicente Paterno of the Board of Investments with their counterpart from the Indonesian government.

During the briefing the President, said that like any developing nation, the Philippines has two principal targets—security and economic development.

He added that this was the reason why the administration embarked on the development of agriculture as the foundation of a well-balanced agro-industrial economy, citing among others land reform, the formation of cooperatives, the rural employment program, rural electrification, and promotion of cottage industries.

Those who assisted the President were Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Arturo R. Tanco, Jr., PACD Officer-in-Charge Rosendo Marquez, Agricultural Productivity Commissioner Francisco Saguiguit, ACA Deputy Administrator Amado Lansang, and a representative each from the National Electrification Administration and the Cooperatives Administration Office.

Later, President and Mrs. Soeharto tendered a formal luncheon in Malacañang in honor of President and Mrs. Marcos.

After the luncheon which climaxed the Indonesian President's three-day state visit, the two Chiefs of State issued a Joint Communique, wherein they reaffirmed the close friendship between Indonesia and the Philippines and agreed to continue preparations for an Asian Summit Meeting that will discuss the proposed neutralization of Southeast Asia. (*See pp. 1311-1313 for full text of the Joint Communique*)

In the afternoon, President and Mrs. Marcos escorted the party of President and Madame Soeharto from Malacañang to the Manila International Airport where they, together with other Philippine Officials, accorded the departing visitors a warm send-off.

The entourage left the Palace at 4:30 p.m. immediately after the press conference held by Indonesian President with local and foreign newsmen.

At the MIA, the two Presidents were given full military honors, eluding a 21-gun salute, by a composite battalion representing the major services of the AFP. Then the two First Couples went through the long line of members of the Cabinet, Congress and the Judiciary; and chiefs of diplomatic missions, and their ladies, who saw the visitors off at the airport.

After the farewell ceremonies, the Soehartos boarded their plane for their return flight to Indonesia.

Back in Malacañang at about 6 p.m., the President buckled down to desk work for a few hours in the evening. He issued a proclamation declaring Wednesday, February 16, as a special public holiday in Caloocan City, on the occasion of its charter anniversary.

February 17—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos officiated at the unveiling ceremony of the monument to the country's three martyr priests—Fathers Mariano Gomez, Jose Burgos, and Jacinto Zamora at the Plaza Roma in Intramuros.

The First Couple were fetched from Malacañang by Justice Calixto Zaldivar of the Supreme Court. Justice Zaldivar is the chairman of the Gomburza Centennial Commission.

The unveiling and dedication of the monument was in connection with the observance of the 100th anniversary of the execution of the three martyr priests.

The First Lady unveiled the monument, assisted by Justice Zaldivar and relatives of the martyrs.

In his speech highlighting the unveiling ceremony, the President pledged to exert every effort to recover from the Spanish government the documents on the proceedings of the trial of the martyr priests.

He recalled that “the Spanish colonial government shrouded the events of 1872 in mystery, and the proceedings of the trial of Fathers Gomez, Burgos and Zamora have remained unavailable even today—and even the graves have not been located.”

In desiring the acquisition of the trial documents, the President stressed that his interest lies on the plane of political theory, as he would like the Filipino people to consider whether it would not be more “a source of pride for us if the three priests were not innocent of the crime attributed to them.”

The President declared:

“I am motivated by my personal beliefs and by my oath of office to see to it that the grounds be minimized for citizens becoming firm in their convictions that there is no longer any way getting justice save through the destruction of the entire political and social system. Since there are many obstacles to granting justice to citizens, brought about by a number of causes, some historical, some fortuitous, everyone should be permitted not only to be critical of the system but to persuade vigorously the administration and the government to listen to their way on justice.

“It is in the spirit that we, today, dedicate this memorial to Fathers Gomez, Burgos and Zamora, the Filipino patriots, from whose blood issued the great Filipino nation.”

Prominent among those who attended the unveiling ceremony were: the officers of the Gomburza Centennial Commission headed by Justice Zaldivar and the relatives of the martyrs—Natalia Gomez-Quintos, Carlos Xeres-Burgos, Alfred Xeres-Burgos, and Leonardo Guerra. The members of the Cabinet, the Diplomatic corps, and the Supreme Court.

After the ceremony, the First Couple returned to Malacañang, arriving shortly before 11:00 a.m.

At Malacañang, the President received a big group of Ford Motor Company executives who were in Manila to inspect the proposed site of the Ford assembly plant at the Free Trade Zone in Mariveles, Bataan

The Ford officials informed the President of their observation that with his vigorous and active leadership the Philippines appears to have assumed the leadership in the progressive car manufacturing field which may well set the pattern for all countries in Southeast Asia.

On the other hand, the President expressed satisfaction over the interest shown by a lot of car manufacturers in setting up factories in Mariveles. He said this was an indication that the political leadership in Asia have awakened to the need for cooperation and integration of their efforts in the economic field.

He promised to extend all possible support from the government to the progressive car manufacturing program, adding that he hoped it “would further advance our standards in the field of car manufacture.”

The Ford group was led by Allan C. Foran, president of Ford (Phil.) Inc., and accompanied by Chairman Teodoro Pena of the Free Trade Zone Authority.

The Ford executives' call was followed by a luncheon conference the President had called among Visayan representatives who informed him on matters affecting their respective constituencies.

In the afternoon and until early evening the President went over reports and other urgent state papers which needed his immediate attention.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: February 18-24, 1972

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

February 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had his usual schedule of callers which included delegations from the provinces who came to request for fund releases to finance various improvement projects in their respective localities, including the construction of public buildings.

The President informed them that a list of priorities was being drawn, and the first priority was being given to communications and transportation facilities like roads and bridges; the second for projects involving production like flood control and irrigation; and the third for hospitals, health centers and schools.

The delegations included those from Davao del Sur and Davao City headed by Gov. Nenito Llanos, Sr. and Mayor Carlos Ginoo, respectively. The delegations were accompanied by Reps. Lorenzo Sarmiento and Constancio Maglana.

Other delegations the President received were those from Loay, Bohol and Luna, Kalinga-Apayao, which were respectively headed by Mayors Francis Clarin-Zarraga and George Bargas.

In between receiving callers, the President signed a number of designations, including that of Dr. Generoso E. Espinosa as acting health officer of Olongapo City. Dr. Espinosa succeeded Nicanor Ednalino, retired.

The President also issued a proclamation declaring Wednesday, February 23, a special public holiday in Marinduque. The day marks the 52nd anniversary of that province.

The Chief Executive also conferred with Sen. Mamintal Tamano on matters pertaining to cultural minorities, and with the Director of Plant Industry Eliseo Carandang.

He received callers until 2 p.m.

February 19—

WITH ONLY one scheduled caller, President Marcos started the day going over urgent state and official business which needed his attention.

In the course of his desk work, the President:

1. Signed Executive Order No. 376 elevating to Cabinet rank the position of Press Secretary; and
2. Issued a proclamation declaring the first week of March of every year as Environmental Week.

The setting aside of a week of the year as Environmental Week by the President was aimed at focusing national attention on the need for environmental planning and the control of pollution, deforestation and other threats to a balance ecology which is very essential for human progress and survival.

In order to insure the maximum effectiveness of environmental planning, the President also created a committee to take charge of the observance of Environmental Week, with the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R Marcos, as its honorary chairman.

At about noon, the President received his lone caller, Philippine Ambassador Modesto Farolan to Indonesia. The envoy called for final instructions before reporting back to his post in Jakarta.

During the day, the President also ordered that a continuing study be made on the changing prices of coconut oil and copra in the world market. At the same time, he instructed government officials concerned that “no coconut oil or copra and other coconut products can be exported except when sold at definite check prices which we should now establish and should be higher than the present price.”

He likewise ordered the elimination of all obstacles to efforts at oil exploration in the country.

The President’s directives were given to Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata, Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Arturo R. Tanco, Jr., Central Bank Gov. Gregorio S. Licaros, Commissioners Misael P. Vera of Internal Revenue and Rolando Geotina of Customs, and Bureau of Mines Director Fernando Busuego, Jr.

In this connection, the President further ordered “henceforth, rules shall be issued so that only a bond shall be necessary without payment of any taxes and the machinery (for oil exploration) may be kept here for as long there is a contract and actual work in mining or exploration”.

Later in the day, the President inducted into office Vice Governor J. Antonio/Leviste as the new governor of Batangas. Gov. Leviste fills the vacancy left by Gov. Antonio Carpio, who succumbed to a heart attack while in office.

Present at the induction held at Malacañang were close relatives and friends of the inductee.

After the induction ceremony, the President worked continuously in his private study until late in the evening.

February 20—

NOW FREE from the usual schedule of callers, President Marcos devoted most of the morning and afternoon to desk work.

In the process, the President:

1. Issued a proclamation declaring Monday, February 21, as a special public holiday in Batangas, in deference to the death of Gov. Antonio Carpio.
2. Issued a directive enjoining Secretary of Education Juan L. Manuel to implement immediately the plan to reorient the country’s educational system as recommended by the Presidential Commission to Survey Philippine Education.

The President ordered that the survey be implemented “not later than June, 1972, so it can be fully implemented by the end of 1973.”

February 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had his usual heavy schedule of callers, whom he begun receiving at about mid-morning.

Before attending to his callers, the Chief Executive conferred on Ambassador Patrick Pichi Sun of the Republic of China the ancient Order of Sikatuna, rank of Datu. The Chinese envoy was especially cited for “his devotion in championing the cause of close and fraternal relations at all levels between the Republic of the Philippines and the Republic of China.” The later was also commended “for his services in the field of international relations and for having been a worthy spokesman of his government and people.”

Ambassador Pichi Sun accepted the award “with deep humility and profound gratitude,” and said that the award was “a symbol of the assurances of friendly relations that have been subsisting between our two countries.”

Among those present at the ceremony were: The First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos; Mrs. Pichi Sun; Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, Senate President Protempore Jose J. Roy, Mons. Carmine Rocco, papal nuncio to the Philippines; U.S. Ambassador Henry Byroade, Japanese Ambassador Toshio Urabe, Spanish Ambassador Nicolas Martin Alonso, Minister Yu Pen and Counselor Winston Mih of the Chinese Embassy; and former Secretary of Foreign Affairs Narciso Ramos.

Later, the President received Jacath Pathi, head of the Asian regional team for employment promotion of the International Labor Organization, and Hugo Lane, ILO regional director.

The ILO officials were here for “a round of consultations with Philippine economic planning agencies on employment and manpower matters.”

They were accompanied to Malacañang by former Secretary of Labor Blas F. Ople and Director-General Rony Diaz of the National Manpower and Youth Council.

The President received other private and government officials until way past noon.

After going through reports on inefficient handling of mail matters, he created a Postal Reform Task Force to study and recommend corrective measures to improve the country’s postal service.

In this connection, the President appointed retired Brig. Gen. Felizardo Tanabe as presidential assistant and designated him chairman of the task force.

In another action, the President authorized the Children’s Museum and Library, Inc. to conduct its education, membership and fund campaign from March 1 to December 31, this year. The authorization was embodied in a proclamation.

February 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS enplaned for Bacolod City in the morning to address the delegates to the 19th annual convention of the National Federation of Sugar Planters.

Accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, the President arrived in Bacolod about 9:30 a.m.

After receiving full military honors upon arrival at the Bacolod airport the First Couple motored to the residence of Gov. Alfredo Montelibano, Jr. where the President conferred with provincial and municipal officials.

The President was gratified to learn that aside from a few cases of piracy in remote coastal towns, the peace and order in the province was generally satisfactory.

Among the requests received by the President from local officials were those for assistance by the national government in the repair of broken down roads and bridges, dredging facilities and the construction of sea-walls to protect the inhabitants of certain coastal communities from floods.

At 11:30 a.m., the President and the First Lady proceeded to the convention site where they were met with a prolonged, standing ovation as they entered the hall.

The President hailed the sugar industry on which, he said, “the livelihood of three million Filipinos depends and upon whose health and vigor the nation’s economic development depends so much.”

The Chief Executive urged the sugar industry leaders to defend the industry against “libelous indictments” by its critics. He declared: “As long as I am President, the government will continue to protect the industry and be allowed to participate in the stabilization of the economy.”

The First Couple returned to Manila immediately after partaking of lunch with the convention delegates.

February 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS as usual started the day going over state papers. From time to time he broke off from desk work to receive some unscheduled callers who consulted him on various problems.

At mid-morning, the President conferred with leaders of the cultural minorities to push through plans for the development and maintenance of peace and order in their respective regions.

They discussed the various problems requiring his immediate attention, such as transportation and communications, peace and order, health and economic development affecting the cultural minority groups.

During the conference the President announced the plan to reorganize both the Mindanao Development Authority and the Mountain Province Development Authority.

The conference was attended by National Integration Commissioner Mama Sinsuat, Senator Mamintal Tamano, Reps. Felipe Almazan of Kalinga-Apayao, Andres Cosalan of Benguet, Ali Dimaporo of Lanao del Norte, Macacuna Dimaporo of Lanao del Sur. Constantino Navarro of Surigao del Norte, Jose Puyat, Jr. of Surigao del Sur, and James Chiongbian of South Cotabato; Governors Gualberto Lumauig of Ifugao, Jaime Gomez of Mt. Province, Sergio Morales of South Cotabato and Murphy Sangkula of Sulu; Vice Governors Kasan Marohombsar of Lanao del Sur, Judge Mama D. Busran of the Court of First Instance of Cotabato, Fiscal J. Rasul and Mayor Palawan Disumimba of Tamparan, Lanao del Norte.

The President resumed his paper work in the afternoon and evening.

February 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS after disposing of urgent state papers requiring his immediate attention, flew to Nueva Ecija to officiate at the inauguration of the pilot seed processing plant of the Maligaya Rice Research and Training Center in Muñoz. Before a big gathering of Novo Ecijanos, he pledged anew his determination to continue allotting the major portion of government funds to the uplift of the forgotten masses in the rural areas.

The President reiterated his plan to set up at least one cooperative in every municipality. Considering that it costs ₱2 million to set up one cooperative,” the President said, “this is hardly enough for a start because there are 1,440 municipalities in the entire country.”

The President also expressed the people’s appreciation for the assistance given by the United Nations and United States agencies in setting up the seed processing plant, reputedly the first of its kind in Southeast Asia.

The President said the pilot plant will serve as the model for future plants to be established in other parts of the country such as Cagayan Valley, the Visayas and Mindanao.

After inaugurating the seed plant, the President distributed certificates of appreciation to the persons who had contributed significantly to the realization of the project.

Then the President flew back to Manila where he presided over a meeting of the Foreign Policy Council.

The President furnished the members of the council with copies of the report submitted to him by Gov. Benjamin Romualdez, on the latter's visit to Peking.

The President announced after the meeting that upon the recommendation of the Foreign Policy Council, the Philippines has extended formal recognition to Bangladesh as a separate, sovereign and independent state.

Local Muslim leaders present at the meeting interposed no objection to the recognition of the new state "at this time."

The Muslim leaders were Reps. Ali Dimaporo of Lanao del Norte, Macacuna Dimaporo of Lanao del Sur, and Indanan Anni of Sulu; Con-Con Delegates Duma Sinsuat and Lindy Pañgandaman; Govs. Murphy Sankula of Sulu and Carlos Cajelo of Cotabato; and Commissioner Mama Sinsuat of National Integration.

In the afternoon, the President returned to his private study to work on state papers until late in the evening.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: February 25 - March 2, 1972

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

February 25—

THE PRESIDENT had only one scheduled conference day, and decided to concentrate in his study of pending state papers.

He submitted, to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation the *ad interim* appointments of 37 individuals headed by Juan Ponce Enrile as secretary of national defense. The nominees included a member of the Board of Investments, five officials in the foreign service, and 30 in the judiciary.

At about noontime the President interrupted his desk work to confer with Messrs. E. Aboitiz, Sixto K. Roxas, Luis Lorenzo, Victor Guevara, and Ramon Cardenas. He designated Aboitiz as chairman-general manager and the four others as members of the Board of Directors of the Mindanao Development Authority (MDA).

The Chief Executive directed the immediate revitalization of the MDA and specifically instructed the new governing body to follow through his earlier order to set aside 20 per cent of the special economic development plan from reparations for the revitalized agency.

After the conference, the President resumed his desk work.

February 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS as usual started working on state papers early in the morning.

He formed a panel to conduct public hearings on whether the country should import flour, and to look into complaints that “the *pan de sal* had shrunk and appears to be still shrinking.”

The President instructed the panel to invite to the hearings representatives of flour mills, bakeries, as well as from consumer groups. He also directed the panel to submit its report and recommendations as soon as possible.

The panel is composed of the Chairman of the National Economic Council, the Secretary of Commerce and Industry, the Director-General of the Presidential Economic Staff, and a representative of the Central Bank.

In response to representations made by the press sector; the President issued a proclamation declaring the period from March 6 to 12, 1972 as National Press Week. The setting aside of Press Week was to enable the people to appreciate fully the “vital role of the press in our community and national life.”

At about 2:30 in the afternoon, the President left Malacañang for the Plaza Restaurant in Makati, Rizal where he was guest of honor at a luncheon meeting of the country's top 100 businessmen.

Addressing the gathering of business leaders, the President reiterated the basic policy of the government “to establish a balanced agro-industrial economy” for the country.

At the same time, the President assured that the government will continue helping them and that it will seek their counsel and advice on vital problems.

He concluded his remarks by saying that “right now we are engaged in the implementation of economic development plans including manpower training, rural employment, and formation of cooperatives to turn the rural areas into productive units; and that “the government is ready to help the businessmen for the government is not an

isolated institution—but rather reflects sensitively the feelings, attitudes and opinions of our people.” (See pp. 1897-1898-D for full text of the President’s Speech.)

An open forum followed the President’s speech.

February 27—

Being a Sunday, the President engaged in a little deskwork on state papers.

The Chief Executive asked Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., to deliver a speech for him at the opening of the Northern Mindanao Athletic Meet in Surigao City.

The President announced through Secretary Melchor the start of a massive program of development for Mindanao, with the immediate establishment of *moshav-type* cooperatives as barrio project to be called Bayanihan ng Nayan.

The cooperatives will be responsible for the production of dairy products and such projects as fisheries, irrigation, cottage industries, truck gardening and other activities that will serve as the basic structure for the agro-industrial development of the entire country.

In line with all this, the President said the government was also drawing up a physical fitness program. “Physical fitness,” he said, “must engage us a permanent goal—a way of life in and beyond the athletic field.”

The Chief Executive, together with the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda P Marcos, heard Mass at the Malacañang chapel in the evening.

February 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS started the day with a series of top-level conferences in Malacañang. One such meeting discussed the implications of the state visit of U.S. President Richard Nixon to the People’s Republic of China.

Those who conferred with the President were Secretaries Carlos P. Romulo of Foreign Affairs, Juan Ponce Enrile of National Defense, and Vicente Abad Santos of Justice; and the members of the general staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, composed of Gen. Romeo Espino, chief of staff; Major Gen. Rafael Ilete, vice chief of staff; Brig. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos chief of Constabulary; Brig. Gen. Rafael Zagala, commanding general of the Philippine Army, Brig. Gen. Jose Rancudo, chief of the Philippine Air Force, and Commodore Hilario Ruiz, nag-officer-in-command of the Philippine Navy.

The President also summoned Ambassador Henry A. Byroade of the United States for a meeting.

Early in the afternoon, the Chief Executive met with Undersecretary of Commerce Eliseo Villamor, concurrently chairman-general manager of the Rice and Corn Administration; and later with Customs Commissioner Rolando Geotina.

Others who saw the President included a delegation from Batanes headed by Gov. Simeon Gato.

The President issued a proclamation declaring Saturday, March 4, a special public holiday in the City of Puerto Princesa, (in Palawan), to give residents there an opportunity to observe with appropriate ceremonies the 100th year of the City’s existence.

In the evening, the President was the guest of honor and speaker at the 11th induction ceremonies of the new officers of the Federation of Provincial Press Clubs, held at Manila Hotel.

February 29—

EARLY today President Marcos issued two executive orders: one creating the Philippine Tourist Board; and the other further amending Executive Order No. 212 dated February 17, 1970, and designating Edgardo E. Q. Yap as vice-chairman of the National Artificial Rain Stimulation Committee.

The President attended to his scheduled callers at mid-morning. The first to be received was Mr. L. Gibbs, managing director of GM Holden, a car manufacturing firm of Australia, who called to pay his respects following his recent arrival in connection with the Australian Trade display at the Intercontinental Hotel in Makati, Rizal.

Australian Ambassador James C. Ingram accompanied the Holden executive to Malacañang.

Later the President presided over a conference of local officials from Cavite. During the conference, the President ordered that the entire province of Cavite be placed under Philippine Constabulary control for effective maintenance of peace and order in the province.

The Cavite officials present at the conference were Rep. Justiniano Montano, Gov. Lino Bocalan, Col. G. Manuel, Cavite PC provincial commander, and Col. E. D. Tobias. Also present were Senator Helena Z. Benitez who is from Cavite, and Col. E. C. Navarro, 2nd PC Zone commander.

The conference was also attended by Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos and Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, and Brig. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, chief of constabulary.

The President ordered Abad Santos and Enrile to organize a team of interrogators to gather information on criminal activities from all those apprehended for various crimes. He directed Gen. Ramos to organize a task force exclusively for the province, suspend in Cavite all permits to carry firearms outside homes, and give all armed groups and wanted men in the province seven days to surrender along with their firearms.

The afternoon and evening was devoted by the President to paperwork.

March 1—

FREE from his usual schedule of callers, the President had sufficient time to study a pile of pending state papers.

He reconstituted the membership of the Coconut Coordinating Council, and directed the council to assume responsibility for the supervision coordination and evaluation in the implementation of the coconut self-sufficiency program of the government.

In another action, the President issued an administrative order creating the Philippine Technical Panel that will negotiate with its counterpart from: the United -States government for the implementation of the 1972 PL-480 Package Agreement.

The PL-480 Package Agreement for the Philippines consisting of tobacco, cotton and corn has been recently approved by the United States government.

March 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS as usual started the day going over state papers needing his urgent attention. He later disengaged from his desk to attend to his morning callers.

Those who called on the President were Mr. and Mrs. Basilio Pineda and Mrs. Consolation Aquino, parents of the condemned rapists of movie actress Maggie de la Riva.

The Chief Executive granted a two-month reprieve to the condemned prisoners.

The President said that the reprieve will give the Department of Justice time to review and study all other cases against the doomed men which are pending before the Supreme Court.

In the afternoon the President resumed working on his desk.

He issued an administrative order revoking the authority granted to the Maharlika Insurance Co., Inc. to become a surety upon cognizances, stipulations, bonds and undertakings.

The revocation recommended by Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata was based on a certification from the sheriff of Manila that as of October 31, 1971, the insurance company was indebted to the government in the total amount of ₱788,656 on writs of execution for confiscated and forfeited bail bonds in various criminal cases.

Late in the afternoon, the President administered the oath of office to Roger Tiglao as representative for the second district of Pampanga.

The new congressman, who won by 15 votes over Cornelio Sanga, had lodged a poll protest which was decided only last week. He was earlier proclaimed winner by the Commission on Elections.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: March 3-9, 1972

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

March 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS as usual started the day going over state papers. In the process he issued an executive order revising the rates of toll fees being collected from motor vehicles passing through Kennon Road in Mountain Province.

The revision of toll rates was recommended by Secretary of Public Works and Communications David M. Consunji.

At about 9:30 in the morning, the President left his deskwork to attend a briefing on the reorganization plan conducted by Chairman Armand Fabella of the Reorganization Commission.

The important proposals in the reorganization plan included:

- 1) Reduction of agencies directly under the supervision of the Office of the President from 158 to 28, and the establishment of 11 uniform regional districts, and further providing for increased delegation of authority within the individual departments to effect greater decentralization of operations.
- 2) Merging of the National Economic Council and the Presidential Economic Staff into a National Economic Development Authority, and creating planning and programming units at various levels to facilitate preparation and execution of national development programs.
- 3) Creation of a Department of Local Government and Community Development to absorb the PACD, to improve further the interrelated process of development from the national to the local level.

The reorganization plan was submitted to Congress by the President after the one-hour briefing held at Malacañang.

The briefing was attended by Senator Ernesto Maceda, Secretaries Carlos P. Romulo of Foreign Affairs, Arturo R. Tanco, Jr., of Agriculture and Natural Resources, David M. Consunji of Public Works and Communications and Juan L. Manuel of Education, Administrator Eduardo Rodriguez of the Office of Economic Coordination; Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Chairman Vicente Paterno of the Board of Investments and Undersecretary Manuel Collantes of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

After the briefing, the President met privately with Governor Aristeo Lecaroz and Rep. Francisco Lecaroz of Marinduque; Vice Governor Francisco Rabat and some municipal mayors from Davao del Norte who consulted with him problems of their respective constituencies.

The President then welcomed delegations from 10 nations participating in the Third World Men's Softball Championship which was to be held at the Rodriguez Sports Center in Marikina, Rizal.

The participating teams was accompanied to Malacañang by Gov. Isidro Rodriguez of Rizal, president of the Amateur Softball Association of the Philippines and host in the tournament.

Early in the afternoon, the President motored to the Phil-Am Life building to view the car exhibits of the Philippine Automotive Association.

The President was accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos. Back at Malacañang hours later, the Chief Executive returned to his private study and resumed his interrupted deskwork, going over urgent state papers until late evening.

Every now and then the President disengaged from his deskwork to attend to some unexpected callers who consulted him on the problems of their respective offices.

March 4—

WITH a limited schedule of callers, President Marcos started early going over state papers needing his immediate attention.

At about 9:00 a.m. the Chief Executive received Marshall Green, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Pacific and Asian affairs, and special envoy of President Richard M. Nixon.

“Mr. Green briefed the President on the recent visit of President Nixon to the People’s Republic of China.

They conferred for almost three hours.

Early in the afternoon, the President motored to the Rodriguez Sports Center in Marikina, Rizal where he formally opened the Third World Men’s Softball Championship.

Addressing the various delegation of athletes from countries participating, the President declared that “physical fitness will be quickly accepted as a major goal of a society or its government if it is understood in the context of human resources development.”

He said that training for physical fitness not only promotes bodily health, but also creates moral values that arise from the experience of strength, endurance, and the conquest of difficulties.

Speaking of efforts to promote local sports, the President said, “In the Philippines, we want to make up for the omissions of the past by accelerating our physical fitness programs. And may I say that this encounter beginning today of the great softball teams of many countries in our midst will help accelerate the awareness of this need among our countrymen.”

March 5—

AS IN the day previous, the President alternately worked in his study and fulfilled his speaking engagement with the country’s labor groups affiliated with the organization called Pinagbuklod ng Manggagawang Pilipino.

While in his usual early morning chore of acting on pending state papers, the President signed an executive order creating the Manila International Airport Rehabilitation and Improvement Committee.

The President was guest speaker at noontime at the first biennial anniversary convention of the Pinagbuklod ng Manggagawang Pilipino, held at the Manila Hotel. The Chief Executive deplored the apparent division and fragmentation of the labor ranks which prevent them from being heard, not only on matters that affect them but on the more vital issues that concern every Filipino.

Labor Secretary Adrian Cristobal introduced the President to the labor delegates.

The president was back at Malacañang early in the afternoon. As it was the start of Press Week observance in the country, the President, issued the following statement:

“Amid misunderstandings and confusions, the Press must continue to sift the facts from unverified data, the significant from the merely sensational, the essential from the artificial, and interpret things true and things false according to their real nature. In the conduct of government it must continue to act as the vigilant watchdog, but

must never pass up any opportunity for constructive advice. Within society and within itself, it must remain society's foremost critic and its own, too, so that it may always comport itself with excellence."

The Chief Executive worked on his desk uninterruptedly until late evening.

March 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a series of conferences, first with heads of government agencies charged with the nation's production of staple commodities and, second, with the committee who will take charge of the rehabilitation and improvement of the Manila International Airport.

In conferring with the rice and corn production group, the President directed that new roads be opened up in potential rice and corn producing areas of the country as a means of encouraging greater production of the staple commodities.

He ordered the Cooperatives Administration Office, Agricultural Productivity Commission, the Presidential Arm on Community Development and the Agricultural Credit Administration to pool all their personnel, funds and materials towards the organization of such cooperatives.

In the same conference, the President ordered Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco to release public works funds and make them available for projects geared to increasing rice and corn production, such as roads, bridges, irrigation and flood control facilities.

He also instructed the various agency heads charged with the prompt organization of the barrio and municipal cooperatives to coordinate and submit recommendations on the implementing details of the massive programs.

Those who conferred with the President were Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Arturo Tanco, Jr., NEC Chairman Gerardo Sicat, CB Governor Gregorio, S. Licaros, Public Highways Commissioner Baltazar Aquino, Public Works Director Alejandro Deleña, APC Commissioner Francisco Saguiguit, PACD Secretary Rosendo Marquez, ACA Administrator Teofilo T. Azada and CAO Director Orlando N. Pagulayan.

In the meeting with officials given the task of rehabilitation and improvement of the MIA, the President reiterated that there is an urgent need to rehabilitate the terminal building of the MIA the electronic equipment of the control tower, and the airport facilities.

Present at the meeting were Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Director-General Apolinario Orosa of the Presidential Economic Staff, Director Jesus Singson of Civil Aeronautics Administration, Gen. Jose Rancudo of the Philippine Air Force and Architect Abelardo Batacan of the CAA.

In the afternoon, the President devoted his time on state papers. From his study, the President issued a directive to the Secretary of National Defense to include all firearms owned and used by the government in the annual verification of firearms being conducted by the Philippine Constabulary. The President issued the directive on recommendation of Brig. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, PC chief.

March 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS started the day by discussing with Nacionalista senators foreign policy matters at a breakfast conference.

After his meeting with the senators, the Chief Executive received Tengku Mahkota Ahmad Shah of Pahang, Malaysia, who paid a courtesy call, having just arrived in Manila to participate in a series of polo games with Filipino teams.

Ambassador Mauro Calingo, the newly accredited envoy of the Philippine government to the Republic of West Germany, paid a farewell call before proceeding to assume his post in Bonn.

Next to call on the President was a group representing the International Executive Service Corps in the Philippines, headed by A. A. Wilcox, director of operations.

Mayor Osmundo de Guzman of Marikina, Rizal accompanied the group to Malacañang.

Later in the day, the President presided at a closed-door briefing for committees on foreign relations of the two chambers of Congress.

The briefing was attended by Senate President Protempore Jose J. Roy, Senators Mamintal Tamano, Ernesto Macecla, Ambrosio Padilla, Arturo Tolentino, Lorenzo Sumulong, and Magnolia Antonino; Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal, Speaker Protempore Jose Aldeguez, Majority Floorleader Marcelino Velosu; Reps. Nicanor Yfiiguez, Fermin Caram, Jr., Rodolfo Rivilla, Leonides de Leon, Guillermo Sanchez, Jose Puyat, Jr., Pedro Medalla, Jose D. Aspiras, Rafael Legaspi, Jose Leido, Jr., Eduardo Gullas, Ramon Durano; Secretary Carlos P. Romulo of foreign affairs Undersecretary Manuel Collantes, and Minister Felipe Mabilangan, Jr., of the DFA.

The last group to see the President was composed of National Irrigation Administration officials.-

March 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS issued a proclamation declaring Thursday, March 9 as Laurel Day in the province of Batangas and in the cities of Batangas and Lipa, to afford residents there full opportunity to observe, with appropriate ceremonies, the 81st birth anniversary of the late leader whom the President described as a “jurist, patriot and statesman.”

The President also created a special committee to pursue implementation of the Manila Bay Road Projects.

Earlier in the day, The President met with Mayor Ramon D. Bagatsing of Manila who sought the release of at least ₱4 million from the city government’s share of regular and special allotments from national revenue collections.

Mayor Bagatsing informed the President that the city government, with an overdraft of ₱32 million and a cash deficit of ₱10 million, was in very serious financial straits because it has a monthly budget of ₱9.2 million.

The President assured the mayor that he “will extend all the help and assistance necessary to avoid disruption of essential services.

Following the call of Mayor Bagatsing, the President received a large delegation from Laguna led by Reps. Joaquin Chipeco and Leonides de Leon, the delegation took up problems affecting the province particularly the funding of public works projects. Sen. Ernesto Maceda accompanied the group to Malacañang.

In the delegation were Mayors Cesar Dizon of San Pablo City, Dominador Cabuhat of Cavinti, Mauro Alimagno of Cabuyao, Lorenzo Meneses of Los Baños, Benjamin Real of Sta. Maria, Luis Rellosa of Famy, Felicisimo Vierende of San Pedro, David Aventurado of Magdalena, Tomas Manalang of Nagcarlan, Pedro Aritao of Pangil and Proceso Rondilla of Luisiana.

The President devoted the rest of the day to paper work.

March 9—

THE FATE of some 1,600 families who will be displaced by the proposed Pantabangan Dam of the Upper Pampanga River Project a multimillion power and irrigation complex, was the principal concern of President Marcos as he signed a proclamation setting aside five parcels of land With a total area of 6,007 hectares wherein families to be displaced by the dam will be resettled.

The President interrupted his desk work at about 9:45 in the morning, and presided at a conference with members of the Cabinet and heads of agencies involved in the agriculture and public works programs of the government.

The conference concentrated on the problems arising from increasing production, and the need to intensify the public works building program. The President emphasized the necessity for checking on past public works fund releases.

Towards this end, the President ordered:

1) Secretary of Public Works and Communications David Consunji to check on past fund releases for public works to determine how much was spent, how much still remained, and what had been accomplished.

Secretary Consunji also to meet with provincial executives and engineers to determine where to build feeder (farm to market) roads in the most productive regions of the country.

2) Secretary of Finance Cesar E.A. Virata to release directly to the local governments their regular and special allotments from the revenue collections.

Secretary Virata also to submit a monthly breakdown of funds available for agricultural production and public works projects, which would serve as basis for future releases.

3) National Irrigation Administrator Alfredo Juinio to submit periodic reports supported by a map of the Philippines on the progress of the irrigation program, and to prepare both long-range (25 years) and short-range (10 years) irrigation programs.

4) The Presidential Arm on Community Development to coordinate the efforts of all government agencies participating in the establishment of cooperatives.

Present at the conference were Secretaries Cesar E.A. Virata of Finance Arturo Tanco, Jr., of Agriculture and Natural Resources, David Consunji of Public Works and Communications, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, BIR Commissioner Misael P. Vera, Public Highways Commissioner Baltazar Aquino, NIA Administrator Alfredo Juinio, Animal Industry Director Pedro Refuerzo, Fisheries Commissioner Andres Mane, Agricultural Productivity Commissioner Francisco Saguiguit, Deputy Agricultural Credit Administrator Amado Lansang, PACD Regional Director Alberto Virtucio and others.

At another conference, the Chief Executive reiterated that the production of more rice and corn by local farmers not the importation of these basic staples has always been the policy of his administration. The conference this time was with representatives of the rice production sector and with heads of government agencies involved in rice production.

The President lamented the popular impression emphasizing the deficiencies of rice and corn, without taking into account that the government had exerted extraordinary efforts and thereby achieved cereal surplus in 1968-69.

He stressed that lie would not allow the price of rice to go beyond ₱3.00 per ganta.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Library**

President's Week in Review: March 10-16, 1972

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

March 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS took time out from his busy schedule to receive several callers which included the following:

1) John Woodley, deputy director of the International Monetary Fund's Asian department; Kemal Siber, IMF representative in the Philippines; Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata and Central Bank Gov. Gregorio S. Licaros. The IMF official called on the President to pay his respects as the annual consultations between the IMF and the Central Bank on the shape of the country's monetary and fiscal policies drew to a close yesterday.

During the call, the President requested Deputy Director Woodley to convey his gratitude to the IMF officials for the substantial assistance they have extended to the Philippine government.

2) Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Arturo R. Tanco, Jr. who accompanied to Malacañang several provincial governors with whom the President conferred on the infrastructure and other projects being undertaken in their respective areas, and to find out whether such projects are being properly supported by the national government.

In the course of the conference, the President expressed the hope that the initial meeting would usher in "a continuing dialogue between national and provincial officials" so that the faulty implementation which has resulted in inefficiency and waste of funds and time could be avoided.

The President also told the chief executives of the country's top rice producing provinces that production must now be given all the boost that it needs all over the country.

Present at the conference aside from Secretary Tanco, were Secretary of Public Works and Communications David M. Consunji, Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, Commissioner of Public Highways Baltazar Aquino, Agricultural Productivity Commissioner Francisco Saguiguit; Governors Conrado Norada of Iloilo, Aguedo Agbayani of Pangasinan, Eduardo Josen of Nueva Ecija, Brigido Valencia of Pampanga, Vicente Magsaysay of Zambales, Teresa Dupaya of Cagayan, Felicísimo San Luis of Laguna, Carlos Cajelo of Cotabato, Ignacio Santiago of Bulacan, Alfonso Umali of Oriental Mindoro and Felix Alfelor of Camarines Sur.

Following the conference, the President administered the oath of affiliation with the Nacionalista Party to Rep. Rogelio Tiglaog of Pampanga.

The President's afternoon time was devoted mostly to desk work.

March 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a three-hour conference with his advisers during which he started a thorough reassessment of the various development programs to establish funding priorities and insure increased national production.

Among the various programs and projects reviewed by the President with his advisers were the irrigation, school budding and highways programs, flood control systems, reclamation of Manila Bay area, rural improvement and the formation of cooperatives.

During the conference wherein Sen. Lorenzo Teves and Rep. Jose Alberto, chairmen of the appropriations committees of both chambers of Congress were present, the President:

1. Directed National Irrigation Administrator Alfredo Juinio to submit a comprehensive survey showing potential sources of water, how much money is needed, and how wide the area is to be irrigated;
2. Also directed that studies be made for the possible transfer of functions, personnel and equipment of the Irrigation Service Unit of the Department of Public Works and Communications to the NIA to prevent waste of funds and overlapping of functions;
3. Approved the request of the Presidential Arm on Community Development for the release of P1.6 million for communal irrigation projects;
4. Asked Secretary of Public Works and Communications David M. Consunji and Director of Public Works Alejandro Deleña to submit a report on the reclamation projects in the Liguasan marsh in Cotabato, Candaba swamps in Pampanga, and Tagum river in Davao, which will save thousands of hectares of land for cultivation;
5. Ordered that another 3,000 prefabricated Marcos-typo school buildings be included in the 16th year Reparations schedule and that a school building program be prepared. The President issued the directive when he was presented by Director Deleña a certification of the Department of Education that there is a need for an additional 88,000 more school rooms.
6. Also concurred with Sen. Teves's proposal that a bill be prepared imposing a two per cent tax on all real estate transfers in order to provide for a school building fund.

Present at the conference aside from Secretary Consunji, Director Deleña and Administrator Juinio, were Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, PACD Officer-In-Charge Rosendo Marquez, Director Alberto Virtucio and Commissioner of Public Highways Baltazar Aquino.

In the afternoon, the President did some desk work, during which he signed an executive order establishing the policy guidelines on Philip pine trade with socialist and communist countries.

The order followed the formal establishment of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Rumania and Yugoslavia, which was unanimously recommended by the Foreign Policy Council last month.

Later in the day, the President announced he has authorized the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, to make a six-day visit to the USSR as his personal representative.

The President said that he had given her the go signal to make the trip to Moscow to look into how the area of cultural cooperation between Manila and Moscow, which do not have diplomatic relations, might be expanded to mutually benefit the two countries, and their peoples.

At the same time, the President said that he has asked her to clarify with the Soviet officials standing feelers for economic cooperation, including reported proposals for soft-loans on vital industries and economic projects of the government.

March 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS designated the Cabinet members as regional development coordinators and instructed them, whenever necessary, to personally supervise all development program in their respective regions.

The President made the designation when he conferred with them in the morning in order to pursue more vigorously the objectives of the development program and insure equal distribution of economic benefit among the rural areas.

Aside from their supervisory assignment, the President also required the members of his official family to:

- 1) Submit periodic reports on the progress of development;
- 2) Appraise him and the cabinet of the situation that may bear watching from a national viewpoint, and on developments deemed crucial to the management of the overall development program; and
- 3) Be present and to participate in decision-making whenever local leaders from his region confer with the President on matters of regional development.

The secretaries of foreign affairs, finance and justice were directed to give their general support to the program.

Among other things the President designated two individuals as members of the board of the Agricultural Cooperatives Administration, thus completing the board's membership.

Designated by the President were Fidel Infantado and Candido Guiam, representing farmer-beneficiaries of the Agrarian Reform Program and the minority party, respectively. The two are the only regular members of the board as provided for in the law.

The other members of the Board, who are ex-officio are the under secretary of agrarian reform who will act as chairman, the ACA administrator as vice chairman, and the vice president of the Philippine National Bank in charge of agricultural loans.

Also during the day, the President declared that his administration is channeling new energy into the physical education because he is convinced more than ever that "the future of Philippine athletics is best assured by a program that prizes physical education in addition to academics."

The President made the declaration in a speech read for him by Secretary of Education Juan L. Manuel, at the opening of the 18th National Private Schools Athletic Association's meet in Bacolod City in the morning. The rest of the President's day was devoted to desk work.

March 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS reminded all government offices and public schools of the observance of "Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Day" on March 17, which has been proclaimed as such in Proclamation No. 15 dated March 7, 1966.

The reminder was embodied in a memorandum circular the President issued through Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr.

In the memorandum circular, the President said that all government offices and public schools are enjoined to commemorate and keep proper observance of March 17 this year.

March 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS started his day with a breakfast with visiting U.S. publisher William Randolph Hearst, Jr., owner of tin- Hearst chain of newspapers in the United States, who called to pay his respects to the President.

With Hearst were three journalists, Robert Bernard Considine, Joseph Kingsbury Smith, and Robert E. Thompson.

Then, the President presided over a conference with Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs Manuel Collantes on the finalization of the programming of the \$65 million Japanese Commodity and Project loans.

Later in the day, the President received Japanese Ambassador Toshio Urabe who accompanied the two Japanese doctors conducting research on malaria and other tropical diseases in Palawan. The doctors came to apologize for the unauthorized acquisition of a deadly specie of mosquito which they brought to Palawan that had been reported to have broken loose and caused a widespread alarm.

During his meeting with the Japanese doctors—Drs. Daisuhe Katamine, director of the Institute of Tropical Medicine of Nagasaki University and Toshio Nakabayashi, team leader, the President asked the Japanese government to extend all necessary cooperation to the Philippine government in the control of malaria and *schistosomiasis japonensis*.

The President told the Japanese medics that he was particularly interested in seeking cooperation on two projects, namely, the research on malaria control being conducted in Manila and all over the country, and the control of *schistosomiasis japonensis* projects in Manila and Palo, Leyte.

Upon the request of the President, Ambassador Urabe directed the Japanese doctors to confer and cooperate with Acting Secretary of Health Clemente S. Gatmaitan. He also informed the President that he will inform his government on the outcome of their meeting.

Also present at the meeting were Secretary Manuel Collantes and Philippine Ambassador to Japan Roberto Benedicto.

Following the meeting, the President motored to the Makati Medical Center, where he looked in on the condition of Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo who is recuperating from injuries inflicted on him when his car was bumped by a freight truck.

The President was accompanied by U.S. publisher William Randolph Hearst and the three other visiting journalists.

From the Makati Medical Center, the President motored back to the Palace where he immediately buckled down to desk work.

In the course of desk work, the President certified to Congress the urgency of enacting House Bill No. 4200, which seeks to authorize the undertaking of long-range educational development projects.

In certifying the Will which was introduced by Rep. Frisco San Juan, the President emphasized that the recently concluded Presidential Survey of Philippine Education had asked for “new patterns, new directions.”

He added that the ten-year education development program is, therefore, “a piece of social legislation in answer to the needs of our times and people.”

Also during the day, the President ordered an all-out drive against price manipulators and hoarders of consumer goods, particularly prime commodities, which he said had caused the unnecessary spiralling of prices.

He, at the same time instructed the Secretary of Commerce and Industry to speed up the formation of consumers and marketing cooperatives, as a long-range campaign against the profiteering activities of unscrupulous businessmen.

In the order which he sent to the Secretary of Commerce and Industry, the Chairman of the Price Control Council and the Chief of the Constabulary, the President directed the three officials to report on artificial hiking of prices, and to trace its causes.

The President ordered the three agencies to pursue criminal action against both local and foreign businessmen responsible for the artificial and undue increase in prices.

He also instructed them that all agents of the three agencies concerned be fielded to conduct a continuous check on prices, in addition to the regular surveys and told them to coordinate efforts with the local price control groups, under the local governments.

March 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS met with representatives of the Mindanao-Sulu-Palawan bloc in the morning during which he called for more efficiency among government engineers to give a strong thrust to the infrastructure development in the country.

The President issued the call as he deplored the “national phenomenon that many government engineers have become lazy, patronizing, and undependable,” which, he said is “reflected by the state of the roads all over the country.”

He also noted that regular highways allocations are not being used to maintain the roads, but go instead to the salaries of officers and employees.

The President also turned to the request of the representatives to suspend the transfer of government engineers in certain places, saying “we will have to seriously consider this proposal.”

He stressed however, that he will not hesitate to transfer government engineers to the areas should they be found to have committed any irregularities in the course of their discharge of their duties and responsibilities.

Those who attended the meeting were: Reps. Lorenzo Sarmiento of Davao del Norte Constantino Navarro of Surigao del Norte, James Chiongbian of South Cotabato, William Chiongbian of Misamis Occidental Cesar Fortich of Bukidnon, Jose Neri of Camiguin, Indanan Anni of Sulu, Pedro Roa of Misamis Oriental, Guillermo Sanchez of Agusan del Norte, Jose Puyat of Surigao del Sur, Constancio Maglana of Davao Oriental, Macacuna Dimaporo of Lanao del Sur, and Vicente Cerilles of Zamboanga del Sur.

In the afternoon, the President, while going over reports submitted to him by various departments and agencies of the government, directed the Philippine National Bank, the Development Bank of the Philippines and the Central Bank to speed up all agricultural production loans and to institute a feed-back system so that he could be constantly posted on the availment of such loans, particularly by small farmers.

The President issued the order upon reading the report of Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Arturo Tanco, Jr. on the movement of prices in foodmarket

In his report, Tanco noted that under-production of rice and corn and beef was beginning to have its initial effect on food prices.

The agriculture official said that with the extension of increased production loans to farmers, the national production of rice is expected to receive a great boost, with farmers being able to buy farm inputs such as seeds, farm implements, fertilizers, pesticides.

In issuing the order to the three financing agencies, the President pointed out the need for them to act in concert, in bringing about within the shortest possible time the important objective of increasing production in all agricultural areas.

Also during the day, the President assured Palawan officials that there is no malaria epidemic. He told them he had received assurances from the Japanese government that no malaria-carrying mosquitoes had been let loose in Palawan, but “we have to take all necessary steps to prevent any outbreak of the disease which may be caused by this mosquitoes.”

The President made the assurance during his meeting with Palawan delegation officials led by Gov. Salvador Socrates, who complained that “most officials coming to Palawan sometimes do not synchronize their efforts with municipal and provincial officials.”

The President stressed that this practice should be rectified immediately, and to this end issued directive urging “national officials going to municipalities and provinces to notify and synchronize with the local executives so that the efforts at national level may be augmented by the initiative and resources of the local governments.

During the meeting, the President also told Palawan officials who presented individual requests for appropriations that “we are not living priorities to municipal buildings, capitols, and non-productive investments.” He pointed out that the priorities are on irrigation, flood control, roads, bridges, and health facilities. However, he assured them that “we will try to help you as much as we can.”

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: March 17-23, 1972

President's Week in Review: March 24-30, 1972

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

March 24—

WITH two scheduled appointments for the day, the President buckled down to his desk and go over state papers, and thereby declared Saturday, April 1, a special public holiday.

He proclaimed the day as a special public holiday because it falls between two public holidays—March 31 (Good Friday) and April 2 (Sunday).

In a separate proclamation, the Chief Executive also declared the same day as a National Day of Prayer and Fasting.

He said that its observance may serve to promote the attainment of the national goals of peace, happiness and contentment of the people, which are among the highest objectives of government.

Earlier in the morning, the President was assured by the Construction and Development Corporation of the Philippines that it would push back its deadline for the completion of the Greater Manila Terminal Food Market, from June 1973 to December 1972 to help in the nationwide food production drive.

The pushback would mean a cut of six months from the original schedule of completion of the GMTFM.

Upon completion of the Terminal Food Market, this would service the entire Greater Manila area, coordinating the flow of consumer goods from all producers' cooperatives which would otherwise be individually selling to the Greater Manila area.

Later in the morning, the Chief Executive received Franz Zeda, minister of communications of Indonesia, who called to pay his respects following his arrival to sign the RP-Indonesia air agreement.

In receiving the Indonesian dignitary, the President expressed the hope that the signing of the air agreement will mark the beginning of even closer cooperation in facilitating air travel between the two countries.

Minister Zeda was accompanied to Malacañang by Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs Manuel Collantes, Ambassador Modesto Farolan, Ambassador Kusno Utomo of Indonesia and other Indon officials.

Early in the afternoon, the President met with some members of his Cabinet and launched the nationwide formation of producers and consumers cooperatives as an answer to the problems of underproduction and unstable prices and at the same time ordered the immediate release of ₱5 million from the rural improvement fund for the organization of consumers cooperatives.

He directed Secretary of Commerce and Industry Troadio Quiazon, Jr. to proceed with the organization of consumers cooperatives in cooperation with the Presidential Arm on Community Development Agricultural Productivity Commission, Agricultural Credit Administration and Cooperatives Administration Office.

The President also requested through the president of the CANR, Alfredo Montelibano, to see to the reduction of the price of fertilizers.

In connection with the increase in the price of fertilizers, Montelibano said it was done in order to generate funds for the payment of amortizations on the producers' foreign loans guaranteed by the government.

The Chief Executive enjoined the private sector to continue with its dialogue with the government and invited Montelibano and other representatives of the private sector to work with heads of government agencies responsible for the organization of cooperatives.

Present at the meeting were:

Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Assistant Executive Secretaries Roberto V. Reyes and Ronaldo Zamora, Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata, Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Arturo R. Tanco, Jr., Secretary of Commerce and Industry Troadio Quiazon, Jr., Central Bank Governor Gregorio Licaros, PES Director-General Apolinario Orosa and NEC Chairman Gerardo Sicat; and Alfredo Montelibano, Johnny Planas, Adi Sison, Sixto Orosa, Jr. and Col. Jacinto Gavino from the private sector.

March 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS started early today going over state papers and in the process approved the promotion of a total of 451 officers in the different branches of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The President likewise requested Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata to deliver a speech for him before the general assembly of the Philippine National Cooperatives Bank.

At about mid-morning, the President broke off from his desk to confer with representatives of the public and private sectors on the plan to bring down prices through cooperatives.

During the conference, he said that the nationwide formation of producers and consumers cooperatives as an answer to the problems of under production and unstable prices has been given a big boost.

Also during the conference, the President said:

- (1) The government will train 251 trainors for cooperatives in Los Baños, Laguna on April 6.
- (2) The private sector will be invited to participate by sending on its account, an equal number of trainors.
- (3) The Philippine Public School Teachers' Association, which has 260,000 members, "has now agreed to organize into a cooperative all over the country" and for this purpose "has applied with the Cooperatives Administration Office for registration."

The President said that the trainors, after undergoing a two-week train-in, and in turn, train fieldmen of the government agencies engaged in organization. These agencies, he pointed out, are the Cooperatives Administration Office, Agricultural Productivity Commission, Agricultural Credit Administration, and the Presidential Arm on Community Development.

He also said that the putting up all over the country of storage plants for perishable consumer items is one of the keys to the lowering of prices.

"To this end," he said, "we have agreed with the private sector that we will now adopt the new process of chilling instead of the old system of ice production."

The Chief Executive explained that the new technology of chilling is a system by which one can put up any insulated warehouse to be converted into a storage by a package unit type of chilling.

He said that the storage plant will not only prevent spoilage and wastage, but "we will be able to control, through it, proper distribution and the accumulation of produce."

Among those present at the conference were: Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Secretary of Commerce and Industry Troadio Quiazon, Jr., Assistant Executive Secretaries Roberto V. Reyes and Ronaldo Zamora, Director-General Apolinario Orosa of the Presidential Economic Staff, Assistant Administrator Amado Lansang of the Agricultural Credit Administration, Secretary Rosendo Marquez of the Presidential Arm on Community Development, Director Orlando Pagulayan of the Cooperatives Administration Office, Deputy Commissioner Francisco Rentutar of the Agricultural Productivity Commission, Chairman Gerardo Sicat of the National Economic Council, Administrator Eliseo Villamor of the RCA, Press Secretary Francisco S. Tatad; and Alfredo Montelibano, Colonel Jacinto Gavino, Johnny Planas and Hector Moreno from the private sector.

March 26—

FREE from his schedule of callers, the President buckled down to his desk work and go over state papers needing his utmost attention and in the process issued a proclamation declaring the first week of April of every year as “Tax Consciousness Week.”

Among others, the Chief Executive submitted to the Commission on appointments the nominations of one city judge, four clerks of court, and four branch clerks of court for confirmation.

The President worked on his desk till early evening and only broke off to receive Mayor Sergio Osmeña, Jr. of Cebu City who led a delegation of Cebu City officials and representatives of civic organizations, to Malacañang.

During the call, the President decided to hold decision on a recommendation of the Police Commission to place Cebu City under Philippine Constabulary control.

He said he would like to give the mayor an opportunity to clean the city police department and the city itself of gambling and other vices reported to be rampant in the city, in line with his basic policy of holding the executives primarily responsible for the peace and order in their respective jurisdiction.

Headed by Mayor Osmeña, the delegation included Vice Mayor Eulogio Borres and Councilors Jose Cuenco, Bienvenido Tudtud, Ronald Duterte, Florencio Urot, Arturo Abellana, Pablo Abella, George Balad Jay, Jesus Gabuya and Raymundo Crystal; Cristobal Espina, president of the Rotary Club of West Cebu and acting chairman of the council of civic clubs; and Mariano Ilano, Jr., president, community chest of Cebu.

After the call, the President continued his paperworks until late in the evening.

March 27—

UNABLE to finish urgent papers on his desk the night previous, the President started this day early.

The Chief Executive, submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation the nominations of 28 individuals to the posts of chairmen, and as members, of the different boards of examiners.

The President worked in his private study continuously till evening.

March. 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS took the day off from his usual schedule of callers to attend to urgent state papers filed on his desk.

In the process, the President issued a proclamation declaring the third week of April this year as “Pest Control Week.”

Among other things, he also submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation the nominations of 16 officials to various posts in the Department of Education and the Department of Justice.

Acting Secretary of Education Juan L. Manuel heads the nominees in the Department of Education.

The President worked on his desk the whole day and only broke off to attend to some unscheduled callers who consulted him on the problems of their respective departments.

March 29—

FREE from his usual schedule of callers, the President from time to time broke off from his private study and attend to unexpected callers.

In the afternoon, the Chief Executive submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation the nominations of 13 officials to various posts in the Department of Labor.

Acting Secretary of Labor Adrian E. Cristobal heads the nominees.

March 30—

PRESIDENT MARCOS worked on his desk early this morning and in the process submitted to the Commission on Appointments three more nominations of as many individuals for confirmation as city and provincial treasurers.

The nominations were recommended by Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata.

The President devoted most of his time the rest of the day to paper works.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: April 1-6, 1972

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

April 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS attended to urgent state papers in his private study at the Mansion House after conveying his greetings to the nation at the close of the Lenten season. In his message the President said:

“Easter comes to us today at the time when all mankind is seeking ways to narrow down and bridge differences that have stood between peoples and nations, and when our country itself is engaged in greater and wider efforts to enter into more fruitful relations with the rest of the world.

“As in the past, when the resurrection of Christ sought to bring men to a stronger fellowship in the pursuit of their common goals, it is to be hoped that this same spirit will now bring the great endeavors to their just and timely fruition. For the message of Easter is not alone addressed to or shared by Christians. It is for all men everywhere, whatever their color, station or creed.

“And now, more than ever, that message tells us that it is in every man's capacity to find an end to his many problems and anxieties, that it is in every nation's ability to find progress and freedom, and that it is in mankind's reach to remake the world anew and made it a better place to live in.”

In the course of the day, the President:

1) Ordered the National Bureau of Investigation and the Philippine Constabulary to conduct a full dress investigation, in coordination with local police authorities, of the slaying of the woman Ex-Mayor of Bantay, Ilocos Sur. He issued the directive following his meeting with former Ilocos Sur Governor Carmeling Crisologo.

2) Designated retired Brig. Gen. Felizardo Tanabe as acting Postmaster General and Assistant Director Pedro Villasenor of the Bureau of Telecommunications as the acting director of that bureau.

Gen. Tanabe's designation to the Bureau of Post followed his stint as a presidential assistant and Chairman of a 12-man Postal Reform Task Force created by the President last February 21 to study and recommend corrective measures to improve the country's postal service.

Director Villasenor succeeded the late Director Antonio Gamboa of the Bureau of Telecommunications, who perished at a plane crash in September, 1970.

April 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS started his paper work early and then broke off from his desk toward noon to meet with Manila newsmen covering him.

In the evening, the President called leaders of two feuding factions of Ilocos Sur to a conference at the Mansion House following the killing of former Bantay Mayor Maria Asuncion Porte in Vigan.

During the conference, the Chief Executive told the incumbent and former officials of Ilocos Sur that the government had reached the end of its patience in the continuous politically motivated killings in that province.

He directed Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile to assign a marine unit to the province which will hunt clown all wanted criminals.

Among those present at the conference were Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, Brig. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, PC chief, Ilocos Sur Governor Luis “Chavit” Singson, Ex-Governor Antonio Villanueva, Mayor Evaristo Singson of Vigan, Col. Honorio Balanon, Ilocos Sur provincial commander; and Vincent Crisologo, representative of former Governor Carmeling Crisologo.

April 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent his morning hours to desk work, breaking off occasionally to meet with local leaders of the North who consulted him on problems of their constituencies.

In the afternoon, the President had an interview with newsmen on the escalation of the Vietnam war, among others.

The President however declined to give an assessment of the escalated conflict pending reports from the country’s diplomatic representatives abroad, particularly those assigned to Saigon, Thailand, Cambodia and Laos.

He resumed his paper work after the brief interview.

April 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS received some members of Congress and other government officials who called at Malacañang following his return from Baguio City where he spent the Holy Week.

Among the callers were Reps. Constantino C. Navarro of Surigao del Norte and Eduardo M. Cojuangco of Tarlac, who briefed the President on the salient provisos of the bills on national security, sale of military reservations, and retirement system.

General Manager Roman A. Cruz,, Jr. of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), Administrator Gilberto Teodoro of the Social Security System (SSS), and Reps. Roberto Sabido of Albay and Roque Ablan, Jr. of Ilocos Norte also briefed the President on the salient provisions of the bill on housing, which could, eventually be “the charter of the government’s housing program.”

Senator Magnolia W. Antonino, Central Bank Governor Gregorio S. Licaros, Representatives Jose de Venecia of Pangasinan and Fernando Veloso of Western Samar presented to the President for his signature the bill on foreign currency deposit system.

Those who conferred with the President privately were former Secretary of Labor Blas F. Ople, Commissioner Misael P. Vera of the BIR, Chairman Leonides S. Virata of the DBP, and Commissioner Baltazar Aquino of the Bureau of Public Highways.

April 5—

PRESIDENT MARCOS motored to the Philamlife building where he was guest of honor and speaker at the testimonial luncheon in honor of the women elected to public office in the 1971 elections.

In his speech the President called on the Filipino womanhood to share the burden of meeting the problems facing the country, such as those on peace and order, violence, graft, pornography, the rebellious young, and weakening of family ties.

“Collectively and individually, you should constitute the active social conscience of our government. There is every reason to expect that your participation will definitely raise the standards of our public service—by contributing your human touch to public affairs, by imbuing public service with a compassionate purpose.”

He mentioned the legendary Princess Urduja, who wielded unusual power in the country's historic past as a reminder that "our Malay forbears proudly accepted leadership from women who distinguished themselves by their nobility and courage."

Underscoring the role that women play in family life, the President said:

"Family life is principally due to the guidance of the women. If, therefore, there should be any degeneracy in our society today, perhaps this is due to many factors. And one of these factors is that women may not have consciously realized the present need for them to perform more than ever in our history their functions as the guiding hands of the family."

Concluding his address, the President expressed the hope that under the leadership the League of Women Voters of the Philippines, Filipino womanhood may participate more actively in the fight against "drug addiction, against pornography, against cowardice in the face of the need for witnesses in the prosecution of crimes, and against everything that threatens to destroy the foundations of our society."

The President was back in Malacañang in time to confer the Philippine Legion of Honor (degree of Commander) on Rear Admiral George R. Muse, commander of the U.S. Naval Forces in the Philippines, for "exceptionally meritorious and distinguished service to the Philippines.

Rear Admiral Muse paid tribute to the President for his contribution to the war effort in order to preserve freedom, saying:

"I certainly want at this time to acknowledge the great leadership you provided the country in the intervening years of your high position in the Republic, and I don't believe there is anybody here now who had sacrificed more for this love of freedom and high ideals that the valor reflected by your own participation in the dark days before and following Bataan."

Present at the award ceremony was the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda E. Marcos, and Philippine and U.S. officials headed by Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal and Ambassador and Mrs. Henry Byroade, and including Capt. and Mrs. Hal Stewart, Capt. and Mrs. Roberto Gideon, Capt. and Mrs. John Robertson, Cdr. and Mrs. William Evrard, Capt. and Mrs. Waldo Atkins, Col. and Mrs. Alfred Patterson, and Lt. Julian E. Baum, III, of the admiral's staff;

Education Secretary Juan Manuel, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., General Romeo Espino, chief of staff, AFP; Brig. Gen. Jose Rancudo, Chief, PAF; Commodore Romulo M. Espaldon, deputy chief of staff; Commodore Hilario Ruiz, flag-officer-in-command, PN; and Commodore Ernesto Ogbinar, commander, naval operating forces and vice commander, PN.

April 6—

WITH only one scheduled appointment for the day, President Marcos was closeted most of the time in his study going over state papers.

He has to lay aside his desk work occasionally to attend to unscheduled callers who consulted him on local problems.

In the afternoon, the President signed a proclamation reserving 19,247 hectares in Mt. Busa, Surallah and Kiamba, South Cotabato, on which members of the Manobo Blit and Tasaday tribes may set up settlements.

The President also announced the reappointment of Manuel Elizalde, Jr. as presidential assistant for cultural minorities (PANAMIN) and his personal representative in the implementation of the twin policy of integration and conservation.

Present at the signing of the proclamation were the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, Justice Secretary Vicente Abad Santos, Senator Ernesto M. Maceda, Reps. Joaquin Roces of Manila, Eduardo Cojuangco of Tarlac, and Pedro Medalla of Mindoro Occidental; Governors Teresa Dupaya of Cagayan and Carlos Cajelo of Cotabato, and PHHC Director Jose Guerrero.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: April 7-13, 1972

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

April 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS motored to the San Miguel auditorium at about midmorning to speak before the joint celebration of World Heart Month and the 20th anniversary of the Philippine Heart Association, which was co-sponsored by the Philippine College of Cardiology.

In his speech, the President warned against heart ailments becoming a major deterrent to progress and called on the private sector, particularly the medical profession, to help in combatting this dreaded disease.

The President pointed out that although heart ailments rank as the number four killer in the country, it is the most destructive because its victims are the executive and leader class, the idea men in the "think tanks," the implementing groups who keep the nation on the move.

He said that unless utmost efforts are exerted to fight this disease, it will become "one of the principal deterrents to progress."

The President deplored the uneven distribution of the benefits of medical research, pointing out that a Manila resident who has funds can get treatment in a first class hospital while a barrio councilman in Palanan, Isabela, for instance, where there is no doctor could never benefit from medicine.

The President recalled with gratitude the visit of 400 doctors, nurses and technicians from Makati to Tacloban where they rendered free medical assistance to the poor fishermen and farmers for two weeks.

The President said the country had entered the stage when "we have got to fall back on the dedication, benevolence, generosity and patriotism of the privileged who have much to share their countrymen."

At mid-morning, the President started receiving callers, among whom were:

1) Spanish Ambassador Nicolas Martin Alonso who accompanied Captain Ricardo Vallespin Raurell, skipper of the Spanish training ship Juan Sebastian de Elcano which docked at South Harbor's Pier 15. The President expressed the hope that Raurell and his crew will find their eight-day goodwill visit "as pleasant as the visit of the First Lady to Spain."

2) Brigadier Generals Russel Volckmann and Donald Blackburn and their wives who paid a surprise courtesy call on the President and the First Lady. Volckmann was the commanding officer of the famed Northern Luzon guerillas, the so-called USAFIP-NL, with which President Marcos served. Blackburn also served with the USAFIP-NL as commanding officer of the 11th infantry.

3) Secretary Adrian Cristobal of the Department of Labor and members of the Labor Management Advisory Council who invited the President to speak on "labor-management relations in the 70's" at the-Ramon Magsaysay building on April 21.

4) Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. and the officers of the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association who were inducted by the President. Melchor, who heads the PMAAA, told the President that one of the objectives of the association is "the return of dignity to the soldiers." The President said that "we should have a listing of what the soldiers want in the army and then listen to what they want."

5) Governor Alfredo Montelibano, Jr., Rep. Agustin Gatuslao, and Mayor Pedro Yulo of Negros Occidental who invited the President to the fourth centennial anniversary of Binalbagan City on May 15.

6) Rep. Carmelo Barbero and members of the Abra provincial board who discussed with the President local problems. Those who conferred privately with the President were Senator Ernesto Maceda and Jovito Rivera.

April 8—

WITH only one scheduled appointment, the President concentrated on paper work.

Toward noon the President, together with the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, motored to Fort Bonifacio to address the international convention of veterans.

The President defined the Philippine position on communism which, he said, is a determined fight against local communism and a “live and let live” policy with respect to international communism.

The Chief Executive invited the leaders and members of the Communist Party of the Philippines to surrender and help build a strong nation.

He revealed for the first time that intelligence reports link the local communists to the Partai Komunis of Indonesia (PKI).

The President also said that according to confidential documents the PKI and the local communists had prepared plans not only for international communism but regional communism.

“Therefore it is quite clear that their motivation was foreign and not local or domestic; that their plans were prepared abroad and even the charter of the Kabataang Makabayan and the New Communist Party of the Philippines was cleared with communist leaders in Indonesia and Red China.”

With respect to international communism, the President said “our policy is live and let live, but if anybody seeks to coerce the Philippines into embracing communism, that is entirely a different matter.”

Turning to American veterans of Bataan who participated in the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the fall of Bataan, the President said “there is a deep and wide reservoir of goodwill for the United States in the Philippines and that reservoir still exists.”

After his address, the President inducted into office the members of the Board of Trustees of the Philippine Veterans of World War II, namely: Rep. Simeon Valdez, chairman; Delfin R. Bacho, vice chairman; and Enrique Filart, Tomas Nufable, S. Navarro, M. Kierulf, Simeon Medalla, Marcelo Angangco, Carlos R. Lardizabal, Eliodoro Congco and Luis Samson, members.

The President and the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, arrived at the Veterans Center a little past 12 noon.

The President resumed his desk work in the afternoon.

April 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS led a national pilgrimage to Mt. Samat in commemoration of the Fall of Bataan.

The President, assisted by U.S. Ambassador Henry Byroade and Rizalino P. Lacuna, national commander of the Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, raised the Philippine flag over the site during the ceremonies.

In his speech, the President declared that “never again should our country depend on others for its security.”

The President said that the Philippines has faith and trust in its allies and friends, and it can depend on them. "But we can best trust ourselves and depend on our own capabilities," he said. (*See pp. 3131-3135 for full text of the President's speech.*)

The President had a brief rest upon arrival in Malacañang in the afternoon, and then went over urgent official papers.

April 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, motored at 10:30 a.m. to the Nayong Pilipino to attend the award rites and luncheon given in their honor in connection with the commemoration of Bataan Day.

During the award ceremonies, the President conferred the Golden Heart Presidential Award on Maj. Gen. Hugh J. Casey (U.S. ret.) for his "pioneering efforts and active participation in the development of hydroelectric power in the Philippines."

He also conferred Presidential Plaques on U.S. Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower James H. Johnson in appreciation of his participation in the anniversary commemorative rites; and Maj. Gen. Hugh Casey, Brig. Gen. Russel Volckmann, Brig. Gen. Donald Blackburn and Col. Edwin Ramsey in "profound appreciation of their contribution to the defense of Bataan and heroic and voluntary service in the underground movement that helped bring about the liberation of the Philippines."

Present were Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. Secretary Eduardo Rodriguez of the Office of Economic Coordination, Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, Chairman Manuel Barretto of the National Power Corporation, Filemon Rodriguez and a few other guests and their ladies.

Also awarded plaques of appreciation for their participation in the Bataan Day ceremonies held at Mt. Samat, Pilar, Bataan, were Commander Robert Warren and Major William Dabney of the U.S. marines, both members of Secretary Johnson's staff.

Back in Malacañang early in the afternoon, the President closeted himself in his private study and worked on state papers till late evening.

April 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent the day on desk work and in the process submitted to the Commission on Appointments the nominations of 39 officials in the Office of the Solicitor General. All the proposed appointments were promotional, and were approved on recommendation of the Secretary of Justice.

In the evening, the President administered the oath of office to Solicitor General Felix Antonio as associate justice of the Supreme Court in a ceremony held at Malacañang. Justice Antonio fills the position vacated by Associate Justice Arsenio P. Dizon, who has retired.

Present at the induction were the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos; justices of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals headed by Chief Justice Roberto Conception and Presiding Justice Salvador V. Esguerra, respectively; Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos, Mrs. Natividad J. Antonio and children and other relatives and friends of the inductee.

April 12—

WITH no scheduled callers to attend to, the President devoted the whole morning to paper work.

He, however, received some officials of the executive department who called at Malacañang in the afternoon for consultations.

April 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had another day devoted to official papers and other matters of state, in the course of which he submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation the names of 12 individuals, eight of whom were nominated as municipal judges and four as clerks of court.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: April 14-20, 1972

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

April 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered Gov. Luis Singson of Ilocos Sur to disband and disarm all members of his personal security forces as a means of easing the tension in the province.

In his memorandum, the President also ordered the demobilization of the former's personal bodyguards, whether they are with or without any appointment from the governor as his confidential agents, security agents, or informers, or otherwise performing similar functions.

The Chief Executive also informed Gov. Singson that he had directed the PC and the commander of the Marine elements in Ilocos Sur to apprehend any person who may be found carrying firearms and performing functions as confidential, security or special agent, informer or bodyguard after 48 hours upon receipt of the order.

In a separate action, the President designated Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes as acting executive secretary, upon the departure and for the duration of the absence of Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor Jr. who enplaned for Vienna to attend the meeting of the Asian Development Bank from April 19 to 23.

The President also designated:

- 1) Dr. Alfredo Juinio, National Irrigation Administrator, as concurrent officer-in-charge of the Irrigation Service Unit (ISU).
- 2) ISU Chief Lazaro Ocampo, as Presidential Assistant on Irrigation.

After the induction ceremonies, he repaired to his private study to attend to desk work.

April 15—

THE PRESIDENT submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation the nominations of 15 appointees proposed to various posts in different departments of the executive branch of the government.

Of the 15 nominees, nine were to positions in the Office of the President, two in the Department of Finance, and one each in the Departments of Commerce and industry and Public Works and Communications, Office of Economic Coordination, and local governments.

Among other actions, the Chief Executive asked the Development Bank of the Philippines to open an agency in Marawi City, and convert its existing agency in Iligan City into a branch as soon as possible.

At the same time, the President directed the DBP management to liberalize the terms for loan applicants in the resettlement site in Lanao, to enable them to borrow money from the DBP on the basis of appropriate certificates or guarantees issued by the commander of Task Force LANCAF (Lanao Civic Action Force.)

The President worked on state papers in his study till early evening.

April 16—

THE PRESIDENT had a quiet relatively busy weekend disposing of urgent state papers.

He however took time out late in the afternoon to play a round of golf at the Malacañang Park.

April 17—

THE PRESIDENT received the credentials of His Excellency Sukru Elektag, as non-resident ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Turkey to the Philippines.

The President said that the Filipinos as a people believe that their future basically lies in their hands, and to this end “will join forces with: all those who sincerely wish to create’ a better society by cooperating in efforts to uplift the dignity and stature of man.”

He stressed that “the seemingly elusive but universally cherished goal of world peace can be attained if only all nations and all peoples exert their utmost toward this end,” and added that “we in the Philippines attach great significance and value to our relationship with Turkey.” He expressed the fervent hope that “the existing goodwill and understanding between our two countries will increase in the coming years.”

The President assured Ambassador Elektag that the government will extend to him its fullest cooperation as it was so extended in the case of his predecessor, Ambassador Turgut Aytug.

Present at the presentation ceremony were Secretaries Manuel Collantes of the Department of Foreign Affairs Juan Ponce Enrile of the Department of National Defense, Vicente Abad Santos of the Department of Justice, and Constancio Casteñeda of the Department of General Services.

Following the presentation ceremonies, the President administered the oath to the newly-elected officers of the League of City Mayors’ of the Philippines.

Inducted were City Mayors Luis Lardizabal of Baguio, league chairman; Luis T. Santos of Davao, executive vice chairman; Gregorio S. Imperial of Legaspi, secretary-general; Cipriano M. Manaois of Dagupan, treasurer; Mario L. Tagarao of Lucena, vice chairman; Pedro S. Tolentino of Batangas, regional vice chairman for Luzon; Maximo Patalinjud, Jr. of Lapu-Lapu, regional vice chairman for the Visayas; Leroy S. Brown of Basilan, regional vice chairman for Mindanao; Eulalio F. Siazon of Laoag, regional director for Northern Luzon; Elpidio O. Cucio of Palayan, regional director for Central Luzon; Jose C. Villanueva of Iriga, regional director for Southern Luzon; Manuel Y. Torres of Bago, regional director for Western Visayas; Filemon D. Arteche, Jr. of Tacloban, regional director for Eastern Visayas; Germanico Carrion of Dapitan, regional director for Western Mindanao; and Pedro R. Espino of Surigao, regional director for Eastern Mindanao.

The President later conferred with the Mayors on problems of the cities.

The President did not receive callers in the afternoon. He devoted his time instead to urgent official papers.

April 18—

THE PRESIDENT received only a few callers, mostly officials of the executive department, even as he concentrated once more on urgent state papers.

While engaged on desk work, the President signed, and submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation, the nominations of one city fiscal and 22 assistant city and provincial fiscals.

April 19—

THE PRESIDENT started working in his private study after breakfast.

At about 11 a.m., he received General and Mrs. Erik Weekberg, who paid their respects to the First Couple before leaving for Sydney, Australia, after attending the 35th Congress of the Philippine command of the Salvation Army.

The President thanked the SA leader for the humanitarian work of his Organization in the country and assured him of all possible government support to enable it to continue operating.

Mrs. Weekberg likewise congratulated the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, for her “impressive” integrated social welfare and cultural development programs, as well as for the “Green Revolution.”

The Weekbergs were accompanied to Malacañang by Lt. Col. Nancy Hulett, commanding officer of the SA Philippine Command.

The President continued working in his study from late afternoon till evening.

April 20—

THE PRESIDENT started the day with a breakfast conference with leaders of both chambers of Congress, to chart the special session vis-a-vis urgent bills.

The President also took up with the Congress leaders amendments to the Tariff Code and the Internal Revenue Code, including possible withdrawal of tax exemptions and subsidies from some industries; the educational development programs, and the integrated national government reorganization plan.

Present at the conference which lasted for over an hour were Senate President Gil J. Puyat, Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal, Senate Majority Floor Leader Arturo Tolentino, Senators Rene Espina, Lorenzo Teves, Leonardo Perez, Ambrosio Padilla, Alejandro Almendras, Helena Z. Benitez, and Mamintal Tamano; House Majority Floor Leader Marcelino Veloso, and Reps. Jose Alberto of Catanduanes and Natalio P. Castillo of Bohol.

After the meeting, the President received officials of the Chemical Bank of New York and their wives, accompanied by Tony Florendo, who paid a courtesy call. The officials were Chairman and Mrs. William Rendard, First Vice President and Mrs. Donald C. Platten, Executive Vice President Charles W. Carson, Jr., Senior Vice President and Mrs. Paul Bubenday, Representative for the Philippines and Southeast Asia Paul Meyers and his wife, and Mr. and Mrs. C. Sherwood.

At mid-morning, a plaque of appreciation and gratitude was presented to the President by members of the Government Prosecutors League headed by Florentino Flor, president, “for his consuming concern for the improvement of the economic welfare of the government prosecutors and professionalization of the service under R. A. 6407.

Among other callers were: 1) Special Presidential Envoy on Tourism Antonio Delgado, who reported on the results of his recent trip abroad; 2) Gov. Murphy Sangkula and Rep. Indanan Anni of Sulu, who sought fund releases for various public works projects; 3) Ambassador Manuel T. Yan, who tailed for final instructions prior to his departure for his post as Philippine Ambassador to Thailand; 4) Rep. Constantino Navarro of Surigao del Norte, who headed a delegation of town mayors seeking release of funds and prefabricated school houses; and 5) Vladimir Kulinitch accompanied by former Civil Aeronautics Administrator Federico Ablan, who called on the President to signify the intention of Aeroflot (Russian National airlines) to open Moscow-Manila flights via Tokyo and Singapore.

The President told Kulinitch to submit a formal request so that it can be referred to the proper authorities.

Other callers of the President were Vicente Abalahon, Pedro Opiana, Jose Flaminiano, Marconi Pairo, Pukoman Pandangan, Inocencia Gonzales, Jose Arcangel, Vicente Ocampo, Anastacio Lobaton, Senso Orbanilla, Lucas Carpio, Lilia Lopez, Ramon Mabutas, Fred Nepomuceno, Justiniano Cortez, Nicolas Galang, Florentino Jacinto,

Emilio Adrion, Rufo Bernardo, Julian Salcedo, Horacio Adaza, Modesto Roscas and Alejandro Leopando of the Government Prosecutors League.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: April 21-27, 1972

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

April 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had two speaking engagements, one in Laguna and another in Quezon City.

At about mid-morning, the President flew to Los Baños, to address the 10th anniversary of the start of research work at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI).

In his speech, the President said that the discovery of the “miracle rice” by the International Rice Research Institute has given new hope to the hungry and malnourished multitudes in Asia and elsewhere.

The President, however, stressed that “the fight against higher prices and periodic shortages has by no means ended in spite of the dramatic gains that have been made in the 10 years since IRRI “began its work.” He cited the experience of the country in the production of high-yielding varieties of rice.

The Chief Executive stressed that the Philippine experience—affirming that the “rice revolution” is a continuing struggle both of production and marketing—could be instructive for all Asian countries facing the same problems and challenges.

The President emphasized that these very difficult issues could be settled if approached in the proper spirit. He said that the example of the IRRI, “an international undertaking where people from many countries have gathered to meet a common problem,” sets the tone. He said that it is the spirit of cooperation that will in the end, bring comfort as well as solutions to the grave problems of the world.

The President paid special tribute to the men who guided the IRRI since its founding, namely: Dr. J. George Harrar, president of the Rockefeller Foundation; Dr. Robert Chandler, president of the IRRI; and Dr. Forrest Hill, chairman of the IRRI board of trustees.

He also expressed the hope that the next decade of the IRRI “will be as exciting, as fulfilling, as rewarding, and as successful” as IRRI’s first 10 years.

From Los Baños, the President helicoptered at 11:00 a.m. to the SSS building in Quezon City, where he was guest speaker of the Fifth Labor-Management Congress.

Addressing some 500 delegates representing labor and management as well as the government sector, the President urged the delegates to work out a realistic proposal and guidelines for enhancing industrial peace.

He also pointed to the great challenges facing the nation, which entail a response from labor and management as well as the government.

The President emphasized that the “thrust of our social effort is not merely towards bread but towards bread with justice and freedom.”

The Chief Executive enjoined the congress to “come to terms with the social and economic realities of our times so that, together, labor and management may voice their aspirations and demands about the kind of society that is most responsive to their welfare.”

“You are called here not in the role of economic combatants but as statesmen of labor and management impelled by common goodwill to find solutions to problems and achieve a broad era of agreement on some nagging and stubborn issues of our times.”

The President gave the congress some pointers in discussing the ways to insure free trade unionism and collective bargaining, as follows:

- 1) Management, in many medium and small sized industries, continues to resist unions and find every available means of blocking them.
- 2) Inter-union rivalry is not conducive to industrial peace as may be seen from the fact that 47 percent of all strikes in 1970 were caused by inter-union rivalry.
- 3) The conciliation and mediation arm of the Department of Labor lacks funds and facilities and, therefore, Congress should appropriate more funds to maintain this agency.

“But a more lasting victory has yet to be won since the first two factors create a climate inimical to industrial peace while the third represents the inability of government to expand facilities enough to meet the demands of industrial conflict,” the President warned.

The President was back in Malacañang early in the afternoon.

The rest of his working hours were spent on paper work.

April 22—

THE PEESIDENT closeted himself in his private study and went over piles of state papers in the morning and afternoon.

Early in the evening he stood as sponsor at the wedding of Rora Navarro, daughter of Rep. Constantino Navarro, held at the Santuario de San. Antonio, Forbes Park in Makati, Rizal.

After the wedding, the President proceeded to the Club Filipino at Greenhills, San Juan, Rizal where he was guest of honor at the U.P. Law Alumni Association dinner.

The President presented the plaque and award to “the most distinguished alumnus of 1972.”

The Chief Executive was back in Malacañang late in the evening.

April 23—

THE PRESIDENT devoted almost another day to urgent paper work.

Early in the afternoon, the President had a brief rest and then played a round of golf with friends at the Malacañang Park.

Toward evening, the President received some officials of the executive department who discussed with him matters concerning their offices.

April 24—

THE PRESIDENT was guest of honor in the afternoon at the inauguration and blessing of the modern printing plant of the *Daily Express*, a national newsmagazine.

In an interview with staffers of Channel 5 later, the President said the government will encourage the establishment of any additional medium of communications “for the dissemination of our democratic way of life.”

The President spent the earlier part of the day on official papers.

April 25—

THE PRESIDENT ordered Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile to proceed to Ilocos Sur to look into the grenade-bombing early in the morning in Cabugao that cost the lives of, and inflicted injuries on, a big number of fiesta celebrants.

Among other actions taken by the President in the wake of the incident, he:

- 1) Sent two planes of the Philippine Air Force on a mercy mission to the area, complete with medical teams from the V. Luna General Hospital and the Department of Health, with orders to attend to, and evacuate, the injured for treatment at VLGH.
- 2) Dispatched a light plane with CIS investigators and a crime laboratory to the town, to assist in the investigation.

At mid-morning, the President received a large number of callers, mostly provincial executives, who took up with him local matters such as the release of public works and calamity funds and the peace and order situation.

The only other caller on the Chief Executive was Ambassador Julio Menimo Salcedas of Portugal, who came to say goodbye before leaving for home where his new assignment, after a three and a half years' tour of duty in the Philippines, would be given him.

The outgoing Portuguese envoy thanked the President and, through him, the Filipino people, for giving him the opportunity to complete his mission successfully and assured the President that whenever possible he would always strive to help promote the interests of the Filipino people.

The President expressed the hope that the incoming envoy to replace him would be as successful as he was and assured him that the Filipino people would always welcome him if he would make the Philippines his second home.

Next to call on the President was a delegation composed of Governors Palma Gil of Davao Oriental and Verulo Boiser of Davao del Norte; Vice Governors Bienvenida Salceda of Davao del Sur, Cecilia de la Paz of Davao del Norte and Francisco Rabat of Davao Oriental, accompanied by Reps. Constancio B. Maglana and Lorenzo Sarmiento.

The President also received Cavite Vice Governor Dominador Camerino who left his sickbed at the Makati Medical Center to take up the peace and order situation in his province and to renew his request for the release of funds for the repair of roads damaged by a series of typhoons.

Other callers were Governor J. Antonio Leviste of Batangas, Virgilio Lacaya of Zamboanga del Norte, Aguedo Agbayani of Pangasinan, Ignacio Santiago of Bulacan, Vicente Magsaysay of Zambales and Jaime Gomez of Mt. Province.

The President requested the provincial executives to submit to him their respective lists of priority projects so that the release of public works funds could be made systematically and equitably, on the basis of the urgency of a project.

Later in the day, the President inducted Andres L. Dinglasan, Jr., prominent labor leader, as Social Security Commissioner (representing labor), vice Israel Bocobo who has been appointed undersecretary of labor.

Present at the induction were Constitutional Convention Delegate Roberto S. Oca and Labor Secretary Adrian E. Cristobal.

April 26—

WITH a heavy schedule of callers on deck, the President started working at his desk early. He signed and submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation the nominations of nine individuals to various posts in the government.

Most of the nominations were to positions in the judiciary.

Among others, he conveyed a congratulatory message to Ben Villaflor following the latter's successful bid for the world's Junior Lightweight title.

The President then received callers, mostly congressmen, starting with a three-man delegation of the German Federation of Trade Unions who paid their respects to the President.

Accompanied by German Ambassador J. W. Buddenbrock and former Labor Secretary Blas F. Ople, the delegation was composed of Alfons Lappas, member of the federation and the board of trustees of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung; Erwin Kristofferson and Klaus Pretzer, F-E-S representatives to Asia and the Philippines, respectively.

The President also received the members of the executive committee of the National Labor Union Center (NLUC) headed by Antonio Policarpio, who invited him to speak at a labor rally on Labor Day (May 1).

The delegation included Ben B. Navarro, Cesar Legayada, Tim Dejon and Filemon Arce.

Other callers included some 32 Nacionalista congressmen who sought public works fund releases, allocations of prefabricated school buildings and assistance in procuring hospital ambulance.

The congressmen who called on the President were House Majority Floor Leader Marcelino Veloso, Reps. Rafael Legaspi of Aklan, Pablo Malasarte of Bohol, Artemio Mate of Leyte, Pedro C. Medalla of Mindoro Occidental, Constantino Navarro of Surigao del Norte, Jose P. Neri of Camiguin, Fernando Pajarillo of Camarines Norte, Benjamin Perez of Nueva Vizcaya; Jose J. Puyat of Surigao del Sur, Francisco G. Reyes of Manila, Pablo R. Roman of Bataan, Guillermo Sanchez of Agusan del Norte, Lorenzo Sarmiento of Davao del Norte; Celestino Sybico, Eduardo Gullas, Emerito Calderon, Gaudencio Beduya and Manuel Zosa of Cebu; Fermin Caram, Jr. and Gloria Tabiana of Iloilo, Simeon Valdez of Ilocos Norte, Fernando Veloso of Western Samar, Felipe J. Abrigo of Eastern Samar, Rodolfo Albano of Isabela; Felipe Almazan of Kalinga-Apayao, Vicente Cerilles of Zamboanga del Sur, Amando D. Cope of Albay, Andres Cosalan of Benguet, Ali Dimaporo of Lanao del Norte, Macacuna Dimaporo of Lanao del Sur, Tito Dupaya of Cagayan and Felix Fuentebella of Camarines Sur.

Early in the evening, the President had an interview with Malacañang newsmen during which he announced that he had rejected proposals to proclaim martial law in Ilocos Sur and to increase the number of troops in that strife-torn province.

He told newsmen it was a matter of organizing five teams to follow up five theories that had been submitted for investigation.

April 27—

THE PRESIDENT conferred in the morning with a combined delegation from Isabela and Quirino provinces, headed by Senator Leonardo Perez and Rep. Benjamin Perez, to discuss the economic development program for the two provinces.

The delegation presented proposals on, among others, land problems, increased agricultural production, infrastructures, and share in income tax collections.

During the meeting, the President:

- 1) Appealed to the local executives to pinpoint the alleged bad elements in the army in their localities so that they could be court-martialed.
- 2) Directed Secretaries Arturo R. Tanco, Jr. of agriculture and natural resources and Conrado Estrella of agrarian reform to coordinate and to take up the proposals with the delegation.
- 3) Directed Chairman Gerardo Sicat of the National Economic Council to look into the proposals with the view to giving priority to the two provinces.
- 4) Defined the basic policy of reserving portions of public lands for reforestation and portions for disposal to the public.
- 5) Asked for the adoption of a policy to connect lumber concessions by road to national highways for the benefit not only of the concessionaries but of the farmers and peasants.
- 6) Announced the graduation of some 502 trainees who, in turn, would fan out to the provinces to train local residents in consumer or producer cooperatives organization.

Among those in the delegation were Governor Faustino Dy of Isabela and Gualberto Lumaig of Quirino (Ifugao); and the mayors of San Mateo, Jones, Benito Soliven, Reyno Mercedes, Ramos, Echague, Dibilican and Tumauni in Isabela, and Sagada, Cabarroguis, Diffun and Madela in Quirino.

After the conference, the President sailed for Cavite City where he officiated at the launching of the new 65—foot ferro-cement fast patrol craft, and the inauguration of the navy barracks, station hospital and officers' clubhouse.

In his brief remarks, the President announced that the Philippine Navy would continue constructing vessels for its own use in line with the new policy of adopting a self-reliant defense posture.

He said that the launching of the new craft “epitomizes the will of the Filipino people to do what they can with their own limited resources to attain self-reliance in defense of their own security and welfare.”

The Chief Executive arrived at the navy base aboard the *RPS 777* at 10:30 a.m., and was met by local officials, foreign dignitaries, military top brass and other high government officials who attended the occasion.

From the pier, he motored to the parade ground where he was accorded full military honors by two companies of navy trainees, after which he motored back to the dock for the launching ceremony.

The President, assisted by Mrs. Juan Ponce Enrile, pulled the lever which signalled the launching of the vessel.

After inspecting the vessel, the President motored to the barracks, the station hospital and then to the officers' clubhouse for the ribbon cutting rites.

After lunch at the clubhouse, he reboarded the *RPS 777* for the return trip to Manila.

Among those present at the ceremony were Defense Undersecretary Efren I. Plana, Governor Lino Bocalan of Cavite, Mayor Eduardo de Guzman of Cavite City, foreign dignitaries led by Ambassadors Henry Byroade of the United States and Deva Rao of India, and chiefs of the major commands of the armed forces.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: April 28 - May 4, 1972

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

April 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS attended the necrological services for the late Fernando Amorsolo, dean of Filipino painters, held in the morning at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

In his speech, the President disclosed that he has signed a proclamation establishing a new category of awards and decorations for state honorees.

In paying homage to Amorsolo, the President said that “in him we honor every Filipino Artist—living, dead, or unborn.”

The President then motored to Manila Hotel where he was guest speaker at the 18th National Rice and Corn Convention.

The President enjoined the rice producers and millers to maintain reasonable rice prices, assuring them that the government would desist as much as possible from importing rice but would continue instead to subsidize local producers.

At the same time, he appealed to the leaders of the rice industry to help the government conduct an extensive and intensive campaign of information and education to acquaint the people with the services provided by the government, such that propaganda and untruths spread by elements seeking to undermine democracy and freedom could be negated.

The President warned the delegates not to lose the fight by default,, which may happen if responsible citizens do nothing in the face of the propaganda of falsehoods.

After his address, the President was presented a plaque of appreciation “in grateful recognition of his sincere efforts, bold program, extensive farm-to-market road building, irrigation dams, pumps, and support for the growth of the rice and corn industry and his concern for the welfare of both the producer and consumer.”

The President was back at Malacañang before noon to address the 174 trainees, from the Agricultural Credit Administration, Presidential Arm on Community Development, Agricultural Productivity Commission, National Manpower and Youth Council, and Cooperatives Administration Office.

The President reiterated that the cooperative system is the appropriate instrument for radical but peaceful change in a society beset by inequality in its system and unequal distribution of wealth and income.

He urged the trainees “to see to it that the cooperatives you will help organize become viable societies, capable of contributing not only to the well-being of their members but also to the development of the country.”

In concluding his address, the President underscored the importance of the cooperative institution by saying that “nothing must block it” and assuring the trainees that “your efforts will be supported by the powers of the Presidency of the Philippines.”

The President worked on official papers the rest of the day.

April 29—

THE PRESIDENT continued giving considerable attention to paper work. Among other actions, he:

- 1) Appointed Amado B. Almazan as hearing officer in the board of special inquiry of the Bureau of Immigration;
- 2) Designated Romeo V. Manikan acting city treasurer of Iloilo City;
- 3) Submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation the nominations of a district judge, 17 municipal judges, a CAR clerk of court, two CFI clerks of court, and three provincial fiscals.

April 30—

THE PRESIDENT designated Undersecretary of Justice Estelito P. Mendoza as acting solicitor general and Undersecretary of National Defense Efren I. Plana as acting undersecretary of justice, vice Mendoza, even as he spent some time acting on urgent state matters shortly after breakfast.

May 1—

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, observed their wedding anniversary quietly with a few close relatives and friends at Malacañang.

The First Couple renewed marriage vows at a wedding anniversary Mass said shortly before noon at the ceremonial hall of the Palace. They were joined at the Mass by close relatives, including the President's mother, Doña Josefa Edralin Marcos; and a few friends, including some members of the Cabinet and their wives.

After a late lunch, the President motored to the SSS auditorium in Quezon City, where he addressed the National Labor Unity Congress which spearheaded the celebration of Labor Day.

In his speech, the President called on labor to cast aside the petty jealousies and parochial interests of its leaders and unite in order "to undertake political action of a magnitude that can decisively influence the direction of policy."

He stressed that considering the fact that the wage-earners and the peasants represent the most numerous class, it is ironic that the power of labor in this country "is very much less" than what it should be.

The President underscored the failure of workers and farmers to develop into a significant political force which "retards further the development of our democracy and threatens the very existence of that democracy."

May 2—

THE PRESIDENT was guest speaker at the 37th anniversary celebration of the Philippine Air Force, held at Nichols Air Base.

In his address, the President called on the Air Force to lead the way in making the country's defense system capable of standing against any enemy.

The President also called attention to the external and internal threats to the country and said "it is our overriding responsibility to meet at this time without reservation every challenge flung at our government by such forces as would undermine the rule of law, frustrate peaceful reforms and plunge the nation into the chaos of civil war."

In both these tasks, the President said: "We shall not be daunted either by armed threat or calumny and terrorism."

The Chief Executive lauded the PAF for its peacetime efforts at nation-building.

Before delivering his speech, the President presented awards to outstanding officers and men of the Air Force, and including civilians, who had made signal contributions to the PAF during the past year.

The President presented: 1) The Gold Cross Medal to Lt. Col. Modesto Subnet, T/Sgt. Juanito Sicam and T/Sgt. Florecel Cirpo; 2) The Bronze Cross Medal to Capt. Rene V. Certeza; 3) The Military Merit Medal to Cols. Ataulfo P. Alvarez, Conrado Chuidian, Mariano Castañeda, Jr., and Maj. Benito C. Fader; and 4) Plaque of Merit to Cadet Lt. Col. Angel Honrado, Lorenzo Cabrera, NMPC Director Gregorio S. Cendaña, Rey Pascua, Antonio Tecson, Mariano N. Querol, Ernesto Madrid, Eddie Pangilinan, Rod Villa, Jose de Vera, Antonio Sicat, Jaime Panesa, Filemon Tutay, Francisco de Jesus, Antonio Seva, and Alex Allan.

The President arrived at Nichols Air Base at about 9:20 a.m., and was given full military honors by a composite battalion of Air Force cadets, air police and the newly organized airborne "Screaming Eagles" unit.

After witnessing (the air show, the President accepted on behalf of the Philippine Government from the United States Air Force the Air Defense Control Center, and inaugurated the New NAB Operations.

In the afternoon, the President reappointed Blas F. Ople as secretary of Labor.

The President also inducted Justice Undersecretary Estelito Mendoza as acting solicitor general, and Defense Undersecretary Efren I. Plana as acting undersecretary of justice.

Among those who attended the oath-taking ceremony were Justice Secretary Vicente Abad Santos, Public Works and Communications Secretary David M. Consunji, Press Secretary Francisco S. Tatad, Assistant Press Secretary Lorenzo J. Cruz, Assistants Executive Secretaries Roberto V. Reyes and Ronaldo Zamora, Undersecretaries of Labor Amado Inciong and Israel Bocobo, Presidential Assistant Guillermo de Vega, Social Security Commissioners Andres Dinglasan and Democrito Mendoza, Chairman Severo Pucan of the Bureau of Workmen's Compensation, and Director Bernardo Ople of the National Manpower Skills Center.

Earlier in the morning, the President issued a proclamation declaring May 7 (Sunday) as a National Day of Prayer for Peace.

He called for national reaffirmation of the spirit of ecumenism, by requesting all churches in the country, of whatever faith or creed, to take part in the proper commemoration of the special day.

The President asked all church Leaders to encourage their faithful to "participate in this day of prayer," emphasizing the need for peace "not only in our world but in each and every community of our country itself."

Among other actions, the President issued an executive order setting forth the policy of appointing a representative of the minority party as member of committees on pre-qualifications and awards in each national agency undertaking infrastructure projects.

The representative of the minority party, who should be recommended by the president of said party, should possess the necessary technical qualifications.

May 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS conferred the Ancient Order of Sikatuna (rank of Datu) on Ambassador Julio Menimo Salcedas of Portugal, who was scheduled to leave for his home office after serving in the Philippines for over three years, "for endeavoring constantly to strengthen the friendly ties between his people and the Filipinos, and for becoming instrumental in promoting greater understanding to their mutual benefit."

In separate ceremonies, the President also conferred the Golden Heart Presidential Award on Philip Parker of the United States Agency for International Development for his "outstanding contributions to the government's efforts

to provide electrification to the masses by means of the cooperative idea,” particularly through the establishment of two pilot projects and the procurement of 36 power plants; and the Presidential citation on Anthony C. Meager, outgoing UNICEF representative in the Philippines.

After the award rites the President received:

1) Vice Mayor Eduard L. Cates of Jackson City in Mississippi, who presented the President with certificates making him and the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, honorary citizens of Jackson, Vice Mayor Cates likewise presented the President with a certificate making the latter honorary fire chief of Jackson.

2) Morris O. Cottle, Daniel H. Weaver, and John E. Kyle, director, associate director, and director of public affairs, respectively, of the Summer Institute of Linguistics, who presented the President with a book entitled “Farewell to Eden,” and a report on their activities last year in the Philippines.

3) Reps. Pablo A. Malasarte of Bohol, Jose G. Puyat of Surigao del Sur, Fermin Z. Caram, Jr. of Iloilo, Tito M. Dupaya of Cagayan, Constancio B. Maglana of Davao Oriental, Eduardo M. Cojuangco, Jr. of Tarlac, Andres A. Cosalan of Benguet, Rafael B. Legaspi of Aklan, Eduardo R. Gullas of Cebu, Rafael C. Aquino of Sorsogon, Antonio M. Diaz of Zambales, Simeon M. Valdez of Ilocos Norte, Joaquin Ortega of La Union, Emerito S. Calderon of Cebu, and Amando D. Cope of Albay, all of whom discussed with the President local problems.

4) Fiscal Florentino de la Peña of Cagayan, who took his oath of office before the President.

Those who conferred privately with the President were Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile of National Defense, Senator Alejandro Almendras, Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, and Commissioners Rolando Geotina and Baltazar Aquino of the Bureau of Customs and the Bureau of Public Highways, respectively.

While engaged in desk work, the President submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation the nominations of Blas F. Ople as secretary of labor and of Vicente P. Rodriguez as treasurer of the Philippines.

Also submitted by the President were the nominations of nine individuals to posts in the judiciary and in local governments.

May 4—

THE PRESIDENT was guest of honor and speaker at the 19th annual convention of the rural bankers, held at the Manila Royal Hotel on Echague.

In his address, the President said that all available resources of the government would be unequivocally committed to the continued support of the rural banking movement.

He stressed that rural bankers, by the very nature of their operations and locations, had proved to be valuable instruments in the implementation of national policies.

The President expressed the hope that rural banks would continue to participate actively in the administration’s program aimed at intensifying rice production.

The President worked on state papers in the afternoon, and then met with Malacañang newsmen toward evening.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: May 5-11, 1972

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

May 5—

PRESIDENT MARCOS was guest speaker at the formal turnover of the first 300 of the 20,000 housing units of the Moonwalk Housing Project in Las Piñas, Rizal.

In his speech, the President expressed the hope that the joint venture between the government and the private sector would continue until “we shall have been able to build one house for every Filipino family.”

“As one of the biggest low-cost housing projects under this administration, I hope you will continue building because our housing shortage is very serious,” he said.

The President conducted an ocular inspection of the site, noting with satisfaction the concrete and asphalted streets, the underground drainage, and the sound construction of the housing units.

Among those present at the turnover rites were Rep. Jose Alberto and Gov. Vicente Alberto of Catanduanes, officials of MDHC headed by Mariano Velarde, president; the GSIS headed by General Manager Roman Cruz, Jr.; the SSS headed by acting Administrator Reynaldo Gregorio; and the National Housing Corporation headed by General Manager Gaudencio Tobias.

The President was back in Malacañang in time to receive Ben Villaflor, newly-crowned Filipino junior lightweight champion of the World Boxing Association.

The President congratulated Villaflor for winning back the title held for many years by another Filipino, Gabriel “Flash” Elorde.

After going over official papers in his study in the afternoon, the President had an interview with newsmen covering Malacañang.

May 6—

THE President, accompanied by the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, led a pilgrimage to Corregidor in connection with the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Fall of Corregidor.

The President, in his speech, said: “Let us all in our individual ways, work together for peace, so that we shall never again know war.”

“There are present here today at this commemoration, not only men who fought together during that time of conflict, but also those who fought on the other side,” the President said. “No better tribute can be given to the memory of Corregidor than that today, 30 years after, nations that were then locked in battle now stand together and look on each other as friends.”

Special guests at the rites were U.S. Ambassador Henry Byroade and Japanese Ambassador Toshio Urabe who was, for the first time, invited to participate in the yearly commemoration.

Also at the rites were other members of the diplomatic corps, ranking officials of the government headed by members of the Cabinet, representatives of veterans organizations, and members of their families.

The Chief Executive arrived in Corregidor at 10:30 a.m. aboard the *RPS Ang Pangulo*. He was accorded full military honors by a composite contingent representing all the four major commands of the armed forces.

After the arrival honors, the President, the U.S. ambassador and the Japanese ambassador laid wreaths on a marker-tablet erected *bottom-side* of "The Rock" on which was inscribed the history of that island bastion which dates back to the Spanish regime.

"Let us show the world that if Americans, Japanese and Filipinos could forge from the rubble of war, a life of cooperation and mutual progress, surely its also possible for the rest of the world to pursue the same life.

"There is no people or nation in the world today that has not in its history experienced the senseless violence of war, and it may be that a people and nation must first know the pains of war to appreciate fully the beneficence of peace," the President said.

Following the rites, the President and members of his party boarded the *RPS Ang Pangulo* for the trip back to Manila.

While enroute to the city, the President administered the oaths to four new one-star generals of the armed forces.

Swore in were Gregorio Fider, deputy chief of the Philippine Constabulary; Efigenio C. Navarro, Commander of the 2nd PC zone; and Guillermo A. Picache, acting deputy AFP chief of staff; and Capt. Gil S. Fernandez, as commodore of the Philippine Navy.

The President went over urgent official papers in the afternoon. He submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation the nominations of Gen. Jesus Singson (ret) as director of Civil Aviation and of Joaquin Lizardo as foreign officer, class III and vice consul.

May 7—

THE PRESIDENT led the faithful at the concelebrated Mass for universal peace at the Church of Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage in Antipolo, Rizal.

In a message he issued on this special day, the President said:

"I am privileged to lead our people in observing this special day, a National Day of Prayer for Peace, with the deepest sense of the importance of this occasion and of the ideal that we hope to make a living reality in our time, the all too elusive ideal of peace, for which paradoxically men fought wars to attain. And yet today after all the wars for peace have been fought, mankind still searches for this dream.

"In a world which professes an abiding desire for peace, the goal has been lost in the confusion of conflicting interests, bitter prejudice, unreasoning fear, and other flaws of human nature. But more than ever, men of goodwill seek to bring a lasting and just peace to our world. In our own country, we have been witness to bitterness, dissension and meaningless violence, all of which place just beyond our reach the tranquility that all of us desire.

"It is my hope that on this day of prayer, we shall reaffirm our commitment to the human dream of universal peace by participating wholeheartedly, from the strongest compulsion, in the prayer which asks of Providence the healing of all men's wounds and the coming together of the human family in peace and brotherhood."

Mrs. Fernando Lopez, leaders of both chambers of Congress headed by Senate President Gil J. Puyat and Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal, members of the Cabinet, former President and President of the Constitutional Convention and Mrs. Diosdado Macapagal, and people from all walks of life attended the Mass, with Julio Cardinal Rosales and Bishops Mariano Gaviola and Vicente Ataviado, officiating.

Others who were at the concelebrated Mass were Secretaries Vicente Abad Santos of justice, Conrado F. Estrella of agrarian reform, Troadio Quiazon of commerce and industry and Clemente S. Gatmaitan of health; Senators Lorenzo Sumulong, Rene Espina and Ambrosio Padilla; Assistant Executive Secretaries Flores Bayot and Ronaldo Zamora; Undersecretary Manuel Collantes of foreign affairs; Commissioners Faustino Sy-Changco of budget and Misael P. Vera of internal revenue; and Mayor Jose Oliveros and Vice Mayor Daniel Garcia of Antipolo.

The President returned to Manila at 2:00 p.m. after a brief conference with provincial and municipal officials of Rizal who presented him with some of their pressing local problems.

The President devoted the rest of the day to paper work.

May 8—

THE PRESIDENT motored to Camp Aguinaldo at midmorning to preside over a meeting of the National Security Council which was briefed on the latest development in the Vietnam war and their possible effects on the domestic scene.

The briefings, which lasted from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., were conducted by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo and General Romeo G. Espino, AFP chief of staff.

Among the assessments offered at the briefing was that a North Vietnamese victory would mean the increase in insurgency as it would strengthen the motivation and dedication of the subversives in the Philippines.

Following the council meeting, the President conferred with Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, General Romeo G. Espino, AFP chief of staff; heads of the major AFP commands and zone commanders, on the peace and order situation.

During the conference, the generals reported that the situation has been under control. They informed the President that although there had been some killings, most of the incidents were either politically or personally motivated.

Present at the meeting were former President Diosdado Macapagal, Senate President Gil J. Puyat, Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal, Senate President Protempore Jose J. Roy, Speaker Protempore Jose Aldeguer, Senate Majority Floor Leader Arturo M. Tolentino, House Majority Floor Leader Marcelino Veloso, Senate Minority Floor Leader Gerardo Roxas, Senator Benigno S. Aquino, Jr. and other Senate and House leaders.

All the senators were present except Leonardo Perez, Jovito R. Salonga and Genaro Magsaysay. The senators were all invited to the council meeting.

Also at the meeting were members of the Cabinet and ranking officials of the armed forces.

The President left Camp Aguinaldo 2:30 p.m.

The President worked on state papers the rest of the afternoon and early evening.

May 9—

The President met at midmorning with his fiscal, economic and trade advisers.

During the meeting, the President discussed with the group several matters including a program to offset the trade imbalance which the Philippines has with other countries; the problems of tourism; and the finalization of recommendations on the progressive car manufacturing program.

The President deplored the lack of system in the efforts to offset the imbalance of trade with several countries including Australia, Canada, Hongkong, Singapore and others.

Jovito Rivera, general manager of the National Export Trading Center, informed the conference that in accordance with the plan to promote exports, the NETRACOR had sold 2,000 tons of coconut oil to Japan and ginger from the Greater Manila Terminal Food Market to Pakistan. He also said Netracor has been engaged in scouting for buyers of red beans in Japan.

The President likewise expressed disappointment over the promotion of tourism in the Philippines. He opined that international airlines operating in the country could help boost tourism while increasing their own profits.

On the progressive car manufacturing program, the President directed the Board of Investments, the Central Bank and the National Economic Council to finalize their recommendations in order to get the program moving.

He explained that the original recommendation on the progressive car manufacturing program did not indicate which car manufacturers would engage in exporting cars and which manufacturers would not, and that it also did not clarify whether any manufacturer which failed to comply with the conditions of the contract in the first year would have its license cancelled and whether the other applicants would be given an opportunity to enter the program.

In connection with those applicants who failed to meet requirements and therefore were excluded, but allowed instead a period of transition during which they could participate in manufacturing car components and still bring in completely knocked down (CKD) cars, the inclusive transition period should be determined, the President said.

President at the conference were Agriculture Secretary Arturo R. Tanco Jr., Commerce and Industry Secretary Troadio Quiazon, Jr., Acting Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, Finance Secretary Cesar E. A. Virata, Rep. Roque Ablan, Jr.;

Chairman Vicente Paterno of the Board of Investments, Central Bank Governor Gregorio S. Licaros, Chairman Eliseo Villamor of the Rice and Corn Administration, Social Security Administrator Gilberto Teodoro, Commissioner Gregorio Araneta, III of the BTTI, NETRACOR General Manager Jovito Rivera, Directors Jose Viado of Forestry and Pacifico Agcaoili of the Civil Aeronautics Board; and

Alfredo Montelibano, president of the Chamber of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Jess Tanchangco, president of the Philippine Chamber of Industries, representing the, private sector.

The President had a brief rest after lunch and then attended to deskwork till early evening.

May 10—

The President received a number of callers in the morning, notable among whom were Ambassadors Leon Ma. Guerrero (to India) and Luis Moreno Salcedo (to France, Yugoslavia and Romania).

Ambassador Guerrero reported on developments in India and Pakistan.

In his talk with Ambassador Salcedo, the President asked the veteran diplomat to explore all possibilities toward an early establishment of trade ties with East European countries beginning with Yugoslavia and Romania.

Other important callers were:

1) Lionel Pelham Kent, chairman of the Canadian Committee of the Pacific Basin Economic Council, who paid a courtesy call and discussed economic prospects here for Canadian investors.

2) Senators Helena Z. Benitez and Lorenzo Teves, who discussed local problems.

3) A number of congressmen who consulted the President on various legislative matters relative to administration projects.

Among those who called on the President were Reps. Rafael Legaspi of Aklan; Leonides C. de Leon of Laguna, Romulo Lumaig of Ifugao, Pablo Malasarte of Bohol, Teodulo Natividad of Bulacan, Joaquin Ortega of La Union, Benjamin Perez of Nueva Viscaya, Pablo Roman of Bataan, Guillermo Sanchez of Agusan del Norte, Fernando Veloso of Western Samar, Antonio Villar of Pangasinan, Manuel Zosa of Cebu, Indanan Anni of Sulu, James Chiongbian of South Cotabato, Amando Cope of Albay and Andres Cosalan of Benguet.

The President spent the whole afternoon working on state papers, in the course of which he issued an administrative order creating a new committee to act as a liaison agency between the government and the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

Designated chairman of the liaison body was Assistant Executive Secretary Ronaldo B. Zamora, with Justice Undersecretary Catalino Macaraig, Education Undersecretary Narciso Albarracin, and PES Deputy Director-General Antonio Locsin as members.

Among the official papers he issued from his desk was an executive Appointments for confirmation the nominations of six persons, mostly to positions in the judiciary.

May 11—

THE PRESIDENT received a few unscheduled callers while at the same time attending to his paper work.

Among the official papers he issued from his desk was an executive order creating a national committee to take charge of the celebration of Philippine Independence Day on June 12.

Named chairman of the committee was Education Secretary Juan L. Manuel, with Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco as vice-chairman.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: May 12-18, 1972

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

May 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent the whole day on urgent desk work.

Among other actions, he signed and forwarded to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation the nominations of 15 persons to positions in the judiciary.

May 13—

THE PRESIDENT submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation the nominations of seven more persons to posts in the government, even as he continued devoting his time to state papers, including reports from government agencies.

Nominated were:

- 1) Dr. Agaton Ursua, as member of the board of directors of the Philippine National Railways, representing the minority party;
- 2) Candido Gium, as member of the board of governors of the Agricultural Credit Administration, representing the minority party;
- 3) Dr. Patrocino S. Santos, as member of the Board of Pharmacy;
- 4) Juanito Hernandez, as third assistant provincial fiscal of Davao Oriental;
- 5) Elano Cabrera, as fourth assistant provincial fiscal of Davao Oriental;
- 6) Benjamin U. Pacetes, as fifth assistant provincial fiscal of Davao Oriental; and
- 7) Rodolfo M. Serrano, as assistant provincial fiscal of Davao Oriental.

Official reports received by the President included that of Secretary David M. Consunji of Public Works and Communications, informing him, among others, that he has ordered the automatic disqualification in highway construction of prospective bidders with low performance capabilities.

Secretary Consunji, on instructions from the President, has conducted a three-day inspection trip of the Manila South Road.

May 14—

THE PRESIDENT had a two-hour briefing late in the afternoon from U.S. civil and military officials in Malacafiang.

Headed by U.S. Ambassador Henry Byroade, the U.S. officials who were at the Palace were Maj. Gen. James Frankosky, acting U.S. 13th Air Force commander; Rear Admiral John H. Dick, commander of U.S. naval forces in the Philippines and representative of the commander-in-chief of the U.S. forces in the Pacific; and Minister William Hamilton and Col. Alfred Patterson of the U.S. embassy.

Also at the briefing were Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., General Romeo Espino, AFP chief of staff; and commanders of the major AFP commands.

In an interview with newsmen later, the President said the question of whether any combat missions had been flown from Clark Air Force Base and Subic Naval Base was clarified. The answer, he said, "is in the negative."

The President went over some urgent state papers earlier in the day.

May 15—

THE PRESIDENT presided over a meeting in the morning with national leaders and local executives to give them the latest developments in the Vietnam conflict and the possible effects on the Philippines.

He disclosed at the meeting that he has received regular briefings from U.S. civil and military authorities, as well as from other sources, since the Vietnam hostilities escalated.

The President said that it was his desire to have all levels of leadership in the country adequately posted on the international situation so that they could contribute to the formulation of national policies.

Others who participated in the free-wheeling discussions were Reps. Jose de Venecia of Pangasinan and Democrito O. Plaza of Agusan del Sur; Governors Brigido Valencia of Pampanga, Vicente Magsaysay of Zambales, Faustino Dy of Isabela and Gualberto Lumauig of Ifugao; and City Mayors Ramon D. Bagatsing of Manila and Gregorio Imperial of Legaspi.

In the afternoon, the President was guest of honor and speaker at the inauguration of Snyder Station No. 2 of the Manila Electric Company in Pasig, Rizal.

In his speech, he called upon the people to unite for the sake of the welfare of the nation.

He pointed out that the spectre of World War III, the turbulence within the country, and the economic difficulties should be the main concern of everyone and added that in this task all must extend a helping hand and do their share in the work of unifying a nation to the end that peace, happiness, and progress shall reign over the country.

Before leaving Malacañang for the Meralco inaugural rites, the President directed the 51st Engineer Brigade headed by Brig. Gen. Fidel Ventura to help in undertaking immediate repairs of the Manila South Road up to the Bicol region.

He also instructed that this be done in coordination with the Bureau of Public Highways.

May 16—

THE PRESIDENT had a three-hour meeting with provincial governors and city mayors during which he called on the local executives to assume their share of the responsibility in nation-building.

The President emphasized that it was important that they be informed about national programming so they could assume joint responsibility for it since he alone, despite his many assistants; would not be able to handle, the task.

He announced that he would set up a Local Governments Office in Malacañang so that requirements of this branch of the government could be better served.

He warned against the inroads of corruption reaching out to the local level because corruption might wreck “our democratic way of life.”

Present at the meeting which was first presided over by Leyte Governor Benjamin Romualdez, chairman of the League of Provincial Governors and City Mayors, were Governors Consuelo V. Calo of Agusan del Norte, Felix Alfeloro of Camarines Sur, Anacleto Alcala of Quezon, Alfonso Umali of Mindoro Oriental, Lino Bocalan of Cavite, Henry Regalado of Misamis Occidental, J. Antonio C. Leviste of Batangas, Aguedo Agbayani of Pangasinan, Lino Chatto of Bohol, Gualberto Lumauig of Ifugao, Cornelio Villareal, Jr. of Capiz, Faustino Dy of Isabela, Arsenio Villarosa of Mindoro Occidental, Salvation U. Yñiguez of Southern Leyte, and Evelio Javier of Antique;

Rep. Andres Cosalan representing Baguio City Mayor Luis Lardizabal, City Mayors Antonio Acharon of General Santos, Omar Dianalan of Marawi, Pedro Tolentino of Batangas, Cipriano Manaois of Dagupan, Cesar Dizon of San Pablo, and Elpidio Cucio of Palayan.

The President spent the whole afternoon and early evening working on state papers, in the course of which he submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation the nominations of 34 officials in various agencies of the government. Of the nominees, five were also designated to perform the duties of the respective offices to which they were nominated.

May 17—

THE PRESIDENT had another day devoted mostly to urgent official papers and other matters of state.

Among the actions taken by the President was the submission to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation the nominations of nine persons to positions in the judiciary and the prosecution arm of the government.

Early in the evening, the President had a brief interview with Malacañang newsmen.

May 18—

THE PRESIDENT was guest of honor and speaker on the third day of the Field Men’s Conference on the Rice Program, held at the Maharlika Hall in Malacañang.

In his speech, the President urged some 1,000 field men of the National Food and Agriculture Council to set the example in providing moral leadership in the fight against hunger.

Admitting that in order to improve service to the farmers the government has to first improve the lot of the technicians who have very low salaries, the President directed NFAC Executive Director Roberto Fronda to increase the field men’s “incentive allowances.”

He described the field men as “the first line of defense,” saying that in the struggle against subversion “you face danger more directly and meet the threat more squarely face-to-face.” It is precisely because of this, he added, that they are “the most effective weapon against those who profess communism, although most of them do not understand what communism is.”

The President warned against the danger of intensified subversion should South Vietnam fall to the communists.

Present at the conference were Agriculture and Natural Resources Secretary Arturo Tanco, Jr., Acting Agriculture Undersecretary Eliseo C. Carandang, Commissioner Francisco Saguiguit of the Agricultural Productivity Commission, and NFAC Executive Director Roberto E. Fronda.

In the afternoon, the President administered the oath of office to National Treasurer Vicente P. Rodriguez.

The appointment of Treasurer Rodriguez has been confirmed by the Commission on Appointments.

He also received Senate President Protempore Jose J. Roy, who reiterated to the President, as titular head of the Nacionalista Party, his previous offer to resign as acting NP president.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: May 19-25, 1972

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

May 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS started working at his desk after breakfast.

At midmorning, he inducted five new generals of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, whose nominations were confirmed by the Commission on Appointments.

The new generals sworn in by the President in the presence of their comrades in the military, high government officials, friends and relatives were Luis Amor, zone commander, III PC zone; Ataulfo Alvarez, vice commander, Philippine Air Force, and presidential pilot; Juan Raso, deputy commander, Philippine Army, and commander of Task Force Pagkakaisa; and Ignacio Paz, chief of the Intelligence Service, AFP.

After the induction ceremonies, the President received the Philippine delegation to the First World Congress on Air Transport and Tourism.

He told the delegation that he would consider the suggestion to include chartered flights in the agenda of the negotiations on air transportation scheduled in Washington, D.C., on May 30 since these boost the tourist trade.

The delegation informed the President that the lack of chartered flights was one of the main drawbacks to tourism in the country.

The delegation was accompanied to Malacañang by Salvador Peña, executive director of the Philippine Travel and Tourist Association.

In the afternoon, the President ordered a study on the possibility of coordinating the functions of the National Social Action Council (NASAC) with the government cooperative, anti-crime and anti-narcotics programs.

He ordered the study not only because NASAC's functions are closely related to said government programs but also in order that it would not be hampered in its work by lack of funds since it depends solely on public and private donations.

The President also ordered that studies be made on the possibility of including the NASAC by legislation among civic and charitable institutions entitled to donations from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

May 20—

THE President flew to Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija in the morning to address the 257 military trainees who completed their six-month basic training.

In his address, the President expressed the belief that there would be external threats to the Philippines within the next 10 years.

"There is none now but it is possible that if we are weak, and if we are not capable of defending ourselves, and we keep on depending on other nations. . .we will end up like the other countries who depended on other countries so much so that they lost the will to fight," he said.

The President emphasized that "now is the time to prepare" for any eventuality. He added that it is necessary that "we establish a self-reliant defense posture, whatever may be the policies of other powerful nations."

This, he said, is the policy of most small countries, and for which reason the present decade is called the “decade of flexibility.”

The President expressed confidence that the officers and men of the Armed Forces would continue in their mission not only to prepare for any eventuality and to protect the security of the country, but also to participate in economic development.

The President arrived at 9:10 a.m. at Fort Magsaysay aboard the presidential plane and was met by Fort personnel headed by Brig. Gen. Rafael Zagala, commanding general of the First Infantry (Tabak) Division; Palayan City Mayor Elpidio Cucio, Reps. Roque Ablan, Jr. of Ilocos Norte, Lucas Cauton of Ilocos Sur, Eduardo Cojuangco of Tarlac and Leopoldo Diaz and Angel Conception of Nueva Ecija.

En route back to Manila aboard the presidential plane, the President directed PC Chief Brig. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos to provide adequate security for Constitutional Convention Delegate Quintero who said that he had been receiving money from unnamed lobbyists over the passed few months.

The President said security for Quintero would be provided for as long as necessary. Later in the afternoon, the President ordered that four more towns in Bulacan and Rizal be included within the area of operations of the Metropolitan Area Command.

At the same time, the President directed Brig. Gen. Fabian Ver, chief of the presidential security force, to study the feasibility of appointing a qualified member of the Metropolitan Police Association as a member of the Police Commission.

The expansion of the Metropolitan Area Command has brought within its scope of responsibility the towns of Pateros, Taguig, and Muntinglupa, all in Rizal; and Valenzuela in Bulacan.

May 21—

THE President concentrated on official papers and other state matters.

Among other actions, he granted a 30-day reprieve to three convicts who were scheduled to be electrocuted Wednesday, May 24, at the National Penitentiary in Muntinglupa, Rizal.

In granting the reprieve, the President said he wanted more time to study the recommendations of the Board of Pardons and Parole for the commutation of their sentence to life imprisonment.

May 22—

THE President summoned to Malacañang officials of the department of national defense and the Manila Metropolitan Police who reported on the demonstration against the Vietnam war, held in the vicinity of the U.S. embassy, in which scores were wounded, including many of the Metrocom men.

During the meeting, the President cautioned law enforcing agencies to be “patient but firm” in dealing with demonstrations and to employ the minimum force required in quelling similar civil disturbances. At the same time, he appealed to demonstrators to refrain from resorting to provocation and acts of violence, in order to avoid unnecessary risk to life and property.

Present at the conference were Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, General Romeo Espino, AFP chief of staff; Brig. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, PC chief; Brig. Gen. Mariano G. Ordenez, Metrocom chief; and Cols. Gerardo Tamayo and James Barbers, MMP chief and deputy chief, respectively.

May 23—

THE President went over state papers in his private study, in the course of which he signed the designations of 112 officials and individuals to various posts in the executive departments of the government.

Heading the list of designees were Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., as part-time member of the board of governors of the Development Bank of the Philippines and as chairman of the Power Development Council; Troadio T. Quiazon, Jr., as secretary of commerce and industry; Estelito Mendoza, as solicitor general; Cesar E. A. Virta and Apolinario Orosa, as members of the Joint Legislative-Executive Tax Commission; Efren I. Plana, as undersecretary of justice; Ponciano G. A. Mathay, as chairman of the Oil Industry Commission; Dr. Pacifico E. Marcos, as chairman of the Philippine Medical Care Commission; Armand Fabella, as chairman of the Commission on Reorganization; Gerardo Sicat, as member of the board of regents of the University of the Philippines; and Gen. Felizardo Tanabe (ret.), as postmaster general.

May 24—

THE President devoted almost another day to desk work.

He received one group of callers only, composed of town and barrio officials of Nueva Vizcaya who accompanied Mayor Osias Cadiente of Solano in filing charges of oppression and misconduct in office against Nueva Vizcaya Gov. Patricio G. Dumlao.

The President referred the charges of the Solano mayor to Justice

Secretary Vicente Abad Santos with orders to see if there is a *prima facie* case to warrant the preventive suspension of the governor pending investigation of the charges as petitioned by Mayor Cadiente.

May 25—

THE President was closeted most of the time in his study even as he continued disposing of urgent official papers.

Among other actions, the President signed and submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation the nominations of three persons to posts in the government.

The President has to lay aside his desk work occasionally to attend to a few unscheduled callers.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: May 26 - June 1, 1972

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

May 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS was guest of honor at the formal opening of the Provincial Agro-Industrial Fair in Malolos, Bulacan.

The President arrived at the provincial capitol in Malolos at 9:30 a.m. aboard an army helicopter, and was met by various delegations headed by Gov. Ignacio Santiago, Rep. Teodulo Natividad and Malolos Mayor Purificacion C. Reyes.

In his remarks, the President described Bulacan as one of the most progressive provinces. It should therefore assume a more energetic and more aggressive role in national development, he said.

The President bared plans to make the province a model for cooperatives to be organized, as well as the hub of a modern land-air-sea transportation network serving the whole country.

At the same time, the President directed Commerce Secretary and concurrently Chairman of the Civil Aeronautics Board Troadio T. Quiazon, Jr. to suspend the effectivity of the increase in domestic air fares pending a public hearing.

The President also reiterated his determination to pursue more vigorously the land reform program provided Congress appropriated the necessary funds therefor.

He likewise pointed out that the formation of cooperatives and not land distribution is the answer to the poor farmers' problems.

After addressing the crowd, the President formally opened the temporary pavilion housing the exhibits containing the products of every town of the province.

After a brief interview by newsmen, the President flew back to Manila.

In the afternoon, he worked at his desk. He issued, among others, a proclamation declaring June 1 (Thursday) as a special public holiday in Makati, Rizal.

May 27—

THE PRESIDENT devoted the whole day to paper work and other matters of state.

Among other actions, he designated the Philippine delegation to attend the United Nations conference on human environment which will be held in Stockholm from June 5 to 16.

Senator Helena Z. Benitez was named chairman of the delegation, and Ambassador Narciso G. Reyes, permanent representative to the UN, as vice-chairman.

May 28—

The PRESIDENT commended the officers and men of the Presidential Guard Battalion for their statesmanship and exemplary professional conduct in the performance of their duty.

The occasion was the 34th Foundation Day Anniversary of the battalion. Brig. Gen. Fabian Ver, PGB commander, conveyed the message of the President who, for the first time, was unable to attend the annual commemorative ceremonies because of the pressure of work.

May 29—

THE PRESIDENT was closeted in his private study the whole morning attending to urgent state matters.

In the afternoon, the President attended the Memorial Day services held at the Manila American Cemetery in Fort Bonifacio.

In his speech, the President reasserted his policy of self-reliance, saying it would not only assure the nation's preparedness but would also make the country more valuable to its allies "in the service of human freedom."

The President spoke of a rising feeling of maturity among the Filipinos which is taking the form of a reexamination of their relations with the whole world.

"Nowhere in Asia, and perhaps in other parts of the world, did a nation rise up so spontaneously and so bravely—sustained not only by love of country but also by its faith in a friend and ally, the United States of America."

The President was accorded full military honors upon his arrival in Fort Bonifacio at 4 p.m. He was welcomed at the memorial by U.S. Ambassador Henry Byroade and other ranking American civilian officials in the Philippines.

May 30—

THE PRESIDENT received the letters of credence of Ambassador U Nyo Tun as the first resident envoy of the Union of Burma to the Philippines.

In receiving the credentials of Burmese envoy, the President expressed the view that the "seemingly elusive but universally cherished goal of world peace can be attained if all nations and peoples exert their utmost toward this end."

The President welcomed the decision of Burma to send a resident ambassador as "a positive indication of the strengthening of ties of goodwill and friendship that bind our two countries and peoples."

The new Burmese envoy pledged to "spare no effort" in promoting friendly relations between his country and the Philippines, and was assured by the President of the full and continued support of the Filipino people in this endeavor.

Following the presentation ceremony, the President received out-going Ambassador Yaacob Avnon of Israel who came to say goodbye before leaving for his home office for reassignment, after completing his tour of duty here.

Among those present at the ceremony were Secretaries Carlos P. Romulo of Foreign Affairs, Cesar E. A. Virata of Finance, Constancio Castañeda of General Services, Blas F. Ople of Labor, Conrado Estrella of Agrarian Reform and Clemente Gatmaitan of Health; Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Press Secretary Francisco S. Tatad, Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco and Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Manuel Collantes.

May 31—

THE PRESIDENT certified to Congress three vital measures for consideration during the current special session;

Certified by the President to both the Senate and the House were:

- 1) H. Bill No. 4317 seeking to revise the charter of the Foreign Trade Zone Authority.
- 2) H. Bill No. 4753 (S. 844) seeking to provide additional funding for the accelerated implementation of the Agrarian Reform Program.
- 3) H. Bill No. 2691 requiring the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office to grant blind sweepstakes ticket agents an additional five percent discount on ticket purchases, on top of the regular 22% discount.

In the course of his work on urgent state business, the President also signed into law H. Bill No. 4716 (S. 862) which is expected to boost the Philippine metals industry.

In signing the measure into law, the President said that the metals industry is “very vital to our economic development because it is a foundational industry and without it is impossible to plan for industrialization.”

The President expressed the hope that with the upgrading of technology, which will be developed by the proposed metals industry center, “we shall meet all challenges in economic development and overcome all our obstacles.”

Present at the signing of the new law are Senator Mamintal Tamano, Rep. Lucas Cauton of Ilocos Sur, and members of the MIDC staff and the private sector who are members of the advisory committee.

June 1—

THE PRESIDENT submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation the nominations of 12 persons, 10 of which were to positions in the judiciary.

In the afternoon, the President motored to Fort Bonifacio, Rizal to address the graduates of the Fourth Regular Course of the AFP Command and General Staff College.

In his speech, the President called for a new breed of leaders to enable the country to cope with the emerging strange and alien world of tomorrow. He expressed the hope that they will form the hard core of national leadership in order to be able to attain the urgent goal of self-reliance.

On the economic front, the President said: “Nations are already exploring new ways to carry on international trade on a novel basis, no longer on the basis of the dollar but by means of a more flexible system, which would obviate the wrenching fluctuations of foreign exchange rates when speculation in gold gets out of hand.”

On the social scene, the President pointed to such problems as ecology and environment, “things we had never even given a thought to only ten years ago.”

“We can no longer depend on the old certainty of powerful allies coming to our aid in time of peril, nor trust our destiny to the magnanimity of allies, nor to concerted action of the family of nations,” the President emphasized.

The President said the world is changing so fast our allies may not be able to come to our aid, there may never be a gathering of allies, nor a spontaneous response to a country in distress by its friends.

Present at the graduation rites were military top brass from both the AFP and the Joint U.S. Military Assistance Group, headed by Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, General Romeo Espino, chief of staff; Col. Antonio S. Sepulan, and Col. Ernesto S. Gidaya, commandant.

The President arrived at Fort Bonifacio at 4:15 or 15 minutes behind schedule, because he was at the bedside of the First Lady, who was suffering severe pains and needed hospitalization.

After staying for 15 minutes at the reception, the President motored back to Pier 15 to be with Mrs. Marcos.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: June 2-8, 1972

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

June 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS worked at his desk aboard *RPS Ang Pangulo* even as he kept the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, company. Mrs. Marcos had been having spotting (mild bleeding) the past two days.

The President had to forego with one scheduled engagement, at the send-off ceremony of the *RPS Mactan* prior to its departure for Australia. He instead sent Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. as his representative.

The 7500-ton ship has for its primary mission the picking up of 4000 of the 7500 tons of wheat flour donated by the Australian government as aid to refugees in Mindanao. Because the vessel would "sail down" with no significant load, it was decided that it be commissioned to carry a cargo of Philippine products for a Philippine Trading House in Sydney, which would serve as display center for Philippine goods. Hence the send-off rites.

In the course of the day, the President directed that a feasibility study be undertaken on large-scale salt-making, utilizing geothermal energy.

June 3—

THE PRESIDENT had one of those setbacks in life, when the First Lady suffered an abortion at about 1 a.m. aboard *RPS Ang Pangulo*, where the First Lady has been staying since early May.

At 7 a.m., the President and Dr. Gloria Aragon, Mrs. Marcos attending obstetrician, took the First Lady to the Makati Medical Center where under general anaesthesia she underwent completion of abortion by curettage.

He worked on urgent matters of state, even as he kept the First Lady company at the hospital.

June 4—

THE PRESIDENT issued an executive order classifying the entry of foreign correspondents into the Philippines under the category of temporary visitors.

The President classified, for the guidance of all government agencies concerned, the entry of foreign correspondents, and their families, into the Philippines as falling exclusively under the category of temporary visitors as provided for in Section 9(a) of the Philippine Immigration Act of 1940, as amended.

The President stayed the whole day at the Makati Medical Center where the First Lady underwent completion of abortion by curettage.

In the course of the day, the President, among others, addressed a letter to Constitutional Convention President Diosdado Macapagal who had asked in a letter released to the media, that the President and the First Lady declare publicly that they would retire from active political life at the end of 1973.

In his letter, which was also released directly to the media as a means of getting it to the president of the Constitutional Convention, the President said:

"You are well aware of the fact that under our present Constitution, I am disallowed from running for the Presidency after 1973, and I have repeatedly stated in the past, and I state it once again now, that I have no intention whatsoever of running for the Presidency in 1973."

Speaking for the First Lady, the President said that “she has no intention of running for the Presidency in 1973,” adding that “the First Lady and I have stated this repeatedly in writing, in interviews with media and in public statements. Unfortunately you and others have seen it fit to disregard these statements and believe only what you have chosen to believe.”

Continuing, the President said:

“I do not know what your real motives are, inasmuch as I cannot see the connection between the matter of our candidacy or non-candidacy and the function of the convention. But I have one appeal to make. I now appeal to you to perform your duties at the convention, irrespective of any views that have been or will be expressed from any source, including myself.”

June 5—

THE PRESIDENT took Mrs. Marcos home at 11 a.m. after the First Lady was allowed to leave the Makati Medical Center upon her request.

After making sure that Mrs. Marcos was resting well following the short trip from the hospital to the Palace, the President resumed his desk work.

June 6—

THE PRESIDENT presided at a meeting in the morning of the executive committee of the National Security Council, which was called to finalized preparations for the meeting of the National Security Council.

Present at the meeting were Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, Finance Secretary Cesar E. A. Virata, Justice Secretary Vicente Abad Santos, and Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., members; and Isabelo Castro, secretary of the committee; Senator Jose J. Roy, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, General Romeo Espino, chief of staff, AFP; Director Jolly Bugarin of the National Bureau of Investigation; Brig. Gen. Jonas Victoria, chief of the National Civil Defense Administration; Brig. Gen. Ismael Lapuz, chief of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency; and Brig. Gen. Ignacio Paz, chief of the Intelligence Service of the AFP.

The President devoted the whole afternoon and early evening to paper work.

June 7—

THE PRESIDENT had a full schedule of callers, which kept him at his study the whole morning and early afternoon.

Notable among those received by the President were Ambassador Werner Sauter, non-resident envoy of Austria to the Philippines, who paid him a farewell call, and National Commander John H. Geiger of the American Legion, who called to pay his respects.

During their brief conversation, Ambassador Sauter informed the President that Philippine exports to Austria had tripled the past few years.

The Austrian envoy also expressed the view that trade relations between Austria and the Philippines would continue to expand, especially after the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Eastern European socialist countries.

The bulk of the President's callers was composed of members of Congress and local executives who consulted him on matters concerning their respective constituencies.

The President attended to his callers till 3 p.m. He then had a late lunch and a brief rest before working on urgent official papers in his private study.

June 8—

THE PRESIDENT had a two-hour conference with public works and communications official led by Secretary David Consunji to find out how the drive against graft and corruption in their offices was progressing.

The President prodded the officials to intensify the drive by weeding out the grafters, especially in the Bureau of Posts and the Land Transportation Commission.

During the conference, the President also ordered the public works officials to coordinate closely to hasten the completion of vital government projects, such as the Pan Philippine Highway.

Be likewise directed:

- 1) Secretary Consunji to assume tighter supervision over the bureau heads, and the bureau chiefs to coordinate more closely with the department secretary and the other bureau chiefs.
- 2) The release of ₱2 million for the dredging of esteros as a measure of flood control during the rainy season.
- 3) CAA Acting Director Epifanio Raymundo to act faster on emergency matters, particularly complaints coming from the international pilots and international organizations like the PATA and the IATA.
- 4) Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor to earmark 200 of the 500 jeeps coming from Okinawa for the National Electrification Administration for the Bureau of Posts which has only 200 delivery vehicles, and the Bureau of Posts to set up an efficient workshop to service its vehicles.

Present at the conference, aside from Secretaries Consunji and Melchor, were Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, Public Highways Commissioner Baltazar Aquino, Land Transportation Commissioner Romeo Edu, Reparations Commission Chairman Anacleto Mangaser, PACD Officer-in-Charge Rosendo Marquez, Postmaster General Felizardo Tanabe, Telecommunications Director Pedro Villaseñor and Public Works Director Alejandro Deleña.

Following the conference, the President received the top forestry officials of Indonesia who paid their respects to him shortly before flying to Tokyo and Seoul on a survey trip.

Headed by Forestry Director General Soedjarwo, the Indonesian forestry officials visited Davao, Bislig, and the U.P. College of Forestry in Los Baños.

The other Indonesian visitors were Ir. Moh. Sunarjo Hardjodarsono, director of forestry exploitation and industry; Ir. Moh. Sadikin Djajapertjunda, director of marketing; and Ir. Moh. Harris Suranggajuva, director of forest product research institute.

They were accompanied to Malacañang by Forestry Director Jose Viado and Indonesian Ambassador Kusno Utomo.

The President worked on official papers in the afternoon, in the course of which he granted executive clemency to the first batch of 218 deserving prisoners in connection with the celebration of the 74th anniversary of Philippine Independence.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: June 9-15, 1972

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

June 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS presided over a meeting of the National Security Council, held from 8:45 to 11:15 a.m. at Camp Aguinaldo, during which the council voted to negotiate not only the Military Bases Agreement but all existing security and economic agreements with the United States.

These include the mutual defense and the military assistance pacts and the Laurel-Langley Agreement.

Representatives of the Liberal Party made reservations about their stand as to whether negotiations on the security agreement should be held simultaneously with the economic agreements. They wanted time to form a party stand on the matter.

During the meeting, it was also:

1) Decided to increase the membership of the Executive Committee of the NSC from five to 11, including two additional members of the Cabinet and one representative each of the majority and minority parties, from the Senate and the Lower House.

2) Suggested that missions to be sent to communist countries like Russia and Red China be Executive-Legislative missions. The executive committee was asked to draw formal recommendations on this, particularly in respect to timing and its full composition.

The President did not receive callers in the afternoon. He worked on state papers and went over reports from government agencies, including one from Engr. Porfirio de la Fuente, chief of the Flood Control and Drainage Division of the Bureau of Public Works, on the dredging of esteros and drainage mains in Manila.

June 10—

THE PRESIDENT received a few callers in the morning even as he attended to some urgent official papers in between.

Among those who called on the President were:

1) The cadet officers corps of the Philippine Military Academy who renewed their pledge of loyalty to their commander-in-chief.

The PMA cadets, who were accompanied by Commodore Gregorio Lim, PMA superintendent, arrived in Manila to participate in the Independence Day celebration.

In brief remarks, the President enjoined the PMA cadets to pledge anew their loyalty to the Constitution and to the democratic institution to which they belong.

2) Lt. Gen. Chow Chung-fung and Lt. Gen. Huang Temei, chief and deputy chief, respectively, of the National Security Bureau of the Republic of China, who paid their respects to the President at the Pangarap Guesthouse.

They were accompanied to the President by NICA Chief Ismael Lapuz, their host while in Manila; and Chinese Ambassador Liu Chai.

June 11—

THE PRESIDENT was not able to attend two speaking engagements because of a mild case of intestinal influenza.

He requested Senate President Gil J. Puyat to represent him at the presentation of the Presidential Medals of Merit, sponsored by the Civic Assembly of Women of the Philippines in connection with the celebration of Independence Day, held at the Maharlika Hall in the morning.

Defense Undersecretary Jose Crisol represented him at the 27th Annual Convention of the Philippine Veterans Legion, held at the YMCA Youth Center.

Presented the Presidential Medals of Merit were the International Rice Research Institute in Los Baños, Laguna, which was cited for its scientific and technological breakthrough in rice production; the family of Justice and Mrs. Jose P. Bengzon, distinguished family life; Servando de los Angeles (posthumous) cultural advancement; Belen Arguelles, cultural advancement; Jose Esperanza Cruz, humanities; Manuel Elizalde, Jr., economic development; Julita Sotejo, nursing education; Association of American College Women, education; Heirs of Carlos Palanca, Sr., literature; and YMCA of Greater Manila, community service.

The President acted on some official papers in the afternoon, including those on the grant of executive clemency to another batch of 179 prisoners in connection with the celebration of the 74th anniversary of Independence Day.

June 12—

THE PRESIDENT, who was still indisposed, failed to attend the Independence Day programs.

He was represented instead by Vice President Fernando Lopez at the Luneta rites in the morning, and by Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal at the presentation of the 1972 Republic Cultural Heritage Awards to citizens who have distinguished themselves in their chosen fields, at ceremonies held at the Cultural Center of the Philippines in the afternoon.

In the speech read for him by Vice President Lopez, the President said independence would be meaningless unless the people have successfully declared themselves fully liberated from foreign influence and control. (*See pp. 4948-4952 for full text of the President's speech*)

In the speech read for him-by Speaker Villareal, the President said that there are "architects of alienation" in some quarters of the Philippine body politic, wilfully distorting and confusing the issues of the day by putting the blame for all ills—real or imagined—only upon those mandated by the masses to lead the nation.

The Republic Cultural Heritage awardees were Carlos Quirino, historical writing; Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero, literature; Dr. Gregorio T. Velasquez, Florencio A. Medina, and Tomas L. Parpana, science, scientific research, invention and technology; Dean Alfredo Santos Buenaventura, music; Roberto R. Chabet, painting and sculpture; Pablo S. Antonio, architecture; Manuel E. Arguilla, literature (posthumous), and Dr. Antonio Molina, music.

In his Independence Day message released earlier, the President said:

We celebrate our Independence Day today at a time when mankind is dedicated to a new effort towards greater peace and progress.

Old divisions and confrontations are giving way to new friendships and cooperation, and new agreements are being forged to unify the efforts of man to bringing an end to the problems that have plagued mankind through the ages.

The Filipino nation cannot stand indifferent to these efforts. By tradition and by character, the Filipino nation cannot but feel involved in this monumental task.

But while we, as a nation and as a people, may find it easy to identify ourselves with the efforts of other men and nations to bridge gaps of misunderstanding and discord, it would now be necessary for us to look into ourselves and see how once and for all we can bridge those gaps that exist among ourselves.

At a crucial time like this, we need our country and our people to re-examine our internal self and find out how each of us can work to strengthen this national self. There are those who would like us to believe that we need to propagate the seed of hate that has been sown those who have lost hope and faith; the very meaning of independence and nationhood, however, negates and rejects this.

Independence means faith in our people's capacity to bear their burdens and carry on with their tasks; a battlecry against pessimism and defeat; a flag raised for national brotherhood, common effort and progress.

On this occasion, therefore, I invite our people to reflect on those values, from which derive our greatest strength.

June 13—

THE PRESIDENT, feeling a little bit better, conferred with Mayor Ramon D. Bagatsing on the full-scale implementation of the flood control program in Manila and environs.

The President and the Mayor agreed on the immediate implementation of the following projects:

- 1) The Marikina-Mangahan channel to provide a passageway for the Marikina River water to Laguna de Bay, which otherwise would flood Manila and environs.
- 2) The Laguna de Bay-Pasig River Hydraulic lock, and
- 3) Pasig River embankment construction, dredging of esteros, and sewerage.

Among other actions, the President directed the Department of Commerce and Industry, the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Bureau of Travel and Tourist Industry to accelerate all their combined efforts in pushing the government's exports promotion drive.

The President singled out the establishment of a Philippine House in areas where the Philippines suffers an imbalance in trade. This include Australia, West Germany, Canada, Singapore, Japan and Hongkong.

The President likewise directed:

- 1) The Secretary of Commerce, the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, the Commissioner; of Customs, the Civil Aeronautics Administration and the general manager of the Manila International Airport to expedite the establishment of an enlarged tax-free store at the MIA to serve tourists;
- 2) The Secretary of Commerce to exert every effort to make full utilization of commercial attaches abroad.

The President observed that economic reporting from these attaches has been below standard.

June 14—

THE PRESIDENT motored to the Libingan Ng Mga Bayani in Fort Bonifacio where he heard a Mass said at the tomb of the late President Carlos P. Garcia, and later laid a wreath at the foot of the tomb of the Unknown Soldier to usher in the celebration of Bessang Pass Day.

Among those who attended the Mass were Vice President Fernando Lopez, former President and President of the Constitutional Convention and Mrs. Diosdado Macapagal, and other ranking government and military officials.

Following the Mass, the President addressed his comrades in the USAFIP-NL whom he rallied to lead in reviving national unity and comradeship which existed during the war and which has been completely forgotten by a “sick society.”

The President recalled that during the war, no matter how lowly a soldier was, nobody asked him questions before helping him, rather people carried him when he was wounded, and fought for him when he was incapacitated.

“Today,” he said, “we have forgotten the urgency and the need for brotherhood when the need for brotherhood is still there.”

The President said that the celebration of the day was not so much to remember the achievements of the past as to lay the foundation for present and future achievements.

He reiterated his intention to set aside 100,000 hectares of forest land to be developed by a private corporation and which will form the economic arm for veterans and army retirees.

After delivering his address, the President motored to Camp Aguinaldo where he unveiled the marker of the AFP museum, formally opening it to the public. He stayed for about 30 minutes to view the various exhibits which included a mock-up of Bessang Pass showing troop dispositions, and then proceeded to the Base Shop where he saw several pieces of heavy equipment undergoing repair and overhauling.

The President was accompanied by Brig. Gen. Antonio Tamayo, commanding general of the AFP Supply Center, and Tancred Guray, director of the National Development Company and a fellow member of the USAFIP-NL.

Also present at the ceremonies were Reps. Joaquin Ortega of La Union and Lucas Cauton of Ilocos Sur, and ranking officials of the USAFIP-NL.

Back in Malacañang shortly before noon, the President met with key government officials during which they reviewed the schedule of priority projects for presentation before the Consultative Group meeting in Japan, and discussed possible sources of peso counterpart funds needed by the Philippine government in order to avail of additional assistance from the Consultative Group members.

Present at the meeting were Finance Secretary Cesar Virata who headed the Philippine delegation to the 1971 Consultative Group meeting in Paris and who was also slated to lead the country’s delegation to the meeting of the group in Tokyo; Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Public Works Secretary David Consunji, Agriculture Secretary Arturo Tanco, Jr., NEC Chairman Gerardo Sicat, BOI Chairman Vicente Paterno, Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, PES Director-General Apolinario Orosa, Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, PES Deputy Director-General Antonio Locsin, Director Gabriel Itchon of the External Debt Management Office of the Central Bank, NIA Administrator Alfredo Junio, Director Carlos Leano of the Infrastructure Operations Center, and Minister Wilfredo Vega of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

June 15—

THE PRESIDENT met at luncheon with provincial governors, city mayors, Cabinet members, and heads of government agencies, during which he called for closer coordination and mutual help between local and national officials in the interest of the general welfare.

The President stressed that a regular meeting among local and national officials could “lay the basis for rectification and correction of any governmental malfunction arising from non-cooperation and lack of coordination.”

He emphasized that programs and plans must be systematically organized by each province and city so that funds could be released on a national scale.

The President explained that “planning is the basic staff for any kind of activity and unless we plan and prepare such objectives, we will always be lopsided in our efforts to accelerate economic, social, and political development.”

Among those who attended were Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Secretaries David Consunji of Public Works and Communications, Troadio Quiazon, Jr. of Commerce and Industry, Vicente Abad Santos of Justice, Clemente Gatmaitan of Health, Arturo Tanco, Jr. of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Juan Ponce Enrile of National Defense, Estefania Aldaba-Lim of Social Welfare, Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, NEC Chairman Gerardo Sicat, and DBP Governor Leonides Virata.

Earlier in the morning, the President received the members of the Barangay Dance Troupe who paid him a courtesy call following their arrival from Australia where they fulfilled a 100-day engagement. The troupe performed in South Australia, Tasmania and Queensland. Mrs. Paz Cielo Belmonte, directress, told the President that “we feel we had done much for our country through music, songs and dances.” The President congratulated the members of the troupe and expressed the hope that they will keep up the good work.

The President devoted the rest of the afternoon and early evening to desk work.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: June 16-22, 1972

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

June 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS conferred in the morning with the mayors of Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte on the peace and order situation in the two provinces.

The President warned the Lanao mayors of the presence of communists in their localities, who had reportedly already infiltrated the ranks of both the Ilagas and Muslim organizations.

The local executives, accompanied by Reps. Macacuna Dimaporo of Lanao del Norte and Ali Dimaporo of Lanao del Sur, called at Malacañang to renew their pledge of loyalty to the President and the government.

The President deplored the effort of international media "to interpret the fighting in Mindanao between the Muslims and the Ilagas as an attempt to crush political opposition and eradicate the Muslims who, in turn, are utilizing the fighting to attain their selfish ends."

He assured the Muslim leaders that "we are trying to settle the differences between the leadership and the local groups so that the Muslim leadership will be united."

Among those who called on the President were the mayors of Bacolod, Saguiran, Binidayang, Tugaya Tuburan, Madamba, Tarakan, Bayang, Ragain, Piagapoc, Lumbatan; Masiu, Bubong, Pualas, Balindong, Lumba, Tamparan, Monay, Baloy, and Marawi City; former Governor Linang Mandangan, and Brig. Gen. Mamarinta Lao.

Among other callers were the officers of the Confederation of Land Reform Farmers of the Philippines headed by Mac Fabian, whom he inducted into office; and the members of the Southeast Asia Agrarian Reform Study Tour headed by Secretary Conrado F. Estrella of Agrarian Reforms, who paid him a courtesy call.

The group was composed of Vice Minister of Land Reform and Agriculture and Fishery Nguyen Thanh Qui of Vietnam, Director-General R. Soebiantoro of Transmigration of Indonesia, Land Reform Commissioner P. S. Appu of India, Land Commissioner K. N. Weerachody of Ceylon, Director C. Narayanasamy of Agrarian Research and Training of Ceylon, Director Khamaruzzanan Bin Abdul Halim of Management Services of Malaysia; Associate Director Sein Lin of John C. Lincoln Institute; and A. N. Seth, regional rural institutions officer of the FAO Regional Office in Bangkok.

In the afternoon, the President worked on official papers and went over reports from government agencies, including that of Acting Health Secretary Clemente Gatmaitan, who assured him that all precautionary measures were being taken to prevent the outbreak of diseases in evacuation areas in Zamboanga del Sur.

June 17—

THE PRESIDENT devoted the whole morning disposing of urgent, official papers preparatory to leaving for the South to assess the peace and order situation in the region.

Because of the pressure of desk work, the President was not able to fulfill two speaking engagements. He sent Defense Undersecretary Manuel Salientes to deliver his message for the 27th Annual Convention of the Philippine Veterans Legion, held at the GSIS Social Hall; and Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor to the graduation exercises of the Narcotics Course, conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs at Fort Bonifacio.

Among the papers that issued from his desk was a proclamation declaring June 19 a special public holiday in Laguna and San Pablo City. The day marks the 112th birth anniversary of Dr. Jose Rizal.

At 2 p.m., the President, together with the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, motored to Pier 15 at the South Harbor where he boarded the *RPS Ang Pangulo* for the trip to the Visayas and Mindanao.

Before sailing, however, the President wrote a letter to Senate President Gil J. Puyat on the funding of the Constitutional Convention beyond June 30.

In his letter the President pointed to the necessity of approving a special appropriation act, which has been passed by the House of Representatives, and pending in the Senate, to enable the Convention to function beyond June 30.

June 18—

THE PRESIDENT, while en route to Leyte, worked on state papers in his cabin the whole morning and early afternoon.

Among other actions, the President signed and submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation the nominations of 11 individuals to the judiciary.

He likewise designated eight government officials and private individuals to various posts in the government.

The President and the First Lady landed at 5 p.m. at the Tacloban pier. A big crowd of welcomers led by Gov. Benjamin Romualdez met them on their arrival.

From the pier, the First Couple motored to the Romualdez resthouse in Barrio Olot, Tolosa, where they usually stay while in Leyte.

June 19—

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady had a reunion with their families in Tolosa where the latter attended the symbolic interment early in the evening of the unborn child of the First Couple.

Assisted by the First Lady, the President deposited the foetal remains in a nich on the earth at the Romualdez family plot in Tolosa.

Inscribed on the marble slab marking the grave were the words: "To our unborn child, with whom so many of our dreams died Ferdinand and Imelda"

In the box was a bottle containing the "product of conception," which the First Couple had lost through the First Lady's miscarriage.

Prior to the interment, a "Mass for the Angels" was said by Msgr. Manuel Salvador, bishop of Palo, Leyte with the little white box placed at the altar.

Present at the rites were the President's mother, Mrs. Josefa Edralin Marcos, his brother Dr. Pacifico Marcos and sisters Gov. Elizabeth Marcos-Keon and Mrs Fortunata Marcos-Barba and her husband. On the Romualdez side were the brothers and sisters of the First Lady, namely, Gov. Benjamin Romualdez, Mrs. Alita Romualdez Martel, Mrs. Conchita Romualdez Yap and Navy Lt. Alfredo Romualdez.

Earlier in the day, the President and the First Lady attended the formal turnover and the cornerstone laying, ceremonies of the plant of the Leyte Cooperative, Inc. at Barrio San Roque, also in Tolosa.

The plant site, a one hectare piece of land, was donated by the Romualdez Family,

The President laid the cornerstone of the electric plant, while the First Lady signed as witness to the turnover by the National Electrification Administration of electric generators to the Leyte Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Consisting of 10 General Motors generators with a capacity of 400,000 kva, the electric plant could serve some 100,000 people in 10 towns.

The generators were procured by the NEA from the United States stockpile in Okinawa, and were turned over to Gov. Romualdez by NEA Chairman Ramon Ravanzo.

June 20—

THE PRESIDENT had a series of conferences at the Romualdez resthouse in Tolosa with national and local officials, mostly on urgent public works projects and health programs of the government.

Among those who met with the President were Public Highways Commissioner Baltazar Aquino, Acting Health Secretary Clemente Gatmaitan, Medicare Chairman Pacifico Marcos, Public Works Director Alejandro Belena, Rep. Nicanor Yñiguez and local executive of Leyte, and Ilocos Norte Gov. Elizabeth Marcos-Keon.

Commissioner Aquino and Director Delena reported to the President on the status of on-going projects, including the putting up of school-buildings while Secretary Gatmaitan and Chairman Marcos discussed with the Chief Executive the health needs of the country.

In the course of his meeting with the public works officials, the President:

- 1) Ordered the organized distribution of 10,000 schoolbuildings all over the country until the end of Fiscal Year 1973;
- 2) Directed Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-changco to release ₱10 million for the construction and repair of access roads which link outlying areas to centers of population;
- 3) Instructed Fisheries Commissioner Andres Mane to intensify the seeding of lakes and rivers throughout the country as a means of meeting the increasing requirements for fish products;
- 4) Called for the establishment of ice cold storage in places where power has been made available through the rural electric cooperatives;
- 5) Ordered Animal Industry Director Pedro Refuerzo to review and improve the methods of the cattle dispersal program by considering the setting up of dairy farms to offset the country's importation of milk products.

In his meeting with Secretary Gatmaitan and Chairman Marcos, the President directed the two officials to coordinate in administering to the health needs of the people.

In the afternoon, the President sailed for Cagayan de Oro City for the first of several conferences on the peace and order situation in Mindanao.

June 21—

THE PRESIDENT, together with the First Lady, arrived at Cagayan de Oro City on board the *RPS Ang Pangulo*. A big crowd accorded the First Couple an enthusiastic welcome on their arrival at the pier.

Following the military honors at the wharf, the President motored to Camp Evangelista where he was given a briefing by the military.

The President was informed by the military officials that the peace and order situation in northern Mindanao has somewhat stabilized, but he nevertheless directed them to exert more aggressive intelligence efforts against infiltration of hostile elements.

The one-and-a-half-hour briefing was conducted by Brig. Gen. Antonio Venades, Task Force Pagkakaisa commander, and Brig. Gen. Wilfredo Encarnacion, Fourth PC Zone commander.

Also present were Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, Senator Emmanuel Pelaez, Reps. Ali Dimaporo of Lanao del Norte and Vicente Cerilles of Zamboanga del Sur, Governors Tarhata Alonto Lucman of Lanao del Norte, Carlos Cajelo of Cotabato, and Concordio Diel of Misamis Oriental, Mayor Reuben Canoy of Cagayan de Oro City, Brig. Gen. Fidel Ramos, PC chief; Brig. Gen. Jose Rancudo, PAF chief; Commodore Hilario M. Ruiz, PN flag-officer-in-command; and Brig. Gen. Bienvenido Castro, Task Force Pagari commander.

The President had an interview with newsmen after the briefing and then proceeded to the capitol building for a conference with national, provincial, city and municipal officials.

He emphasized to them that the key to the solution of the nation's problems is production. He also said he was happy to find that the military, with the cooperation of the civilian authorities, had been able to normalize the situation in the Cotabato and Lanao provinces.

Following his meeting with the civilian officials, the President set sail for Zamboanga City for the continuation of his on-the-spot assessment of the situation in the South.

June 22—

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady arrived in Zamboanga City at 10 a.m. on board *RPS Ang Pangulo* following an overnight voyage from Cagayan de Oro City.

After the usual honors at the pier where enthusiastic welcomers met them, the President motored to the Southwest Command (SOWES COM) headquarters for the briefing.

In the course of the open briefing by military and local officials, the President issued an order banning completely the carrying of firearms in Zamboanga del Sur and in the cities of Zamboanga, Basilan and Pagadian even by those holding permits to carry firearms outside residence.

Under the ban, only peace officers and members of the Armed Forces who can carry firearms under the rules and regulations may do so outside residence. Even those in uniform but without mission orders may not carry firearms outside the camp, bivouac area or headquarters in said province and cities.

As complementary measures, the President directed Brig. Gen. Fidel Ramos, PC chief; to study the establishment of BSDU-type units in all areas where there are threats to peace, and the local officials to submit to the PC chief requests for loan and purchase of firearms for their respective police forces for study.

Among those present at the briefing conducted by SOWESCOM chief Capt. Alejandro Castillo and Brig. Gen. Wilfredo Encarnacion, Fourth PC Zone commander, at the Pastor Bonus Seminary in Barrio Calarian, were Senators Emmanuel Pelaez and Mamintal Tamano, Reps. Indanan Anni of Sulu, Felipe Ascuna of Zamboanga del Norte and Vicente Cerilles of Zamboanga del Sur; CNI Commissioner Mama Sinsuat, Mayor Joaquin Enrique, Jr., Governor Jose L. Tecson, and all mayors of Zamboanga del Sur.

Following the briefing which lasted up to 2 p.m., the President inducted the new set of officials of the MINSUPALA, namely: Senator Tamano, president; Senator Pelaez, chairman of the advisory council; Delegate Teodoro Donato, executive vice president; Commissioner Rolando Geotina, treasurer; Reps. Indanan Anni of Sulu, Lorenzo Sarmiento of Davao del Norte and Guillermo Sanchez of Agusan del Norte; and Commissioner Mama Sinsuat, board members.

Later in the afternoon, the President and the First Lady sailed for Cebu.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: June 23-29, 1972

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

June 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, while en route to Cebu City on the third leg of his inspection tour of the Visayas and Mindanao, gave a resume of his conferences with military and civilian officials of Cagayan de Oro and Zamboanga on the peace and order situation in the area.

The President told newsmen covering him that, among others, there was a widespread Ilaga movement in the region which had cause both related and unrelated violence in arson, pillage, murder and assassination.

He likewise explained that while it was possible there was no Ilaga syndicate, Ilaga organizers from Cotabato had spread the movement to Lanao in 1971 and to Zamboanga del Sur and Zamboanga del Norte.

The President, accompanied by the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, arrived in Cebu City at 1 p.m. aboard *RPS Ang Pangulo* and were given a tumultuous welcome by some 20,000 people, complete with giant streamers, placards and brass bands. Heading the welcomers was Mayor Sergio Osmeña, Jr.

From the wharf the President motored to the III PC Zone headquarters for a four-hour military briefing, during which he directed the military intelligence to employ more aggressive efforts, particularly against subversion, communism and insurgency.

After the military briefing, the President proceeded to the social hall to confer with local executives and national, provincial, city and municipal officials on local problems.

He forged an agreement between Mayor Osmeña and his chief of police, Abundio Gultiano, by proposing that the police force of the city be cleaned of misfits and undesirables.

The President also warned the League of Municipal Mayors of Cebu against the inroads of communism and enjoined them to forget politics and work in unity for the welfare of the public.

Following his meeting with the local officials, the President boarded the presidential yacht for his return trip to Manila via Pasacao, Camarines Sur, where he was scheduled to be given a briefing also by the military on the peace and order situation in the Bicol region.

June 24—

THE PRESIDENT conferred with civilian and military officials of the Bicol region aboard the *RPS Ang Pangulo*, which anchored off Pasacao, Camarines Norte at 10 a.m. after an overnight voyage from Cebu.

At the conference were provincial, municipal and barrio officials of Sorsogon, Albay, Camarines Sur, and Camarines Norte; Major Gen. Rafael Ileta, acting AFP chief of staff; Brig. Gen. Guillermo A. Pecache, deputy chief of staff for home defense; Brig. Gen. Fidel Ventura, chief of the AFP engineer corps; and the chiefs of the major services and provincial commanders of the region.

In the course of the conference, the President directed the strengthening of Task Force "Bulusan" which has launched an intensified military operation against dissidents in the area. He likewise ordered the reinforcement of the civic action arm of the task force and the stepping-up of civic action work in the region.

“It has always been the policy of this administration that military operations against subversion should go hand in hand with civic action,” the President said. “There can be no security without development and no development without security.”

The President impressed upon the conferees, who were brought by motor launches to the *RPS Ang Pangulo* anchored some 700 meters from Pasacao in Ragay Gulf, of the gravity of the nation’s security problems, the solution of which, he said, requires the participation of everyone, irrespective of party persuasions.

Col. Cipriano Ramiro, Jr., commander of TF “Bulusan,” who conducted the briefing, reported that dissidents in the Bicol peninsula were estimated at about 100 armed regulars, 300 combat support units and another 300 support service units.

The affected areas where they had mounted intensified operations, Col. Ramiro said, were Tigaon, Ocampo, Sañgay, Buhi and Goa in Camarines Sur; Polangue, Libon, Tiwi and Tabaco in Albay; and Irosin in Sorsogon. Also affected, he said, were the cities of Naga and Iriga.

After the briefings, the President heard some of the pressing problems presented to him by local officials, among whom were Reps. Fernando Pajarillo of Camarines Norte, Felix Fuentesbella of Camarines Sur, Amando Cope and Roberto Sabido of Albay, Jose Alberto of Catanduanes and Rafael Aquino of Sorsogon; and Gov. Felix Alfelor of Camarines Sur.

Following the conference, the *RPS Ang Pangulo* discharged its guests and hurriedly left the area at 1 p.m. to head off typhoon “Konsing” which was then reported approaching from the western coast of Samar.

June 25—

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady arrived in Manila early in the morning from Pasacao, Camarines Norte, the President’s last stop in his week-long tour of critical areas in the country.

Among his first acts upon arrival at Malacañang was to mobilize national government agencies to help in the evacuation of, and relief operations for, the victims of typhoon “Konsing.”

He directed:

- 1) The National Disaster Coordinating Center at Camp Aguinaldo to send survey teams to typhoon areas;
- 2) The armed forces to send out engineer reconnaissance units to look for roadblocks caused by fallen posts and trees and destroyed bridges, and to remove such roadblocks.
- 3) The Department of Social Welfare to send food, clothing and medicine to some 300 families who had been evacuated by the AFP from Isla Puting Bato in Tondo to safer places at the height of the typhoon.
- 4) The Department of Health to be on the lookout for possible outbreaks of epidemic.
- 5) The Department of Public Works to submit a report on damages to public works and infrastructures so that they could be repaired immediately.

The President attended to urgent paper work in the afternoon.

June 26—

THE PRESIDENT summoned Secretary of Commerce and Industry Troadio T. Quiazon, Jr., concurrent chairman of the Price Control Council, for a meeting at Malacañang on the question of sugar supply and prices.

During the conference, the President directed Secretary Quiazon to ensure the steady supply of sugar at regulated prices.

Also at the conference were Alfredo Montelibano, president of the Chamber of Agriculture and Natural Resources; and Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr..

The President did not receive other callers the whole day, even as he concentrated on urgent desk work.

While going over reports on the damage wrought by typhoon "Konsing," the President issued an order to the Government Service Insurance System to accelerate the payment of mid-year dividends amounting to P25 million, particularly to GSIS members in the affected areas.

He told GSIS General Manager Roman Cruz, Jr. to speed up the preparation of the checks in payment of the dividends, saying that member-employees who had suffered reverses brought about by the typhoon needed every assistance in rehabilitating their homes.

June 27—

THE PRESIDENT received callers in the morning, among whom were Ambassador and Mrs. Pablo Padilla Ramirez of Mexico who paid a farewell call prior to their departure for home.

The Mexican envoy, who arrived in the Philippines in October 1971 as his country's ambassador, has been designated by his government as director-general of the 100 percent Mexican-owned Asufera Pan Americana, a firm dealing on sulphur for fertilizers.

During the call, the President expressed the hope that the envoy and his wife had a wonderful stay in the country despite their less than a year tour of duty.

In the course of his work on official papers in the afternoon, the President issued Executive Order No. 397 extending the term of the Presidential Commission on Reorganization from July 1 to September 30, 1972.

The President deemed the extension of the Commission's operations necessary in view of the need for the Commission to undertake such informational activities to ensure wider understanding and support of the reorganization proposals.

He emphasized it was desirable to maintain the active involvement of the members of the reorganization body "in the consideration of the Integrated Reorganization Plan by Congress and in its eventual approval."

The President directed Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. to issue the necessary directives to the other government agencies with personnel detailed to the Commission for the extension of their detail with the Commission.

June 28—

THE PRESIDENT had a 30-minute conversation with Dr. D. S. Savkar, director of the Asian Department of the International Monetary Fund, who called at Malacañang to pay his respects before leaving for his home office.

During the call, the President informed Dr. Savkar that the Philippines was expecting an increase in exports because of the incentives being given for the promotion of exports.

“We have listed down all the countries with whom we have a trade imbalance and all potential markets for our products,” the President said, “and we are moving aggressively and systematizing our local sources.”

The President was informed by Dr. Savkar that the adoption of the floating rate has helped create confidence and bring in foreign investments, that the Philippines can achieve from seven to eight percent increase in the rate of growth of the Gross National Product (GNP), and that the direction taken by the country in promoting its export trade was correct.

The IMF official was accompanied to the President by Central Bank Deputy Governor Amado Briñas.

Other callers received by the President included some members of Congress and local executives who discussed with him matters concerning their constituencies.

In the afternoon, the President motored to the Rizal Memorial Stadium where he was guest of honor and speaker at the closing ceremonies of the week-long “Palarong Pilipino.”

In his speech, the President exhorted Filipino athletes to concentrate on certain sports events where they, because of their physique, would not be at a disadvantage in international tournaments.

He expressed the belief that Filipino athletes can compare in skill and excellence with the best and the most renowned in the world.

The joint-sponsorship of the “Palarong Filipino” by the Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation and the Sports Development Foundation of the Philippines, the President said, was a perfect example of how much an idea can be carried out.

June 29—

THE PRESIDENT had a crowded morning schedule, topped by a conference with representatives of the sugar industry, headed by Alfredo Montelibano, president of the Chamber of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Discussed during the conference was the question of increasing the minimum wages for the sugar industry workers to enable them to cope with the rise in prices of prime commodities.

Following the conference, the President ordered the Wage Commission to make an upward revision of the minimum wages for sugar industry workers by increasing the minimum wages from P4.75 to P6.50 daily for farm workers and from P8.00 to P10.00 for industrial workers.

The President likewise instructed the Price Control Council to submit complete data and statistics on the supply of domestic sugar and the effect of the proposed increases in wages on domestic sugar prices, in order to arrive at a realistic ceiling price for the commodity.

Present at the conference were Secretary of Commerce and Industry Troadio T. Quiazon, Jr., concurrently chairman of the Price Control Council; Sugar Quota Administrator Jose Unson, Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Arturo R. Tanco, Jr., PCC Director Maximo Belmonte, Nicanor Fuentes of the National Economic Council; and Alfredo Montelibano, Carlos Ledesma, Antonio Roxas-Chua and Eduardo de Luzurriaga, representing the sugar industry.

Toward noon, the President administered the oath of office to Justice Salvador Esguerra as associate justice of the Supreme Court.

Present at the oath-taking ceremony were members of the judiciary headed by Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos and Chief Justice Roberto Concepcion of the Supreme Court, and close friends and relatives of the inductee led by his wife, Mrs. Cosmedin Filler-Esguerra.

In the afternoon, the President closeted himself in his private study and worked on urgent official papers.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: June 30 - July 6, 1972

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

June 30—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a marathon meeting with representatives of the seven applicants to the Progressive Car Manufacturing Program in an effort to get the program off the ground as early as possible.

Following the six-hour meeting after several breaks, the President directed the Board of Investments, the National Economic Council, the Ford Philippines and Chrysler Philippines to submit their respective memoranda on the points raised during the meeting by the Universal Motors Corporation and Renault Philippines in their bid to participate in the program.

The President gave BOI Chairman Vicente Paterno, NEC Chairman Gerardo Sicat and the Ford and Chrysler corporations to submit their respective memoranda within a week.

Both officials were also asked by the President to submit projections as to dollar allocations needed and the increase in cost of production on the basis of four, five, six and seven participants in the program.

Present at the meeting were Chairman Paterno, Chairman Sicat, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Finance Secretary Cesar E. A. Virata, PES Director-General Apolinario Orosa, Central Bank Gov. Gregorio Licaros, PNB President Eusebio Villatuya, Justice Secretary Vicente Abad Santos, Tetsuro Hashimoto, Harold Hoffman and Jose Na-gay of Chrysler Philippines; Lorenzo Tañada, Victor Gonzales, L. Guzman and Anthony Lee of Universal Motors; Michel Roussotte and Leonardo Siguion-Reyna of Renault Philippines; Allan Foran and Ceferino Follosco of Ford Philippines;

Pablo Carlos, Manuel Lorenzo, Silvino Panganiban, Mart del Rosario and Manuel P. Asallo of Delta Motors; Domingo Guevarra, Sr., Domingo Guevarra, Jr., D. Pongos and Mel Amado of DMG; F. Francisco of Francisco Motors; James Yu of Yutivo, and H. Telshaw, Jr. and J. Schmitt of General Motors.

Earlier in the morning, the President administered the oath of office to a Court of First Instance judge, a newly-confirmed brigadier general, and 10 colonels in the Armed Forces of the Philippines, at well-attended ceremonies in Malacañang.

Sworn in by the President were:

- 1) Alejandro Boncaros, as judge of the court of first instance of Tarlac, Branch IV;
- 2) Col. Tranquilino Paranis, as brigadier general of the Armed Forces of the Philippines; and
- 3) Lt. Cols. Emilio P. Melendres, Jackson Alparce, Antonio Dumlao, Romeo G. Gatan, Buenaventura Caseñas, Andres B. Ramos, Alexander L. Felix, Antonio P. Uy, and Vicente B. Eduardo, as colonels in the Philippine Constabulary; and Lt. Col. Eric Nubia, as colonel in the Philippine Army.

The President also signed into law House Bill No. 1211 (Senate Bill No. 513) which provides that "no reserve officer of the armed forces of the Philippines who has served, or will serve, in a foreign country in compliance with treaty obligations or international commitments shall be reverted to inactive status."

Among those who witnessed the signing were Reps. Jose Alberto, Rafael Aquino, and Constantino Navarro and Brig. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, PC chief.

In the afternoon, the President directed Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco to release ₱350,000 to the Constitutional Convention in accordance with the policy to release as much fund as are available and which could be utilized by the Convention up to June 30, 1972.

The President also told Commissioner Sy-Changco that only ₱262,500 of the ₱5 million requested to be released to cover the proposed contract for the printing and binding of the Journal of the Convention shall be released because only this amount has been authorized for the printing of the Journal under Republic Act. No. 6427.

July 1—

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady spent almost the whole day in Bulacan distributing truckloads of relief goods in 16 towns which were badly hit by typhoon *Konsing*.

The President accompanied the First Lady to be able to get a first hand knowledge of the extent of the typhoon damage.

The relief goods were presented as a birthday gift to the First Lady by members of the Cabinet, Undersecretaries, bureau directors and friends of Mrs. Marcos for distribution to victims of the typhoon.

The relief goods consist of GI sheets, construction materials, food, clothing and medicines. They were loaded in 31 trucks, some of which spread out to Sapang Palay, Carmona, and Camarines Sur, which were among the areas badly hit by the typhoon.

The President and the First Lady were back in Malacañang late in the afternoon.

The President spent the early evening disposing of urgent state papers.

July 2—

THE PRESIDENT helped the First Lady in receiving well-wishers who started arriving at Malacañang as early as 9 a.m. to greet her on her birthday.

Among the first to greet the First Lady were Mrs. Jose Edralin Marcos, mother of the President; Chief Justice Roberto Concepcion, Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal, Mrs. Leonila D. Garcia, widow of the late President Garcia; Mrs. Gil. J. Puyat, wife of the Senate President; senators, representatives, justices of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals, members of the Cabinet and their ladies.

A Mass was said at the Malacañang Ceremonial Hall for the occasion.

The First Couple then had lunch with the guests, and before the simple party broke up at 2 p.m. there was a mass singing of "Happy Birthday" led by the President.

The President attended to desk work later in the afternoon and early evening.

July 3—

THE PRESIDENT did not receive callers and concentrated instead on desk work.

The President buckled down to paper work shortly after breakfast, breaking off at past noon for lunch and a brief rest.

He resumed his work on official papers later in the afternoon.

July 4—

THE PRESIDENT continued focusing on state papers.

Except for a few officials of the executive departments, he did not receive any other callers.

In a message issued earlier on the observance of Filipino-American Friendship Day, the President said:

We observe Filipino-American Friendship Day today at a time when our two nations are in the midst of a re-examination of certain vital aspects of our historic ties.

Between Filipinos and Americans, there has existed for many decades now, the deepest of bonds that can possibly exist between two peoples. This has been made all the more meaningful by numerous bilateral agreements that have sought to put in a unified context the aspirations and individual efforts of our two nations.

Now, in this new and difficult time, there is need to put this historic friendship into a new context that takes into consideration our nation's steady march towards complete political and economic self-reliance. There is need to inject into it a new substance that cures it of all infirmities that may have been the cause of any perceived imbalance in our relationship.

This is not to say that Filipino-American friendship has won: by the years, or that it has been weakened by the complexities of modern relationship between evolving states. This is merely to say that after long years of working together in peace, Filipino-American friendship has acquired the sobriety, maturity and stability to allow us, Filipinos and Americans, to examine it in the cold light of our respective national interests and thereby find out how we make it respond more energetically to such interests with complete mutuality in every field.

July 5—

THE PRESIDENT issued an administrative order authorizing Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco to release funds to defray governmental operations expenses for July and August this year, equivalent to those authorized for the corresponding months in Fiscal Year 1972.

Although the President was optimistic that the proposed budget for FY 1973 would be passed during the special session of Congress he had to take this measure to insure the continuity of essential government services because under the law the government has no budget beginning July 1.

In his administrative order, the President authorized all heads of departments and chiefs of bureaus and offices of the national government, pending approval of the budget, to incur obligations for the two months against appropriations authorized in Republic Act No. 6400 (Appropriations Act of 1972) in an amount not exceeding two-thirds of total expenditures under EA 6400 for each such agency during the first quarter of FY 1972 (July, August, September), as well as to withdraw cash from the National Treasury, in no case exceeding the level of cash withdrawal authorized respectively for July and August 1971.

Present at the signing of the administrative order held at the President's study late in the afternoon, were Commissioner Sy-Changco and Deputy Commissioner Juan Agcaoili; Commissioner Epi Rey Pangramuyen, Executive Director Nicomedes Peña and Chief of Administrative Offices Aurora A. de Leon of the Civil Service Commission.

First among the President's crowded schedule of activities, was the Fifth Founding Anniversary ceremony of the Metropolitan Police Command of the Philippine Constabulary in Camp Crame, Quezon City, where he was guest of honor and speaker.

In his speech, the President ordered the immediate initiation of an air mobility training course for METROCOM personnel, and the release of ₱1.5 million for the modernization of the equipment of the METROCOM.

The President congratulated the METROCOM and its officers and men for having gained public acceptance although at the very outset it was met with opposition from all quarters.

Before delivering his address, the President presented awards and plaques of commendation to five METROCOM officers headed by retired Brig. Gen. Mariano G. Ordoñez, former commanding general of the organization, who was awarded the Distinguished Service Star with the first anahaw leaf.

After the program the President proceeded to the Officers Clubhouse where he looked over the exhibits consisting of the various types of pillboxes and molotov cocktails used by the activists, as well as the anti-riot paraphernalia used by the METROCOM.

The President returned to Malacañang at about noon. He took a brief rest before taking lunch and then received callers till early evening.

The callers included Secretary of Education Juan Manuel, who reported on the problem of enrolling all children of school age for the new school year. He assured the President that no school crisis was expected.

Others received by the President were:

- 1) Eulogio de Guzman, Jr., whom he inducted into office as a director of the Philippine National Railways; and
- 2) The new set of officers of the Malacañang Press Corps, whom he also swore into office. They were Primitivo Mijares of the *Daily Express*, president; Manuel Salak of the *Manila Times*, chairman of the board; Domingo Quimlat of the *Taliba*, vice-president; Teddy Owen of the *Manila Daily Bulletin*, secretary-treasurer; and Francisco de Leon of the *Manila Chronicle*, Dave Bidan of the *Philippines Herald*, and Greg Datum of the *Daily Mirror*, members of the board.

July 6—

THE PRESIDENT met in the evening with Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, AFP Chief of Staff General Romeo Espino, and PC Chief Brig. General Fidel Ramos on the peace and order situation, particularly in Mindanao.

During the conference, the President, was informed of a report from Lt. Eduardo Aglipay, detachment commander in Palanan, Isabela, who said that an undetermined number of persons was landed from a ship which was captured by PC troops at Digoyo Point. According to Lt. Aglipay, two teams composed of two officers and 12 men boarded and took possession of the ship.

Earlier in the day, the President received the letter of credence of His Excellency Joze Smole as the first non-resident ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Yugoslavia to the Philippines.

In receiving the envoy's credentials, the President noted that "the Philippines and Yugoslavia have been cooperating long before in many fields," although diplomatic relations between the two countries have just been established.

He cited the support of Yugoslavia in the election of General Carlos P. Romulo as fourth President of the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1949.

Ambassador Smole, for his part, said that "Yugoslavia highly appreciates the endeavors of the Philippines towards securing and safeguarding world peace and promoting overall international cooperation on the basis of the principles of equal rights and mutual respect for all nations, big and small."

“Only on the basis of full equality of all nations and mutual respect and understanding is it possible to develop new democratic international relations which are in the interest of all humanity,” he added.

A resident ambassador of Yugoslavia to Japan since 1970, Ambassador Smole was a former newspaperman and editor of two important Yugoslav newspapers. He was secretary to President Josip Broz Tito from 1968 to 1969.

The President also signed the Special Vehicle Loan Fund Agreement to remedy the lack of transportation facilities considered one of the drawbacks to agricultural food production; as well as conferred the Golden Heart Award on Col. Alfred Patterson, U.S. defense attache, for “his significant contributions to the efforts of the Filipino nation towards socio-economic progress.”

The agreement provides that the National Food and Agriculture Council (NFAC) would deposit ₱1 million with the Philippine National Bank as initial guarantee for loans to be granted to employee-applicants proceeded and recommended by the NFAC, and for the PNB to grant such applicant recommended a loan not exceeding ₱2,000 at six percent interest for the purchase of a motorcycle, with the understanding that the difference, if any, between the purchase price and the loan will be supplied by the applicant.

Col. Patterson was cited for his activities which, non-military in nature, have been invaluable and praiseworthy services to the Philippines.

Present at the awards rites were the First Lady, Secretaries Carlos P. Romulo of Foreign Affairs; Blas F. Ople of Labor, Cesar E.A. Virata of Finance, Arturo Tanco, Jr. of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Vicente Abad Santos of Justice, Constancio Castañeda of General Services, Press Secretary Francisco S. Tatad, NEC Chairman Gerardo Sicat, Undersecretary Manuel Collantes of Foreign Affairs and U.S. Ambassador Henry Byroade.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: July 7-13, 1972

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

July 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS presided over a meeting of the National Security Council at Camp Aguinaldo. Discussed were the situation in Zamboanga and Isabela, as well as the Philippine position on the future of SEATO.

In an interview with newsmen later, the President, among others, clarified reports to the effect that Foreign Secretary Carlos P. Romulo had sought the dismantling of the SEATO. Romulo, the President said, was instructed to seek a new orientation or a redirection for SEATO.

After the NSC meeting, the President proceeded to the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency, also in Quezon City, where he was guest of honor and speaker on the occasion of the agency's 23rd anniversary celebration.

In his speech, the President said that security is still the basic requirement for a progressive Philippines. "We cannot talk about development, we cannot talk about advancing the economic frontiers unless we can secure our country," he said.

The President also announced that he was certifying to Congress the National Security Act which will make NICA an agency created by virtue of law, instead of by executive order.

The President was back in Malacañang at about 2 p.m. The rest of his working hours were spent on official papers.

July 8—

THE PRESIDENT received the members of the four-man Libyan-Egyptian fact-finding team who made a courtesy call prior to their departure after a week-long visit to the Muslim south.

The delegation informed the President that the conflict in Mindanao was not between Christian and Muslim as reported because even the Christians were afraid of the so-called Ilagas.

The President expressed the belief that some elements, communist and others, were trying to inflame and foment disorder and had infiltrated the Ilagas.

"I can speculate and say that the Ilagas are too widespread to belong to small parochial or village groups. They are being guided by a group that wants to agitate and inflame the Muslims against the government and the Christians in general," the President said.

When informed by the delegation that one of the main reasons for their visit here was to strengthen relations between their countries and the Philippines, the President suggested that more cultural exchanges be held.

The delegation, which was accompanied to Malacañang by Ambassador Vicente Singian and Ambassador Abdel Abdelhamid Fadel of the United Arab Republic, included Egyptian Foreign Undersecretary Hassan Arrousy, Chief Ali Treki of the Political Administration of the Libyan Foreign Ministry, Moustafa Abdul Hamid of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, and Aly Mahmoud Salem of the Libyan Ministry of Unity and Foreign Affairs.

In the evening, the President received General Romeo Espino, AFP chief of staff; Brig. Gen. Jose Rancudo, PAF commanding general; and Brig. Gen. Tomas Diaz, 1st PC Zone commander; who reported on the situation in Digoyo, Palanan, Isabela following the discovery and capture by elements of the Philippine Constabulary of a vessel named *Karagatan* off Digoyo Point, from which firearms and ammunition reportedly were unloaded.

The President ordered the military authorities to counter-attack and recapture Digoyo at all cost upon being informed by the military top brass that outnumbered government troopers battling New People's Army regulars in the area had been forced to withdraw.

July 9—

THE PRESIDENT was guest of honor and speaker at the blessing of 17 new electric motorcars acquired by the Philippine National Railways through reparations.

In his speech, the President pledged to continue supporting the PNR with all available funds, even as he described the railway firm as a lifeline for national survival.

The President said that simultaneous with the formation of consumer cooperatives in Manila and producers cooperatives in the North and Bicol as well as the completion of the Greater Manila Terminal Food Market as a clearing house for their produce, the improvement of the railways would help bring down prices.

He directed Col. Nicanor Jimenez, PNR general manager, to include in the reparations schedule five "food trains" (refrigerated food cars) and 24 economy cars which would enable more people to take the railroad.

Back in Malacañang about 12 noon, the President and the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, honored at luncheon the members of the Libyan-Egyptian delegation preparatory to their departure for home following their visit to Mindanao for an assessment of the Christian-Muslim conflict in the region.

They told the President that while there was no such thing as a national policy of genocide, the Muslims feel that they have been prejudiced by some policies of local leaders, and that the animosity between the Muslims and the Christians was brought about by factors such as land conflicts. The delegation also expressed confidence that the national government would protect the interests of the Muslim minority.

Present at the luncheon were Egyptian Foreign Undersecretary Hassan Arrousy, Chief Ali Treki of the Political Administration of the Libyan Foreign Ministry, Moustafa Abdul Hamid of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and Aly Mahmoud Salem of the Libyan Ministry of Unity and Foreign Affairs.

In the evening the First Couple motored to the MIA to meet their youngest daughter, who arrived from England to spend her summer vacation here.

July 10—

THE PRESIDENT buckled down to paper work shortly before 9 a.m., breaking off from his desk at 12:30 for lunch and rest.

In the afternoon, the President, together with the First Lady and their daughter Irene, visited the *M/V Logos* docked at Pier 15, believed to be the world's only "floating library" which arrived in Manila from India and Singapore in the course of a worldwide exhibit tour.

In brief remarks before the crew of the "floating library," the President paid tribute to the crew members and volunteers manning it, saying that "so long as there are men and women idealistic and dedicated like you, then all is not dark for the family of men."

In welcoming the crew members and volunteers, the President said that "this extraordinary mission which brought you to the Philippines is something which is close to our heart. The idea of a floating library on the high seas traveling from one port to another is certainly a very inspired idea."

The First Couple and daughter Irene bought several books from the floating library. The President in turn gave the library books on Dr. Jose Rizal and Apolinario Mabini, History of the Philippines, and lectures on other great Filipinos. He likewise presented them a copy of his book, entitled "Today's Revolution-Democracy."

The President was back to desk work early evening.

July 11—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the Rice and Corn Administration to make available 100 double-sack rice each to the flooded provinces of Bulacan, Pampanga and Tarlac for distribution to victims of typhoon *Edeng*.

Utilization of light Navy craft for relief distribution was likewise ordered by the President in response to appeals made by municipal mayors in the affected towns.

The President also instructed Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes to get, if possible, the assistance of fishermen's associations, such, as those in Navotas and Malabon, Rizal, who might make available their amphibian vehicles for the transportation and distribution of relief goods in the flooded areas.

Earlier in the day, the President:

1) Directed Deputy Budget Commissioner Juan Agcaoili to study the possibility of setting up a trust fund for the Philippine Historical Association, from which it could draw to finance the publication of history books on the Philippines.

The President issued the directive following the request for funds of the officers of the association, who took their oaths of office before him. Inducted by the President were:

Dean Gloria Santos, president; Dr. Celedonio Resurreccion, vice president; Dr. Ricardo Arcilia and Ma. Corona S. Resurreccion, treasurer and assistant treasurer, respectively; Jorge L. Revilla, secretary; Tomas Barnes, auditor; and Col. Crisanto V. Alba, Jose M. Aruego, Mauro Garcia and Sixto Y. Orosa, Sr., governors.

2) Submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation the nominations of 26 individuals to various posts in the government. The nominations were for criminal circuit court, court of first instance, municipal judges, state prosecutor, city and provincial fiscals, chief of mission and college president, among others.

July 12—

THE PRESIDENT met with the National Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation Committee at the Pangarap Guest House.

Following the conference, the President proclaimed the entire island of Luzon as under a state of calamity. (See pp. 5718-A 5718-C for full text of the President's proclamation.)

The President also called the leaders of both Houses of Congress to a conference at Malacañang, as well as urged Congress to pass a special calamity bill appropriating P250 million for relief and rehabilitation during the special session.

Present at the conference were Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. and Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, Public Works Secretary David M. Consunji, Social Welfare Secretary Estefania Aldaba-Lim, Health Secretary. Clemente Gatmaitan, Deputy Budget Commissioner Juan Agcaoili, Public Highways Commissioner Baltazar Aquino, Finance Undersecretary Pedro Almaizor, Public Works Director Alejandro Deleña, Director Carlos Leaño of the Infrastructure Operations Center, Col. Tapia of the NDCC, and others.

The President spent the rest of the day keeping close tabs on developments in the flooded areas and working on state papers in his private study.

July 13—

THE PRESIDENT met with congressional leaders and Cabinet members at a luncheon in Malacañang to pave the way for the early approval of a calamity bill, which seeks the appropriation of P250 million.

The President strongly urged that action be taken immediately on the measure “in view of the calamities which have been so pervasive as to have affected the entire country.”

He further added that the approval of the calamity bill should include not only the repair of destroyed infrastructure, “but also the establishment of the means by which to diminish such destruction and damage.”

Among those present at the conference were Senate President Gil J. Puyat, Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal, Majority Floor Leader Arturo Tolentino, Senate President Protempore Jose J. Roy, Senator Lorenzo Teves, Rep. Marcelino Veloso, Finance Secretary Cesar K. A. Virata, Public Works Secretary David Consunji, Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, Deputy Budget Commissioner Juan Agcaoili.

In the course of his work on state papers later in the day, the President issued an executive order changing the constitution of the Presidential Investigation and Recovery Commission so as to facilitate the work of this body charged with effecting the collection and recovery of monies and properties of government firms.

The commission, as reconstituted, would have the secretary of justice as chairman, the RCA chairman-general manager as vice chairman, and the solicitor general and a representative each of the auditor general and the Philippine National Bank, as members.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: July 14-20, 1972

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

July 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS received Chen Pao, secretary-general of the Kuomintang Party of Nationalist China.

During their brief meeting, the President said that the landing of arms and ammunition in Palanan, Isabela, established the fact that the local communists are no longer an isolated indigenous group but part of an international conspiracy.

The President also requested the Kuomintang secretary-general to convey to President and Madame Chiang Kai-shek and their son his warm personal regards.

Chen Pao was accompanied by Ambassador Liu-Chi Y. C. Chen, director of the department of overseas affairs; and Chang Yu-sheng, deputy director of youth affairs of the Supreme Committee of the Kuomintang.

The President also received Governor Carlos G. Camacho of Guam who likewise paid his respects to the President following his arrival.

He was accompanied to Malacañang by Jose Q. Taitan and Kenneth Blasczyk, special assistants; Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., and Ambassador Jose Estrada.

Other callers included Sen. Helena Z. Benitez, who submitted a report on her mission abroad. Senator Benitez arrived from Stockholm, Sweden where she attended the United Nations conference on human environments as well as from the People's Republic of China.

Pressure of deal work prevented the President from attending the inauguration and blessing of the Asian Reinsurance building in Makati and the closing ceremonies of the National Science and Technology Week.

The President asked Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. to deliver his speeches for both occasions.

In the evening, the President received Brig. Gen. Fidel Ramos, PC chief, who informed him that government troops captured the first NPA camp in Palanan, Isabela after a four-hour uphill trek by the troopers from the beach at Digoyo.

July 15—

THE PRESIDENT conferred in the afternoon with Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile and military top brass on the updating of military contingency plans.

Present at the conference held at the President's private study, were General Romeo Espino, AFP chief of staff; Brig. Gen. Fidel Ramos, PC chief; and Brig. Gen. Rafael Zagala, PA commander.

The President spent the whole morning on state papers and other matters of state, notably the development plans for harbor and airport facilities in Luzon.

July 16—

THE PRESIDENT accompanied by Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Arturo R. Tanco, Jr. and Plant Industry Director Eliseo Carandang, boarded the presidential Fokker plane at 7 a.m. at Nichols Air Base and conducted an aerial survey of Bulacan, Rizal, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Pangasinan and part of Zambales.

Following the survey, the President decided to push through passage of the ₱250 million special calamity fund and the regional typhoon moderation project in Asia.

At the same time, the President directed Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo to lodge a strong protest against the holding of nuclear weapons tests in the Pacific. Some Filipino scientists believe such tests affect the weather conditions of the regions.

The President also ordered a restudy of the plans for the proposed Labangan Channel as an exit for flood waters in the Pampanga—Bulacan area, as well as the rushing of the Chico and Upper Pampanga (Pantabangan) river control projects.

In the evening, the President and the First Lady, together with their two daughters, motored to the Manila International Airport (MIA) to meet their son Ferdinand Jr. (Bongbong), who planed in from London to spend his summer vacation here.

July 17—

THE PRESIDENT focused on matters concerning relief and rehabilitation work in Central Luzon before receiving his morning callers.

At 11 a.m. the President repaired to the Ceremonial Hall and conferred the Philippine Legion of Honor (degree of officer) on Col. Philipp F Sears, outgoing commander of the U.S. Office of Special Investigation in this country.

Col. Sears was cited “for meritorious and outstanding services to the Republic of the Philippines, as head of specialized training units of the United States Air Force in 1966 and 1969 and as Commander of the Office of Special Investigation in the Philippines.”

After the conferment rites held at the Malacañang Ceremonial Hall, the President administered the oath of office to Associate Justice Eloy Bello of the Court of Appeals, following confirmation of the hitter’s nomination by the Commission on Appointments.

In the afternoon the President and the First Lady received the crew of the *MV Logos*, headed by Capt. Mjorn Kristianson and members of their families whom they invited for merienda at Malacañang when they visited the “floating library.”

July 18—

THE PRESIDENT conferred the ancient Order of Sikatuna, rank of Datu, on Ambassador Hashim bin Sultan of Malaysia, in recognition of his services in the field of international relations.

The President cited the Malaysian ambassador as a worthy spokesman of his government who had endeavored continuously to strengthen the ties of friendship between his country and the Philippines.

In accepting the award, Ambassador Hashim bin Sultan said that in his two-year’s stay in the country, he had the deep sense of satisfaction in enjoying the hospitality, the cooperation and valuable assistance given to him by the Filipino people.

Present at the award ceremony, which was held at the Malacañang Ceremonial Hall, were Secretary Carlos P. Romulo and Undersecretary Manuel Collantes of Foreign Affairs, Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes

who read the citation, and chiefs of the diplomatic corps, including Mons. Carmine Rocco, papal Nuncio; Ambassadors Henry Byroade of the United States, Toshio Urabe of Japan, James Charles Ingram of Australia, John Curie of Great Britain, Kusno Utomo of Indonesia, Se Ryu Kim of Korea, and Richard Taylor of New Zealand.

Toward noon, the President received the delegates of foreign countries to the 11th session of the ECAFE Asian Statisticians confab held in Manila who paid him a courtesy call.

The President told the delegates of the efforts of the Philippines towards modernization of security and development reforms, the restructuring of society and the forward movement of culture, as well as of widening the areas of freedom, liberty and initiative for every man.

The President also said that statistics may be dry and uninteresting but to the decision makers, chiefs of state, and heads of government they are of the greatest importance for it is on them that decisions are based.

In the afternoon, the President concentrated on desk work. Because of reports; on the extensive damage caused by heavy rains and floods in Central Luzon, the President went on the air late in the evening to assure the people that the government would use all available, resources to alleviate the sufferings of typhoon and flood victims.

July 19—

THE PRESIDENT ordered non-stop rescue and relief operations, including the use of all available craft and equipment from the Armed Forces.

In addition, the President released ₱3 million more for emergency operations as he kept himself posted on the extent of damage from reports of the National Disaster Coordinating Council and aerial surveys conducted by Cabinet members and Presidential aides.

The President appealed to all citizens to stay in their homes unless pressing business require their presence outside.

The President sent helicopters to rescue missions in Pangasinan, Tarlac, and Pampanga, three of the hardest hit provinces because of the bursting of the dikes in these area.

The President placed the four departments—Department of National Defense, Department of Social Welfare, Department of Health and Department of Public Works and Communications—on a 24-hour duty.

He also directed the NDCC to acknowledge and make arrangements for the dispatch of vehicles such as helicopters and amphibian trucks being offered by various sources, so that these could be utilized fully for the relief and rehabilitation effort.

Early in the afternoon, the President and the First Lady honored at luncheon Madame Tatyana Nikolaeva, deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, who arrived in Manila for a 10-day visit as representative of the Union of Soviet Society of Friendship and Cultural Relations with other countries.

The President worked on official papers and followed up relief and rescue operations in the evening.

July 20—

THE PRESIDENT issued Proclamation No. 1049, authorizing Secretary of National Defense and, in his behalf the respective provincial commanders in Bulacan, Pampanga, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija Pangasinan and Bataan to requisition and thereupon immediately distribute such necessary private supplies of foodstuffs as are needed for the survival of flood victims in these provinces; and Proclamation No. 1050 authorizing the AFP Chief of Staff, and, in his behalf the commanders of the major services of the AFP, to utilize and avail of private watercraft, vehicles and other

equipment for rescue and relief operations in the provinces of Bulacan, Pampanga, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Pangasinan and Bataan.

Among other actions relative to the calamity, the President ordered a thorough review of logging operations in Central Luzon with an eye to the possible cancellation of timber licenses in the area to save the remaining forests and prevent the recurrence of worse floods in the future.

At the same time, the President directed Agriculture Secretary Arturo R. Tanco, Jr. to prepare an effective distribution plan so that rice seedlings may be distributed to all the areas where rice crops had been destroyed.

In the evening, the President met with newsmen covering Malacañang who inquired on the flood situation and relief operations in flood-stricken areas.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: July 21-27, 1972

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

July 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS boarded a helicopter in the morning for an aerial survey of the flooded areas.

The President flew low over the flooded towns of Bulacan and Pampanga and took a close look at the breached dikes and impassable highways.

The first stop of the President was at Basa Air Base where he visited some 300 barrio residents who sought refuge inside the camp from the floods.

After inquiring into their conditions and instructing the base officials to attend to their needs, the President flew to nearby Clark Air Force Base to see how the relief and rescue operations were going on.

The President was briefed by Clark Air Force officials headed by General Marvin McNickle, commanding general of the 13th Air Force.

Among those who met the President at CAFB were Cols. Henry C. Gordon, base commander; Stanley Bailey, in charge of CAFB rescue work; Major Henry King, commander of DART rescue, relief and rehabilitation teams; Col. A. G. Villanueva of the Philippine Air Force, Major Laudemer B. Kahulugan and Lt. Col. R. D. Fernando.

In the course of his trip, the President ordered the establishment of relief distribution centers in Pampanga and Pangasinan. Ordered put up were one distribution center at Basa Air Base, one at Clark Air Force Base, and another at Lingayen, Pangasinan.

The President also directed the armed forces teams engaged in relief and rescue operations, in cooperation with the local authorities, to force open the bodegas of the Rice and Corn Administration in order to be able to distribute the rice to the flood victims.

The President said that 10 helicopters on flying missions all over Central Luzon had been picking up children and women from rooftops and treetops.

From Clark Field, the President flew back to Manila arriving in Malacañang at 5 p.m.

After a short rest, the President met with newsmen covering Malacañang.

July 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, for the second straight day, surveyed flooded areas of Central Luzon, reaching as far as Pangasinan.

The President and the First Lady took off early for Basa Air Base, one of the take-off points for the airlifting and airdropping of relief goods to the stricken areas in Pangasinan and Tarlac.

The Chief Executive, with a group of Cabinet members, then flew to Pangasinan to meet with provincial officials and the PC provincial commander in view of the lack of direct communications with the capital town of Lingayen and therefore the inability of the government to get detailed reports of the actual flood situation in the province.

With the President in going to Pangasinan were Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, Public Works and Communications Secretary David Consunji, Public Highways Commissioner Baltazar Aquino.

The President stressed that immediate efforts should be directed to the rescue of people still marooned in the flooded areas which he surveyed aboard a helicopter on his way to Pangasinan from Clark Air Force Base.

In his talks with the officials of Pangasinan, the President said that he and the First Lady were doing everything possible to meet the requirements of the relief operations.

July 23—

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady, for the third consecutive day took personal charge of operations to speed up the relief and rehabilitation of flood victims in Central Luzon.

The President, accompanied by Secretary of Health Clemente Gatmaitan, Reps. Jose D. Aspiras and Joaquin Ortega, and Presidential Executive Assistant Jacobo C. Clave flew to Poro Point, San Fernando; La Union aboard the Presidential Fokker plane at 9 o'clock a.m.

The President conferred with local officials, including Governors Juvenal K. Guerrero of La Union and Ben Palispis of Benguet, and Mayor Luis Lardizabal of Baguio City.

After the conference, the President boarded a helicopter and flew low over inundated sections of southern La Union and eastern Pangasinan, landing at Carmen, Pangasinan where he was met by Rep. Roberto Estrella who accompanied him during the resumption of the aerial survey.

The President was gratified to note during the survey that a number of farmers, already were replanting the rice fields, some of which were still under water.

Upon being informed that no relief goods have reached the barrio, the President sent back his helicopter to Carmen to pick up two truck-loads of relief supplies waiting to be transported to San Manuel.

From there, the President flew to Santa Ana, Tayug, where again he distributed relief goods. The President had lunch at Carmen.

Upon the request of Rep. Estrella, the President directed Secretary Gatmaitan to send two medical teams to eastern Pangasinan. Other teams were also dispatched to other places.

Following the survey, the President announced that he was establishing a regional Malacañang office in the province, preferably in Dagupan City or Lingayen in view of the widespread destruction of houses and buildings in the area. The President said he would hold office there for the duration of the emergency.

The President ordered the Constabulary to pitch tent in the PC compound for his office and living quarters.

July 24—

THE PRESIDENT decided to stay at the Malacañang field office in Lingayen, Pangasinan for the duration of the emergency to better supervise the relief and rescue operation.

The President made this decision because of the tendency of relief and rescue operations to slow down after floods have receded.

The Chief Executive started personally going on helicopter missions to isolated areas of Eastern Pangasinan as early as 6:30 a.m. After returning to the Magiliw guesthouse in Carmen for lunch, he directed:

- 1) Health Secretary Clemente Gatmaitan to set up medical centers in San Nicolas, Tayug, Urdaneta and Asingan;
- 2) The PC provincial commanders, in coordination with local executives, to start making inventories of rice stocks and other goods in the affected provinces and to procure them under his proclamation, properly receipted by the provincial governor or city mayor, the PC provincial commander and the provincial or city auditor, to be paid later on by government at prices fixed by the Price Control Council.

The President visited and distributed relief goods in barrios Fubol, Kalanapian, and San Rafael in San Nicolas, where he also had a reunion with his wartime comrades who had operated in the area with him during the war years.

July 25—

THE PRESIDENT, having established himself in his Malacañang in the Field office at the Philippine Constabulary compound in Lingayen, asked all government officials and personnel involved to temporarily leave their offices in Manila and go out to the disaster areas in order to break down “red tape” in distributing relief to the victims.

He also invited private sectors willing to help, as well as those actually giving private donations, to go to the field and minister to the needs of the victims.

The President said that since setting up his field office in Pangasinan, he has been able to get a comprehensive and immediate view of the actual needs of the victims.

As well as relief and rehabilitation of victims, the President indicated two priorities in the efforts of government, namely, roads and transport; and rehabilitation of crops.

The President said he was watching the danger signs of a possible rice scarcity because the people who fought for the relief packages indicated that there was hunger.

“We can imagine what might happen if agents provocateur should start propagating dangerous ideas in the event that unrelieved hunger sets in,” the President said. He:

- 1) Directed the government agencies involved in rehabilitation to continue fielding teams in the flood areas.
- 2) Requested the Department of Health to procure several million pesos worth of medicine for the intensified mass inoculation drive to avert possible epidemics.
- 3) Appealed for volunteers from the Philippine Medical Association.

He likewise directed the Agricultural Productivity Commission, the Agriculture Credit Administration, the Bureau of Plant Industry, the Presidential Assistant on Community Development and the National Food and Agriculture Council to go to the field instead of staying in Manila where “you are so removed and detached from what is actually happening.”

The President instructed Health Secretary Clemente Gatmaitan to return to Manila immediately to procure more medicine for the inoculation drive.

The President appealed to the private sector, particularly to the members of the Philippine Medical Association, to organize volunteer teams and come out to the barrios to help the people.

He deplored the “bureaucratic red tape which had completely disorganized some of our efforts at rescue and relief.”

From his temporary field office in Lingayen, the President appealed to the Senate to pass the ₱500 million contingent fund approved by the House in view of the updated and considerably increased estimates of damages wrought by the flood in central and northern Luzon.

The President also appealed to the Senate to approve the Public Works Bill in order to provide counterpart funds for foreign loans that may be negotiated for the massive rehabilitation to be undertaken in this area.

Among other actions, the President issued a series of directives in connection with the rehabilitation of Central and Northern Luzon provinces.

He ordered Finance Secretary Cesar E. A. Virata to immediately make the necessary representations with the World Bank for the early reconvening of the Consultative Group for the Philippines, with a program for the rehabilitation of the devastated areas in Central Luzon as the main item on the agenda.

He directed Public Works Secretary David Consunji to immediately:

- 1) Procure bailey bridges as temporary replacements of all damaged bridges in the devastated areas;
- 2) Determine the amount needed for rehabilitation and repair of infrastructure; and
- 3) Convene all landowners of the areas to be occupied by the Labangan Channel so that the government can immediately acquire the right of way for this channel passing through Bulacan and Pampanga.

The President also directed Agriculture Secretary Arturo R. Tanco, Jr. to immediately:

- 1) Procure 100,000 cavans of rice seedlings, preferably the IR-21 variety;
- 2) Send survey teams to the flood affected provinces, including Nueva Ecija, to find out whether said rice seedlings could be procured in said provinces; and
- 3) Conduct an inventory of vegetable seedlings.

The President ordered Secretary Tanco to report on the action taken within 72 hours.

While personally supervising relief and rescue operations, the President was informed that Ferdinand Jr. (Bongbong) had undergone a successful tonsillectomy. He promptly congratulated his son.

July 26—

THE PRESIDENT flew back to Manila in the morning to visit his son Bongbong who underwent tonsillectomy, and to meet with his Cabinet on the relief and rehabilitation efforts of the government.

The President landed at Nichols Air Base shortly after 8am He motored direct to the Makati Medical Center to visit his son and to preside over the Cabinet meeting, held at the hospital conference room.

During the meeting, the President, among others, called for a new policy on the exportation of logs as part of a reinvigorated approach to forest conservation and flood prevention.

He asked the National Economic Council, Presidential Economic Staff, Department of Finance to evolve a policy which will not hurt us too much on our dollar earnings, but which will prevent loggers from denuding our forests.”

Among those who attended were Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Secretaries Carlos P. Romulo of foreign affairs Cesar PA Virata of finance, David M. Consunji of public works and communications, Juan Ponce Enrile of Defense, Arturo R. Tanco, Jr of Agriculture, Estefama Aldaba Lim of social welfare, Clemente Gatmaitan, of health, Narciso Albarracin of education, Rosendo Tarquez of the presidential arm on community development;

Chairmen Gerardo Sicat of the National Economic Council Vicente Faterno of the Board of Investments, Eliseo Villamor of the See and Corn Administration; Commissioners Faustino Sy-Chaneco of the budget, Francisco Saguiguit of the Agricultural Productivity Commission, Baltazar Aquino of the Bureau of Public Highways; Deputy Commissioner Conrado Diaz of the Bureau of Internal Revenue;

Also present were Sen. Lorenzo Teyes and Rep. Jose Alberto, chairmen of the Senate and House appropriations committees, respectively Governor Gregorio Licaros of the Central Bank, President Eusebio Villatuva of the Philippine National Bank, Manager Jose de Ocampo of Greater Manila Terminal Food Market, Director General Anolinario Orosa of the Presidential Economic Staff, Directors Carlos Leaño of the Infrastructure Operations Center and Eliseo Carandang of the Bureau of Plant Industry;

Assistant Administrator Amado Lansang of the Agricultural Credit Administration, General Romeo Espino, AFP chief of staff; Mayors Ramon Bagatsing of Manila, Pablo Cuneta of Pasay and Nemesio Yabut of Makati.

In the course of the day, the President created a Presidential Task Force on Rehabilitation Operations in view of the urgent need to determine the extent of damages wrought by the recent natural calamities, as well as the financial and physical requirements for speedy and effective rehabilitation.

Named to compose the task force were the Executive Secretary or his representative, as chairman; the Secretary of Public Works and Communications or his representative, vice-chairman; the Secretary of Finance, the Secretary of National Defense, the Secretary of Social Welfare, the Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Secretary of Health, or their representatives, members.

In creating the Task Force, the President stressed that the circumstances demand monitoring, coordinated implementation timely and reliable reporting of rehabilitation and restoration efforts of both the private and public sector agencies and institutions at the highest level of responsibility and authority.

He likewise underscored the immediate need to formulate a medium and long-range program strategy for the rehabilitation and restoration effort.

July 27—

THE PRESIDENT issued Proclamation No. 1051 calling the Congress of the Philippines to an 8th special session, commencing immediately upon adjournment of the 7th special session, in order that urgent legislative measures could be acted upon.

Legislative proposals certified by the President included those providing funds for an integrated flood control and drainage program for the Greater Manila area and public works projects in other cities and municipalities, as well as for the moderation of typhoons by reducing or minimizing their destructive intensity.

Earlier in the day, the President, among others, directed the Bureau of Public Highways and the AFP Engineering Battalion to immediately repair national roads in Manila.

The President issued the order even as he kept tabs of the flood situation and the relief and rescue operations in the flooded areas of Central Luzon and the Greater Manila area.

Towards evening, the President received Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, General Romeo Espino, AFP chief of staff; and Brig. Gen. Ignacio Paz, chief of AFP intelligence, who reported on the capture by government troops of

five rocket launchers, seven rocket rounds and several firearms in an encounter with National People's Army regulars in Palanan, Isabela.

The President then motored to the studio of Channel 13 where he was interviewed on the relief and rehabilitation program of the government, including its financing.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: July 28 - August 3, 1972

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

July 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS took over the operational control of the Department of Public Works and Communications and the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources in view of the importance of the two departments in the rehabilitation efforts of the government.

The President directed the Department of Public Works and Communications to conduct a survey of the damages caused by the series of typhoons and floods, and the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources to procure at least 100,000 cavans of rice seeds from the south for distribution to the flood victims.

The President also pressed for the immediate start of work on the Labangan Channel to provide an outlet for the floodwaters from Pampanga and Bulacan.

Earlier in the day, the President conducted an ocular survey of the flood areas of Bulacan and, conferred with provincial and municipal officials at the provincial capitol.

The President left Malacañang at 9 o'clock by jeep, taking Aurora Boulevard, then Highway 54, through the North Diversion, to Malolos, where he turned over truckloads of relief goods to Mrs. Purificacion Reyes, mayor of Malolos for distribution at the town plaza.

From there, the President and his party, which included Rep. Teodulo Natividad and Gov. Ignacio Santiago, motored towards Hagonoy, passing by Paombong which was still in several feet of water. Also with the President were Highways District Engineer Felicisimo Ver and Public Works Engineer Jose Regalado.

Upon reaching the Paombong municipal building, the Chief Executive again turned over to Mayor Jose de la Cruz and the barrio captains truckloads of relief goods intended for the town's flood victims, and then motored to Hagonoy.

After distributing some relief goods in Hagonoy, the President turned over the relief goods to Mayor Ermin Perez and then motored back to Malolos, proceeding directly to the provincial capitol for the conference.

Following the conference, the President, who conducted the survey in a driving rain, took a helicopter back to Manila to be in time for his meeting with public works and agriculture officials in Malacañang.

During the conference, the President said that there was need to cut bureaucratic red tape. He was informed that the total expenditures for the rehabilitation, reclamation and reconstruction of infrastructures as proposed by the conference committee of the National Disaster Control Council would be ₱420.4 million.

To this end, he discussed with the departments concerned the projects to be given top priority in accordance with available funds.

Among those present at the meeting were Secretaries Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Arturo R. Tanco, Jr. of agriculture and natural resources, David M. Consunji of public works and communications, Juan Ponce Enrile of national defense, Rosendo Marquez of the presidential arm on community development;

Commissioners Faustino Sy-Changco of the budget, Francisco Saguiguit of the Agricultural Productivity Commission, Andres Mane of the Philippine Fisheries Commission, Baltazar Aquino of the Bureau of Public Highways; Directors Carlos Leaño of the Infrastructure Operations Center, Eliseo Carandang of the Bureau of Plant

Industry, Alejandro Deleña of the Bureau of Public Works; and Administrator Alfredo Juinio of the National Irrigation Administration.

July 29—

THE PRESIDENT met with members of the Cabinet and the National Disaster Control Council.

During the conference, the President announced the shift in flood operations from rescue and relief to reconstruction and rehabilitation which, he said, would cost about ₱428 million.

The President designated the NDCC as the implementing agency for the operation, and asked the Department of Public Works and Communications and the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources to place themselves at the disposal of the committee.

After hearing the report of the various officials on the cause and effects of the last flood, considered the worst to hit the country in years, the President gave the go-signal for the immediate implementation of flood control projects, such as the construction of the over ₱30 million Labangan Channel in Bulacan and Pampanga.

On the Manila flood control program, the President directed that special attention be given to the dredging of, Manila's esteros and the problem posed by squatters.

The President also directed that studies be made to declare squatters "nuisance per se" so that they would not constitute an obstacle to the Hood control program.

On the agricultural rehabilitation of the flood victims, the President directed that the Philippine National Bank undertake an intensive program to grant easy-term credit facilities for the flood victims.

The President ordered the PNB to borrow ₱40 million from the funds of the Rice and Corn Administration deposited with the Central Bank, to be used as guarantee capital to generate some ₱700 million in credit facilities. The conference lasted till early afternoon.

The President attended to desk work following a brief rest.

July 30—

THE PRESIDENT went on another survey of Central Luzon and the towns bordering Laguna de Bay in view of the continuous rains and the new danger they pose to the already flood-ravaged provinces of the region.

The President boarded a helicopter early in the morning and flew low over Bulacan and Pampanga. He was back in Malacañang shortly before noon for lunch.

At 1:45 p.m. the President again boarded the PAF helicopter and flew over the flooded Laguna towns along the shoreline of Laguna de Bay.

The President had a short rest later in the afternoon, and then worked on official papers in his private study.

At 5:20 p.m., the President received newsmen who interviewed him on his new assessment of the flood situation and on further steps taken by the government to help the flood victims, as well as on programs of reconstruction.

July 31—

THE PRESIDENT directed the stepping up of rescue and relief operations following receipt of a report from the National Disaster Control Center that floodwaters in Central Luzon continued to rise because of unremitting rains.

He ordered the Philippine Navy to send more rescue teams to Bulacan, Pampanga and Tarlac, as well as enlisted the help of the Metrocom for relief and rescue work in the towns of Taguig and Pateros, Rizal.

The President did not receive callers, but devoted the whole day to problems brought about by the Luzon flood.

August 1—

THE PRESIDENT met in the afternoon with his cabinet at the National Disaster Control Center at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, to review the flood situation and prepare the program of rehabilitation and rebuilding.

During the three-hour conference, the President:

- 1) Proclaimed the city of Baguio and the provinces of Benguet, Laguna and Bataan as covered by his proclamation empowering the chief of staff of the Armed Forces and the secretary of national defense, through their representatives, to commandeer, in coordination with local authorities, vehicles and foodstuff to save the lives of flood victims.
- 2) Asked the Philippine National Red Cross to participate in the preparation and implementation of the program for the extension of further rescue and relief operations in the flood areas.
- 3) Recommended amendment of the calamity bill authorizing the expenditure of ₱300 million.
- 4) Directed all heads of departments to prepare plans for the participation of their respective personnel in the emergency operations.
- 5) Directed the cabinet secretaries to submit their respective programs for expenditures of funds allotted to their respective departments out of the ₱300 million calamity fund for immediate implementation.
- 6) Extended his personal gratitude to the United States government for its assistance to the flood victims and for the continued stay of various U.S. military and navy units in the Philippines to continue assisting in the relief operations.
- 7) Thanked all persons, both military and civilians, who have extended assistance to the flood victims, and urged them to continue doing so.

Upon the recommendation of Labor Secretary Blas F. Ople, the President also directed the department heads to draw up plans for the participation of their respective personnel in the relief and rescue, rehabilitation and rebuilding operations.

Present at the meeting, besides the members of the Cabinet, were Rep. Teodulo Natividad of Bulacan, Chairman Eliseo Villamor of the Rice and Corn Administration, Mrs. Loreto Paras-Sulit of the Philippine

National Red Cross, Social Security System Administrator Gilberto Teodoro, GSIS General Manager Roman Cruz, Jr., PNB President Eusebio Villatuya, Chairman Ramon Ravanzo, Jr., of the National Power Corporation, and Col. Pacifico Lopez de Leon, executive director of the NDCC.

August 2—

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady led a kilometer-long procession from Malacañang to the Tondo Church, where the recovered image of the Sto. Niño was transferred and reenshrined.

Earlier in the afternoon, the President and the First Lady led thousands of devotees in hearing a Mass said at the porch of the Executive Building, shortly before the image was transferred with a procession, participated in by some 15,000 devotees, to the Tondo Church.

With the First Couple in joining the procession were Mayor and Mrs. Ramon Bagatsing, and some members of the Cabinet.

The President was closeted in his private study the whole morning going over state papers, including the latest reports on relief and rehabilitation work.

August 3—

THE PRESIDENT declared a moratorium on the sending of Philippine delegations to international conferences abroad as one more means of cutting down the spending of valuable foreign exchange, for the duration of the national rehabilitation program.

At the same time, the President instructed the Department of Foreign Affairs to seek a deferment, if not a cancellation, of international conferences scheduled to be held in the country for the duration of the rehabilitation program.

Not included in the presidential edict were the United Nations General Assembly session in September, scheduled to be attended by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, and vital economic conferences including those connected with government efforts to raise assistance for its rehabilitation program.

Among other actions, the President ordered the prompt restoration of normal vehicular traffic leading to the Ilocos provinces, which was cut off when the approaches of the Rosario bridge across Bued River along the highway in La Union were washed out by the flood.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: August 4-10, 1972

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

August 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, ordered the fielding of more men from the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources in Bulacan, Pampanga and Nueva Ecija to see if the farmers could start replanting.

The President, expressed concern over the delay in replanting because it takes ordinarily one month for the seeds to mature as seedlings and three months for the seedlings to grow and produce grains.

The President earlier directed the DANR to procure at least 100,000 sacks of palay seeds so that they could be loaned to farmers at the rate of one cavan per hectare, payable from their harvest.

The President likewise, directed the DANR to:

(1) Look into the feasibility of utilizing the three government rain-making planes in the southern provinces, particularly in Cotabato and Davao, where a drought has been reported.

(2) Organize an anti-rat infestation campaign as well as a drive on the increased use of fertilizers to at least partially minimize the expected rice shortage as a result of the typhoons and floods.

Among other actions, the President consented to the sending of a delegation by the Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation to the Munich Olympics "provided it is a 'token delegation'", no government money would be spent for it, and the per diems of the members of the delegation would be reduced from \$15 to \$5.

Later in the day, the President received Jarold Keiffer, assistant USAID administrator, and Russel McClure, USAID disaster coordinator, who arrived; from; Washington to find out first hand the extent of damages caused by the flood and to determine how their government could be &f further assistance to the Philippines.

The USAID officials were accompanied to Malacañang by U.S. Ambassador Henry Byroade.

In the evening, the President held preliminary discussions with Felipe F. Cruz, representative of the Philippine Contractors' Association, as well as with government officials involved in rehabilitation work, on the financing aspects of various rehabilitation projects, including a crash program to cement 100 kilometers of roads in the Greater Manila area, and 1,000 kilometers of national highways.

Also present at the conference were Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, RCA Chairman-General Manager Eliseo Villamor, Public Highways Commissioner Baltazar Aquino, and Brig. Gen. Amado Santiago, commander of the 51st Engineering Battalion.

In the afternoon, the President conducted an ocular survey of the roads damaged by the floods in the city of Manila and checked on repair work being done by men of the Bureau of Public Highways and AFP engineering battalion.

Back in Malacañang about 6:30 p.m., the President met with members of the Malacañang Press Corps.

August 5—

THE PRESIDENT made a nationwide radio-television report to the nation, even as he called on the entire Filipino citizenry to take an active individual share in the reconstruction of the country.

Pointing out that government would not be able to do the job of reconstruction and rehabilitation alone, he appealed to the citizenry “to now take it upon yourselves to participate in this rebuilding program. Let it be a program of love, let it be a program of work, manual work, if necessary. Let every man pick up a shovel or fork or any instrument of work and participate-in the effort to rebuild our country once again,”

Earlier in the evening, the President had a three-hour meeting with the Cabinet, leaders of Congress, and representatives of all sectors, including religious and civic leaders, media, loggers, producers and contractors.

During the meeting, the President gave the go-signal for the implementation of the national reconstruction and rehabilitation program after being assured that there were available funds for the purpose.

The President also ordered:

- (1) Implementation of the plan to set up a “green belt” around Manila.
- (2) Priority be given in the distribution of relief goods to the towns bordering Candaba swamp, which were the hardest hit.
- (3) The assignment of army pilots to fly the three government rain-making planes to Davao and Cotabato.
- (4) The Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources to remind the Fertilizer Institute of its” pledge to lower the cost of fertilizers after its loans had been restructured by the Philippine National Bank.
- (5) Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco to release immediately P8 million to the Department of Health, P1 million to the Presidential Arm on Community Development, and P50,000 to the Department of Education.
- (6) The Development Bank of the Philippines and Highways Commissioner Baltazar Aquino to study the linkage system in connection with the need for cement in the reconstruction program.
- (7) The increase of forest guards from 900 to 4,000.
- (8) The continued suspension of classes for another week in the Greater Manila area, Pampanga, Tarlac, Pangasinan and Nueva Ecija, and the towns of Hagonoy, Paombong and Calumpit, Bulacan, on recommendation of acting Education Secretary Narciso Albarracin.

Among those present at the meeting were Senate President Gil J. Puyat, Speaker Gornelio T. Villareal, Senate President Protempore Jose J. Roy,

Speaker Protempore Jose Aldeguer, Senate Majority Floor Leader Arturo M. Tolentino, House Majority Floor Leader Marcelino Veloso;

Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, Finance Secretary Cesar E. A. Virata, Health Secretary Clemente Gatmaitan, Justice Secretary Vicente Abad Santos, Labor Secretary Bias F. Ople, Agriculture Secretary Arturo R. Tanco, Jr., Social Welfare Secretary Estefania Aldaba-Lim, Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado Estrella, Press Secretary Francisco S. Tatad, Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, Acting Education Secretary Narciso Albarracin; General Services Secretary Constancio Castaneda;

Chairman Gerardo Sicat of the National Economic Council; Chairman Eliseo Villamor of the Rice and Corn Administration; Director-General Apolinario Orosa of the Presidential Economic Staff; Chairman Florencio Medina of the National Science Development Board; Governor Gregorio Licaros of the Central Bank; SSS Administrator Gilberto Teodoro, GSIS General Manager Roman Cruz, Jr., OEC Administrator Eduardo Rodriguez; P’NB President Eusebio Villatuya;

Senators Ambrosio Padilla and Helena Z. Benitez, Rep. Rogelio Tiglao of Pampanga, Mons. Mariano Gaviola, Jr., Florentino Cayco, representing the fishing industry; Eduardo Escobar and Felipe Cruz, representing private contractors; and Ady Sison, representing Alfredo Montelibano.

August 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered the inclusion of oil and its derivatives in the list of prime commodities previously authorized for requisitioning and immediate distribution to flood victims in disaster areas even as he kept tabs of the rehabilitation works in the flooded areas of Central Luzon and the Greater Manila area.

Included under the new order were gasoline, kerosene, crude oil, bunker fuel and lubricants.

The President issued the order upon receiving reports of fuel shortages in the flood-stricken provinces which threatened to paralyze transportation, industries, communications and other essential facilities requiring oil products.

In the afternoon, the President visited the hydraulic laboratory and research projects of the bureau of public works where continuous studies on flood control and drainage problems, particularly in Central Luzon, were being made.

Accompanied by Public Works Director Alejandro Deleña, the President boarded a launch on the Pasig river beside Malacafiang shortly after 5 p.m., and sailed upstream to Punta, Sta. Ana where the research project was installed.

The Chief Executive said that high priority would be given to the clearing of esteros so as to minimize the flooding in Manila and suburbs.

The President returned to Malacafiang at 6:30 p.m.

August 7—

THE PRESIDENT, together with the First Lady, left for Baguio, on the first leg of their visit to Northern Luzon areas damaged by flood.

The First Couple left Manila by plane at 8:30 a.m. and landed at the San Fernando airport in La Union due to poor visibility at the Loakan airport in Baguio.

From San Fernando, they boarded cars and motored up to Baguio, proceeding directly to the city hall for a conference with local officials actively engaged in relief and rehabilitation work.

In the course of the conference, the President declared a moratorium on all loans contracted by disaster victims with government financing institution.

The President also informed the local officials of his order for the release of P20,000 for Baguio and P30,000 for Benguet for the local purchase of relief supplies for immediate distribution to destitute families.

The First Lady for her part asked the farmers to prepare listings of their seed requirements as well as fertilizers and pesticides.

She pointed out that foreign governments have always indicated their readiness to help out the Philippines and would only be too willing to extend assistance.

The First Lady, on arrival in Baguio, immediately launched an inoculation program.

Among those present at the conference were Gov. Juvenal K. Guerrero, Reps. Jose D. Aspiras and Joaquin Ortega of La Union, Gov. Benjamin Palispis and Rep. Andres Cosalan of Benguet, Mayor Luis Lardizabal, Public Works Secretary David M. Consunji.

August 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS formally launched the nation's massive rehabilitation program designed to head off serious dislocation of the economy following one of the most-destructive floods to hit the country in years. The President returned to his Malacañang-in-the-Field headquarters in Lingayen, Pangasinan where he personally distributed palay seeds as well as seeds of assorted short-time crops to farmers whose fields had been wiped out by the floodwaters.

Work on the repair and reconstruction of damaged roads, bridges and other public installations also went into full swing all over the disaster areas with the view to restoring transportation arteries and expedite the return to normalcy of these localities.

"Unless the normal flow of traffic is restored there are bound to be shortages in essential commodities and people in the affected areas would continue to suffer," the President said.

Taking a helicopter, the Chief Executive went around La Union and Pangasinan towns urging public works engineers and government agricultural technicians in the field to hurry up the reconstruction of damaged installations and the extension of assistance for the rehabilitation of agricultural farms.

The President also directed the fieldmen of the Bureau of Plant Industry to cut down the red tape in the distribution of palay seeds to farmers; whom he found were made to sign a number of forms before being given their share of seeds for replanting.

In Lingayen, the President also held a series of conference with various officials from the ravaged provinces.

The President returned about 1 p.m. to San Fernando, La Union where he had lunch at the Philippine Navy base in Poro Point.

He then resumed his conference with local officials over the progress of relief and rehabilitation work in their respective jurisdictions.

August 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS decided to fly to Ilocos Norte before returning to "Manila following their visit to Baguio, the mountain provinces, Pangasinan and La Union.

Arriving in Laoag about 10 a.m. from San Fernando, La Union where they spent the night, the First Couple was met at the Gabu airport by large delegations from Ilocos Norte and nearby provinces.

At the airport, the President found two helicopters of the Chinese Air Force, which were part of a fleet of 30 planes, consisting of 25 cargo planes, two P-123 troop carriers, two helicopters and one C-47.

The President and the First Lady met the crewmen during which they were informed that their fleet ferried 100 tons of relief goods, including: canned goods, preserved meat and C-rations.

From the airport, the First Couple together with their children Imee, Bongbong and Irene, headed a long motorcade to the city cathedral for Te Deum.

Then they proceeded to the local Divine Word-College where they-attended a memorial program for the late Gov. Roque Ablan, Sr. on the occasion of the 66th birth anniversary of-the late governor.

The President spent the rest of the day conferring-with-local-executive of Ilocos Norte and other provinces.

August 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS congratulated government highway engineers for the speedy repair of the Bued river bridge in Rosario, La Union which was reopened to general traffic. It is the only road artery to the Ilocos region.

In a message flashed from the Presidential plane en route back to Manila from Laoag, Ilocos Norte, the President at 10 a.m. told the engineers:

“Congratulations for the fast restoration of Bued river bridge to general traffic. People from the North certainly are grateful. Keep up the good work.”

Upon arrival in Malacañang, the President ordered the mapping, by aerial photography of rivers in Manila and Central Luzon, even as he directed the Department of Public Works and Communications to get old maps of these rivers with the view to determining the illegal constructions thereat.

The President likewise ordered the removal of said illegal constructions should the owners themselves fail to remove them.

He directed the Secretary of Public Works and Communications to coordinate with the Philippine Air Force and the Bureau of Lands on the taking of aerial photographs, starting with the Pasig River, and to pinpoint to him who are squatting “whether they are big or small.”

In issuing the order, the President also appealed to corporations and persons concerned to cooperate with the national government in its efforts to prevent floods in Manila by clearing the channel of the Pasig River and the esteros.

The President also directed the Department of Public Works and Communications to start the dredging of Bulacan River and the clearing up of a channel to provide an outlet for the floodwaters.

The President continued devoting most of his time to the urgent task of relief and rehabilitation. Among the reports he received was that of the Infrastructure Operations Center on road repairs being undertaken in the Greater Manila area by the Bureau of Public Highways and army engineers.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: August 11-17, 1972

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

August 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a two-hour conference in the afternoon with financial and technical advisers to explore possible sources of funds for rehabilitation and revise the infrastructure program of the government so as to give emphasis on rehabilitation projects.

Among those present at the conference were Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., PES Director-General Apolinario Orosa, CB Governor Gregorio Licaros, Highways Commissioner Baltazar Aquino, Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, Public Works Secretary David M. Consunji, and Finance Secretary Cesar E. A. Virata.

Also present at the conference were Agriculture Secretary Arturo R. Tanco, Ambassador Roberto Benedicto, Public Works Director Alejandro Deleña and Irrigation Administrator Alfredo Juinio.

The President continued focusing on the progress of relief and rehabilitation work as he spent the whole morning going over reports from-government agencies involved in the program.

Following his afternoon conference, the President directed the use of Philippine Navy boats in the distribution of relief aid in the bayshore towns of Laguna de Bay.

Then the President had an interview with Malacañang newsmen early in the evening.

August 12—

THE PRESIDENT declared a state of public calamity in nine Visayan and Mindanao provinces which had experienced long periods of severe droughts.

Covered by the proclamation (Proclamation No. 1060) were the provinces of Leyte, Bohol, Capiz, Cotabato, South Cotabato, Davao del Norte, Lanao del Sur, Iloilo and Surigao del Norte.

The President also ordered the seizure and confiscation of all sugar stocks stored in warehouses, refineries, sugar mill premises and other establishments in the entire island of Luzon, including the Greater Manila area, and their distribution through legitimate outlets to the general public and industrial users at prices fixed by the Price Control Council.

The directive was issued to the Secretary of National Defense, the Secretary of Commerce and Industry, the chief of the Philippine Constabulary and the Sugar Quota Administrator.

The President issued the order after domestic sugar continued to be scarce in the market, amidst the raising clamor from the nation's housewives for the commodity which is essential to the health of every man, woman and child.

In the course of the day, the President, together with the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, received;

(1) Officers of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce who presented a donation for the flood victims. With them in calling at Malacañang was Chinese Ambassador Liu Chien.

(2) Theodore H. Mecke, Jr., vice president for public affairs of Ford Motors Company, who likewise presented a check for \$37,125 (₱250,000) from Ford Motors Company for the relief of the disaster victims. Antonio Floirendo, who was with Mecke, also presented a check for ₱35,000 from Ely Black of the Mindanao Fruit Corporation.

The President expressed thanks and appreciation to the donors. He requested Ambassador Chien to convey the gratitude of the Filipino people to the government and people of the Republic of China for their generous manifestation of friendship and sympathy for the victims of the recent floods and typhoons.

“On behalf of the people of the Philippines, our government, and my own, may I extend to you and through you to the government and people of China, our gratitude for this manifestation of friendship and sympathy,” the President said.

In the afternoon, the President met with representatives of the Fertilizer Institute to whom he appealed for a reduction of the price of fertilizers so that the farmers could increase production to minimize the adverse effects of the typhoons, floods and droughts on rice production.

The President warned that unless everybody cooperated and forgot about profits, the country would face a bad rice shortage. “We should not equate the profit motive with the welfare and interests of our people,” he added.

Those who conferred with the President were Messrs. Cayetano Pineda, Leonie Gonzalez, Manny Dizon, George Marcelo and Ady Sison.

Early in the evening, the President received the crewmen of three Chinese Air Force planes and helicopters who flew relief and rescue missions over Central Luzon. The Chinese pilot called at Malacañang before leaving for Taipei.

In bidding goodbye to the CAF officers, the President requested them to convey personally to President Chiang Kai-Shek and Premier Chang Ching Kuo the gratitude and appreciation of the Filipino people for their manifestation of sympathy and friendship.

Led by Col, Wong Teh-fu and Lt. Cols. Ho Kai-wan and Chou Chi Whao, the group included Majors Yay “ian Lean, Chang Sheng Chuan, Lieu Sayh Jung, Chang Lin Sheng, Chao Asui Feng and Kuo Seng Tin.

They were accompanied to the President by Brig. Gen. Jose Rancudo, PAF chief; Lt. Col. David David, and Col. Chang Wei Lieh, air attache at the local Chinese embassy.

Following the call of the Chinese pilots, the President swore in Col. Pedro Mendoza as acting deputy commissioner of customs, vice Pedro Pacis who had retired.

August 13—

THE PRESIDENT spent almost the whole day working on official papers in his private study and keeping in touch with government agencies engaged in relief and rehabilitation work.

The only caller received by the President was General Tjokro Pranolo, personal representative of President Suharto of Indonesia who presented to him a donation of 10 tons of powdered baby milk from the government of Indonesia for the flood victims.

In receiving the donation, the President requested General Pranolo to convey the appreciation and gratitude of the Filipino people for the demonstration of “oneness and unity in time of crisis.”

He also expressed the hope that he would be able to convey his personal thanks and gratitude to the Indonesian President and through him the Indonesian government and people.

General Pranolo was accompanied to Malacañang by the crew members of the Indonesian Air Force cargo plane which brought the donation to Manila and Indonesian Ambassador Kusno Utomo.

August 14—

SPEAKING for the second time in as many weeks over radio and television, President Marcos called on the business and industrial sectors to abandon the profit motive during the period of national crisis so as not to jeopardize the public welfare.

The President likewise exhorted the public to actively participate in the maintenance of a system of prices of commodities and in cleaning up the premises of waste and garbage.

He called on the citizenry to inform the proper authorities like the Price Control Council, the Secretary of National Defense, the Secretary of Commerce and Industry, as well as his office, if necessary, of any withholding of foodstuff such as sugar by traders or outlets.

In like manner, he asked the public to report to the authorities any misconduct on the part of any public official or employee in relation to the distribution and sale of food supplies.

The President also appealed to the citizens not to wait for the initiatives of government but to take it upon themselves to clean up their premises.

Earlier in the day, the President conferred the Presidential Unit Citation Badge on the different U.S. civilian and military task forces which participated in the massive relief and rescue operations in flood-stricken provinces.

In ceremonies held at Malacañang shortly before noon, the President also awarded the Philippine Legion of Honor, rank of commander, on Lieut. Gen. Marvin L. McNickle, outgoing commander of the U.S. 13th Air Force at Clark Field and member of the RP-US Mutual Defense Board, for having “consistently demonstrated a genuine concern for the development of the posture of Philippine defense against external aggression.”

“The selfless efforts of the officers and men of these units helped immeasurably in the rescue, evacuation, inoculation and medical treatment of disaster victims as well as in the timely delivery of medical and food supplies to inundated communities.

The President pinned the Presidential Unit Citation Badge on 20 officers and men with ranks ranging from Lieutenant General down to Sergeant who received the award on behalf of their organizations.

The civilian U.S. Disaster Task Force was represented by Ambassador Henry Byroade, while the military representation was headed by Rear Admiral John H. Dick, representative in the Philippines of the commander-in-chief of the U.S. Naval Forces in the Pacific.

At the ceremonies were Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, Maj. Gen. Rafael Ileto, AFP vice chief of staff; Brig. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, PC chief; Brig. Gen. Jose Rancudo, PAF chief; Commodore Hilario M. Ruiz, PN chief; and other ranking AFP officers.

August 15—

THE PRESIDENT formally opened the Second International Convention of the Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor with a prayer for peace with freedom and individual dignity.

Addressing the delegates, the President said that aside from renewing ties of comradeship, “we must also use this occasion to join men and women everywhere who daily plead for peace and the right to live.”

“Therefore let the lesson we learned in Bataan ring out that while man seeks peace, there can be no peace without justice, without dignity and without freedom,” the President said.

The American delegates were headed by Thomas Hackett, past commander of the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, Inc.; Burton Ellis, representing- American Ex-Prisoners of War; Col. George Moore of the 45th Philippine Scouts, and Mrs. Edith Knowles, president of the Gold Star Wives Association of America.

Filipino delegates, included Col. Rizalino P. Lacuna, national commander; Brig. Gen. Constante Cruz, vice commander; Defense Undersecretary Manuel Q. Salientes, national director; Col. Antonio Vinluan, national finance officer; Florentino de Guzman, Col. Sixto Dante, Col. Raymundo Paredes, and other chapter commanders.

In the afternoon, the President and the First Lady received Ambassador and Mrs. John Curie of Great Britain who called to say goodbye before leaving for London.

In making a farewell call, the Curies conveyed their gratitude and appreciation to the Filipino people for giving them a fruitful and very pleasant stay during the ambassador’s tour of duty in the Philippines.

The President and the First Lady, in turn, thanked them for their efforts to forge closer ties of friendship between the Philippines and their country, and expressed the hope that they would always remain true friends of the Filipinos and help advance the cause of the Philippines whenever occasion arises.

August 16—

THE PRESIDENT conferred with Congress leaders on vital administration measures which he had earlier certified to the third special session of Congress.

The President called the meeting to determine as well the monetary policy the country should adopt in view of the discussions of the National Economic Recovery Bill in Congress.

The President said that the bill pending in Congress has something to do with matters so fundamental that they would require changes in other policies of government because almost all policies spring from the monetary exchange policy.

Present during the conference were Senate President Gil J. Puyat, Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal, Speaker Protempore Jose Aldeguer, Finance Secretary Cesar E. A. Virata and Central Bank Governor Gregorio S. Licaros.

In the course of the day, the President thanked the United Nations for the assistance extended to the flood victims and at the same time urged the UN to work out an organization which would moderate typhoon and weather conditions in general.

The President conveyed the gratitude of the entire people of the Philippines to the UN through Faruk N. Berkul, UN coordinator for disaster relief, who had been sent to the Philippines to survey the extent of the catastrophe.

“We are glad that the world in general, and now the United Nations, had taken note of the pervasive nature of this disaster and we are also heartened by the fact that relief has come from all sectors, large and small nations,” the President said.

“But more than this,” the President said, “I hope the United Nations will look into the Question of a more systematic and scientific approach to typhoon and weather moderation as a long-range plan.”

The UN official assured the President that this was one point he had taken account of “and will keep under active consideration.”

The UN official also said that he would coordinate the relief activities of the UN agencies and donor countries for the Philippines.

Mr. Berkul was accompanied to Malacañang by William Harding, UNDP resident representative; and Ambassador Hortencio Brillantes, Philippine envoy to Geneva.

Also present during Berkul's call were Senate President Gil J. Puyat, Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal, Senator Ambrosio Padilla, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., and Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes.

Among other actions, the President ordered the establishment of a national office to handle garbage and waste disposal. He:

- (1) Asked the local executives in the Greater Manila area to meet and agree on a general program on waste disposal.
- (2) Designated Public Works Director Alejandro Deleña as coordinator of the task of setting up an integrated waste and garbage disposal program.
- (3) Directed Chairman Reynaldo Lesaca of the Anti-Pollution Commission to look into the pollution aspects of garbage and waste disposal and to make the necessary recommendations.
- (4) Ordered a study on the possibility of draining the Laguna de Bay of floodwaters by widening the Napindan River, which is the only outlet.

August 17—

THE PRESIDENT conferred with sugar planters and traders in Malacañang in view of complaints of a sugar shortage and profiteering after he had issued the order and started the sale of seized sugar stocks at government prices.

During the conference, the traders pledged their cooperation and in that spirit, placed all their personnel, organizational machinery and trucks at the disposal of the government to insure the smooth distribution of the commodity.

Commerce Secretary and concurrently Price Control Council Chairman Troadio Quiazon, Jr., said there was no shortage but that the scarcity was due to lack of distribution facilities.

Present at the conference, besides Secretary Quiazon and Sugar Quota Administrator Jose Unson, were Chito Santos of CAREBI, representing sugar refineries; Armando Narciso of Insular Refining Company; Mrs. Fe Castillo of YUDECO; Jose V. Mapa, Jr., secretary of the Philippine Sugar Refinery Association; Elias Coscoluela of Founders Sugarlandia; Ady Sison for the planters; Francisco Varua, Angel Dizon, Jose Mari Chan, Alex Limjoco, Danny Nakpil, Alfredo Villafana and Irineo S. Juan, representing traders; and Senator Alejandro Almendras, representing Davao sugar planters.

Earlier in the day, the President received the city councilors of Davao City who sought approval of H. Bill No. 4456, increasing the basic salaries of Davao City officials.

During their talks, the President reiterated the basic policy of not giving salary increases and promotions to government employees, as part of the retrenchment policy and to generate funds for the rehabilitation program.

The President told the delegations that there was a plan for general increases in salaries of city and provincial officials but that in view of the calamity "all salary increases had been temporarily suspended."

Also received by the President were the officials of the Olympic delegation led by Senator Ambrosio Padilla, president of the Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation.

The President told the officials of the Olympic delegation to keep expenses within the ₱300,000 earmarked for the delegation by the PAAF and any other amounts donated by different organizations.

We are going to absolutely inhibit the expenditure of government funds for this so that our people will realize we are not going to spend money which otherwise could be spent for relief and rehabilitation,” he said.

The President directed the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office to divert the ₱200,000 earmarked for the Philippine Olympic delegation to the national rehabilitation program.

With Senator Padilla were Ernie Bitong, Col. Arsenio de Borja, Elpidio Doroteo, Peter Calibo, Fernando Bautista, Jr., Jose Bereciarte, Col. Jaime Villafuerte, Ramon Lim, Enrique Quema, Julian Malonzo and Geruncio Lacuesta.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: August 18-24, 1972

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

August 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS focused on desk work and other urgent matters of state.

He was particularly concerned about ways and means of speeding up relief and rehabilitation work in the flood-stricken provinces of Northern and Central Luzon and in some bayshore towns affected by the swelling of the Laguna de Bay.

August 19—

THE PRESIDENT conferred with national officials and local executives of the Greater Manila' area in order to effect closer coordination and cooperation between the national and local governments on the various aspects of rehabilitation.

Thoroughly discussed in the meeting were the flood control and sewerage program, the road and street cementing, and the cleaning of garbage and waste.

The President pointed out that he was compelled to take a direct hand in what is fundamentally the responsibility of local governments because the problem has grown to such an extent as to constitute a national problem.

He created a task force to attend to the flood control program, garbage and waste disposal, with Public Works Director Alejandro Deleña as coordinator.

The President emphasized to the local officials that these essential services are fundamentally their primary responsibility and that the national government would only coordinate all their efforts and facilities.

Present at the meeting were Justice Secretary Vicente Abad Santos, Health Secretary Clemente Gatmaitan, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Agriculture Secretary Arturo Tanco, Chairman Gerardo Sicat of the National Economic Council, Undersecretary Manuel Q. Salientes of National Defense, Directors Alejandro Deleña of Public Works and Vicente Valdellon of Lands, Chairman Reynaldo Lesaca of the Anti-Pollution Commission, Chairman Pacifico Lopez de Leon of the Infrastructure Operations Center, Commissioner Andres Mane of Fisheries;

Mayors Pablo Cuneta of Pasay City and Osmundo de Guzman of Marikina, Rizal; Asst. Fiscals Melecio S. Peña of Quezon City, Octavio F. Basa of Manila, Roman Gargantiel and Jose Flameniano of Pasay City, Jesse S. Lee representing Mayor Joseph Estrada of San Juan, Rizal; Florencio R. Perez, representing Mayor Renato Lopez of Mandaluyong; Augusto F. Perez and Fernando S. Ungson, representing Mayor Marcial Samson of Caloocan City, Isaias Alo and others representing Makati, Rizal.

Earlier in the morning, the President conferred the Distinguished Order of Kalantiao (first class) on Associate Justice J.B.L. Reyes of the Supreme Court at ceremonies held in Malacañang.

In a toast following the ceremony, the President told a large group of Cabinet officials, members of the judiciary, friends and relatives of the awardee: "I ask you to rise and join me in a toast to a man whose services we will miss in government and in our society, a man, who has helped put life into the dry letter of the law, gave spirit to the strictures of the Constitution and helped established a social conscience in our country and society."

In thanking the President for the award, Justice Reyes said it showed how deeply the President appreciates the role of the Supreme Court in the administration of justice.

“I realize, however, that you could not confer this Order on the court itself because there will be a lot of evil-minded men who would try and consider it as an attempt to influence the court,” Justice Reyes said.

Among those present at the ceremony were members of the Cabinet led by Secretary Vicente Abad Santos, and of the judiciary, from the Supreme Court down to the lowest level, headed by Chief Justice Roberto Conception.

Early in the afternoon, the President received Eugene Torre, Filipino chess champion of the Asian zone, who paid a courtesy call.

He was accompanied to Malacañang by members of the Philippine Chess Federation led by Manuel Lara, secretary of the federation.

August 20—

THE PRESIDENT worked at his desk, even as he kept in touch from time to time with his assistants in the Malacañang-in-the-Field office to check on the progress of the rehabilitation work in the flood-stricken areas of Northern and Central Luzon.

August 21—

THE PRESIDENT continued concentrating on urgent official papers and other state business.

Except for some department heads who consulted him on matters concerning their respective offices, the President did not receive other callers.

August 22—

THE PRESIDENT conducted an hour-long aerial survey of the communal fishing grounds and rivers in Bulacan and Pampanga.

In Hagonoy, the President saw public works men dismantling illegally constructed fishpond dikes within the communal fishing grounds.

In the course Of the survey, the President reiterated his order to the Department of Public Works and Communications to tear down all illegally constructed fishpond dikes in Bulacan, as well as to stop the construction of dikes in the province which appeared to have been started on the onset of the floods that devastated Central Luzon.

The President also directed the public works department to clear the Labangan Channel as soon as possible. The President had ordered the release of P10 million for the purpose.

With the President in conducting the survey were Public Works and Communications Secretary David M. Consunji, Public Works Director Alejandro Deleña, Bulacan Governor Ignacio Santiago, Provincial District Engineer Jose Regalado and other provincial officials.

While attending to desk work in the afternoon, the President, among others directed Justice Secretary Vicente Abad Santos and Solicitor General Estelito Mendoza to analyze the Supreme Court decision on parity rights and to submit their recommendations.

The President said that measures be promptly adopted to avert the possible commission of abuse in the enforcement of the Supreme Court ruling by public officials.

August 23—

THE PRESIDENT received a string of callers, composed mostly of members of Congress and local executives, who apprised him of problems in their respective jurisdictions.

Among the actions taken by the President was to issue a directive to Chairman Eliseo Villamor of the Rice and Corn Administration to adopt more expeditious ways of rice distribution, particularly in the flooded areas.

“We must adopt extremely expeditious manners of distributing rice to prevent the people from going hungry,” the President said.

Irrked by the report of Rep. Joaquin Chipeco, Jr. of Laguna and Mayor Lorenzo Meneses of Los Baños, the President directed the RCA official to allow the sale of rice without repacking.

Other callers included Senators Leonardo Perez and Rene Espina, Reps. Manuel Zosa, Ramon Durano, Gaudencio Beduya, and Emerito Calderon of Cebu, Vicente Cerilles of Zamboanga del Sur, Leopoldo Diaz and Angel Concepcion of Nueva Ecija, Pedro Medalia of Mindoro Occidental, Amando Cope of Albay, Fermin Caram, Jr. of Iloilo, Simeon Valdez of Ilocos Norte, Francisco Reyes and Joaquin Roces of Manila, Constancio Maglana of Davao Oriental, Antonio Villar of Pangasinan, Jose Neri of Camiguin, and Felipe Almazan of Kalinga-Apayao, and Gov. Carlos Cajelo of Cotabato.

Earlier in the day, the President conferred the ancient Order of Sikatuna, rank of datu, on Foreign Minister Yong Shik Kim of Korea who paid his respect on the President at Malacañang, following his arrival for a three-day visit.

The President extended the sympathies of the Filipino people to the people of Korea who have also suffered from floods, and at the same time conveyed through Minister Yong the gratitude and appreciation of the Filipino people to the Koreans for their generous donations to the Central Luzon flood victims.

In presenting the Sikatuna award, the President cited the visiting Korean dignitary for “his noteworthy espousal in the United Nations of measures to insure the maintenance of international peace and security.”

The Korean dignitary was accompanied to Malacañang by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, Undersecretary Manuel Collantes, Ambassador Se Ryun Kim of Korea, and the members of the minister's entourage.

August 24—

THE PRESIDENT met with the Cabinet to analyze the Supreme Court decision on parity rights and to discuss measures toward preventing confusion, or possible dislocation of the economy, which might result from a possible misinterpretation of the decision.

During the two-hour meeting, the President took up, among others:

- 1) The position the government would adopt in the event a motion for reconsideration of the Supreme Court decision is filed.
- 2) The steps to be taken by the various departments, offices and agencies of the government in the event the decision is retained by the Supreme Court.
- 3) The reports submitted by the Justice Committee headed by Justice Secretary Vicente Abad Santos and the Economic Committee headed by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr.

The President directed the two committees to continue their studies and to submit further recommendations pending submission of the motion, for reconsideration by the adverse party.

The President' also ordered a complete and in-depth study by the various, departments, offices and agencies concerned, on the effects of the decision on the national economy as a whole.

The-President pointed out that while the Supreme Court decision is not yet final it is necessary that preparations be taken in the event it becomes final.

During the meeting, the President also directed:

- 1) Rice and Corn Administration Chairman and General Manager Eliseo Villamor to improve the rice distribution system.
- 2) All department heads to prepare programs of expenditures of their allotments under the P300-million Calamity Fund.

Present at the meeting were Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Secretaries Clemente Gatmaitan of Health, David Consunji of Public Works and Communications Cesar Virata of Finance, Carlos P. Romulo of Foreign Affairs, Juan L. Manuel of Education, Blas F. Ople of Labor, Conrado Estrella of Agrarian Reforms, Constancio Castaneda of General Services, Juan Ponce Enrile of National Defense, Vicente Abad Santos of Justice, Troadio Quiazon, Jr. of Commerce and Industry Estefania Aldaba-Lim of Social Welfare, Arturo Tanco of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Press Secretary Francisco S. Tatad, Chairman Gerardo Sicat of the National Economic Council, Chairman Vicente Paterno of the Board of Investments, Chairman Mama Sinsuat of the Commission on National Integration, RCA Chairman and General Manager Eliseo Villamor, Commissioner Gregorio Bilog, Jr. of Land Registration, Solicitor General Estelito Mendoza, Justice Undersecretary Efren Plana, Director, General Apolinario Orosa of the Presidential Economic Staff, Deputy Budget Commissioner Juan Agcaoile, Central Bank Governor Gregorio S. Licaros, and Directors Fernando Busuego of Mines, Jose Viado of Forestry and Vicente Valdellon of Lands.

Before presiding over the Cabinet meeting, the President received the credentials of Ambassador Daniel Laor, as envoy of Israel to the Philippines, vice Ambassador Yaacob Avnon, who had been recalled to Tel Aviv for reassignment.

During the ceremony, the President said that world peace could be attained if all nations and all peoples exerted their utmost toward this end.

The President said that the people of the Philippines would not hesitate to join forces with those who sincerely wish to create a better world society, through cooperative efforts to uplift the dignity and stature of man.

The President also took occasion to extend the sincere thanks and appreciation of the people and government of the Philippines to the people and government of Israel for their "immediate, unreserved and generous response to our worldwide appeal for help and relief occasioned by one of the worst natural calamities ever to visit our country."

In presenting his credentials, Ambassador Laor conveyed the sympathies of his government and people to the flood victims and at the same time expressed admiration for the ability of the Filipino people, under the President's leadership, to weather the crisis.

Present at the ceremony were members of the Cabinet, including Secretary Carlos P. Romulo and Undersecretary Manuel Collantes of Foreign Affairs, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Press Secretary Francisco S. Tatad, Labor Secretary Blas F. Ople, Health Secretary Clemente Gatmaitan, Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado Estrella, and Central Bank Governor Gregorio S. Licaros.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: August 25-31, 1972

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

August 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS conferred with leaders of Congress to press for the passage of the important revenue measures still pending in Congress, in view of the proximity of the adjournment of the third special session.

Discussed at the two-hour meeting were the Tariff and Customs Code omnibus amendments, amendment to the tax on cigarettes, removal of all exemptions from taxes or subsidies, public works bill, especially the items for reconstruction and rehabilitation arising out of the flood and other calamities, and amendments to R.A. No. 917 otherwise known as the Special Highways Fund Law.

The President also called attention to the Grain Authority bill, Philippine National Bank bill, Oil Exploration [Bank bill, bills providing sources of fund for the calamity law, bills authorizing borrowings from foreign sources for the calamity; and the Cooperatives bill.

On the implications of the Supreme Court decision on parity fights, the President and the Congress leaders decided to call an Executive-Legislative meeting after the special session.

Present at the meeting were Senate President Gil J. Puyat, Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal, Senators Arturo M. Tolentino and Lorenzo Teves, House Majority Floorleader Marcelino Veloso; Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Secretaries David M. Consunji of Public Works and Vicente Abad Santos of Justice, Deputy Budget Commissioner Juan Agcaoili, Assistant Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora and others.

At mid-morning, the President went on a three-hour “rib-cracking” drive through Manila, streets, and inspected the rehabilitation work being done by engineers of the Bureau of Public Highways and city engineers, as well.

The President was accompanied by Reps. Joaquin R. Roces and Francisco G. Reyes, and Highways Commissioner Baltazar Aquino.

The President told newsmen later that he would submit to Congress a bill creating a Greater Manila Transport Authority, which he considered a new approach to the transportation problem.

The President devoted the rest of the afternoon and early evening to official papers.

August 26—

THE PRESIDENT flew over the Napindan River in the morning to check with experts on what could be done to relieve the still inundated barrios around Laguna de Bay.

In the course of the aerial survey, the President directed the Department of Public Works and Communications to study stop-gap and long-range measures that would hasten the withdrawal of floodwaters from the lakeshore areas.

The President concentrated on desk work in the afternoon.

August 27—

THE PRESIDENT led in the national commemoration of National Heroes Day at the Libingan ng mga Bayani at Fort Bonifacio, Rizal. Addressing the nation at solemn rites held at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at high noon, the President pledged anew the determination of the Filipino people to preserve their freedom at all cost. : “We, the

Filipino people, are ready to pay the price of freedom anywhere, at any time and at any place. Like the Unknown Soldier, we shall demand no/reward nor expect any exceptional recognition, but merely hope our efforts shall indeed buy the freedom that our people desire and dream for.” The President reiterated his warning that an alien ideology, using the very freedom that the Unknown Soldier had fought for and won, was trying to subvert and destroy the government.

“Therefore,” the President said, “it is necessary that we place on record before the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier that we recognize our duties and obligations and that we shall never fail them” After the brief remarks, the President walked to the foot of the Tomb and laid a wreath, offered a few moments of silent prayer and saluted. Those who also laid wreaths at the Tomb were Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal, Senator Lorenzo Teves and Mrs. Yolanda Veloso. representing Senator Helena Z. Benitez, and Dean Gloria Santos of the Philippine Historical Association. Also present at the ceremonies were Justice Secretary Vicente Abad Santos, Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, General Romeo C. Espino, AFP chief of staff; Brig. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, PC chief; Brig. Gen. Rafael G. Zagala, PA commander; and members of the Philippine Historical Association led by Chairman Esteban de Ocampo. The President worked on urgent state papers in the afternoon.

August 28—

THE PRESIDENT received U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye, chairman of the foreign affairs subcommittee of the U.S. senate committee on appropriations, following his arrival for a five-day survey of flood-stricken areas in Luzon.

The President gave the senator an intensive briefing on the extent of the damage wrought by the destructive flood which hit the country. He told the U.S. lawmaker that the Philippine government would impose additional tax burden on its people to finance a massive relief and rehabilitation program.

Asked about the ideological threat to the country, the President-Assured the visiting senator that “subversion here is under control” and that “the principal problem is still the economic” recovery of the nation.”

Inouye told the President that he was here to survey the devastated areas in order to help the U.S. Congress determine what assistance it could extend this country.

The President also received Dr. Helmut Kohl, prime minister of the state of Rheinland-Pfalz (Central Rhineland-palatinate), West Germany, who conveyed the sympathy of the people of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Filipino people following the destructive floods that hit this country.

The President thanked the German official and the German people, saying that such feeling of sympathy was indeed demonstrated by their donation in the form of medicine.

“I am glad that our peoples are helping each other not only in this particular calamity,” the President told Dr. Kohl. “We have also received some loans from Germany to help us in the development of our country.”

The President also took occasion to congratulate the German people for the outstanding economic development in their country, as well as for hosting the Olympic games which, he said, is a “wonderful occasion” for men engaged in athletics to attain objectives which statesmen failed to attain.

With Dr. Kohl in seeing the President were Dr. Alois Mertes, his executive secretary; and Dr. Horst Weisel, charge d’affaires of the local German embassy.

Later, the President had a series of conferences on various matters, particularly on relief and rehabilitation work, with some officials of the Executive Department.

August 29—

THE PRESIDENT told Mayor Ramon D. Bagatsing to proceed with the removal of illegally constructed houses and other structures' in accordance with the President's original directive ordering the clearing of esteros in the Greater Manila area.

The President said that under the principle laid down by the department of justice, to the effect that constructions within river lines may be removed by national and local authorities, the four cities and towns may remove obstructions that impede the smooth flow of water on the esteros after proper notification is given to those affected.

The President also referred to the Department of Public Works and Communications Mayor Bagatsing's request for heavy equipment to be used in the demolition of such obstacles along the esteros.

He likewise referred to the Department of Justice for study the request of Mayor Bagatsing that he initiate action to cancel titles issued by the Bureau of Lands to owners of the buildings in question,

Among the papers that he issued from his desk in the afternoon were proclamations declaring Wednesday, August 30, as a special holiday in San Juan, Rizal and Bulacan province, and Friday, September 1, as a special public holiday in Baguio City.

August 30—

THE PRESIDENT directed Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo to formulate a proposal for the United Nations on the moderation of typhoons, rain and floods and other related natural disasters.

The President also ordered the foreign secretary to seek the world body's participation in affording protection and/or assistance to countries afflicted by said natural disaster.

Earlier in the morning, the President received, among others, the 23-man Hongkong delegation competing in the RP-Hongkong Y.M.C.A. swimfest hosted by the Philippines.

Headed by Chris Polley, a New Zealander, and accompanied by Angel M. Golmenares, assistant executive secretary of the Philippine Y.M.C.A., the members of the delegation called on the President to pay their respect before leaving.

In receiving the delegation, the President expressed the hope that they would be able to promote greater understanding and friendly relations between their country and the Philippines "although you come at a time when/the country is in the midst of a calamity." The President explained that with floods in the North and drought in the South, "we are in a real mess."

August 31—

THE PRESIDENT did not receive callers, and worked instead on official papers in his private study.

In the evening, the President convened Congress to another special session for the enactment of revenue measures on the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Central Luzon and other flood-stricken areas in Laguna, Rizal and Greater Manila area.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: September 1-7, 1972

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

September 1—

PRESIDENT and MRS. MARCOS received U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye who came to say goodbye before leaving, after making an extensive survey of the flood damage.

"I hope I can be an articulate spokesman on the appalling problems we have here," Senator Inouye said, "when I make a personal assessment before the Senate and Congress."

The President and the First Lady thanked the U.S. Senator for his concern for the Filipinos as demonstrated by his trip to the flood areas. They expressed this gratitude on behalf of the people and government of the Philippines, and on their own.

In parting, the President embraced the U.S. senator who, like him had served in World War II, losing his right arm in action. The First Couple bade him bon voyage.

In the course of the day, the President presented the Ancient Order of Sikatuna, rank of datu, to General Maraden Panggabean, Indonesian minister for defense and security and deputy commander-in-chief of the Indon armed forces, in recognition of his contribution to closer understanding and friendship between his country and the Philippines.

In presenting the award, the President expressed the hope that the close understanding now existing between the Philippines and Indonesia shall continue to be further strengthened by frequent exchange, of visits, and that the Philippines and Indonesia, which are joined by geographical propinquity, common ideology, common origin and common destiny, have demonstrated that it is possible for the two countries to move along the lines of the ideals of their forbears long forgotten.

"Today," the President said, "the successors of those forbears who were once united seek unity beyond mere origin, beyond mere governments, beyond mere countries, but in friendship, affection and amity."

In accepting the award, General Panggabean expressed the hope that in line with the independent and active foreign policies of the Philippines and Indonesia, they will go hand in hand together towards the promotion of peace and security in Asia and the Pacific.

The Indonesian official was accompanied by Madame Panggabean, Maj. Gen. Hasnan Habib, assistant for general planning; Col. John Paat, Dr. Hidajat Makmin, Lt. Col. Taianus Hutapea and Maj. Effendi Singgih.

Also present at the ceremony besides the visitor's official entourage were Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, Ambassador Kusno Utomo, Undersecretary Manuel Q. Salientes, General Romeo Espino, AFP chief of staff; and others.

September 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS approved the recommendation of the Board of Investments (BOI) that only five car assemblers be allowed- to participate, in. the country's progressive car manufacturing program.

The President explained that the appeals and petitions for reconsideration of the decision of the Board of Investments on the car manufacturing program, as well as the evidence and arguments submitted, do not constitute sufficient justification for altering the BOI's recommendation. The President, however, warned that each of the

proponents that qualified must comply with its proposals in every given year. Failure to do so would mean disqualification at that particular stage of their participation.

In the afternoon, he held a press conference at the Malacañang State Dining Room, during which he also took occasion to call on owners of properties who may be prejudiced by the restoration of esteros and waterways in Manila and other areas to voluntarily dismantle those illegal construction.

“I would like to appeal to those who may be prejudiced to note that there are times when we must disregard personal interest for the national welfare. It is necessary that we open these esteros and it would be best if we are not disagreeable,” the President said. The clearing of the esteros and waterways would redound to the public good, the President stressed, “and there is no compromise on that.”

September 3—

THE PRESIDENT did not receive any callers and instead worked on official papers and other matters of state in his private study.

September 4—

THE PRESIDENT conferred with rural development, animal industry, plant industry and fisheries officials on rehabilitation measures in flood-ravaged areas.

During the conference, the President directed the release of P2 million for the rehabilitation of damaged crops and livestock. He ordered that P200,000 of the P1 million earmarked for the Fisheries Commission be released immediately so that bangus fries for the replanting of fishponds destroyed “by the flood could be purchased soonest. The President asked the officials to submit their updated programs of rehabilitation and the required funding.

Earlier in the morning, the President and the First Lady received a donation of three and a half tons of assorted vegetable seeds from the Republic of China,

The President thanked the Chinese government and people for the donation, which will be used in the rehabilitation of destroyed agricultural crops.

He likewise thanked the crew members of the People’s Republic of China relief ship “Anting” which brought in relief goods for the flood victims in Central Luzon.

Officials of the relief ship—Capt. Chien Yung Chang, Political Commissar Wang Wai Chieu, and Purser Shy Kua Yung—were to have been received by the President, upon representations of the Philippine National Red Cross with the Appointments Secretary, but they left before the appointed time apparently because they did not want to meet with a Nationalist Chinese group led by Ambassador Liu Chieh.

In accepting the Nationalist Chinese seed donation, the President said that the aid is appreciated by the Filipino people, whether prejudiced by the flood or not.

Accompanying Ambassador Liu Chieh when he turned over the seed donation were Capt. Yu Chengsiang and Chief Engineer Ju-Shen Chang of the Chinese ship *Hai Tai*, and ranking members of the Chinese embassy.

At 12:30 p.m., the President had a luncheon conference with members of the economic mission of the World Bank, during which he presented a single package program on the financing by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development of the repair and reconstruction of 600 kilometers of roads destroyed by the recent floods.

The World Bank officials were Parvez Hassan, Maurice Dickerson and Hendrick Van Helden.

Others who met with the President in the course of the day included Commerce and Industry Secretary Troadio T. Quiazon, who informed him that the basic retail prices of sugar remain the same.

September 5—

THE PRESIDENT received the personnel of the Malacañang Emergency Hospital, whom he congratulated for their good work in healing the sick, mostly flood victims, who had sought treatment at the hospital which was established as part of the relief and rehabilitation efforts. Headed by Cdr. Artemio Pertiza, deputy commander and officer-in-charge of the hospital, and Maj. Jose Magsanoc, the hospital personnel paid their respects to the President and the First Lady.

Toward noon, the President was interviewed by Gerald Green and Jack Reynolds, producer and Asia operations manager, respectively, of the National Broadcasting Corporation, on Philippine policy on cultural minorities.

The NBC man also gave the President a picture of a Tasaday woman and her child, the first infant to be born since the discovery of the.

The group was accompanied to Malacañang by John E. Nance of the Associated Press.

The rest of his working hours was spent on paper work.

September 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS conveyed the gratitude and Appreciation of the Filipino people and government to the mayor of Las Vegas and the governor of Nevada for their concern for the over 3,000 Filipinos living in that city. The President asked Mel Salazar, a wartime buddy in Bataan and Corregidor, and now president of the Filipino community in Las Vegas, to convey the messages to Mayor Oran Gregson and Governor Mike Callaghan.

In paying his respects to the President, Salazar also showed the President plans for the proposed Philippine trade house in Las Vegas, and at the same time turned over his personal donation of P1,000 in cash for the flood victims.

Salazar was accompanied by his wife, Trinidad.

After Salazar's call, the President received members of Congress who took up with him legislative matters, particularly the prospects of passage of administration measures, and local problems as well.

In the course of his meeting with the solons, the President referred to the Board of Pardons and Parole the recommendation of the House committee on justice for an absolute pardon for Cesar Guy.

The President informed Rep. Joaquin Chipeco, Jr. of Laguna, committee chairman, who brought the recommendation signed by all the members of the committee, except one who was out of town, that he could not extend executive clemency except upon recommendation of the Board of Pardons and Parole.

Upon representations made by Rep. Chipeco, the President likewise ordered the Philippine. National Railways to construct a spur that would connect the squatter resettlement area in San Pedro, Laguna to the main railroad line.

Rep. Chipeco said that the squatters had refused to settle, down there because of the lack of means of transportation to their places of work.

Among those who called on the President were Rep. Jose Puyat, Jr. of Surigao del Sur who brought with him the municipal officials of Manhatag, including- the mayor, vice mayor and nine councilors who formally affiliated with

the Nacionalista Party before the President Reps. Jose Aspiras and Joaquin Ortega of La Union who accompanied a 20-man delegation headed by Gov. Juvenal Guerrero;

Reps. Roberto Estrella and Antonio Villar of Pangasinan; Jose Leido, Jr. of Mindoro Oriental; Pedro Medalla of Mindoro Occidental; Romulo Lumauig of Ifugao; Lamberto Macias of Oriental Negros; Andres Cosalan of Benguet; Antonio Diaz of Zambales; Leopoldo Diaz of Nueva Ecija; Lucas Cauton of Ilocos Sur; Manuel Zosa and Emerito Calderon of Cebu; and Carlos Imperial of Albay.

In the course of the day, the President submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation the nominations of 34 individuals to various posts in the government.

Heading the list of nominees were Hon. Carlos Faustiwo, as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary; and Rodolfo A. Nocon, as chief state prosecutor of the Department of Justice.

Among other actions, the President issued the following statement in connection with the death of Israeli athletes in Munich:

“As members of the human family, we are outraged by these violent and senseless deaths in Munich. This violence sets back the quest for unity and brotherhood to which all sporting nations participating in the Olympiad have dedicated the ideals of their youths.

We vigorously condemn this violence, and as an expression of our outrage, I am asking the Philippine delegation to the Olympic games to stop all participation in the games and to immediately return home.”

The President likewise sent a message of sympathy to Prime Minister Golda Meir of Israel.

September 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS conferred with Mayor Ramon D. Bagatsing of Manila on problems affecting the city, particularly the rehabilitation of roads and dredging of esteros, and the threat to peace and order.

During the meeting, the President appealed to Mayor Bagatsing to cooperate actively with the national government in the repair of city roads and streets, and the dredging of esteros by taking the initiative in clearing the esteros of squatters.

The President also asked Mayor Bagatsing to get rid of garbage collectors who collect cum shaw from city residents.

On the peace and order situation, the President counseled the people not to panic because the national and local governments are cooperating and adopting contingency plans to meet any eventuality and to protect the lives and property of the people.

Noting the increasing intensity of provocations against the citizenry, the President said “we cannot tolerate such a situation, but it is not necessary for us or the citizenry to panic.”

Explaining the contingency plan, the President said this is the plan the local government will adopt in the event that they felt they could no longer meet the threat on their own and had to call on the METRO-COM, the national government and the national defense secretary for aid.

Present at the conference were Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, Director Jolly Bugarin of the National Bureau of Investigation, Col. Alfredo Montoya, chief of the Metropolitan Police Command; Brig. Gen. Gerardo Tamayo and Col. James Barbers, chief and deputy chief, respectively, of the Manila Metropolitan Police, Public Works Director Alejandro Delena, Highways Commissioner Baltazar Aquino and Deputy Budget Commissioner Juan Agcaoili.

Earlier in the day, the President was serenaded by his wartime buddies in the United States Armed Forces in the Pacific—Northern Luzon (USAFIP-NL), who presented him with five books as gift on his 55th birthday on September 11.

Headed by Rep. Joaquin Ortega and Governor Juvenal K. Guerrero of La Union, the President's fellow guerrillas, who were the first to serenade him on his birthday, presented him with books entitled *Marcuse Negations*, *Marcuse Five Lectures*, *Marcuse, an Essay on Liberation*; *The Nation Is Burdened*, and *The Kennedy Legacy*.

The President thanked his friends for their thoughtfulness:

Among those who called on the President were Brig. Gen. Segundo Velasco, Justice Undersecretary Ramon Fernandez, Commodore Santiago Nuval, Election Commissioner Lino Patajo, President Esteban Cabanos of the Philippine Veterans Bank, former Governor Godofredo Reyes of Ilocos Sur and Atty. Ramon Encarnacion.

In the evening, the President had an interview with newsmen covering Malacañang.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: September 5-11, 1972

AUOFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

September 5 —

PRESIDENT MARCOS highlighted his activities with a meeting with his Cabinet to discuss, among other things, the release of funds for state colleges and universities, as well as measures that will ensure peak efficiency of the whole government machinery during the electoral campaign period.

One result of the meeting, which lasted from 12:15 p.m. to about 3 p.m., was the Presidential directive to Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco and Secretary of Education Onofre D. Corpuz to meet on the priorities for release of funds to state colleges and universities. Deserving projects, he said, must get primary attention.

In the morning, the President, together with the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, motored to the University of Santo Tomas where he addressed the seminar on rural medicine, attended by provincial health officers and chiefs of provincial and city hospitals, PACD workers, and representatives of the Civic Action Corps of the Department of National Defense.

In his speech, the President said that the rural health program will continue to enjoy the highest possible priority.

The President was introduced to the seminar delegates by Secretary of Health Amadeo Cruz.

Father Rector Jesus Diaz, who welcomed the delegates, extended advanced "Happy Birthday" greetings to the President, who marks his birth anniversary on September 11.

Back in Malacañang at 11 a.m., the President and the First Lady received world famous opera star Beverly Sills who made a courtesy call. Miss Sills won many admirers here after singing at the MeraJco theatre.

With Miss Sills were the diva's mother, Mrs. Shirlev Silverman, daughter Muffy, and husband Peter Greenough.

The President then repaired to the State Dining Hall for the Cabinet meeting.

Among those present were Vice President Fernando Lopez, who is also Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources; Secretary of Justice Juan Ponce Enrile, Secretary of National Defense Ernesto Mata, Press Secretary Francisco S. Tatad, CNI Commissioner Mamintal Tamano, PES Director-General Placido Mapa, Jr., Secretary of Commerce and Industry Leonides S. Virata, Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, Secretary of Health Amadeo Cruz;

Secretary of Public Works and Communications Rene Espina, Secretary of Finance Eduardo Romualdez, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Jose D. Ingles, Executive Secretary Ernesto Maceda, Secretary of Labor Bias F. Ople, NEC Chairman Marcelo Balatbat, BOI Chairman Cesar

E. A. Virata, PANAMIN Secretary Manuel Elizalde, Jr., Undersecretary of General Services Dominador Chipeco, Secretary of Social Welfare Gregorio Feliciano, OEC Administrator Constancio Castaneda, and Land Authority Gov. Conrado Estrella.

Following the Cabinet meeting, the President rested briefly. Refreshed, he began receiving provincial delegations. Among the first groups to see him was the Bicolano contingent led by Senator Dominador Aytona, Rep. Jose Alberto and Gov. Vicente Alberto of Catanduanes. He then met in succession Gov. Amado Almazan of Kalinga-Apayao, Sen. Ambrosio Padilla, and Rep. Angel Concepcion of Nueva Ecija.

The local officials reported to the President on various projects in their localities, and apprised him of other urgent needs.

The President later formally inducted into the Nacionalista Party 19 Liberal Party leaders from Eastern Samar, led by Gov. Victor Amasa.

The mass affiliation was sponsored by Rep. Felipe Abrigo, who accompanied the group to Malacañang.

Others sworn in were Mayors Cornelio M. Sison of Guiuan, Luis A. Capito of Borongan, Hospicio R. Rivera of Dolores, Gregorio B. Anguren of Quinapondan, Felix K. Morillos of San Policarpio, Rufilo L. Tan of Llorente, Felix P. Doligon of San Julian, Guillermo M. Altar of Gen. MacArthur, Pedro E. Candido of Hernani, Pio Pinangay of Arteche, Jesus B. Rediang of Mercedes, Gerundio C. Lira of Balangkayan. Francisco Cabugawan of Salcedo, Isidro M. Campomanes of Maslog, and Lucas M. Lomuntad of Jipapad: Vice Mayor Gil A. Corado of Maydolong, Dr. Roberto L. Tan. Jr. of Llorente, and Jaime Opinion of Oras.

In the evening the President was guest of honor at the opening of the convention of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources Employees Association (DANREA), held at the Manila Hotel.

The President emphasized in his speech the two major tasks of government in agriculture, namely, to achieve self-sufficiency in food—which has been realized—and to produce surpluses for export.

In an executive order amending Executive Order No. 182-A which created the National Social Action Council, the President specified the full membership of the body.

As stated in the amendatory order, the Council shall be composed of the chairman of the Manpower Development Council, the secretary of education, the secretary of the PACD, the commissioner on national integration, the secretary-general of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines;

The chairman of the Social Action Committee of the Federation of Christian Family Movement, the executive secretary of the National Council of Churches of the Philippines, the president of the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement, and the presidents of the Philippine Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Philippine Medical Association and the Philippine Bar Association.

The council will elect a chairman and a vice-chairman from among themselves.

September 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had another dialogue with student leaders this time from the University of the Philippines, who have been agitating for the release of P10 million, an unprogrammed outlay earmarked for projects of state colleges and Universities.

The President told them that he will release Monday part of the un-programmed outlay to fund specified projects, but emphasized that he was doing this not because of pressure from any source, least of all the threat of student protest, but because it was feasible and there are deserving projects which need immediate funding.

Also present at the meeting were Secretary of Education Onofre D. Corpuz and Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco.

Following his meeting with the student leaders, the President conferred with Director of Public Works Alejandro Delena on the progress of the construction of prefabricated schoolbuildings.

Deleña also submitted a report on the allocation of prefab schoolbuildings to provinces, cities and towns, throughout the country.

In the afternoon, the President received Gov. Samuel F. Reyes of Isabela and Rep. Andres Cosalan of Mt. Province, who took up local problems with him.

He later received some 400 foresters from all over the country who called to pay their respects following the opening of their five-day convention at the SSS social hall.

In brief remarks before the foresters, the President announced that he had vetoed certain provisions of the consolidated tax bill, including the transfer from the Bureau of Forestry to the Bureau of Internal Revenue the invoicing and collection of forest charges, and the abolition of inspection fees.

The President said he vetoed the provision on the fees upon previous representations of the forestry bureau, which said that it would lose annually some ₱47 million.

The foresters were accompanied to Malacañang by Reforestation Administrator and acting Director of Forestry Jose Viado.

The President spent the rest of the afternoon in his study going over government reports and working on other official papers.

In the evening, the President was guest of honor at the induction of officers of the Philippine Alliance of Government Employees held at the Manila Hotel.

September 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS was occupied the whole day with the preparation of his speech for the proclamation later in the evening of the entire Nacionalista Party ticket at Plaza Miranda.

The President meticulously went over all documents before finalizing his speech which was highlighted by a listing of some of his proposed programs for the seventies.

He was also in close touch with all the senatorial candidates who were going over their own speeches.

Despite the heavy downpour, the Chief Executive directed his aids to go ahead with the preparations for the Plaza Miranda proclamation.

In the evening, the President motored to the rally site where Vice President Lopez and the entire NP senatorial ticket headed by Senate President Gil J. Puyat were already drawing the crowds.

The other senatorial candidates proclaimed were Senators Arturo Tolentino, Jose W. Diokno, and Ambrosio Padiila; former Senator Lorenzo Sumulong, Commissioner Mamintal Tamano of National Integration, Governors Rene Espina of Cebu and Rafael Palmares of Iloilo.

September 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS figured centrally in a meeting with two groups both of which related to areas of great concern to him, for both are meaningful in the building of a nation.

He was guest speaker at the initial Balagtas Memorial Awards ceremonies, and he formally received the newly elected officers of the National Federation of the Association of Barrio Councils, who paid a courtesy call at Malacañang.

For the greater part of the day, the President worked on state papers, and focused on other official matters.

At about noontime, he met with Secretary of Education Onofre D. Corpuz, Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco and Assistant Executive Secretary Gilberto Duavit to discuss student problems and the requirements of state schools.

At 4 p.m., the President, accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, went to the Malacañang Heroes Hall for the first Balagtas Memorial Awards in Pilipino literature and journalism.

The President declared he wanted to see the nation's leaders and more of the people, including the youth, using the national language on a wider scale.

He also expressed the hope that succeeding national leaders and the generations to come will continue to support the development of Philippine arts and literature.

Amado V. Hernandez, well known poet-journalist, won the first prize of P5,000 and was presented with an accompanying plaque for his epic poem, *Ang Bayang Malaya*.

Recipients of the cash prizes in the Balagtas Memorial Awards were:

POETRY

1. <i>Bayang Malaya</i>	Amado V. Hernandez	P5.000
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SHORT STORY

1. <i>Ambo at Ibang Maikling Katha</i>	Wilfredo Virtucio	₱3,000
2 <i>Mga Piling Mailkling Katha</i>	Efren R. Abueg	1,000
3. <i>Elias at Salome at Iba pang Kuwento</i>	Domingo Landicho	1,000
4 <i>Sampung Piling Kuwento</i>	Victor Toledo Marcos	300
5. <i>Maikling Kuwento</i>	Rosario de Guzman Lingat	300
6. <i>Katipunan ng Maikling Kuwento.</i>	Erlinda T. Nimcra	300
7. <i>Katipunan wga Kuwento</i>	Levy Balgos de la Cruz	300
8. <i>Sampung Maikling Katha</i>	Agapito M. Joaquin	300
9. <i>Makina, Isang Paghahanap at Iba pang Katha</i>	Dominador Mirasol'	300
10. <i>Mga Katha sa Likod ng Rehas na Bakal</i>	Armando Ruiz David	300
11. <i>Sompung Maiikling Katha</i>	Mercedes Jose	300

NOVEL

1. <i>Ama</i>	Lazaro Francisco	₱1,500
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2. <i>Si Ringo at ang Bulag na Angel</i>	Pedro S. Danclan	1,500
3. <i>Huwag mo akong Sisihin</i>	Anacleto L. Bustamante	1,500

DRAMA

1. <i>Bukang Liwayway at Iba pang mga Dula</i>	Dionisio S. Salazar	₱2,000
2. <i>Sabah</i>	Rafael Y. Enverga	500
3. <i>Buhay na Bantayog</i>	Felipe Paguia	500
4. <i>Tatlong Drama</i>	Ruben Vega	500

ESSAY

1. <i>Si Balagtas, ang Makata at Iba pang mga Sanaysay</i>	Anacleto L. Dizon	₱1,000
2. <i>Sining at Panitikan, Wika at Bayan</i>	Pedro L. Ricarte	1,000
3. <i>Nasyonalismo, Ang Makapangyarihang Lakas</i>	Cornelio de Guzman	1,000

JOURNALISM

1. <i>Journalism</i>	J. Ser Sehagun	₱1,000
2. <i>82 Araw sa Red China</i>	Rolando Q. Fadul	1,000
3. <i>Bagong Taon at Iba pang Pamamahayag</i>	Cesario del Rosario	1,000
4. <i>Tinig</i>	R. Ordoñez	1,000
5. <i>Lathala</i>	Montano C. Decena	1,000

After the awards ceremonies, the President met the new officers of the barrio councils federation.

During the call the President discussed the problems of barrio development and the important of barrio leaders in bettering the lot of the masses

The officers are: Jaenito Madamba of Capiz, president; Vic Delloro of Camarines Sur, executive vice president; Monico Cervera of Antique and Juliana Lozada of Cebu, executive secretary, and assistant executive secretary, respectively; Glicerio A Lim of Lanao del Norte, treasurer; Arcio Casing of Misamis Occidental, auditor; Charlie Neque of Davao del Sur, PRO;

The regional vice presidents for the seven regions are Mauricio Alcantara from La Union, Cesar V. Jorge from Bataan, Nonilon Gases from Sorsogon, Elias R. Inocando, Jr. from Negros Oriental, Eduardo Maravilla from Iloilo, Columbus Jaucian from Agusan del Sur, and Paul Khingslay Koh from Sulu;

Regional secretaries; Evangelista Raceia of Zambales, Teodoro Agtay of Oriental Mindoro, Marcelo Aguilar of Catanduanes, Juliana Lozada of Cebu, Ernesto Benares of Occidental Negros, Macario Tin of Oriental Misamis, and Arsenio Madayag of Davao del Norte.

While attending to official papers, the President signed a proclamation declaring September 9 a special public holiday in Cebu province and in the cities of Cebu, Danao, Lapu-Lapu, Mandaue and Toledo; and Wednesday, September 10, also a public holiday in Bais City to give the people full opportunity to celebrate the events with appropriate ceremonies.

September 9 marks the birthday of the late Don Sergio Osmeña, Sr., second President of the Commonwealth, patriot, statesman and staunch advocate of nationalism and Philippine independence.

September 10 marks the first anniversary of the founding of the city of Bais.

In other proclamations, the President declared September 19 as “Law Day,” and the period from September 15 to 21 as “Savings and Home Loan Week.”

He likewise authorized the Knights of Rizal to conduct a national educational and fund campaign during the period September 1, 1969 to April 30, 1970.

In proclaiming “Law Day,” the President stressed that the administration of justice is indispensable to a sound and vigorous democracy, and that it is fitting that the important role played by lawyers in the administration of justice and in enhancing the rule of law in a democratic society be duly brought to the attention of the people.

The President also underscored the vital role of savings and loan associations in channelling savings and in financing the construction of homes, particularly to benefit low-income families.

The President authorized the Knights of Rizal to conduct a nationwide educational and fund campaign from September 1, 1969 to April 30, 1970 in order to give “meaning, substance, and reality to the patriotic aims and purposes” of the group.

The Order of the Knights of Rizal is involved in the training and molding of Filipino youth to promote character, dynamic citizenship, civic consciousness, dedicated and democratic leadership and enlightened nationalism.

It likewise seeks to preserve and propagate the ideals and teachings of Rizal.

September 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had a full schedule of conferences and desk work, padded further by two speaking engagements.

On trips outside Malacañang, the President attended:

1. The ceremony awarding former Senator Quintin Paredes the Order of Kalantiao, in token of the nation’s appreciation of more than 60 years of exemplary public service.

The Order of Kalantiao is a presidential decoration instituted last year by President Marcos, and primarily intended for distinguished jurists.

2. The investiture and formal installation of former Ambassador Salvador P. Lopez as president of the University of the Philippines, at the U.P. campus in Diliman, Quezon City.

In Malacañang in the morning, the President met both individual and group callers, among the latter a delegation from the Philippine Railways Association of Cebu led by Francisco Pintor; a big delegation from Cavite headed by Commerce Undersecretary Fernando Campos; and a group of mayors from Camiguin province accompanied by Senator Emmanuel Pelaez.

In the evening, President and Mrs. Marcos had Governor and Mrs. Ronald Reagan of California, and their two children, as guests at dinner in Malacañang.

The American governor arrived this afternoon as personal representative of U.S. President Richard Nixon at the inaugural of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

September 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS again followed a full schedule of activities, which included three trips outside of Malacañang, in-between attending to his usual desk work and the usual conferences with aides and officials, as well as the usual meetings with visitors.

Early in the morning, the President visited unannounced the Philippine College of Commerce campus, where he viewed for himself conditions in the school. He was informed that the campus is inundated by every little flurry of rain. During the visit, he was warmly received by the students who wished him happy birthday in song, and vied with each other to shake his hand.

During the meeting with PCC officials and student leaders, the President disclosed several directives he issued to help meet the problems of the PCC, as well as of other state schools.

Later in the morning, the President went to Camp Aguinaldo where he received the salute of the armed forces and their pledge of loyalty. It is a traditional affair, usually held on the eve of the President's birthday. (*See pp. 9594-E to 9594-J for full text of the President's speech.*)

At luncheon, the President was guest of honor of the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines. The affair was held at The Plaza in Makati, in connection with the induction of the incoming officers of the organization.

The President announced at the occasion the early establishment of the Industrial Development Commission, which he deemed an important element in the nation's pursuit of a balanced agro-industrial economy.

Just before going to The Plaza, the President passed by the offices of the; Bureau of Public Highways, to congratulate the BPH personnel on their record of achievements. He also reenacted his signing of the bill increasing the salaries of bureau personnel, which he said they fully deserved.

Among the visitors the President received through the day were the Citizens National Electoral Assembly, headed by Msgr. Mariano Gaviola, assembly chairman, who paid a courtesy call.

With Bishop Gaviola were Mrs. Leticia P. de Guzman, vice chairman; Charito L. Planas, executive secretary; Tomas "Ching" Santos, coordinator of Operation Quick Count (OQC); Baldomero T. Clivera of the Public Relations Society of the Philippines, Bishop Jose Yap of the United Council of Christian Churches, Dr. Beatriz Ronquillo of the League of Women Voters of the Philippines, Sylvia Alejandro of Wiloci, Dr. Ceferina Manalo of the Jayceerettes, Serafin Benaldo of the National Social Action Council, Ben Salvidia of the Pasay Jaycees, Susan Kabanao of the Students Chapter of Manila, and Greg Fabros and Ramon Barrientos of MRA.

Later in the evening, President and Mrs. Marcos gave a dinner in honor of the guests at the inaugural of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

The President, on the eve of his 52nd birthday, issued the following message:

On this occasion, I should like to thank all for all their support and encouragement to ensure an effective exercise of the Presidency.

These have been years of deep personal happiness for me, for I have seen the success not merely of my personal endeavors, but above all the emergence of a nation more determined in purpose and secure in its resolve.

At no other time in our recent history, has the Presidency received the nation's generous support.

Our work is unfinished, our goals are larger than what we have accomplished. We face a new decade of rising demands and expectations. The essence of our cause requires a reassertion of our national unity and courage as we travel into modernity.

There are forces that will continue to seek to divide us and voices that will sow discord rather than unity. The duty of us all is to preserve our unity.

September 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS' 52nd birthday, marked simply was highlighted by an estimated 100,000 well-wishers, who trooped to Malacañang from morning till well into evening.

One of his first visitors was California Governor Ronald Reagan and his family, who paid a farewell call prior to their return to the United States. The American official was here as the personal representative of US President Richard Nixon at the formal inauguration yesterday of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Shortly after this call, the President began receiving birthday well-wishers, with the local diplomatic corps, following tradition, formally greeting him as a group.

At 8 a.m., the First Family heard Mass celebrated at the Executive Building by Fr. Jose A. Cruz of the Ateneo University.

Among the notables present at the Mass were Vice President and Mrs. Fernando Lopez, former President and Mrs. Carlos P. Garcia, and Senate President Gil J. Puyat. Close relatives and friends of the First Family also attended.

The President and his family joined the guests at breakfast after Mass, served at the Heroes Hall.

Shortly after 3 a.m., the President started receiving the public, including government officials and other VIPs. The Malacañang ceremonial hall was initially the scene of the reception. Then it was moved to the balcony when the rush of well-wishers thickened.

The President paused at noontime, to formally commission the first ferrocement Patrol Craft Fast (POF 317) of the Philippine Navy, which the Navy itself built in line with its research and development program.

The development of fast, light vessels by the Navy was conceived by President Marcos, to add muscle to the unilateral defense plan of the country. He specified in his order to the Navy on the research and development of watercraft to build ships adapted to Philippine navigational conditions.

The President had a late lunch, and after a brief rest resumed receiving well-wishers at the Executive Building.

He stood at his post until early evening.

Following tradition, the President granted executive clemency to 124 deserving prisoners on the recommendation of the Board of Pardons and Parole.

Of the 124 prisoners extended clemency, 19 were granted absolute pardon, three special absolute pardon, three conditional pardon, one conditional pardon with deportation, 53 conditional pardon with parole conditions, and 45 commutation of sentence.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: September 8-14, 1972

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

September 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS conferred with the leaders of the sugar industry on the problems of the industry.

Subjects discussed included the effects of the Supreme Court decision on parity rights on the Philippine sugar market in the United States; the scarcity of sugar in local markets; the sugar quedans anomaly; and the ability of the Philippines to fill the 1,401,000 tons of sugar quota in the United States this year.

The President noted the provisions of the U.S. Sugar Act of 1971 providing for the suspension of the sugar quota of any country which expropriates property belonging to American citizens.

Former Agriculture Secretary Alfredo Montelibano, speaking for the industry as a whole, supported the stand of the President that there should be just compensation for the divestment of American properties.

Montelibano said he would meet the representatives of the traders, millers and producers so that they could draw up a position paper for submission to the President.

Upon the suggestion of Montelibano, the President directed Commerce Secretary Troadio T. Quiazon, Jr. to confer with the Sugar Quota Administrator and the leaders of the industry in order to arrive at a realistic price.

The President ordered the sale of raw sugar in order to fill immediate consumers needs.

The President informed the leaders of the sugar industry that his attention to the quedan anomaly had been called by an international banker who had nothing whatsoever to do with sugar.

The President said the anomaly, unless it was remedied, would cause a black eye to the Philippines' credit standing in international circles.

The President was assured by the sugar industry leaders that they would assume full responsibility for making restitution to the American bankers who had advanced money for sugar quedans which were not physically supported by sugar in the warehouses.

The President was likewise assured by the sugar producers that barring unforeseen circumstances, the Philippines would be able to fill its entire sugar quota in the United States.

Present at the conference were Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal, Commerce Secretary Troadio T. Quiazon, Jr., Sugar Quota Administrator Jose Unson, Reps. Roberto Diokno and Expedito Leviste of Batangas, and Roberto Montelibano of Negros Occidental; and representatives of the Sugar Industry Foundation, Philippine Sugar Association, Philippine Sugar Institute, Domestic Traders Association, Philippine Producers

Cooperative Marketing Association, National Federation of Sugarcane Planters and the Sugar Club of the Philippines.

Earlier in the morning, the President conveyed the appreciation of the Filipino people for the manifestation of sympathy made by the President and people of the Dominican Republic over the devastation inflicted by the calamity on the Filipino people.

The President conveyed this message to the Dominican President through Ambassador Adolfo Camarena, who presented his credentials to the President as the new nonresident envoy of the Dominican Republic.

The President also noted with satisfaction the strengthening of the bonds of Friendship between the two peoples.

The President also assured the new Dominican envoy of the full support and cooperation of the government in his task of helping further strengthen the bonds of friendship between the two peoples.

Among those present at the presentation ceremony were Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo and Undersecretaries Jose D. Ingles and Manuel Collantes; Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Finance Secretary Cesar E. A. Virata, Chairman Gerardo Sicat of the National Economic Council, Secretary of Health Clemente Gatmaitan and Press Secretary Francisco S. Tatad.

After the presentation ceremony, the President spoke at the award ceremony for the winners of the national and regional contest for model village, sponsored jointly by the Presidential Arm on Community Development and the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization.

In his remarks, the President pointed out that only a very thin line divides the requirements of the military from the requirements of economic development and that no matter how strong the military is it is a weak weapon without the support of the citizenry.

In the Philippines, the President said, the development of the barrio has been made a prerequisite of development because it constitutes the smallest political unit and represents a microcosm of Philippine life and society.

Present at the ceremonies were Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, Ambassadors Charles Ingram of Australia, Henry Byroade of the U.S., Pierre Revol of France, Azia Farooq of Pakistan, Ly Chinly of the Khmer Republic and Swate Komalabhuti of Thailand;

SEATO officials headed by Lt. Gen. Chamras Mandukananda, special assistant; Maj. Ian G. Porteous, training adviser; and Michael D. Brown, radio-TV officer, SEATO officials and employees of the Presidential Arm on Community Development led by Secretary Rosendo Marquez, and representatives of the awardees headed by Gov. Aguedo Agbayani of Pangasinan.

September 9—

THE PRESIDENT constituted a Philippine panel to negotiate a ₱4million loan with New Zealand for the development of the geothermal energy in Leyte.

With Chairman and General Manager Ramon Ravanzo of the National power Corporation, as chairman, the others named to the panel were Leyte Governor Benjamin Romualdez, Commissioner Arturo Alcaraz of Volcanology, B. G. Villavicencio of the National Economic Council, and Roque Sorio so, chairman of the committee created to study the development and utilization of geothermal.

Among other actions, the President extended executive clemency to 381 prisoners on the occasion of his 55th birth anniversary, upon the recommendation of the Board of Pardons and Parole.

The rest of the President's working hours were spent on paper work.

September 10—

THE PRESIDENT, on the eve of his 55th birthday, renewed his pledge of loyalty to the Constitution and "to do battle to the death for freedom."

The President made the pledge during the loyalty parade and testimonial review given him by the Armed Forces of the Philippines, as President of the Republic and their commander-in-chief.

In his extemporaneous speech, the President sounded anew his warning against the communists who “seek by violence to coerce the great majority of our people to forget our traditions and culture.”

The President said that while these people cry in the name of freedom, it is not the kind of freedom that the Filipino people love and fight for, but that “it is a strange and alien ideology that is unacceptable to the Filipino way of life.”

After delivering his extemporaneous remarks, the President, together with the other guests including members of the Cabinet, the diplomatic corps, the judiciary, and Congress, went to the AFP general headquarters to view the exhibits and take a snack.

The President then proceeded to the Officers Clubhouse for a briefing for local executives.

During the briefing, the President decided to form provincial defense forces to meet the rising communist insurgency in critical areas.

The President made the decision to create provincial defense forces in view of the many requests made by the provincial and other local executives who find themselves virtually defenseless in dealing with subversion, insurgency and criminality.

The President also proposed the organization of a municipal mayors’ league similar to the League of Provincial Governors and City Mayors, to promote closer cooperation and collaboration, particularly in meeting peace and order problems.

However, the President said, the formation of such defense forces would be on a case-to-case basis and if a strike force should be organized at all it would be composed principally of the armed forces and the local police. The briefing was attended by some 300 governors, city and municipal mayors, delegates to the Constitutional Convention and some members of Congress.

Back in Malacañang in the afternoon, the President, on recommendation of the Board of Pardons and Parole, extended executive clemency to 232 more prisoners in connection with his 55th birth anniversary.

September 11—

THE PRESIDENT observed his 55th birth anniversary in conferences with provincial, city, municipal and barrio officials who converged at Malacañang from all over the country to greet him.

The President held separate conferences with the delegations on how local governments could participate more effectively in the rehabilitation of the nation’s economy following the recent droughts and destructive floods.

In allocating funds for such province, city or municipality, the President gave priority to ravaged areas and on the rehabilitation of roads, bridges, schoolbuildings, irrigation, flood control and projects designed to increase the nation’s agricultural productivity.

Earlier in the morning, the President and the First Lady heard Mass said by Msgr. Amado Paulino, auxiliary bishop of Manila and parish priest of Tondo. Also at the Mass wore their son Bongbong, ranking officials of the executive, legislative and judiciary branches of the government, close relatives, and friends.

Among the first to greet the President following the Mass were Vice President and Mrs. Fernando Lopez, followed by members of Congress headed by Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal, the judiciary led by Chief Justice Roberto

Concepcion, the Cabinet headed by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo and the diplomatic corps led by Msgr. Carmine Rocco, papal nuncio.

In the traditional exchange of toasts with members of the diplomatic corps, Msgr. Rocco, dear, of the group, said that in rallying to the assistance of the Philippines during the floods, the nations of the world had shown increasing brotherhood and understanding among themselves.

In his response, the President offered a prayer for peace, "not only in this country or in our part of the world but universal peace."

He added: "May there always be amity, friendship among peoples that it can be said: Mar has organized a single human family."

The President also inaugurated a library containing a collection of speeches, pronouncements, photo albums, newspaper clippings, magazines, films and tapes on the Marcos year. The Library, which was put up in one of the ground floor rooms of the old executive building, was the First Lady's birthday gift to the President.

After the inauguration, the President went up to the second floor of the building where the provincial, city, municipal and barrio officials were briefed, on the extent of damage wrought by the recent droughts and floods, and the progress made on rehabilitation work.

The President's conferences with provincial governors, city mayors and barrio officials lasted from 11 a.m. to late in the evening.

September 12—

THE PRESIDENT presided over a meeting of the National Security Council at Camp Aguinaldo, in the course of which he ordered the military to make continuing assessment of communist activities in order to be prepared for any action that is necessary to uphold the law and protect the lives and property of the citizenry.

During the three-hour meeting, the military asked for the coordination and cooperation of all elements of society.

The President told the press in an interview, following the NSC meeting, that "it is baseless and ridiculous to blame the government for the series of bombing incidents in the Greater Manila area because when he suspended the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus last year, he was sustained by the Supreme Court, and there was no need for him to prepare the minds of the people for the proclamation of martial law by instigating such bombings."

Present at the meeting were Vice President Fernando Lopez, Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal, Senate President Protempore Jose J. Roy, Senate Majority Floorleader Arturo Tolentino, Minority Floorleader Gerardo Roxas, House Majority Floorleader Marcelino Veloso, Reps. Nicanor Y. Yñiguez and Constantino Navarro;

Secretaries Vicente Abad Santos of Justice, Carlos P. Romulo of Foreign Affairs; Juan Ponce Enrile of National Defense, Arturo Tanco of Agriculture and Natural Resources; Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Press Secretary Francisco S. Tatad, Defense Undersecretary Jose Crisol, Finance Undersecretary Pedro Almanzor; Director Jolly Bugarin of the National Bureau of Investigation; Ismael Lapuz, chief of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency; the chiefs of commands headed by General Romeo Espino and Maj. Gen. Rafael Iletto, AFP chief of staff and vice-chief of staff, respectively;

Mayors Ramon Bagatsing of Manila and Pablo Cuneta of Pasay City; Quezon City chief of police Tomas Karingal; Pedro Reyes representing Rizal Governor Isidro Rodriguez; Mayors Emiliano Caruncho of Pasig, Renato Lopez of Mandaluyong, Osmundo de Guzan of Marikina, Felipe del Rosario of Navotas, and Monico Tanyag of Taguig; Vice Mayor Johnny Wilson of Makati, and Chiefs of Police Gerry Tamayo of Manila, Ruperto Akle of Makati and Filoteo Quintana of Pateros, Rizal.

The President had a short rest in the afternoon, and then worked on official papers till early evening.

September 13—

THE PRESIDENT received former Ambassador Saburo Ohba, chairman of the Pacific Area Travel Association and president of the Japanese National Trade Organization, who called on him to pay his respects following his arrival in Manila.

During their brief meeting, the President expressed the hope that the Philippines and Japan would continue to cooperate in the development of the tourist trade.

Mr. Ohba and his party, including H. Suzuki and K. Kobata, directors of the Japanese National Trade Organization in Tokyo and Hongkong, respectively, were accompanied to Malacañang by Jose Cobarrubias, president-general manager of Hotel Filipinas and PTTA vice-president; and Salvador Peña, PTTA executive director.

The President also received Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Brooks of the Brethren Missionaries, and their children. The Brooks called on the President to extend birthday wishes.

The President congratulated them and expressed the wish that they would complete another 50 years stay among the Filipino people.

Early in the evening, the President was interviewed by newsmen covering Malacañang.

September 14—

THE PRESIDENT conferred the Ancient Order of Sikatuna, rank of datu, on Quintin Jermy Gwyn, grand chancellor of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, for his extraordinary services in the field of international relations.

In accepting the award, Gwyn said he was accepting the decoration because it symbolized the friendly relations which had existed for many years between the Philippines and the Military Order of Malta.

“I need not assure, Mr. President,” he said, “that what we had begun, we will continue with and develop always, the fundamental purpose of which is contained in the simple instructions which our founder gave us in the 11th century for the sick and the poor.”

Present at the ceremony were Minister Jose Soriano of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, Gabriel Daza, Sebastian Ugarte, Jose Zaragoza, Danny Vasquez and Ernesto Lagdameo, former ambassador to the United States.

After the award ceremony, the President received the credentials of Datu Ahmad Zainal Abidin bin Mohamed Yusof as the new ambassador of Malaysia to the Philippines.

The new ambassador, in presenting his credentials, noted that the fruitful cooperation and understanding between Malaysia and the Philippines contributed to the strengthening of the hope and aspiration for peace, stability, and progress in the region.

In response, the President said that his administration has always been dedicated to the pursuit of peace and the policy of closer cooperation among nations, as manifested by its wholehearted support of the concept of ASEAN regional cooperation and the efforts toward securing a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality for the region.

The President took occasion to express the gratitude of the Filipino people for the material and financial aid which Malaysia extended to the flood victims.

Among those present were Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs Jose. D. Ingles, Secretary of General Services Constancio Castañeda, Press Secretary Francisco S. Tatad, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. and Secretary of Agrarian Reform Conrado Estrella.

After the presentation ceremony, the President received four visiting members of the House of Representatives of Japan, who paid their respects following their arrival enroute home from the capitals of Southeast Asian countries.

Headed by Kichiro Tazawa, the group included Saburo Eda, Michio Furukawa and Akira Ueda.

In receiving the Japanese solons, the President expressed gratitude to the Japanese government and people for the generous donations extended to typhoon and flood victims, and the loans extended by the Japanese government for economic development projects, such as the project and commodity loans, and the rice purchases on deferred payment terms at low rates of interest.

The President requested the Japanese lawmakers to extend the appreciation and gratitude of the Filipino people to the Japanese Prime Minister, and the government and people of Japan.

Tazawa expressed the hope that friendly relations between his country and the Philippines would continue to grow and pledged that he and his colleagues would exert their utmost towards this end, especially, he said, since "I am convinced that our friendship will enhance the peace and prosperity of Asia."

In reply, the President expressed the hope that more Japanese parliamentarians and government officials, as well as tourist, would come to the Philippines where, contrary to the prevailing impression in Japan, they are always welcome.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: September 15-21, 1972

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

September 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS addressed the opening of the ninth biennial convention of the Federation of the Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce, held at the Maharlika Hall.

In his speech, the President enjoined the local business community to join the fight against communistic subversion and insurgency instead of "buying insurance from the communists in case of a possible communist take-over."

Toward noon, the President conferred the Order of Sikatuna, rank of *Maginoo*, on Henry Lynn Miller, Jr., counselor for public affairs of the U.S. embassy.

A veteran American newspaperman, Miller spent most of his life after graduating from college in the Philippines.

Miller was cited, among others, for helping forge closer relations between local and foreign media men as co-founder of the Manila Overseas Press Club.

Present at the conferment ceremony, held at the Malacañang Ceremonial Hall, were U.S. embassy officials headed by Ambassador and Mrs. Henry Byroade and Lewis Squires, Chinese Ambassador Liu Chieh and Commissioner Mao Sung-nien of China for Overseas Chinese Affairs. The latter called on the President following his arrival to pay his respects.

In a statement issued in the course of the day in connection with the celebration of "Medical Technology Week" from September 17 to 24, the President lauded the role of the country's medical technologists in upgrading the health of the people and in diffusing on a broader scale the health resources of the nation.

September 16—

THE PRESIDENT spent most of his working hours on urgent official papers.

In the afternoon, the President issued a statement on reports that the Liberal Party leaders have been meeting with the chairman of the Communist Party, Maoist faction, in the Philippines, on a common plan for the consolidation of forces between the CP and the LP, on propaganda, logistics, as well as armed support.

Late in the afternoon, the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, motored to the Manila International Airport to see off their son, Ferdinand, Jr. (Bongbong), who flew to London to resume his studies after spending his summer vacation with his parents and sisters here.

September 17—

THE PRESIDENT continued devoting most of his time to desk work.

In the course of the day, he ordered the impounding by the PC of 7,400 cases of dynamite earlier apprehended by the Constabulary Offshore Smuggling and Anti Crime Unit (COSAC) while being loaded from a barge onto cargo trucks off Del Pan bridge.

The shipment had no accompanying papers and no claimants.

Ordnance reports on the spate of bombings in the Greater Manila area showed that in many of the bombings, dynamite of the same kind as those apprehended has been used.

September 18—

THE PRESIDENT ordered Commerce Secretary and concurrently Civil Aeronautics Board Chairman Troadio T. Quiazon and Civil Aeronautics Administrator Jesus C. Singson to require domestic airlines to make physical searches of all plane passengers and luggage before any flight.

The President issued the order following an explosion aboard an Air Manila Fokker plane, forcing the aircraft to make an emergency landing in Roxas City.

Among other actions, the President:

1. Directed Public Works Secretary David Consunji and Highways Commissioner Baltazar Aquino to organize an investigating committee to look into the collapse of the bridge in Naga City, which resulted in death and injury to hundreds of people.

2. Justice Secretary Vicente Abad Santos to coordinate with Secretary Consunji and Commissioner Aquino in the filing of criminal charges against those responsible for the faulty construction of the bridge.

Earlier in the day, the President received provincial delegations which apprised him of flood damages sustained by their respective localities and sought assistance to expedite their rehabilitation.

The President also administered the oath to Victorino Savellano as city judge of Manila. Present at induction rite were the inductee's wife Virginia, other relatives and friends.

September 19—

THE PRESIDENT approved the revised rules of the Civil Service Commission implementing R.A. No. 6400, otherwise known as the Tolentino Act.

Prepared by the Civil Service Commission and endorsed by the Inter-Agency Committee to Malacañang, the new set of rules, among others:

- 1) Transfers from the CSC to the respective heads of departments, provincial governors, city and municipal mayors, the power to discipline their respective personnel.

- 2) Provides guidelines to the department heads, provincial governors, city and municipal mayors, for the holding of special examinations for specialized positions in their respective agencies.

- 3) Seeks to minimize abuses in the employment of casual workers.

- 4) Provides for the review of all provisional appointments with the view to converting meritorious cases to permanent appointments.

- 5) Grants vacation and sick leave privileges to part-time government workers.

Present at the signing of the new CSC rules and regulations were CSC Commissioner Fausto Varela, Presidents Tomas Cabrias of the Philippine Government Employees Association, Fernando Santico of the Confederation of Government Employees Organizations, Filemon Fernandez of the Government Lawyers Association, and Jesus Martinez of the City Judges Association, among others.

Following the signing of the CSC rules, the President received a 20-man delegation of the Philippine Midwifery Association headed by Miss Juana C. Reyes, president, who protested the nomination of Norma Balicante-Bautista to the Board of Examiners for Midwifery. The President assured the delegation he would refer the matter to the Malacañang legal staff for study and resolution.

The President worked on state papers in the afternoon and early evening.

September 20—

THE PRESIDENT conferred in the afternoon with Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile and military officials headed by General Romeo Espino, AFP chief of staff.

Also at the meeting were Justice Secretary Vicente Abad Santos, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. and Solicitor General Estelito Mendoza.

Following the conference, the President had an interview with newsmen covering Malacañang, during which the President declassified a report of Secretary Enrile on the latter's meeting with Senator Benigno Aquino, Jr. in the house of a friend in Makati.

September 21—

THE PRESIDENT did not receive any scheduled callers. He devoted most of the day to desk work.

Later in the evening, he signed a proclamation, Proclamation No. 1081, which was made public later. (See pp. 7624-7637 for full text of the Proclamation.)

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: September 22-30, 1972

President's Month in Review: October 1-19, 1972

President's Week in Review: October 20-26, 1972

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

October 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS issued a decree which authorized the undertaking of educational development projects. Presidential Decree No. 6-A which became part of the law of the land, thus became known as the "Educational Development Decree of 1972." It provided for the mechanics of implementation and the financing of said undertakings. According to the decree, it is the declared policy of the government to ensure, within the context of a free and democratic system, maximum contribution of the schools to the attainment of the following national development goals:

1. To achieve and maintain an accelerating rate of economic development and social progress;
2. To assure the maximum participation of all the people in the attainment and enjoyment of the benefits of such growth; and
3. To strengthen national consciousness and promote desirable cultural values in a changing world.

The President was hailed for his early promulgation of a decree providing for increased benefits for members of the Social Security System. Heretofore, such increases in benefits were possible only by legislation approved by the Congress of the Philippines. With the present increase in retirement and sickness benefits by Presidential Decree which amended the Social Security Act (R. A. No. 1161 as amended), the two benefits are now on par, if not above the international social security standards.

Officials and members of the Confederation of Filipino Rice and Corn Association Inc. also hailed President Marcos' imposition of Martial Law and were grateful that they can now engage in their daily pursuits of farming, business and other endeavors with complete peace of mind. The peace and order situation in their respective regions has greatly improved, according to a unanimous declaration they adopted during a recent conference of the confederation.

October 21 —

PRESIDENT MARCOS issued Decree No. 27 ordering the transfer of land ownership from the landowners to the tenants, thus liberating the tenants from age-old bondage to their landlords. The President signed the important document which he himself had carefully written in longhand, before thousands of tenant beneficiaries who had jam-packed the Maharlika Hall and spilled into the Malacañang grounds to witness the important event. After affixing his signature to the document, the President declared that "henceforth the farmers all over the country will be emancipated from the bondage of their landlords." The order which embodies the dream and aspirations of generations of Filipino farmers, comes on the heels of centuries-long social upheavals and discontent and is, therefore, the main thrust in the administration's effort to form a new society based on reforms. The decree affects some 715,000 tenants in about 1.5 million hectares of private rice and corn lands throughout the country.

The establishment of a new society is going apace with only the welfare of the people and of the Republic as the standard of conduct, the President assured in an address to the nation over radio-television from the jam-packed Maharlika Hall of Malacañang. He said that the country is making steady progress because of the almost unanimous approval and wholehearted support of the people for the government policies under Martial Law. Recapitulating the important steps taken since his proclamation exactly a month ago, the President said:

1. The land reform program has gained momentum and the issuance of Presidential Decree No. 27 emancipates the tenants from their landlords;

2. Under the New Society, the poor and the small man gets the same treatment as the rich and the powerful;
3. The peace and order situation had improved 90 per cent with the surrender of firearms going apace;
4. Crooked judges and officials and employees facing charges or considered notoriously undesirable have been hooted out of the service; and
5. The country has gained more trust and confidence as the climate for investment has become favorably conducive.

Meanwhile, the Department of Finance reported that there has been an abrupt decline in smuggling activities since the declaration of Martial Law. The decrease in smuggling was brought about by the resolute exercise by law enforcement units, of searches and seizures of contrabands in dwellings, watercraft, aircraft and land vehicles without the need of legal warrants. A press dispatch from the United Press International reported how Filipinos, in hundreds of letters sent daily to President Marcos, endorsed the steps taken by the administration to restore peace and order and reform Philippine social and economic life.

October 22—

BATAC, ILOCOS NORTE, the hometown of President Marcos, is a model community in which the principles of cooperative endeavors have been applied. According to the Agricultural Credit Administration (ACA), the pivotal agent which brought about the growth of the cooperative movement in this prosperous town is the Batac Producers' Cooperative Marketing Association. It was organized by then Rep. Ferdinand E. Marcos of Ilocos Norte's second congressional district. The cooperative started with 200 members with a paid-up capital of P2,000. Since then, its volume of business has steadily grown up as it branched out into tobacco procuring, warehousing, piggery, marketing, gasoline station operation, lumber and hardware retailing. The ACA's branch office in Ilocos Norte reported that the total assets of the Batac Procoma amounts to P1 million as of fiscal year 1971-72.

The catastrophic July-August floods whipped up to a dramatic pitch the crying need for forest conservation. The pitch drew enthusiastic response. The government sector and, surprisingly, the once unperturbed private sector, the youths in particular, plunged into tree-planting on a scale and with an enthusiasm never witnessed before. About 800 youth volunteers composed mostly of students from Manila, Pampanga, the Bulacan National Agriculture College and the Pampanga Boy Scouts stuck some 78,000 tree seedlings over an estimated 24 hectare on the foothills of Mt. Arayat.

October 23—

ADDRESSING some 800 executive judges, provincial and city fiscals and legal officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, President Marcos called on the judiciary to assume a big role in the Reformation. The President told the government judges and prosecutors that if there was any immediate cause for revolution or rebellion, it is injustice. Pie said that both the quality and quantity of justice in the Philippines had been the subject of criticism and political oratory. The backlog of 103,000 pending cases in the courts of justice clearly indicated justice delayed, the President stated.

"While it is necessary to uphold the constitutional ruling on Parity Rights, this matter shall be pursued in the spirit of justice and fairness to all. The President gave this reassurance in a speech read for him by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. before the conference of Asia Pacific Council of American Chambers, sponsored by the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines. "If expropriation is to be undertaken, just compensation will be forthcoming," the President told the conference which was held at the Intercontinental Hotel in Makati, Rizal.

President Marcos convoked the Cabinet in a two-hour meeting to get a progress report on the administration's on-going projects. Discussed at the meeting: (1) public works projects, particularly in Central Luzon and the Manila area which suffered heavily during the last floods; (2) completion of the Greater Manila Terminal Food Market; (3)

organization of cooperatives to spur the land reform program; and (4) progress of scientific research in the Philippines.

Letter of Implementation issued by the President abolished the Office of Agrarian Counsel and created in its place the Bureau of Agrarian Legal Assistance under the Department of Agrarian Reform. This Letter which was issued in pursuance to Presidential Decree No. 1 of September 24, reorganizing the executive branch of the national government, also creates the Citizens Legal Assistance Office under the Department of Justice.

In the meanwhile, the President received the credentials of Ambassador Frederico Jose de Souza Teixeira de Sampaio, the new envoy of Portugal to the Philippines. Ambassador Sampaio succeeded Ambassador Julio Menimo Salcedas who had been called to the home office for reassignment. In receiving the letters of credence of the new envoy, the President expressed the hope that the close understanding between the Philippines and Portugal should give rise to other means of assistance for their mutual benefit.

October 24—

CHAIRMAN and members of the two Adjudication Boards and the first six Boards of Investigators have formally organized in accordance with Presidential Decree No. 12 issued by President Marcos. The decree provided that adjudication boards be created by the Police Commission to review and dispose of all administrative cases in city and municipal police forces. The decree also provides the creation of a board of investigators in each province and city to hear police cases in their respective jurisdictions. The initial boards were for Manila, Quezon City, Caloocan, Pasay and Rizal province.

Three district officers of the Thailand Ministry of the Interior hailed what they called the Philippines' current reinvigorated program for national development. Mr. Yongyoot Kontrong, Mr. Bunton Suksapit and Mr. Chairong Siribon who recently toured the country for two weeks, observed that the Philippines appeared advanced in more ways than one than most developing countries in Asia. Philippine commercial attaches stationed in different parts of the world have, meanwhile, taken steps to inform prospective tourists and visitors to the Philippines about improved conditions here since the imposition of Martial Law.

The D. Kr. 30 million (Danish Kroner) loan, about P28 million, from the Danish government to finance capital goods for the economic development of the Philippines finally materialized recently. The loan agreement which was entered into by the Philippines and Denmark on March 19, 1972 will be used to finance the purchase of some 5,000 diesel engines for irrigation pumps. The Danish diesel engines will start arriving in the country by January of next year and will continue to arrive at the rate of from 75 units to 240 units monthly until January 1975. The significance of this agreement is that within the next two years, the country shall be able to put under irrigation some 60,000 hectares of riceland on a year-round basis. Assuming that the average yield per hectare is 100 cavans (two crops), an additional harvest of six million cavans can easily be realized.

October 25—

THE LEAGUE of City Councilors of the Philippines expressed full support and complete adherence to the imposition of Martial Law by President Marcos. The league, in a press statement, announced that the organization stands four-square behind the President and would actively participate in the task of "national rebuilding." Spokesman of the league asserted that there have been marked changes in both governmental and private sectors, among which are:

"1. Trust and confidence is being strengthened in the government, more particularly in law enforcement and in the administration of justice;

"2. The new society is steadily doing away with grafters, opportunists and corruptors in both governmental and private sectors;

“3. Peace and order has greatly improved and this has been observed with gratification by the citizenry, by people from all walks of life; and

“4. The economic stability of the people, particularly in the low-income levels, has improved and is now fast becoming a reality due to the President’s control in the distribution and pricing of basic elements of livelihood such as prime commodities, house rentals and, more specifically, the declaration of the entire country as a land reform area.”

President Marcos issued Presidential Decree No. 16-A amending Presidential Decree No. 16 dated Oct. 5, 1972 entitled. “Amending Section 34 (b) of the National Internal Revenue Code, as amended, exempting capital gains, except shares of stocks of corporations under Section 4 of Republic Act No. 6141 under certain conditions.” Paragraph 5 of Presidential Decree No. 16 was amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 34 (b)—In the case of a taxpayer, other than a corporation, no gain or loss will be recognized on the portion of the gains realized that corresponds to the portion of the proceeds of the sale, disposition or transfer of capital assets, except shares of stocks of corporations covered in Section 4 of Republic Act No. 6141, invested in capital stocks of preferred productive enterprises or in the purchase of new issues of government bonds, securities, debentures and notes other than treasury bills, within six (6) months from the date the gains were realized: *Provided*, That the shares of stocks or government instruments representing the investments are not disposed of, transferred, assigned or conveyed for a period of three (3) years from the date the investment was made, otherwise all the taxes due on the gains realized from the original transfer, sale or disposition of the capital assets shall immediately become due and payable.”

The President also issued General Order No. 12-A amending G. O. No. 12 dated Sept. 30, 1972 by further defining the jurisdiction of military tribunals and prescribing that decisions of these tribunals shall be subject to appeal and or review by the President. (See full text under Presidential Decrees.) The President, likewise, issued Letter of Instructions No. 32 addressed to the chairman-general manager of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, ordering the dismissal of one employee and acceptance of the resignation of 19 others in the PCSO. The dismissal and acceptance of resignations was recommended by the PCSO head in implementation of the program of reforms in the public service.

October 26—

PRICES of prime commodities have decreased by as much as 66 per cent this week compared with prices prevailing before the proclamation of Martial Law. In a report to President Marcos, the Secretary of Trade and Tourism said that, based on the price survey made by the Bureau of Commerce, prices of 17 essential food items have registered decreases from one to 60 per cent.

The President, meanwhile, met with his fiscal and economic advisers in an effort to further reduce the prices of prime commodities. During the meeting, the President approved the proposal of the chairman of the Development Bank of the Philippines to adopt the concept of socialized prices. Under this concept, items usually used by the high and middle-income groups will remain at their present levels, while the cheaper items ordinarily used by the low-income groups will be reduced.

President Marcos informed a visiting U.S. Agency for International Aid (USAID) that emphasis has been given to land reform, rehabilitation and rural electrification in the distribution of U.S. aid to the Philippines. The President discussed the utilization of the initial \$30 million aid pledged by U.S. President Nixon to assist the Central Luzon flood victims, together with the \$50 million earmarked for their rehabilitation.

Franking privilege to all official communications and papers connected with the conduct of judicial proceedings, was extended by President Marcos. Contained in Presidential Decree No. 26, the privilege allows judges of the Courts of First Instance, Circuit Criminal Courts, Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, Courts of Agrarian Relations, Court of Industrial Relations, Military Tribunals, and City and Municipal Courts to transmit in the mail, free of charge, all official communications and papers directly connected with the conduct of judicial proceedings.

Newspaper and magazine publishers were urged to use local newsprint in putting out their publications by Secretary of Public Information Francisco S. Tatad. The Secretary endorsed the report of the Board of Investments which stated that local paper manufacturers can now satisfy the need of publishers, and their products can compete in both quality and price with the imported kinds.

“Rumor-mongers and those who thrive on dishing out false information inimical to public welfare or that would tend to make the people unduly worry or jittery will be arrested and detained.” This was emphasized by the chief of the Philippine Constabulary in the face of some rumors circulating in the Greater Manila Area and in the province that the Constabulary will conduct a “zone-wide” search or “zone” of whole blocks in attempts to ferret out criminal elements or illegal possessors of firearms. The PC chief stressed that these unfounded stories are false and have no basis in fact.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Month in Review: October 27-31, 1972

President's Week in Review: November 1-23, 1972

President's Week in Review: November 24-30, 1972

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

November 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS appealed to the private sector to join hands with the government and buckle down to work in establishing the New Society based on fairness and equity. In a 90-minute address before members of the Philippine Chamber of Industries, the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines and the Chamber of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the President urged his hearers to discard their "wait and see" attitude and find their place in the scheme and pattern of things under the New Society. The President allayed fears of a government take-over of private enterprises which, he said, is based on mere speculations. He said the government has never contemplated nor is contemplating the take-over of private enterprise, nor deprive private industrialists of hard-earned assets.

PRESIDENTIAL DECREE condoning all delinquent tax accounts amounting to P100 or less and granting tax amnesty on contested assessments subject to certain conditions, was issued by the President. The decree is in line with the President's policy of affording taxpayers with delinquent accounts and pending contested tax cases a final opportunity to settle their tax obligations.

COMMISSIONER OF Internal Revenue Misael P. Vera said that President Marcos decided to issue several tax decrees in order to "build a strong and viable economy." Commissioner Vera said that the President's intent is to "infuse discipline among the taxpayers by calling upon them to make truthful voluntary disclosures and giving them a chance to admit and correct their past mistakes."

HIGHLIGHTS of the new National Internal Revenue Code which he signed into a decree before a gathering of members of the Philippine Chamber of Industries, Chamber of Commerce and Chamber of Agriculture and Natural Resources, was announced by the President. Some of the features: 1) the code alters the entire administrative machinery of the Bureau of Internal Revenue; 2) the principal increase in taxes is in the estate and inheritance provisions; and 3) non-resident citizens shall pay only once based on the gross percentage which is very much less than what they are paying now.

PRESIDENT MARCOS issued Decree No. 63 which amends the Insurance Act. The President said he promulgated this decree in order "to promote and develop a strong national insurance industry and to provide the necessary operating conditions for its integration in the economic and social development of the country."

BRIG. GEN. Fidel V. Ramos, PC chief, warned unscrupulous military personnel from soliciting or accepting donations from private parties for PC or Armed Forces-connected activities. In a directive sent to all zone, task force and provincial commanders, Gen. Ramos stressed that the practice is not only contrary to the spirit of the Presidential Proclamation 1081 but will also create suspicion in the populace of the armed forces' intentions. The PC chief likewise directed local commanders to withdraw all appointments of police forces as deputies of the Land Transportation Commission. Gen. Ramos warned all police forces that further possession and use of the cancelled deputizations shall constitute violation of Proclamation 1081 and may be considered as crimes involving usurpation of authority, rank, title, and improper use of name, uniform and insignia.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY Alejandro Melchor issued a memorandum requiring the coursing of all matters involving local governments through the Department of Local Governments and Community Development. "All concerned, particularly local government officials, shall be guided accordingly," said the memorandum which was in line with Letter of Implementation No. 7 dated November 1, 1972.

November 25—

SECRETARY OF Labor Bias F. Ople said the government under Martial Law has regained its credibility because for the first time "the words are matching the deeds and the results, in some cases, have surpassed the expectations."

Speaking before the South Rizal Chamber of Industries fourth membership meeting in Makati, Rizal, Mr. Ople said: "During the past two months we have achieved the highest correlation between words and actions and, therefore, the highest credibility of any administration in our history."

AN APPEAL to all civic-minded persons to assist the law in the apprehension of fugitives, and persons who have not yet been taken into custody despite warrants of arrest issued against them, was issued by the Operations Center of the Department of Justice. The center's director, Jose B. Manansala of the National Bureau of Investigation, said that those with valuable information that may lead to the arrest of fugitives are welcome at the Center, if they are hesitant to report to other law-enforcement agencies. The Center's offices are located at the Prosecution Annex bldg., Department of Justice, Padre Faura, Ermita, Manila.

INFORMATION SECRETARY Francisco S. Tatad said in a press briefing that the government has enough evidence indicating a "rightist conspiracy" that could have led to a coup d'etat before the proclamation of Martial Law. Mr. Tatad said that the plot was political in nature, making use of criminal elements and, to a certain extent, Communist elements. In this connection, Mr. Tatad said that the government has in its custody a certain Edward Lehman, an American, who has implicated a number of persons, both Filipinos and foreigners, in the plot.

November 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS directed that the promulgation of the rules implementing transfer of lands from landowners to tenants be postponed pending studies made in the pilot projects. The directive which was embodied in a memorandum addressed to Secretary of Agrarian Reform Cochrado F. Estrella and Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata, listed some of the guidelines that will be adopted, including, 1) that no tenant will be ejected or removed pending the promulgation of the Rules and Regulations; and, 2) that landowners will be encouraged to sell or swap their lands under certain arrangements.

NATIONAL LABOR Relations Commission established by President Marcos under Presidential Decree No. 21, settled 135 cases during its first month of operation ending November 21, resulting in the payment of P201,887.50 as back wages and separation pay to 121 workers and in the reinstatement of 58 workers. In the first monthly report submitted by Undersecretary Amado G. Inciong, commission chairman, the NLRC received a total of 685 cases, of which 135 were settled; and 318 applications for clearance to shut down, to dismiss employees, of which 285 were granted and 33 referred for mediation-factfinding.

MOST PRIVATE hospitals and physicians are now abiding by the policy of the Medicare Program to charge medicare patients only the medicare rates provided under R.A. 6111. Dr. Pacifico E. Marcos, chairman of the Philippine Medical Care Commission, said this is a development resulting from the growing confidence in the program by beneficiaries, on the one hand, and hospitals and physicians, on the other. He deplored, however, that some private hospitals and physicians still tend to charge more than the medicare rates.

November 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and the other top leaders of the country agreed to submit the new Constitution proposed by the Constitutional Convention to a plebiscite on January 15, next year. The decision to submit the proposed Constitution to the people for approval as soon as possible was reached at a Malacañang meeting which was attended by Senate President Gil. J. Puyat, Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal, President Diosdado Macapagal of the Constitutional Convention, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor Jr., Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos, Secretary of Public Information Francisco S. Tatad, Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile; Chairman Jaime Ferrer and Commissioner Lino Patajo of the Commission on Elections; Leyte Governor Benjamin Romualdez and Baguio City Mayor Luis Lardizabal, chairmen of the Governors and City Mayors Leagues, respectively; and Delegate Gilbert Duavit of the Convention.

THREE STATE bodies will work together to give the people the information they need to vote intelligently in the Constitutional plebiscite scheduled for January 15, 1973. The bodies are the Commission on Elections, the Department of Public Information and the Constitutional Convention. Public Information Secretary Francisco S.

Tatad said that the information drive will make use of eight major languages, including Arabic which is aimed at Muslim Filipinos in the South. Mr. Tatad said: "We will allow free and orderly discussion of issues, not personalities. The only limitation that overrides all other limitations in the matter of free discussion is this—anything that might cause disorder or endanger the security of the state will be prohibited."

PRESIDENT MARCOS impressed upon the 33 members of his "Do Tank" the importance of their mission, saying that their performance may spell the difference between the success or failure of the administration. The President said that since his assumption of the presidency in 1965, he had always found the middle level of management wanting and deficient, and often constituting the obstacle to the implementation of worthwhile projects.

SECRETARY OF Justice Vicente Abad Santos has invited the attention of all judges to the President's general order providing that cases involving crimes committed by officers and enlisted men of the armed forces shall be under the exclusive jurisdiction of military tribunals. Mr. Abad Santos directed the Courts of First Instance, Circuit Criminal Courts, Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, city and municipal courts to transfer such cases to the judge advocate general of the AFP through the local PC provincial commander.

November 28—

NEW ADDITIONAL reductions in meat retail prices which were voluntarily offered last week by meat dealers in Greater Manila, was officially promulgated by the- Price Control Council. The new reductions which promise further savings of P0.50 to P1.50 per kilo for consumers, cover beef and carabeef (carabao beef). The price cuts are over and above the retail price ceilings on meat which took effect October 15. The cuts are made possible with the successful implementation of Presidential Decree No. 7 which abolishes a number of fees and charges imposed by provincial, city and municipal governments ,on the production, slaughter, transport and marketing of livestock and animal products.

PRESIDENT MARCOS issued Decree No. 70 which insures the successful operation of malaria eradication campaigns. The decree said that in order to overcome serious setbacks malaria eradication drives on account of the refusal of homeowners to cooperate in this campaign, adopted as part of the law of the land House Bill No. 15077 entitled "An Act Insuring the Successful Operation of Manila Eradication Campaigns in the Philippines."

SOME 2,000 families of the cultural minorities recently received some 21,200 planting materials from the Bureau of Plant Industry in line with the government's food production program, Director Eliseo C. Carandang of the Bureau of Plant Industry announced. The recipient families belong to the minority tribes in Tanay, Rizal; Zamboanga; Mindoro; Lanao del Sur and Cotabato. Under the cultural minority food project the BPI had distributed 570 cavans of agricultural seeds and 176,250 pieces of planting materials to 2,300 minority families last year.

PUBLIC INFORMATION Secretary Francisco S. Tatad emphasized a "new allegiance to truth" in the marketing society. In a speech, before the Philippine Marketing Association, Mr. Tatad said that "there must above all be a will to serve, to meet needs that exist rather than create needs that do not and need not exist, or enlarge those that exist only in margin." He added: "Ours will continue to be a producing, marketing society. It will continue to be a consumer society. But there is a quality of life we must attain which must now assume precedence over the" considerations that used to govern our thoughts and actions in the consumer market. We are called upon to give what we can to make that quality of life possible—and the most that you can give is a total dedication to truth, integrity, fairness and the decency that make the good society attainable."

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered the arrest and prosecution of all persons who peddle or solicit human blood and all persons, including physicians, who conduct blood transfusions, even during emergencies, without first following the standards of blood banking practices. In Letter of Instructions No. 42, the President also directed the secretaries of health and justice "to close, stop or suspend the operations of hospitals, clinics and blood banks violating the provisions of R.A. 1517 which prohibits exportation of and trafficking in human blood, its products and derivatives for commercial purposes." The letter of instructions was issued in view of the rampant trafficking in human blood in hospitals, clinics and blood banks despite a Presidential directive on March 23, 1972 regarding the strict implementation of R.A. 1517.

DURING FISCAL Year 1971-72, the country exported a total of 8,117,093 kilos of fresh mangoes, ginger, coffee, dried beans and fresh melons worth \$1,887,107 to Hongkong, United States, Japan and Singapore. The exportations were made by some 30 firms and individuals, including the Greater Manila Terminal Food Market. The shipments were recorded by the Bureau of Plant Industry quarantine office in Port Area, Manila where all incoming and outgoing crops, seeds and other plant materials pass through for quarantine services. Exports during the fiscal year showed an increase of about \$52,208 as compared to the preceding fiscal year's total shipment which was 8,170,729 kilos worth \$1,834,899.

November 29 –

PRESIDENT MARCOS directed national and local officials concerned to effect a “continuing flow of transportation” on streets and highways by undertaking the following measures.; 1) To effect the removal of all impediments on streets, sidewalks and highways such as things, constructions, stalled and/or parked vehicles and other movable property that obstruct free passage; 2) To study, adopt and implement a system of expeditious repair of roads and highways and devise a method of traffic administration, management and control that ensure continuous flow of transportation on streets and highways; 3) To formulate and enforce reasonable measures designed to secure discipline and promote, in general, public safety and convenience on the streets and highways; and 4) To closely coordinate and render assistance for the prompt and efficacious implementation of these instructions.

BRIG. GEN. Fidel V. Ramos, PC chief, ordered all PC operating units to clear first with his office before conducting any arrest of military personnel or civilians. In his directive to all zone, task force and provincial commanders, the PC chief said that all operating units must obtain clearance first from his office before effecting any arrest. He said that there were reports reaching his office that there were still recent arrests made by some units without his clearance despite an earlier directive to do otherwise.

ALL NATIONAL, provincial, city, municipal and barrio officials were asked to help mold unity among the people in the same manner that they are showing unity, discarding their political colors, during the emergency. The President sounded the appeal before congress leaders governors and city and municipal mayors who called at Malacafiang to voice their unanimous approval and support of Martial Law, as well as the holding of the plebiscite on the proposed new Constitution on January 15 next year. The President however cautioned the officials against prematurely predicting the success of the Martial Law and subsequent orders, decrees and proclamations, saying that he was not happy over the surrender of firearms because they were made by friends and not by the enemies of the state. He congratulated his callers for their pledge of support, saying that much of the credit for the success of the emergency measures was due to their unselfish and wholehearted support in which they laid aside party considerations.

AT THE SAME time, Secretary of Public Information Francisco S. Tatad urged local leaders, “the legitimate custodians of popular faith,” to set the example by totally committing and involving themselves to the building of a New Society, “not for some alone, nor for the many alone, but for all.” Mr. Tatad who was guest speaker at the convention of the Provincial Governors and City Mayors League said, “Our people need your total commitment. In a country such as ours, the path of reform is uncertain only insofar as you are uncertain, only insofar as the existing political subdivisions are indifferent to that reform.” He added: “For men to improve, there must be a strong and enlightened leadership that will not follow but lead; that will not wait but act; that will teach men the values that make strong bonds between political and social individuals, and within human communities.”

November 30—

PRESIDENT MARCOS called on the doctors, nurses and other members of the medical profession to “share more of their time and energies in serving the masses, those who live in the slums in the cities, as well as in far-flung villages.” In a speech read for him at the second annual meeting of the Philippine Advisory Board for Medical Specialties, the President said that “we may need to rationalize the movement of our medical practitioners and other professionals to foreign lands, determine how much exodus may be tempered without violating the principle of choice and free movement.

ACCOMPANIED BY the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, the President inspected the commuter train service which he had ordered established to provide cheaper and faster means of transportation for the settlers in Carmona, Cavite and San Pedro Tunasan, Laguna. The President motored to the Pio del Pilar PNR station at Kilometer 13.249 where he boarded one of the self-propelled commuter coaches for the Greater Manila Terminal Food Market. During the five-minute ride, Col. Nicanor Jimenez, PNR general manager, informed the President that the 5.5-kilometer extension line from San Pedro Tunasan, Laguna to Carmona, Cavite will be completed on the first week of April next year. Col. Jimenez reported however that beginning December 1, two commuter cars running in pairs will make eight trips between San Pedro Tunasan and Tutuban with initial stops at San Lazaro, Sampaloc, Sta. Mesa, Pandacan, Paco, Pio del Pilar, Highway 54, GMTFM, Philippine American Embroidery and Sukat.

IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS affecting the personal and household effects of residents of the Philippines returning from abroad, was approved by Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata. Personal and household effects of returning Philippine residents, including jewelry, precious stones and other articles of luxury, which were formally declared and listed before departure and identified under oath before the collector of customs when exported from the Philippines by such returning residents upon their departure or during their stay abroad, may be allowed entry free Of duty, under certain conditions.

ADDED SIGNIFICANCE to the commemoration of Bonifacio Day was given by President Marcos by launching the “Mabuhay ang Pilipino Movement” from historic Maharlika hall of Malacañang. In a speech before thousands affiliated with 28 civic organizations participating in the movement, the President said: “Today, as we pay homage to a man who made us all proud to be Filipinos, it is only fitting that we should choose this day to launch a movement which summons all the energies of our people, and join them together in the building of our new society.” The President recalled that in Bonifacio’s time “the cries of pain and protest brought into fruitful union all the aspirations of the Filipinos for nationhood and liberation, brought brother and brother together, and for the first time gave recognition to the Filipinos as one people. “That fateful union, led by the man we honor today.” the President said, “severed the ties of a subject people to their colonial masters and, at the sacrifice of blood, fortune and honor, planted the flag of a new nation before the eyes of the world.”

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: December 1-7, 1972

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

December 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS issued a decree calling a plebiscite on January 15, 1973 for the ratification or rejection of the proposed new Constitution and appropriating P15 million to carry out the purposes of the decree. The proposed Constitution shall be published in full in English and in Pilipino, to be translated by the Institute of National Language, once in the *Official Gazette* and in three issues of at least two newspapers of national circulation not later than two weeks before the plebiscite. The decree further directed that printed copies of the Constitution shall be posted in a conspicuous place in local government buildings and in all polling places to be made available to voters during plebiscite day.

TO' ASSURE the people of full information and enlightenment on the provisions of the proposed Constitution, the President decreed that the "people may discuss the provisions freely and publicly in order that they can vote intelligently: Provided, however, that the discussion shall be limited to the Constitution and shall not in any manner tend to cause disorder or endanger the security of the state." The provisions of the Election Code of 1971 regarding rights and obligations of political parties and candidates, shall not apply to the plebiscite.

THE PRESIDENT directed the Secretary of National Defense and the Chief of Staff of the armed forces to "see to it that the people are accorded the fullest opportunity to freely and publicly discuss and debate the various provisions of the new Constitution. He directed that, 1) All members of media now under detention be immediately processed for ultimate release if they are not connected with actual subversion and, 2) The members of the Constitutional Convention now under detention be forthwith released unless facing criminal charges.

RETIRED BRIGADIER General Francisco A. Joves observed in a speech before the Dagupan City Rotary Club that Martial Law under President Marcos is "humane, mild, benevolent, legal, constitutional, yet non-violent and non-oppressive." Gen. Joves cited several cases of Martial Law he learned as a student officer at the Command and General Staff College in Leavenworth, Kansas, wherein the chief of state or head "is the legislator, judge and even executioner—all in one hand." The general cited four cases of Martial Law in the Philippines in the past: 1) Governor General Luke E. Wright proclaimed Martial Law in Cavite and Batangas on January 13, 1905 at a time when the government was fighting the "ladrones" in those two provinces; 2) Spanish Gov. Gen. Polavieja in 1896 against the "insurrectos"; 3) Gen. Arthur MacArthur against the "pulahanas" in Samar in 1903; and Gen. John Pershing against the Muslim "outlaws" in Mindanao and Sulu.

NATIONAL DEFENSE Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile said Martial Law is implemented to balance the relationship between freedom and responsibility and to extirpate the excesses in the exercise of the rights and freedoms in a free society. Secretary Enrile stated in a speech before the Philippine Historical Association that the "postwar period which finally saw us in complete possession of our sovereignty and independence also witnessed the disintegration of our society, so much so that in the end, specifically on the 21st day of last September, the President had to take this last constitutional recourse vested in him by the fundamental law of the land—the declaration of Martial Law." He gave credit to the wisdom of the framers of the Constitution who had the foresight to anticipate a social ferment in our history that would require a constitutional means effective and strong enough to ward off the dangers to the Republic.

TRADE AND TOURISM Secretary Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. reported substantial decreases in the prices of sugar, rice, fresh fish, meat, shrimps, dried fish, eggs, vegetables, canned goods and salt. Mr. Quiazon reported that the prevailing prices of other prime commodities are well within the levels allowed by the Price Control Law.

SETTLEMENT PROJECTS are being activated by the Department of Agrarian Reform in preparation for the relocation of farmers who may be dispossessed as a result of the re-arrangement of the boundaries of farmlands in accordance with the government's land reform program. Conceived by DAR Secretary Conrado F. Estrella, the settlement projects were designed to cushion the impact of the land reform program which is expected to cause the

temporary dislocation of some 59,000 tenant-farmers. The government, adopting a policy of establishing economic family-size farms as basis of the country's economy, has granted farmers the right to acquire three hectares of agricultural land, if the land is irrigated, and five hectares, if the land is unirrigated.

MEDICARE MEMBERS are urged to report hospitals which refuse to cooperate with the Medicare Program so that appropriate legal action can be taken against them. Medicom Chairman Pacifico E. Marcos cited an opinion of the legal counsel of the Bureau of Medical Services which stated that "all hospitals duly licensed by the BMS which have been selected by medicare patients in the exercise of their freedom of choice of hospitals guaranteed by the provisions of Republic Act 6111 are under legal mandate not to deny them the use of said medical facilities."

December 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS appealed to the electorate to get out and cast their votes, whether they are for or against the proposed Constitution, in the plebiscite to be held next January 15. The President reminded the electorate that it is the sacred duty of every citizen to cast his vote, regardless of whether he is for or against the proposed Constitution, because he has a stake in it.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, is the last day for registration of new voters for the plebiscite. It is also the last day for any voter to transfer his registration record from one precinct to another within the same city, municipality or municipal district. Chairman Jaime N. Ferrer of the Commission on Elections said the term "new voters" who should register to be able to vote in the plebiscite are, 1) those who will be 21 years of age on or before January 15, 1973 and who possess the qualification of a voter and, 2) Those who were registered voters but whose names had been cancelled from the precinct book of voters due to their failure to vote in two consecutive regular elections.

"BAGONG ANYO '72" will be featured in the annual celebration of "Christmas Around the World" in Seattle, Washington on December 17. The celebration is one of the biggest cultural events in Seattle. Held at the Museum of History and Industry there, the affair is under the auspices of the Seattle Historical Association. It offers a potpourri of various Christmas holiday traditions and a display of international customs and music. This year's 21st annual celebration will see 23 countries participating. The "Post Intelligencer," a Seattle daily newspaper, featured a half-page, four-column color photo of Filipino dancers last November 19.

CUSTOMS REVENUE take at the Port of Manila for November 1972 soared to P128,189,737.29—considered the highest in its collection history for a single month. This is P16,611,450.45 or 14.89 per cent higher than the collection made for the same period last year. According to Customs Commissioner Rolando G. Geotina, last year's collection was only P111,578,286.82. He attributed the increase to the fast processing of papers and the cooperation being extended by importers, brokers and banks to the new procedure introduced early this month by customs authorities.

PUBLIC INFORMATION Secretary Francisco S. Tatad allayed the fears of leaders of the electronics and telecommunications industry on the need for controls and supervision by the government, but rather emphasized the state's policy of promoting the industry's growth and development. "Government has always been alive to the good that the industry has brought in terms of modernizing our society, and to the unlimited prospects of growth that the industry uniquely affords us at this time," Mr. Tatad said at the opening ceremonies of the Fifth National Electronics and Telecommunications Week at the Magsaysay Center.

December 3—

PATENTS IN THE United States and the Philippines on a unique "universal clock" that not only shows the time anywhere in the world but also announces it, was won by a Filipino inventor. In the clock invented by Gregorio T. Guintos, 68, of Hinobaan, Negros Occidental, time is shown at any point on the earth. This includes the hour, minute and date, as well as whether it is daytime or nighttime. Guintos who is neither a scientist nor a horologist, was granted U.S. patent No. 3611704 on December 5, 1969 for inventing his universal clock. On July 29, 1971, the Philippine government also awarded him patent No: 6994, and this year it gave him financial assistance from the Special Science Fund to build a working model.

SOME 4,128 enlisted men's promotional vacancies in the table of organization in the Philippine Army will be filled up this December. Affected by the directive are 1,870 private first class personnel, 1,124 corporals, 672 duty sergeants, 366 staff sergeants, and 128 technical sergeants who will be promoted to the next higher grade. Enlisted personnel who have spent 10 or more years time in a grade, and those holding temporary ranks on eligible status are given priority in the selection for promotion.

December 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that "the New Society will be built by a people who have responded to the call of hard work, sacrifice and excellence, and the individuals who constitute it and the quality of purpose and resolve in their lives will make it vital and alive." In a speech delivered for him by Secretary of Public Information Francisco S. Tatad at the 40th anniversary awards banquet of the Philippine Amateur Radio Association, the President said: "The New Society will be founded on the character and will of our people. This means the regeneration of men along with the institutions in our society. In the past society, we installed individual ambition instead of brotherhood instead of developing self-reliance and self-possession, we depended on privilege and mendicancy in order to prevail and, at times, survive; instead of working in cooperation and fraternity, we descended into fratricidal violence in our speech and deed; and in place of initiative and ability, we employed fraud and corruption in the pursuit of success.

POINTING OUT that the Philippines is facing a very serious challenge in the traditional exports, with copra prices going down and coconut oil facing numerous competitors, the President ordered the Board of Investments to work out a plan with textile millers for the improvement of the quality of local textiles. The President said "something must be done" to save the export trade which the administration is trying very hard to promote, and one of the most promising fields is in textile products. The President stated he has been receiving numerous orders, one of them for \$1.3 billion, but that before entertaining such orders, "we must see to it that our products are acceptable internationally and can compete on prices internationally."

ONE OF THE most important programs of government is the program of development for the young. The President, addressing the opening session of the first national conference on children and the youth, which was attended by some 400 delegates, pointed out that the Philippines is a very young nation. "Perhaps more than any other developing nation, the Philippines must place great importance on the youth because 62 per cent of our people are aged below 25," the President said.

TRADE AND TOURISM Secretary Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. announced that the Philippines has exceeded its sugar quota to the United States this year, making an overshipment of 34,456 STRV (short ton raw value). Against the 1972 sugar supply quota of 1,401,761 STRV (short ton raw value), the Philippines has shipped 1,424,547 STRV of raw sugar and 11,670 STRV of refined sugar; making a total of 1,436,217 short tons. The overshipment of 34,456 short tons, which is the equivalent of 29,970 LTCW (long ton cubic weight) will ensure the filling of the Philippine quota for 1972 even if two of the vessels carrying Philippine sugar fail to arrive at the discharge port in the United States before January 1, 1973, according to the report submitted by the Sugar Quota Administration to Mr. Quiazon.

GRADUATES OF THE National Agricultural Skills Training Program can avail themselves of the credit facilities of the local rural banks without need of collaterals. The agricultural skills training program, launched in March this year, is part of the government effort to accelerate socio-economic growth in the rural areas. The program is being undertaken jointly by the National Manpower and Youth Council Department of Education and Culture, Bureau of Agricultural Extension, Department of Local Government and Community Development, Central Bank and the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines.

SERVICEABILITY of a writer to the cause of progress lies in his capacity and willingness to articulate, to edify and thereby give definitive directions to what otherwise might be random and diffuse exertions. This observation was voiced by Secretary of Public Information Francisco S. Tatad in a speech before the Association of Ilocano Writers. He said that if "we accept this, then it becomes apparent that the writer's first function in the service of progress would be to give a thoughtful basis or a rational impetus for vigorous and concerted action." He added: "But vigorous action demands sacrifices and men do not make an offering of their toil unless they see themselves as

moving towards a desirable and attainable horizon. That horizon, lined by social, economic and political goals, must be made vivid and valid in the minds of our people, and this can be achieved through competence and skill.”

December 5—

SSS ADMINISTRATOR Gilberto S. Teodoro announced that starting this January, the compensation of a covered employe which is subject to SSS monthly contribution shall include all actual remuneration, “except that part of the remuneration received during the month which exceeds P1,000.” Mr. Teodoro said, “This means that the range of compensation upon which the monthly contributions of an employe will be based, has been increased from the previous maximum salary of P500 to P1,000.” He added that this change is in line with Presidential Decree No. 24, amending the Social Security Law.

AN ALL-TIME high collections of P5,688,271 in November was recorded at the Manila International Airport customhouse, according to a report submitted by Collector Cesar Dario. The November collection represented an increase of P1,993,948, or about 54 per cent, over that of the same period last year. An increase in the volume of incoming cargo was also reported by the airport warehouse manager, Francisco Astilla, who said that 316,066 kilos were registered for last month as against 313,500 kilos in November last year. The disappearance of fixers, smuggling, harassment and major apprehensions with the implementation of Proclamation 1081, was pointed to as the cause of the collection and incoming cargo increases.

AGRARIAN REFORM Secretary Conrado F. Estrella said that sugar and coconut lands are not covered by Presidential Decree No. 27 (Emancipation of Tenants decree) and that only owners of tenanted rice and corn farmlands are directed to sell their landholdings to bonafide tenant-tillers. Mr. Estrella made this clarification due to persistent queries on the actual coverage of the Decree. “The language of the decree is clear and that all lands other than those planted to rice and corn are exempt from the purview of the decree which ordains the emancipation of tenants,” he, said.

AN INCREASE of 70 per cent in the area planted to high-yielding varieties of sugarcane, was announced by the Philippine Sugar Institute. The institute is engaged in an intensified educational and informational campaign to induce sugarcane planters to adopt modern techniques including the use of high-yielding varieties. There are at present 411,505 hectares of land planted to sugarcane. Of the area, 85 per cent is planted to HYV’s. Before the implementation of the program, only 15 per cent of the area was planted to HYV’s.

December 6—

THE HOUSE OF Representatives laid, down the organizational framework for its participation in the national campaign for the ratification of the proposed Constitution. Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal convoked a bipartisan caucus of all congressmen and divided them into regional coordination committees. Following the regional division under the government reorganization plan, Mr. Villareal assigned the regional chairmen from among senior members of the Lower House. These solons, assisted by other representatives, will coordinate the campaign in the provinces and congressional districts within their regions. The Speaker said he was inviting senators and Constitutional Convention delegates to be members of the regional coordinating committees. However, in the provincial level of the campaign organization, the governor shall be the chairman. The purpose of the regional coordinating committees, Mr. Villareal said, is to remedy possible conflicts and overlappings in the movements and operating areas of campaigners as well as in the distribution of information materials.

ALL DIVISION and city superintendents and officers-in-charge of public schools were named deputies of the Commission on Elections in their respective areas for the purpose of the coming plebiscite. As Comelec deputies, the local school officials will take charge of the more than 180,000 public school teachers who will serve as election inspectors in the January 15 plebiscite. During the plebiscite, three teachers will be poll inspectors in each of the 60,000 precincts in the country. The teachers who served as poll inspectors in the 1971 local election will also serve as such for the plebiscite, without need of any new appointment. The automatic reappointment aims to expedite preparation’s for the national referendum on the new Constitution.

ALL COMPLAINTS and information relative to the enforcement of Presidential Proclamation No. 1081 will be entertained by the Complaints and Action Branch of the Department of National Defense on a 24-hour basis daily, including Sundays and holidays, DND Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile said that in the interest of public service, he has directed, the CAB to answer queries and entertain complaints from the public made either personally or through communications. The legal counsel of the DND will make reasonable referrals of complaints or information to the appropriate government agencies; make periodic follow-up of such referrals and undertake the preparation and completion of the staff action necessary with respect to matters requiring the secretary's action.

PRESIDENT MARCOS issued a decree requiring all persons—natural or juridical—owning or administering real property, including the improvements thereon, to file sworn statements of the true value of such property. The President noted that values of real property and improvements in said real property and improvements therein are usually underdeclared obviously for the purpose of evading payment of higher and correct taxes due the government. He said that “although real property and the improvements therein are undervalued for purposes of taxation, these real property are sold to the government when needed for public purposes, such as the construction of roads and other infrastructures, at their market value which is usually 10 to 20 times more than the value declared by the owners for purposes of taxation.

NATIONWIDE BAN on the manufacture, sale and possession of firecrackers and other pyrotechnic wares for the forthcoming Yuletide and New Year's holidays, was imposed -by the Philippine Constabulary. In a directive to all zone, task force and provincial commanders, Brig. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, PC chief, said that the ban is pursuant to Presidential Proclamation 1081 and Executive Order No. 52 dated November 28, 1966. Gen. Ramos stated that stiff penalties will be imposed on all violators of the ban.

PRESIDENTIAL DECREE No. 77 amending Section 1 of R.A. 5180 prescribing a uniform system of preliminary investigation by provincial and city fiscals and their assistants, and by state attorneys or their assistants. The President said that R.A. 5180 which grants the complainant and the respondent in a preliminary investigation the right to confront and cross-examine each other and their witnesses, “is time-consuming and not conducive to the expeditious administration of justice.”

TWO DETAINEES were sentenced by a military court to life imprisonment and imposed a fine of P20,000 each after both were found guilty of violating the Dangerous Drugs. Act of 1972. Sentenced were Chua Cha and Charito Trinidad in whose possession were found drug paraphernalia and chemicals, during a raid conducted by a combined force of the National Bureau of Investigation and Metrocom agents at their residence at 840 Cabatuan St., Caloocan City. The paraphernalia were later found to have traces of heroine and morphine in a chemical analysis conducted by the NBI.

December 7—

ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT on the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, was made at the Nayong Pilipino in Pasay City during the award ceremonies of the National Beautification and Cleanliness Contest. In an official statement issued following the attempt, Secretary of Public Information Francisco S. Tatad said: “There was an attempt on the life of the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, this afternoon. Mrs. Marcos, who sustained wounds in the arms inflicted by the assassin, is now confined at the Makati Medical Center.

“The attempt on the life of Mrs. Marcos took place at the Nayong Pilipino where she was the guest of honor at the award ceremonies for the winners of the National Beautification Campaign. The incident happened in full view of television cameras.

“The First Lady was receiving the awardees one by one when suddenly a man in dark suit came up the stage and pulled out a bladed instrument as he came near her. Mrs. Marcos instinctively backed away, but the assailant managed to reach her with his weapon. Mrs. Marcos parried the thrust with both arms and she threw herself on the floor.

“The assailant hacked away at the people who immediately surrounded Mrs. Marcos, wounding some of them. Finally, he was killed by the security men.

“Mrs. Marcos was flown to the hospital by helicopter, where the President immediately joined her. The President was shocked beyond words at the news.

“An investigation is in progress. The identity and motive of the assailant will be made known after the proper investigation has been made.”

PHILIPPINE CONSTABULARY is in dire need of the services of 40 lawyers. Col. Hamilton Dimaya, PC judge advocate, said any lawyer who is not more than 45 years old may apply for commission with his office. The 40 lawyers to be commissioned will be assigned with the military law division, martial law affairs division and PC-wide legal service division of the office of the PC judge advocate.

SMUGGLING OF blue seal cigarettes abruptly declined last month as compared with previous months, according to Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata after receiving a report on smuggling operations for the month of November from the Anti-Smuggling Action Center. The Secretary said that in November, only P20,000 worth of blue seal cigarettes were apprehended by anti-smuggling agencies as against P133,634 in October and P526,270 in September 1972. Other significant decreases were registered in illegal logging, post exchange and other commissary goods. Retired Gen. Pelagio A. Cruz, ASAC chairman, however reported that there is still a persistent active market in narcotics as evidenced by the fact that in November, about P140,000 worth of narcotics was seized by anti-smuggling government agencies as against P92,380 in October and P101,750 in September.

PRESIDENT MARCOS warned officials in charge of the construction of the country's roads and bridges against sliding back into the practices of the Old Society which had caused the country the loss of millions of pesos. Addressing the regional directors and assistant regional directors of the Bureau of Public Highways, and newly-appointed city engineers during their oath-taking in Malacañang, the President pledged to support them when they perform their tasks correctly but “by the same token will enforce new standards of conduct with all the coercive powers of the government.”

AN INVIGORATED domiciliary service program, in response to President Marcos' challenge to the doctors of the country to extend a helping hand to the underprivileged and the poor, was launched by the Philippine Tuberculosis Society. The program will bring the services of the PTS to the homes of indigent and bed-ridden TB patients. The PTS will provide these patients with physicians and nurses, including free medicines, injections, tuberculin tests and BCG and sputum examinations. The campaign will initially center on the slum areas where poverty breeds tuberculosis and tuberculosis breeds poverty in an endless cycle.

FURTHER STRENGTHENING of relationship between the Philippines and Indonesia was effected by making effective their border agreement on trade. The effectivity was implemented by an exchange of notes between the Department of Foreign Affairs and the local Indonesian embassy. Under the agreement, resident traders may engage in trading activities between Philippine ports, namely, Mabila in Balut Island and Bongao in the Tawi-Tawi Islands, and four Indonesian ports, namely, Tahuna, Marore, Miangas in Sangir-Talaud and Nunukan port in the Nunukan district.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

President's Week in Review: December 8-14, 1972

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

December 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS called upon the people to read the new Constitution “with thoroughness and care for they will be facing a decision that will have a profound impact on their lives as well as on the destiny of the country.” On the basis of careful reading and reflection, the people should be able to vote intelligently on the charter, the President said in a speech read for him by Secretary David Consunji of Public Works, Transportation and Communications during ceremonies in Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija. “But for those who have read the portents and promises of the new Constitution, I ask that they articulate on the merits of the draft charter and campaign for its approval.” He added: “We welcome public discussions on the charter, even if they express dissent. For such discussions could lead to more intelligent judgment on the Constitution,”

IN MANY WAYS, land reform will decide the destiny of the country not only because the fortunes of the majority of the people may be decided by its failures or successes, but also because land reform effectively counters many of the social ills which have raised grievances to a tragic level. In another speech read for him by Governor Gregorio S. Licaros at the 9th Agricultural Credit Conference in Baguio City, the President said he looked forward to the time “when our farmers will be truly liberated as persons and as productive members of our society.” The President continued: “In that time, land reform will have been past history, a milestone passed. And our land will bloom with crops, our agriculture will have passed on to a thriving industry, closely linked to a modern complex of necessary industries.”

FROM JULY 1 to November 30 this year, the Agricultural Credit Administration has extended P14.32 million in different loans to farmers and farmers cooperatives. Of this amount, P11 million was extended in production loans to small farmers, while P3.32 million was extended to farmers cooperatives in commodity, marketing, facility and operating capital. The ACA is the credit arm of the Department of Agrarian Reform which has been extending loans and cash aids to small farmers and farmers cooperatives in the rural areas in line with the President's agrarian reform program.

GOVERNMENT EFFORTS to “unite our people in a common life of peace, dignity and prosperity” was reiterated by Secretary Francisco S. Tatad of Public Information in a speech before the Conference on Business' Prospects in Makati, Rizal. “Whatever be the difficulties, we shall pursue these goals,” Mr Tatad said. “We are determined to see that this nation takes its place in concourse of nations, not as a people sentenced to live together, or die together, but as a people, proud and happy to have the opportunity to live and interact with one another, and build a union where division or strife attends the lives of others.”

FINANCE SECRETARY Cesar E. A. Virata entrusted the responsibility of implementing Presidential Decree No. 76 to provincial and city assessors, provincial and city treasurers, and provincial, city, municipal or municipal district boards or councils. The decree requires all persons, natural or juridical, owning or administering real property, including the improvements thereon, to file sworn statements of the true value of such property.

PRESIDENT MARCOS said he is more determined than ever to remove all causes of criminality and disorder in society. Speaking to newsmen after emerging from the chapel of the Makati Medical Center where he and the First Lady's well-wishers heard a Thanks-giving Mass, the President said: “I am all the more resolved to proceed with the program to eradicate and eliminate all threats against the stability of our “society and to push through the reform program. When we undertook this experiment, we knew we would pay a price, but I cannot forgive myself that it had to be her to pay such a price; I wish I had been there when this happened.” The President was referring to “the assassination attempt made on the First Lady the day before. They had been at the Medical Center where Mrs. Marcos was having her arm wounds treated as a result of the incident.

December 9—

AS THE NATION'S history is being written, there is a future that awaits every Filipino, "a future that has room for all of us." Secretary of Public Information Francisco S. Tatad before the Philippine College of Surgeons, said "This should be a future where there is genuine equality of opportunity and the exercise of one's skills and gifts; where men who have given up corruption and privilege would have the opportunity to realize their basic humanity by the exercise of their creative talents." Mr. Tatad said that it is "a future none of us should fear, beginning with those who today have much deference and privilege to give up." For it is a society, he said, that will crown the individual for what he is, and not for what he has, where wealth or poverty will no longer be an issue, there having been a democratization of wealth, a levelling of status."

DEFENSE SECRETARY Juan Ponce Enrile, on the other hand, told private business and industrial sectors to assume both discipline and sacrifice demanded by the present exigencies as "we enter this stage of institutional reforms and reorientation in national development." Mr. Enrile said that while it is true that the profit motive is probably the most effective incentive of the private entrepreneurs for his assurance of growth in the market of competition, this motive will have to be subordinated to the social interests necessitated by prevailing circumstances. "At no time should the profit motive be utilized to justify unreasonable excess returns on investment," the secretary added.

SOME POLICIES embodied in the proposed Constitution will redound to improvement in the management of government finances and will have beneficial effects for private business enterprises. Finance Secretary Cesar E. A. Virata before a conference on "Business Prospects for 1973" explained that, under the proposed charter, the practice of enacting appropriation bills without the corresponding revenue measures to support such expenditures will no longer be possible. The finance secretary urged local bankers and financiers to invest in warehousing which is needed in the development program of the country. He specifically cited the area of grain storage. He noted that, under the General Banking Act, bankers are allowed to invest in allied undertakings and, therefore, individually or in groups, can invest in warehousing to serve the agricultural and industrial sectors.

COMMISSION ON Elections set the guidelines to be followed by local government treasurers as Comelec deputies in connection with the coming plebiscite on the new Constitution. The Comelec directed each treasurer of every province, city, municipality and municipal district not to be absent from office one week before and after January 15 next year, plebiscite day. Every treasurer was also directed to assign at all times a responsible person in his office to receive telegrams and instructions from the Comelec on the plebiscite for immediate implementation. Meanwhile, the National Ratification Coordinating Council announced the formation of provincial and city coordinating committees as the nationwide information drive for the plebiscite gained momentum. Fifty-seven provincial governors and 55 city mayors have been appointed by the President to head their provincial and city coordinating committees.

AN INCREASE in number of farms planted to new high-yielding rice varieties all over the country was reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Extension. The total area planted to new varieties is 557,528 hectares as of November 30, 1972. This is 69 per cent of the goal set for the crop year 1972-73.

December 10—

POLICY DECISIONS and measures taken by President Marcos since the declaration of Martial Law were made to bring about dramatic changes in economics and investments, and peace and order. Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, before the American Chamber of Commerce, said the task of bringing reforms in all facets of society is a tremendous one and the skepticism of many that it is next to impossible to attain was gradually dispelled. He said the government is gearing itself to a quickened pace of development by attending first to the prerequisites in attaining the necessary climate. The role being played by the defense establishment is to check the floodgates of anarchy, worsening criminality, insurgency and communist degradation, all of which threaten to engulf the country, the defense secretary said.

IMPORTATION OF philosophical, historical, economic, scientific, technical and vocational books may be allowed free of customs duties, subject to certain conditions, namely: 1) that their importations are approved by the Department of Education, 2) that they are specially imported for the bona fide use and by order of any society or

institution incorporated solely for philosophical, educational, historical, economic, scientific or educational purposes, or for the encouragement of sciences and fine arts, 3) that their quantities do not exceed 10 copies of any work when imported by an institution and two copies of any one work when imported by an individual, and 4) that they are not for barter, sale or hire.

IN A FRONTAL assault on a problem of rehabilitation of young offenders and transforming them into productive members of society, the National Manpower and Youth Council and the Bureau of Prisons have signed an agreement to train youthful prisoners in useful skills that will enable them to go back and resume normal life as law abiding citizens. "This event is significant in that an honest-to-goodness effort is being made toward the welfare of young prisoners, and for the first time here, agencies of the government are cooperating with each other in pursuing a common goal," Brig. Gen. Vicente Raval, acting prisons director said, at ceremonies launching the training program.

THERE IS NO prohibition to the active participation of government officials and employees in the campaign for the ratification of the new Constitution. This was the legal opinion of Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos. Because of this opinion, Public Information Secretary Francisco S. Tatad has asked all civil service employees and officials to actively participate in the campaign to bring about intelligent discussion on the merits of the proposed Constitution."

PRESIDENT MARCOS emphasized the importance of sports because "we believe that physical fitness and discipline that they develop are necessary for national development." The President's remarks were read by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. at the opening ceremonies of the Second Asian Basketball Confederation's Youth Championships at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum. "Sports in the Philippines, especially at this time, have a special significance. We cultivate them not only for their own sake but also for the sake of the discipline they inculcate," the President said. The President welcomed into the country, the different delegations of the participating nations, namely, China, South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and India. The Philippines is the defending champion in this regional sportsfest.

December 11—

THOUSANDS OF people from all walks of life all over the country attended weekend Thanksgiving Masses for the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, following her discharge from the hospital where she had been treated of arm wounds inflicted by a bolo-wielding assassin several days before. The nationwide masses were organized by the Radio Mindanao Network and Inter-island Broadcasting Corp. over its network of radio-TV stations throughout the country. The masses were relayed to Northern Luzon through Channel 6 in Baguio City. The underlying theme of the thanksgiving masses was a prayer for the safety and complete recovery of the First Lady and for guidance and strength for the President in his efforts to pursue his program of reforms under the New Society.

PRESIDENT MARCOS in Letter of Instruction No. 48, ordered the secretary of education, the directors of public schools and private schools, to "encourage, if not require, discussion of the proposed Constitution in all universities, colleges and other schools at all levels during class periods for current events or other subjects where such discussion would be relevant, especially between now and January 15, 1973." The purpose of such discussion should be to enlighten the people on the proposed Charter in order to enable them to vote intelligently on plebiscite day. "Discussion of the proposed Constitution in classrooms by teachers and students/pupils will greatly enhance our present endeavors to inform and enlighten our people about the basic law, which is very vital to their welfare and our country," the President said.

NATIONAL NEED to ratify the new Constitution to make permanent the goals and programs of the New Society, was stressed by Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal. In less than three months, the Speaker said, peace and order have returned to the country, the entire country has been declared a land reform area, government has become honest and more efficient, and prices of commodities have become stabilized. "We must embody the reforms now sweeping our country with the legal framework that shall become the law of the land," he said. "The new Constitution will perpetuate and concretize the spirit of the New Society; it will bestow the New Society with flesh and blood."

IMMEDIATE ESTABLISHMENT of pilot projects in all regions where tenancy has been generating social unrest was ordered by the President to hasten implementation of the Land Reform Program. The President directed Secretary of Agrarian Reform Conrado F. Estrella to prepare the program for these pilot projects, especially the funding requirements for the administrative units, and the credit needs of the farmers and other support services such as roads and other infrastructures. In the implementation of the program, the President said that the needs of the farmers for home lots should not be overlooked and that appropriate measures should be taken along this line.

ALL FILIPINO citizens were urged by President Marcos to participate in the implementation of family planning and responsible parenthood "to assure greater opportunity for each Filipino to reach his full potential and to attain his individual dignity." The President brought across this message in General Order No. 18 which also enjoins all universities, colleges and schools, government offices, mass media, civic and voluntary organizations of all creeds, and business and industrial enterprises to promote the concept of family welfare, responsible parenthood and family planning. The President directed the Department of Education and Culture to inform all schools of medicine, nursing, midwifery, allied medical professions, and social work "to prepare, plan and implement the integration of family planning in their curricula and to require from their graduates sufficient instruction in family planning as a prerequisite to qualifying for the appropriate licensing examination.

PERFORMANCE OF judges of Courts of First Instance, generally, has not been satisfactory, according to Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos who issued an earnest appeal to every CFI judge in the country for renewed dedication to your duties and for total commitment to the goal of the New Society of affording a swift and impartial administration of justice to the needy." Mr. Abad Santos- sounded the appeal after receiving the results of a study undertaken by the judiciary division on the performance of CFI judges for a six-month period covering February to July 1972. For the six-month period, CFI judges disposed of an average of 80 cases only or any average of 13 cases for every month".

TOTAL TOURIST traffic to the Philippines this year increased by 10 percent from 144, 321 in 1971 to an estimated 159,000 in 1972. A survey conducted by the Board of Travel and Tourist Industry in November showed that nearly 99 per cent of foreign visitors have favorable impressions about the Philippines because of the improved peace and order situation. BTTI Commissioner Gregorio Araneta II said this year's increase in traffic is significant considering that conditions have improved less than three months ago. Statistical projections by the BTTI indicate that the country will net a total income of \$35 4 million from tourism this year. This represents actual tourist expenses for accommodations, dining", entertainment, shopping and other expenditures.

December 12—

RECENT APPEAL of President Marcos to the electorate to vote on Plebiscite Day has drawn strong support among the rural population. This finding was based on surveys made by branch credit managers of the Agricultural Credit Administration. These branch credit managers are stationed with their men in strategic sections of the country where the cooperative movement in agriculture has taken firm root. To date, there are some 325 farmers cooperatives having an aggregate membership of 150,000. All these organizations could be depended upon to assist the government in the current information drive to familiarize the people with the proposed Charter, the ACA said.

AUTHORITY TO sponsor public debates, discussions or meetings to present both sides in connection with the coming plebiscite on the new Constitution, was granted to the Voters Organization for Information and Civic Education (VOICE). Composed of nationwide citizens Groups VOICE had been created by the Comelec to help it conduct a, continuing education of the public "on election laws, procedures, decisions, and other matters relative -to the work and duties of the commission and the necessity for clean, free, orderly and honest elections.

CURFEW HOURS will be observed strictly during Christmas and New Year. In answer to many inquiries received by his office, Brig. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, PC chief, said that carolers in the Greater Manila Area and the provinces should secure their permits from the Department of Social Welfare and the Office for Civil Relations in the local PC command or at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Gen. Ramos explained that although carolers have secured permits and clearances, they are not exempt from curfew hours. The PC chief said that carolers should be home before midnight.

PRESIDENT MARCOS signed Decree No. 80 extending from December 15 to January 31 the grant of tax amnesty to owners and possessors of untaxed or improperly taxed goods under certain conditions. To assure voluntary compliance, a tax amnesty of across-the-board rate of 25 per cent of the total duties and taxes, due will be imposed. Exempt from this decree are motor vehicles which are already covered by Presidential Decree No. 52; articles subject to specific tax, and those under seizure proceedings and/or pending criminal, civil or administrative cases.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY Alejandro Melchor Jr. in Memorandum Order No. 321 created a Political Affairs Office in the Executive Office. This office is under the immediate control and supervision of the Assistant Secretary Flores Bayot for Local Governments. The functions of this office are: 1) assist the President and the Executive Secretary in formulating political policies and decisions; 2) gather, evaluate and analyze political information and/or data that may be necessary in formulating policies and decisions and monitor them to the President and the Executive Secretary; and 3) provide the President with immediate staff assistance to enable him to effectively exercise his power of control over local governments.

December 13—

FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION of firearm, a Pasay City resident was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment at hard labor by a military tribunal. Sentenced was Jaime Co y Fernandez who had been arrested, -by the Manila police in Ermita last October 23 in possession of one unlicensed .22 caliber Beretta pistol.

ONE HUNDRED and eighty-nine insurgents and sympathizers affirmed loyalty to the government and vowed to help build the New Society envisioned in the new Charter. The group included four municipal mayors and scores of municipal and barrio officials who have had extensive “involvement in the insurgency movement in Tarlac. Most of the surrenderors came from the towns of Concepcion and Capas. Four were former Mamao commanders under Dante and Sison, Major Miguel Fontanilla, Tarlac PC commander, arranged the surrender with provincial government authorities. It brought to 5,347 the total number of surrendered insurgents and their sympathizers in the first PC zone since Martial Law was proclaimed.

ALL PROVINCIAL election supervisors were directed to help inform the people that despite Martial Law, they are free to hold public discussions and debates or to campaign for or against the approval of the proposed new Constitution. The directive was issued to some 68 provincial election supervisors in the country who were returning to their respective areas of assignment after participating in the three-day seminar in Manila on the mechanics of the plebiscite. The Commission on Elections stressed the importance of: overcoming the “psychological barrier” that still appears to prevent many Filipino-citizens and groups from fully participating in the dissemination of information involving the January 15 plebiscite.

DISTRIBUTION OF the year-end dividend checks of the Government Service Insurance System amounting to P25 million to its policy-holders started. The dividends being distributed by the GSIS are the second dividend declaration of the system this year. This is also the first time the GSIS will give out dividend payments twice a year. This year’s payments are the highest dividend payments of the system since its establishment 35 years ago, and is P12 million more than the P38 million distributed in 1971. This year’s increase is also the highest for any single year on record.

December 14—

BIR COMMISSIONER Misael P. Vera called upon all taxpayers to observe discipline in the declaration and payment of their taxes. At the same time, Mr. Vera reiterated utmost secrecy of returns filed with the BIR in connection with Presidential Decree No. 23 granting tax amnesty on previously untaxed income or wealth. The commissioner stated that all the Presidential decrees on tax reforms issued by the President under the New Society are geared towards improving tax collection and ensuring a steadier and better flow of funds for essential public projects and services. “The infusion of discipline in every aspect of our life as a people is imperative for national progress and prosperity,” Mr. Vera said. Through the policy of tax amnesty and self-confession, the BIR chief pointed out, the government will be able to collect both undiscovered and uncollected revenues and at the same time save considerable expenses in assessment and collection. “No further questions will be asked. No divulgement of source will be demanded. All declarations will be kept from the prying eye of BIR examiners,” he said.

CAMP CRAME authorities announced that there is no need for clearance from the Constabulary Highway Patrol Group for renewal of registration of motor vehicles under the same ownership. Col. Paulino Briones Jr., CHPG commander made this clarification and specified the following which need clearances: 1) brand new motor vehicles; 2) vehicles which have been rebuilt; 3) any transfer of ownership of motor vehicles; and 4) vehicles whose possessors doubt the legality or source of their vehicles. The CHPG commander said that his office will not charge any fee in the issuance of these clearances. He requested the public to report to him any person asking for any payment or fee regarding such clearances. Vehicle owners in the provinces and seeking clearances should go to the nearest local PC command or highway patrol team.

INSURANCE COMMISSIONER Gregoria Arnaldo ordered a 25 per cent reduction on fire premium rates for private dwellings, schools and other residential buildings, and a 10 per cent across-the-board reduction on all premium rates of the Workmen's Compensation and Employers Liability insurance. The reduction shall take effect on January 1, 1973 and shall be applicable to all new renewal policies of fire and workmen's compensation insurance. Commissioner Arnaldo said that the insurance industry is a service industry and insurance benefits and protection should spread and be made available to a greater segment of the country at reasonable costs.

TWO MORE TOWNS in Central Luzon have been added to the top priority list of projects of the Department of Agrarian Reform, bringing a total of 11 towns the number of pilot areas undertaking "Operation Land Transfer." The move to include Conception in Tarlac and Arayat in Pampanga in the priority list stemmed from the President's Letter of Instructions to DAR Secretary Conrado F. Estrella to set up land reform projects "where tenancy" has been generating social unrest." Arayat and Concepcion are two of the most densely tenanted towns in Central Luzon. The coverage of these towns by "Operation Land Transfer" will benefit some 3,844 farmers in 12,633 hectares of rice and corn lands.

TWELVE SPECIAL teams of Constitutional Convention delegates will form the Concon Speakers' Bureau that will go all over the country in a nationwide campaign for the ratification of the new Constitution. The speaking sorties are designed to support the campaign conducted by the other delegates, senators and representatives, local and other government officials under the National Ratification Coordinating Council. At the same time, a nationwide youth campaign was likewise launched by the National Youth Coordinating Committee. About 400 student and youth leaders all over the country is enlisting the support not only of student groups but also of educators and scholars "who have at heart the future of the country."

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: December 15-21, 1972

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

December 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS emphasized the role of medical leaders in distributing equally the limited medical resources and skills of the country "so that we do not wind up taking good care of only the affluent while forgetting and condemning to an early death the rest of the population."

In a speech before the Philippine Hospital Association read for him by Dr. Pacifico E. Marcos, Medicare chairman, the President said that the degree by which health services in a developing country can be raised depends on the degree in which a nation is able to muster its resources for economic development.

DR. MARCOS, for his part, advised hospital administrators to prepare for more participation in the Medicare Program because of its expanded services planned for 1973. The Medicare chief thanked hospital officials for their full cooperation in the initial nine months of medicare implementation which was "very successful". He, however, expressed regret that some hospitals were at first reluctant to cooperate. He said nonetheless that these hospitals are blameless because "they wanted to prove first our statement that payment under medicare is guaranteed." Dr. Marcos said the Medicare Program has been moving very fast but it will maintain a faster pace in 1973.

ONE THOUSAND three-room typhoon-resistant school buildings designed to withstand wind velocities up to 140 miles per hour will be constructed by the Bureau of Public Works and the Armed Forces of the Philippines in 24 provinces of Luzon. The construction will be facilitated by the project agreement between the National Economic Council and the U.S. Agency for International Development. The agreement provides that the US AID will reimburse the Philippines in the amount of \$3 million for the construction of said school buildings and will provide \$200,000 worth of jeeps, pick-ups and dump trucks for said construction.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS Secretary Carlos P. Romulo reported that the 27th General Assembly of the United Nations has been one of the most fruitful for the Philippines from the standpoint of substantial benefits gained for the Filipino people. Mr. Romulo who is chairman of the Philippine delegation to the assembly, said that the Philippine delegation "benefited from the foresight of President Marcos who, as early as two years ago, had given instructions that the work of the Philippine mission to the UN should be development-oriented.

JUSTICE SECRETARY Vicente Abad Santos requested all district judges in the country to act favorably and expeditiously on the motions that may be filed by Comelec provincial supervisors and election registrars for the withdrawal of precinct books of voters which might be presently in the custody of the courts. Secretary Santos noted that these books are needed by the corresponding boards of inspectors, otherwise they cannot prepare the current list of voters. He said that since precinct books of voters will be used in the 1973 plebiscite, the judges should allow the books to be withdrawn even if they are presently in the custody of the courts in connection with pending election cases or criminal cases for violations of the election law.

ENGLISH AND Filipino texts of the proposed Constitution of the Philippines were printed, in full in the December 11 issue of the Official Gazette. The publication was in compliance with Sec. 2 of Presidential Decree No. 73 dated December 1, 1972 which also required the printing of the proposed charter in three issues of at least two newspapers of national circulation not later than two weeks before the plebiscite.

December 16—

INFORMATION SECRETARY Francisco S. Tatad said that the proposed Constitution is a "Filipino Constitution, conceived and constructed in a time of crisis, at a moment of supreme test for the Filipino character." Speaking at a mass rally organized by the Quezon City government in front of the Q.C. city hall, Mr. Tatad said that the new charter "comes from the hearthfire of Filipino radicalism, endowed with all the liberal ideals and passions that have

been preserved through the generations, and responsive to the revolutionary challenge of the future.” He added: “It is a Constitution, that knows fully and seeks to serve intimately only the Filipino interest that seeks to minister to the wholeness of our being by serving our individual and national progress. It is a Constitution that knows the Filipino as its only master, and that puts no other master besides him. It is a Constitution that speaks for our people, because it speaks directly to them and, through it, our people speak of their individual and common interests to one another. It is a Constitution for our age, but it is a Constitution that can belong to all ages.”

DEFENSE SECRETARY Juan Ponce Enrile stressed that the military will adopt a total stance of impartiality in the coming plebiscite on January 15. The armed forces have been “primarily assigned the task of maintaining peace and order in the free discussions of the issues involved in the new Constitution as we’ll as in the voting by the people for or against the new Constitution.” Secretary Enrile said in a speech before the Harvard Club of the Philippines, recalled that under General Order No. 17, the President, ordered that “no person shall be questioned or investigated before or after the plebiscite for any speech, remarks or statements in any discussions or debates intended to explain the proposed Constitution or to enlighten the people about it or for any views for or against it or its ratification made in public rallies, or debates, in printed or other forms of communication, radio or television and such remarks, statements or views shall not be admissible as evidence in any investigations or suits against the person or persons making them.”

PRESIDENTIAL Proclamation 1081 imposing Martial Law in the Philippines brought new and broader dimensions to local business and industry, and the military’s primary task is to bring about order and favorable conditions for Filipinos to work peacefully, safely and gainfully. This was the assessment of PC Chief Fidel V. Ramos in his speech during the third annual conference on “Business Prospects of 1973” sponsored by the Ateneo Graduate School of Business and the Vision Publishing Corp. in Makati, Rizal. Gen. Ramos said that in one fell swoop, the government reversed the pre-martial law tide of lawlessness and disorder that sickened the old society. “In just about two months of martial law, the percentage of criminality and lawlessness has dramatically dipped,” he said. He allayed fears that new government policies might tighten into a stranglehold against business and industrial interests.

December 17—

PRESIDENT MARCOS led a nationwide “Come Out and Vote Yes” movement as he rallied the citizenry to articulate the ideals of the proposed Philippine Constitution with overwhelming affirmative votes.

At the same time, the President called on all ratification committees and affiliate organizations to explain to the people in full details the important highlights of the new Constitution. The President reiterated his appeal for the ratification of the new charter, saying the reforms achieved under the new society will rise or fall on the result of the plebiscite. He said the strong basis for national development is ingrained in the new Constitution and that alone, he explained, gives substance to all that are being done today.

SPEAKER CORNELIO T. Villareal expressed confidence that the new Constitution would have an easy sailing at the Jan. 15 plebiscite. He made the observation as he ended week-long series of conferences which he had conducted with the coordinating committees of all 11 regions in the country. The committees are composed of congressmen, Constitutional Convention delegates and provincial governors.

SOME 766,500 seedlings of high-yielding varieties of tobacco are being made available by the Bureau of Plant Industry to all farmers and interested parties. The seedlings are in the bureau’s, nurseries in Pangasinan, Abra, La Union, Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte, sites of the government’s intensified tobacco production program. The BPI has been distributing seeds and planting materials to the public in line with the “Green Revolution” movement of the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos. Some 231,985 coco seedlings are at present available at the BPI experiment stations and nurseries in Laguna, Quezon, Albay, Camarines, Sorsogon, Iloilo, Bohol, Cebu, Negros Oriental, Leyte, Samar, Zamboanga, Surigao, Davao and South Cotabato.

December 18—

PRESIDENT AND MRS. Marcos played Santa Glaus to some 7,000 indigent children during the Bagong Lipunan Children's Festival at the Malacananiig grounds. This was the first public appearance of the First Lady since the assassination attempt against her on December 7. Assisting the First Couple were children Imee, Irene and Bongbong, movie and television stars.

SOME 2,621,817 packets of high-yielding vegetable seeds and 340,000 pieces of planting materials were distributed to farmers and interested parties by the Bureau of Plant Industry during the first five months of the current fiscal year. From July to November this year, the bureau's seed center on San Andres, Malate alone distributed some 1,516,277 packets of vegetable seeds and 300,000 seedlings, free of charge, while sales amounted to 410,000 packets of seeds and 40,000 planting materials valued at P475.73. Among those distributed were seeds of ampalaya, batao, beans, chaote, patola, sitao, squash, upo, seguidillas, patani, cucumber, cauliflower, pechay, lettuce, radish, onion and pepper.

SEVENTY-THREE officials and employees of the Commission on Immigration and Deportation have been separated from the service. Among them were the administrative officer of the commission, four lawyer-special investigators, a supervising clerk, 10 special agents, three intelligence officers, four alien control officers of provincial stations and 12 immigration officers from both the Manila office and subposts, Commissioner Edmundo Reyes announced.

FISCALS ARE obliged to extend legal assistance to cooperatives. This was the ruling of Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos who cited Section 67 of the Philippine Non-Agricultural Cooperatives Act which reads: "Cooperatives registered under this act shall, notwithstanding the provisions of any law . . . enjoy the privilege of being represented in courts by the provincial or city fiscal or the Solicitor General or his representatives, as the case may be, free of charge, in any case in which they are either plaintiffs or defendants, except when the Philippine Government is the plaintiff itself; and all suits brought by or on behalf of a cooperative shall be instituted in court by them at most within three months from the date of receipt of such suit."

December 19—

INFORMATION SECRETARY Francisco S. Tatad called upon the youth to involve themselves in the nationwide effort to ratify the proposed Constitution. "We appeal to the young among our countrymen, because the Constitution that we are called upon to ratify is a Constitution that will be not only for the present but also for the future—and the youth is the seed of the future," Secretary Tatad said.

COMELEC CHAIRMAN Jaime N. Ferrer, likewise, appealed to civic-spirited citizens to act as poll watchers in their respective areas. He said: "Sec. 9 of Presidential Decree No. 73 requiring the Comelec to appoint representatives of civic groups to serve as poll watchers, is a fitting recognition of the vital role of volunteer citizens' groups in our basic democratic processes. Those who belong to local civic organizations should take advantage of this opportunity, more so since this historic plebiscite will constitute the crossroads of our national life."

DANGEROUS DRUGS Board announced that prescription forms for dangerous drugs are now available at that office on the second floor, Bureau of Quarantine annex, Port Area, Manila. Distribution in the provinces will be made through the regional health offices.

December 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS issued a Letter of Instructions to the secretaries of national defense, public information and justice that "for the purposes of the free and open debate on the new Constitution . . . you will see to it that the effects of my Proclamation No. 1081 are temporarily suspended." The letter said that "you will ensure that all media will give an opportunity to those opposing and those favoring the ratification of the new Constitution to meet face to face in a formal debate in this subject. You will direct all printing presses to print all forms of propaganda whether in favor or against the new Constitution and see to it that all military personnel allow their open and free distribution. You will submit weekly reports to me on the implementation of this order."

ONE GREAT significance of the Medicare Program is that it has relieved employees of the problem of taking care of their own expenses when they are hospitalized. Dr. Pacifico E. Marcos, Medicare chairman, said that in the past, government employees, except for those in government corporations, personally spent for their hospitalization. This is the reason why many government employees went to the charity wards of government hospitals when they became sick and were hospitalized, he said.

PAYING TRIBUTE to the Filipino soldier “whose sense of responsibility, devotion to duty, forbearance, and humane touch characterized the enforcement of my instructions and made martial law in our country unique,” President Marcos said that the initial objectives of Proclamation 1081 were attained because of the good qualities of said Filipino soldier.

The President said, “the character of the Filipino soldier is sound not only because of his deep grounding in the democratic precepts but also because of his basic enlightenment and training made possible by institutions such as this we are formally inaugurating here today.”

The President made these observations in a speech read for him by Secretary Enrile at the inauguration of the PC Training Center at Camp General Mariano N. Castañeda in Silang, Cavite.

FOR ILLEGAL possession of firearms, a resident of San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City was sentenced to 20 years at hard labor by Military Commission No. 5. Convicted was Rogelio Aquino y Santos who was arrested last October 14 at the basement of the General Bank and Trust Co at Rosario Street in Binondo, Manila while in possession of a Colt cal .9 mm pistol by members of the Manila Metropolitan Police. The gun was licensed but was being carried outside of the licensee’s residence which is a violation of the firearm ban.

December 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that the rapid increase in investment programs shows growing confidence in the stability of the country and in the bright prospects for investment. During the signing of the investment contract” between Ford Philippines and the Export Processing Zone, the President said that all other participants in the Progressive

Car Manufacturing Program have also decided to increase their commitments and have also shown interest in the example set by Ford Philippines in establishing a \$35 million car body stamping plant in Bataan.

THE PRESIDENT asked the armed forces to continue its vigilance “with the same lofty motivation, the same prodigious energy the same firm discipline and with ever increasing hopes for a better day for our country and people.” The President made this appeal in a speech at the 37th anniversary commemoration of the AFP in Camp Aguinaldo.

“Even as we put our trust in Divine Providence, let us continue to be vigilant, to be enterprising, to be self-reliant the President said. “For ultimately God rewards those who do and dare.”

SECRETARY TATAD explained the nation’s efforts and determination to recast the framework of Philippine society. “Out of the weaknesses of the past, we wanted to create a society which every Filipino can take just pride in because of its intrinsic excellence, and because it would be a society that would combine all these things, the goodness, and excellence of all,” Mr. Tatad said. “A society which is the handiwork of all Filipinos and which shows in all its aspects the work of everyone who has put in his share.”

PRICES OF PALAY and rice have been more stable in 1972 compared with last year, and the imposition of Martial Law arrested the tendency of rice retail prices to peak in September. In a study by the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the following notable trends of palay and rice prices were observed: 1) prices have tended to be more stable during calendar year 1972 than calendar year 1971; 2) the tendency of prices in 1971 was to move upward while in 1972 it is the reverse 3) Retail prices in 1972 tended to reach a peak in September but after the

imposition of Martial Law these either remained steady in October or fell but the price level was still well below the price control level. Nevertheless, prices were generally lower during the whole month of November and up to the present; and 4) in general, for two major trading centers—Cabanatuan City and Greater Manila— retail prices during 1972 were somewhat higher on the average than prices in 1971, but showed greater stability.

EMPLOYEES OF THE national government are not required to present their Employer's Medicare Contribution Certification when they seek admission as Medicare patients in government hospitals under the Department of Health. In a circular issued by Acting Health Secretary Clemente S. Gatmaitan, all hospitals under the Department of Health were enjoined to dispense with the requirement of said certification (PMCC Form 1) in connection with the admission of medicare patients who are employees of the national government. In case of doubt, however, as to the employment status of the patient, he may be required to execute a promissory note obligating himself to pay the hospital services and professional fees involved during his confinement in the hospital.

SENTENCED TO 25 YEARS imprisonment at hard labor by a military tribunal was Marcellano L. Bacani of Tondo, Manila for illegal possession of firearm and ammunition following a trial which started at 9:40 a.m. and ended at 4:30 p.m. The accused, 34 years old, was arrested and detained by the Manila Metropolitan Police last October 9, when they found in his possession an unlicensed revolver caliber .22 with six rounds of ammunition.

PRESIDENT MARCOS is looking into the merits of a proposal to postpone the holding of the plebiscite on the new Constitution on January 15 because of lack of material time. The proposal to postpone the plebiscite came from officials of the Comelec and local governments.

The Comelec observed that there is a need for a few more days to enable new voters to register. The provincial governors and city mayors, on their part, appealed for more time to disseminate information about the proposed Constitution to far-flung places, especially those hit by calamities.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY Alejandro Melchor Jr. announced the formal start of operations of the Public Information Unit in the Executive Office, created under Memorandum Order No. 317 and organized under the supervision of Assistant Executive Secretary Ronaldo B. Zamora.

The PIU was created to facilitate matters for the general public who transact business with Malacañang, by avoiding the unnecessary daily follow-ups of papers by interested parties, and providing for a systematic flow of papers needing Malacañang action, thereby saving time and effort on the part of all concerned.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: December 22-28, 1972

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

December 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS reiterated his pledge to pursue the land reform program at all costs regardless of the obstacles placed in its path. The President renewed his pledge in a speech before tiller-tenants at the Maharlika hall of Malacañang before distributing individual certificates of land transfer to 431 former tenants representing the first batch to be emancipated, from their bondage to the soil they tilled, barely two months after the President issued his Decree No. 27 last October 21. Of the 431 new tiller-land owners, 14 came from Plaridel, Bulacan; 270 from Guimba and 63 from Zaragoza, Nueva Ecija; 65 from Tigaon, Camarines Sur; and 14 from Dingle and five from Pototan, Iloilo. Some of the tenants from, Zaragoza were former tenants of the President's mother, Mrs. Josefa Edralin Marcos, whom he knew by their first names.

PRIVATE INSURANCE companies continued to be one of the major sources of funds for economic development as they invested the total amount of P4, 154,986.30 in development projects in November this year. The total investments of private insurance firms from January to November 1972 amounted to P111,504,507.56 in government and private economic development projects. Reliance Surety and Insurance Company, Inc. topped the investments for the month with a total of P630,000 in Central Bank certificates of indebtedness notes, while the rest were placed in DBP progress bonds and in commercial papers of manufacturing and public utilities firms.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT pledging their equipment, skills, logistics and manpower in rehabilitating and protecting denuded forest areas all over the country was forged by the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Department of National Defense. Signed by Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Arturo R. Tanco Jr. and Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, the agreement provides for the restoration and protection of forest cover at the Mt. Arayat National Park and other areas that may be designated by the Bureau of Forest Development.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY Alejandro Melchor Jr. led Malacañang officials and employees in bringing Christmas cheer to residents of barrio San Antonio in Bay, Laguna. Mr. Melchor was accompanied by Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, Ronaldo B. Zamora, Flores Bayot and Ramon Cardenas, and about 600 division chiefs and employees from the Executive Office. Since Mr. Melchor became Executive Secretary, he has led Palace personnel in bringing Christmas gifts to poor families in depressed areas of the country, under the Maligayang Pasko Project. In 1970, the objects of the employees' goodwill were the typhoon victims in Casiguran and Infanta, Quezon, and some towns in Bicol; and the refugees in Marawi City and Iligan last year.

SOME 500 GOVERNMENT Farm Management technicians will undergo a four-month intensive training on new rice technology at the International Rice Research Institute, Laguna early next year. To be held January 8 to April 13, 1973, the training is in preparation for a massive package program for increasing rice production in the country. The trainees will come mostly from the Bureau of Agricultural Extension and Bureau of Plant Industry who are working under coordinated supervision of the National Food and Agriculture Council. These agricultural agencies will launch the "Masagana 99" in 18 provinces covering a total rice area of 58,901 hectares of irrigated and 25,241 hectares of non-irrigated farms during crop year 1973-74. Provinces covered by the rice production program are Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Pangasinan, Cagayan, Isabela, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Bulacan, Laguna, Mindoro Oriental, Mindoro Occidental, Iloilo, Capiz, Negros Occidental, Leyte and Bohol.

December 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that ethical transformation is as important to the New Society as social and economic transformation, "for it touches the soul of our nation." In a message to the Knights of Columbus of Tagbilaran, Bohol on the occasion of its silver anniversary, the President observed: "But in building the New Society, we do not intend—as the communists have done and still do—to destroy everything, to raze the building, as it were, to the ground and build an entirely new structure. This is not only wasteful, it is unnecessarily traumatic." He added:

“Development in itself is difficult enough. We do not intend to destroy or discard for the sake of destroying or discarding. We will save, conserve and nurture those institutions and beliefs that are still viable and that contribute to the strengthening of our nation.”

PUBLIC INFORMATION Secretary Francisco S. Tatad, in defining the role of his department in the New Society, said it aims “to impart to the nation a distilled philosophy of our way of life, the way of life we intend to achieve for our people.” The basic raw material of the department is information, which Mr. Tatad described as a “commodity that moves people to do certain things in favor of other choices that endows them with habits, attitudes and values, so that they will ultimately be have in a particular way rather than in another way.” The secretary brought this message to the concluding session of a seminar on the New Society sponsored by the National Media Production Center, and attended by chief training officers and chief information officers in the government. “We give to information the duty of improving the quality of human life,” the secretary in his speech said. “Its role, therefore, is to carry the message of the policy-making authorities of our government and the civic leadership. Its integral role is to convey to the policy-making organs of the society the views, attitudes, habits and values relevant to the making of a public policy and such views, attitudes, habits and values from which a public philosophy may be distilled.”

IN ORDER TO GIVE the people ample time for an open and free debate on the proposed Constitution, President Marcos decided to post pone the holding of the plebiscite which was originally scheduled for January 15. Accordingly, the President directed: 1) the secretaries of justice, defense and public information to meet with Comelec officials in order to determine which of the two proposed dates—February 19 or March 5—should be chosen for the plebiscite; 2) the extension of the registration period for new voters which was to end December 23; and 3) the printing and distribution of copies of the proposed Constitution in eight major dialects. The decision to postpone the plebiscite was arrived at following a series of meetings between the President and leaders of various sectors of society.

JUSTICE SECRETARY Vicente Abad Santos issued Circular No 97 to all district and circuit criminal court judges, provincial and “city fiscals to give effect to the Presidential directive allowing free and open debate on the new Constitution proposed for ratification. ”The President has directed me,” the secretary said in the circular, “to inform you that any person who might be arrested and detained in connection there with is entitled to prompt judicial remedies, including the privilege of the writ *of habeas corpus* in case his arrest and detention are in connection with the plebiscite on the proposed Constitution. Accordingly, you are hereby directed to act on such cases with deliberate haste, reporting to me the action you have taken.” The President in a previous letter addressed to the secretaries of national defense, public information and justice, suspended the effects of martial law for purposes of the free and open debate on the proposed Constitution.

December 24—

PHASE TWO OF THE Operation Land Transfer launched a month ago by the Department of Agrarian Reform in the nine pilot municipalities almost crossed the finish line with 95 per cent of the tenant-tillers interviewed and 75 per cent of the barrios surveyed. A report submitted to the President stated that 11,467 out of 12,000 tenant-farmers were identified while 259 out of 344 barrios have been surveyed. Five of the nine pilot projects have passed through the parcellary mapping phase totalling 4,179 sketches made. Topping the list for the complete identification of tenants were San Mateo, Isabela; Plaridel, Bulacan; Biñan and Calamba, Laguna; while capping the list for the complete survey of barrios were Zaragosa, Nueva Ecija; San Mateo, Isabela; Plaridel, Bulacan; Biñan and Calamba, Laguna.

WITH PRESIDENTIAL DECREE No. 27, President Marcos placed in proper focus and perspective the vital role that land reform plays in the building of a new social order. The decree releases the tenant-farmers from the straight-jacket of feudal relations, transfers to them the ownership of the land they till and provides the instruments and mechanism with which they could carry out their complete emancipation. Needless to state, emancipation is not conferred. It is not a matter of fiats or pronouncements. It involves a process of struggle by which the tenants, given the necessary “instruments and mechanism,” translate their aspirations into reality. Thus, the decree emphasizes the importance of agricultural cooperatives, making these the basis for tenant- farmers to become eventually the owners of the lands they till.

TEN MORE OUTLAWS who participated in the aborted uprising in Marawi City last October 21 and 22 surrendered with their firearms to PC Chief Brig. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos at the Mindanao State University compound in Marawi. A total of 8,505 assorted firearms, including high power automatic weapons, collected in the two Lanao provinces, were also presented to Brig. Gen. Ramos.

CAMARINES NORTE will produce some 120,000 cavans more of rice this season despite sporadic attacks of pests and diseases on crops. Barring typhoons or floods, the province will easily realize this increase over its previous rice production. The average yield of rice in the province is now 70 cavans per hectare.

December 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS on Christmas Day issued Decree No. 85 creating the Agrarian Reform Fund to support the financing requirements of agrarian reform provided for in Presidential Decree No. 27 and for other purposes.

THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVEN prisoners were granted executive clemency by President Marcos on Christmas Day. Assistant Executive Secretary Ronaldo B. Zamora submitted the list in three batches: First batch—absolute pardon, 14; conditional pardon with parole conditions, 124; commutation of sentence, 68; or a total of 206. Second batch—absolute pardon, 6; special absolute pardon, 2; conditional pardon with parole conditions, 63; commutation of sentence, 14; or a total of 85. Third batch—absolute pardon, 2 special absolute pardon, 4; conditional pardon with parole conditions, 27 commutation of sentence, 3; or a total of 36.

ALL PERSONS AND GROUPS were warned against exerting any undue influence or employing threats or other forms of coercion so that voters would vote for or against the proposed Constitution. The warning was sounded by the Comelec which ruled that these acts prohibited by Secs. 53 and 59 of the 1971 Election Code are also banned in the coming plebiscite. In support of their ruling, the Comelec commissioners said the aim of these provisions is “to secure to the voters maximum freedom in voting, uninfluenced by any threat, coercion or fraud or by any consideration other than the voters’ own judgment” so that any election or plebiscite would reflect their intelligent and unbiased decision.

December 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS sent a message for “Day of Peace” to His Holiness, Pope Paul VI, through the Philippine ambassador to the Vatican in Rome. The message reads:

“My countrymen and I join in the laudable personal crusade of Your Holiness on behalf of world peace. Peace is possible—but not until the terrible race for military supremacy is permanently halted, and not until justice is conferred on the third of humanity which continues to be deprived of their just share in the bounty of the world.

“Our task today is two-fold: first, to help create the institutions through which all men of goodwill could collaborate in solving the ills which afflict mankind; and second, to undergo the necessary purification of spirit in order to combat the pessimism which beclouds our efforts to complete man’s programs for peace.

“To this two-fold task, of which Your Holiness is the acknowledged prime mover, the Filipino people extends its warm-hearted support. May the Lord in this Holy Season bless the efforts of your Holiness to establish a universal peace based on justice and may these efforts find a willing response in the hearts of men everywhere.”

AS OF DECEMBER 19, 1972 a total of 67,432 members of the GSIS and the SSS have availed themselves of the medicare benefits, Chairman Pacifico E. Marcos of the Medical Care Commission announced. Dr. Marcos said that the GSIS and the SSS medicare departments paid a total of P15, 170,511 for services rendered to medicare patients—P5, 320,783 by the GSIS and P9, 849,728 by the SSS. The average claim per patient was P227.48. Payments were made to hospitals, doctors and drugstores. Collection of contributions for the health insurance funds or medicare funds for Program I beneficiaries (GSIS and SSS members and their dependents) was started in January, this year. Total collection as of December 19 amounted to P88,159,811. Dr. Marcos said “this is a good indication

that perhaps within 1973. Phase One or Program I can be expanded to include all legal dependents of SSS and GSIS members.”

STUDIES ON THE feasibility of transferring the domestic shipping port from North Harbor in Manila to an alternative site in Southern Luzon was directed by President Marcos. An alternative port for domestic shipping is being considered in view of the increasingly felt need to decongest the port facilities in the Greater Manila area.

FINANCE SECRETARY Cesar E. A. Virata announced that there are now a total of 9,294 defective scales and other instruments of weights and measures either confiscated or sealed in public markets by provincial, city and municipal treasurers and BIR men. The latest report on the number of defective instruments of weights and measures confiscated or sealed was reported to Secretary Virata by 18 provincial treasurers and 23 city treasurers who confirmed the rampant use of such defective weighing instruments and measures in public markets and other places of trade and commerce in their respective localities. Section 289 of the National Internal Revenue Code penalizes any person who uses such defective instruments of weights and measures by a fine of not less than P200 nor more than P4,000 or by imprisonment for not less than three months nor more than two years, or both, at the discretion of the court.

BRIG GEN. Jose L. Rancudo, Philippine Air Force commander, ordered the immediate airlifting of all information materials on the proposed Constitution for distribution to places which cannot be reached by land transportation. The PAF chief said that information pamphlets, and brochures on the forthcoming plebiscite were given priority so that the people would be informed before they make their final decision on Plebiscite Day.

LIBERAL PARTY congressmen, mayors and other local leaders were commended for joining the national campaign for ratification of the proposed Constitution, “thereby subordinating their political interests to the larger demands of duty to their people.” The commendation came from Dr Guillermo C. De Vega, chairman of the National Ratification Coordinating Council Secretariat, who added: “Only by the explicit identification of our political action with the national interest can we lay aside bitter partisan strifes and bring our country out of the divisive tendencies of the past.” The other day, nine LP congressmen and almost all LP governors, mayors and councilmen endorsed the approval of the proposed charter, declaring it to be “good for the general welfare.”

December 27—

GOVERNMENT AGRICULTURAL extension officers are now campaigning for the planting of vegetables which can be canned or preserved. This move is aimed at averting the possible oversupply of certain kinds of vegetables causing the lowering of prices to an unprofitable level. Prod by the Green Revolution project of the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, thousands of housewives, youths, employes and other people have turned backyards into lush vegetable gardens. These amateur gardeners have planted almost the same kind of vegetable—the fast growing leafy type like pechay, cabbage, lettuce and others, which do not last long. To keep the enthusiasm of the new vegetable raisers alive, government fieldmen are helping gardeners to switch from leafy to fruit vegetables which can be preserved for future use. Among such vegetables are ampalaya, eggplant, cucumber and others which can be made into pickles, as well as mungo and some beans which can be kept without preservatives until they are needed.

CONGRESS SHOULD CONVENE in regular session on January 22 as provided for by the present Constitution, according to Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal. Section 9, Article VI of the present Constitution provides that the “Congress shall convene in regular session once every year on the fourth Monday of January, unless a different date is fixed by law. . . .” Speaker Villareal suggested that with the postponement of the plebiscite, Congress should convene. However, the House leader said that since the country is in a state of emergency and under Martial Law, “there should be sincere cooperation and coordination between Congress and the Executive Department. “I would suggest, Mr. Villareal said, “that Congress act in consonance with present circumstances and may pass measures certified by the President, which would strengthen the ability of our government to cope with the present emergency and to develop a New Society.”

SOME 17 POLLING places located in the barrios of Isabela were ordered transferred to the poblaciones by the Comelec upon recommendation of local election registrars who reported that most of the inhabitants in these barrios

had moved out to the poblaciones as a result of military operations launched by the government against rebel groups. Chairman Jaime N. Ferrer said the Comelec may make similar moves with respect to polling places in several barrios in Cotabato, Sulu, Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte where resurgence of unrest were also recently reported.

SOME 118 insurgents and sympathizers reaffirmed their loyalty to the government before military and municipal officials in a ceremony held near the Death March monument in Capas, Tarlac. The surrenderors who came from seven barrios in the formerly insurgent dominated towns of Concepcion and Capas, Tarlac, took their oath of loyalty before Brig. Gen. Tomas Diaz, 1st PC zone commander. Their surrender was arranged by Capas Mayor Gerardo David and Bamban Mayor Pedro Mendiola. Their surrender brought to 415 the total number of surrenderors in four weeks in Tarlac alone.

IMPORTANCE OF FARMERS, dairy men and rural broadcasters in bringing about the success of the New Society, was cited by Secretary of Public Information Francisco S. Tatad. "We need to produce more and we can do this by disseminating scientific methods of farming and production to make our economy more viable and more stable," Secretary Tatad said in an extemporaneous speech before the Rural Broadcasters Council which conducts daily programs for farmers from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. on scientific farming and production methods. Mr. Tatad was inducting official of the new set of officers of the council.

PRESIDENT MARCOS sent a message of condolence to the widow of former U.S. President Harry S. Truman who died after a long illness. The message: "The Filipino people join me in extending to you our deepest sympathy in your hour of grief. President Truman served not only the American people during his years in the presidency; he also stood for the rest of the world as a worker for peace among- peoples and among nations. Even in time of war, he never allowed the aggression of others to diminish his concern for peace and justice. His passing has deprived all of us of a great leader and a good man. We will always remember him as a sincere and devoted friend."

December 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS underscored the role of religion in the drive for reformation under the New Society. Speaking before thousands at the Ilocos Norte mini-expo which was held simultaneously with the celebration of the Fourth Centennial of the Christianization of Ilocandia, the President said that the symbol of Christianity which has guided the lives of generations of Filipinos have a vital role in the drive for reformation because the principal aim of the program for change is change in the heart, change in the mind, and change in the spirit of man. Among the countries represented in the fair held in Laoag City were Australia, India, Egypt, Spain, Japan, United Kingdom, Indonesia United States, Malaysia, Singapore, China, Canada, Ghana, France, Germany, Korea, Sri Lanka and South Vietnam.

THROUGH THE EXPANDED fish production program under the New Society, the Bureau of Fisheries initially stocked 29,500 *bangus* finger-lings in Lake Lanao last December 8 to 10. The initial stocking was the first release of the 1.5 million *bangus* fingerlings targeted for dispersal in the lake. It is expected to replenish the stock of Lake Lanao and to boost the sustenance fishing of all fishing towns bordering the lake and to rehabilitate the means of livelihood of the Muslims in Lanao del Sur.

SOME 200 UNITS of irrigation pumps worth P1.2 million acquired by the Presidential Arm on Community Development from reparations will be turned over to the National Irrigation Administration to centralize the irrigation development program of the country. For the past four years, 2,600 units of irrigation pumps valued at P30 million were made available by the PACD to as many farmers and farmers' associations. Since 1968 the PACD has been distributing low-cost irrigation pumps to farmers in various parts of the country to increase their production.

UNDERSECRETARY Rosendo R. Marquez of the Department of Local Government and Community Development also revealed that some 54,590 assorted community projects have been completed the past several years with the use of some P116 million from the Rural Improvement and Community Development Fund (RICDF). "More RICDF-funded projects numbering 12,016 are still under implementation," Mr. Marquez said. "The completion of some 24,001 projects has yet to be reported."

EXTENSION OF MEDICARE benefits to some 30,000 government employees who originally were not considered eligible to membership under Medicare Program I or the medicare plan for members of the Government Service Insurance System and the Social Security System and their dependents—was announced by the Philippine Medicare Commission. These employees, most of whom have temporary appointments, constitute the optional members of the GSIS who were deemed as not embraced in the definition of an employe under the Medicare Law. Their insurance policy numbers are prefixed either with the letter “M” or “G”.

ONE OF THE PRIORITY projects of the government is a 130-kilometer highway which would relieve congestion in the Metropolitan Manila area by opening up vast lands in the eastern region. Named the “Marcos East-West Road,” the project will start in Marikina, Rizal and end in Infanta, Quezon. It will traverse the Sierra Madre mountains. This road is considered important as it will disperse eastward population and industry now congesting the Manila area and thus help solve the twin problems of traffic and pollution. It also traverses developing commercial and residential areas and vast agricultural lands, aside from the Sierra Madre mountain range which is rich in mineral deposits.

STARTING JANUARY 1, 1973, all persons applying for residence tax certificate “A” will be required to attach their identification photographs on the original copy of their residence tax certificates. Certificate “A” will be issued in a new form and in duplicate, the original of which will be issued to the taxpayer. It will be issued by the city and municipal treasurers instead of by the Bureau of Internal Revenue as it was done in the past. Other requirements are correct name, taxpayer account number, address, place of birth, date of birth, sex, weight, civil status, occupation and/or profession, GSIS or SSS policy number. It shall be the duty of every individual who takes the oath of office, receives any license, certificate or permit from any public authority, pays any tax or fee, receives any money from any public fund, or transacts other official business, or receives any salary or wage from any person or corporation, to exhibit his residence tax certificate.

NEW MORALITY NOW pervades among the officer and employees in all the bureaus and agencies of the Department of Finance. This is the year-end report of Secretary Cesar E. A. Virata who observed that Proclamation 1081 brought about an abrupt decrease in the number of reports on alleged harassment, extortion and other highly irregular activities in all bureaus and agencies of the department. “The employees are now courteous where there used to be arrogance. There is office discipline and sincere efforts to serve the public where there used to be “indifference.” Secretary Virata also said that since the proclamation of Martial Law, 1,005 officials and employees of the department and its bureaus and agencies were either dismissed or separated from the service.

EFFECTIVE LAST DECEMBER 12, foreign technicians were no longer allowed to come into the Philippines to work in a wholly or partly nationalized trade, business or industry without previous approval by the Office of the President or the Commission on Immigration and Deportation. The economic fields covered by the restriction are retail trade, mining, oil exploration, transportation, agriculture, exploitation of natural resources and the specific trades, businesses and industries reserved by law for Filipino citizens.

WOMEN’S ORGANIZATIONS joined ranks with the Department of Social Welfare to launch a massive Get Out and Vote Campaign for the coming plebiscite. Organized under the Civic Assembly of Women of the Philippines, the women’s organizations; numbering about 60, pledged their support of the campaign which is co-chairmanned by Leticia P. de Guzman, CAWP president, and Social Welfare Secretary Estefania Aldaba Lim who represents the government women’s division. According to Mrs. De Guzman, “women’s civic organizations being what they are and what they stand for cannot ignore this historic event in our country.” Thus, she added, the CAWP recognizes and accepts the challenge to women to take an active part in the plebiscite. The CAWP will emphasize the need for all qualified voters to cast their ballots on plebiscite day regardless of whether they are for or against the proposed Constitution.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: December 29, 1972 - January 4, 1973

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

December 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS issued a decree extending the tax amnesty for untaxed motor vehicles to January 31, 1973. The new decree, which he issued upon arrival in Laoag City shall, subject to certain conditions, clear the taxpayer of all criminal responsibility by reason of the non-payment of the correct duty and tax on such motor vehicles after the duty and tax shall have been paid pursuant to this decree. The decree provides that a 50 per cent and a 75 per cent across the board deduction will be allowed on the duties and taxes collectible by the government on vehicles transferred from tax exempt persons/entities to non tax exempt persons/entities, or such vehicles where the correct taxes and duties have not been collected, depending upon the year models of such vehicles.

FINANCE SECRETARY Cesar E.A. Virata said that the good international credit standing of the Philippines has been maintained because of the judicious management of public debt and the payments thereof on time. In a year-end report, Mr. Virata said that the government has managed its public debt judiciously and met the payments thereof when due or upon demand and in some cases restructured certain obligations on reasonable basis. The secretary said the the International Monetary Fund (IMF) commended the Philippines for the efficient management of its public debt.

SOCIAL SECURITY Administrator Gilberto Teodoro announced that 35,000 SSS housing loan borrowers will enjoy substantial savings because of the reduction of insurance premiums, both life and non-life, effective January 1973. Mr. Teodoro said that negotiations with the pool of insurance companies duly accredited to do business with the SSS have resulted in a reduction by 50 per cent on the fire insurance premiums of mortgagors and an across-the-board reduction by 25 per cent on mortgage redemption life insurance premiums. The reduction in insurance premiums is in addition to the removal of the Home Financing Commission guaranty of one per cent. Qualified housing loan borrowers can now apply up to 90 per cent of the value of their collaterals at six per cent interest instead of the seven per cent previously charged on HFC-guaranteed loans.

RICE RETAILERS were warned not to violate official price ceilings. The warning was given by the National Grains Authority which learned that some retailers, particularly in the Greater Manila Area, were selling fancy rice varieties beyond ceiling price which is P3 per ganta. Retailers were reported also to have mixed government rice with commercial stocks and "wet" rice to increase its volume or weight before it is sold. The NGA warned that violations of price ceilings and engaging in unfair business practices in the sale of staple cereals are subject to stiff penalties and disclosed that inspection teams have been fielded at these unscrupulous rice merchants. The public is asked to report to the NGA violations or irregularities committed by retailers.

INTERNAL REVENUE Commissioner Misael P. Vera announced that under the new tax code, payment of fixed and professional taxes should be made only once for the whole amount due on or before January 31 This means that all persons must first pay the corresponding fixed or professional taxes before engaging in any business or before practicing their professions.

MILITARY UNIT commanders were warned against the indiscriminate issuance of curfew passes following reports of an increasing number of persons moving about outside of their residences during curfew hours. In a directive sent to all zone commanders, task force and provincial commanders, Gen. Ramos also ordered intensified operations against curfew violators. He said that the increasing number of persons moving about curfew hours will also increase the security risk to the objectives of Proclamation 1081.

POSTMASTER GENERAL Felizardo R. Tanabe warned the mailing public to watch out for fake one-peso airmail postage stamps. The airmail stamps were issued by the Bureau of Posts on June 24, 1971 to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the founding of the City of Manila. The design features a red sunburst at upper center area, at lower left hand a crescent and star, at right hand side a sea lion holding a cross,; and at the bottom of the stamp is, a symbol of the Pasig River and "Nilad" plant at each end of river.

December 30—

PRESIDENT MARCOS issued the following message on the occasion of the 76th death anniversary of Dr. Jose P. Rizal:

“The light of recent events in our country brings new significance and import to the life and example of Dr. Jose Rizal.

“In a certain sense, we are engaged today in the realization of national aspirations to which Rizal first gave life and hope. He dreamed of a good society in which a people knew solidarity and identity, and in which everyone shared in peace, justice, dignity and prosperity.

“He did not live to see that society come into being, but it is the unique opportunity of those who have come after him to see this dream take root in our time in our country.

“On this 76th commemoration of his martyrdom, no more fitting homage can be made to his memory than that we affirm anew this new faith: in ourselves and the new purposes we have in common of making over our common life.”

RIZAL WANTED the Filipino people to have a new sense of identity as a nation and to instill in them a consciousness of their capacity for excellence, believing that education and enlightenment will emancipate them toward progress. These sentiments were voiced by Secretary of Public Information Francisco S. Tatad who was the keynote speaker in a community forum on “Rizal and the New Society,” sponsored by the Rizal Day Civic Participation Committee. Dwelling on the difficulty of simplifying; the national hero’s diverse gifts, talents and scope of writing, the secretary said that Rizal’s “principal field in his political writing is practical politics—how to change an oppressive order into one that would bring about the healthy development of the Filipino race.”

INTERESTED PARTIES may now file their applications for entrance to promotional-level examinations granting police eligibilities to be conducted on August 26. Polcom Chairman Crispino M. de Castro announced that the examinations will be given for the ranks of Patrolman First Class/Detective, Police Corporal, Police Sergeant, Police Lieutenant, Police Captain, Police Major, Police Lt. Colonel, Deputy Chief of Police and Chief of Police, for both chartered cities and municipalities. Deadline for the filing of applications by current members of local police forces is April 2. They must file direct to the Polcom central office at Delta Bldg., West Ave., Quezon City, or to the nearest Polcom regional training center. For non-members who have to undergo preliminary screenings on March 17-18, application papers must be filed with any of the police departments serving as Polcom screening centers, handcarried or postdated not later than March 16.

PHILIPPINE MEDICAL CARE COMMISSION (PMCC) in a year-end meeting decided to extend medicare coverage to all legal dependents of members of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and the Social Security System (SSS). In effect, Medicare Program I will already cover 20 million Filipinos or one-half of the country’s population. Their coverage, however, cannot take effect yet on January 1 but definitely the additional beneficiaries will be enjoying the benefits in early 1973.

SALARY WARRANTS (Type A) of government personnel can now be cashed with the Bureau of the Treasury on Saturdays during regular banking hours from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., according to National Treasurer Vicente P. Rodriguez, who said that the bureau will maintain a substantial personnel force on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

RESULTS OF satellite observations made by engineer-scientist of the U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office and the Board of Technical Surveys and Maps (BTSM) disclosed that the location of 14 islands in the Cagayan de Sulu, San Miguel and Muligue island groups as chartered in Charts Nos. 4348, 4707 and 4200 of the Bureau of Coast and Geodetic Survey, are out of position. BTSM Director Marcelino S. Tabin had previously reported that Cagayan de Sulu Island is out of position. His latest report said that three groups of islands, together with numerous rocks and shoals are all possibly charted 1.63 N. miles east of their correct positions.

December 31—

PRESIDENT MARCOS created citizens assemblies in all barrios, towns and cities in the Philippines to widen the base of citizen involvement in the democratic process. Creation of the assemblies was embodied in Presidential Decree No. 86 issued on New Year's Eve. The citizen assemblies brings into the active political process all citizens of the Philippines at least 15 years of age. It is an improvement over the constitutional proposal that seeks the enfranchisement of 18-year olds, and the provision of the Revised Barrio Charter, Republic Act No. 3590, that provides for the barrio assembly consisting of all persons who are residents of the barrio for at least six months and who are 18 years of age or over.

“STRICT NEUTRALITY” in the coming plebiscite on the proposed Constitution, was enjoined by the Commission on Elections on all its officials despite the general rule allowing government personnel to campaign for either “yes” or “no” vote. In explaining the order, Chairman Jaime N Ferrer and Commissioners Lino M. Patajo and Jose Mendoza said active participation in the campaign for either side by those connected with the Comelec “might adversely affect their image as impartial officials charged with the enforcement of election laws and thereby lessen their effectiveness, as such.”

January 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS issued the following New Year's Day message to the Filipino people:

“It is my ardent wish and prayer that this New Year will find all our countrymen in high spirits and good cheer.

“The past year was a critical one for each of us and for our country. We were plagued by some of the worst threats to the very life of our democratic community. By the grace of God, with a firm will to action, and with a new solidarity among us, we survived the crisis. We embarked on a new path for our country. We face the future with high hopes.

“The advent of a new year signifies the birth of a new hope and purpose in our lives. It is at this time of year when the better impulses of our nature summon us to thoughts of turning failure into achievement, of making a good life better, of addressing our lives to higher goals and purposes.

“The year 1973 signifies a renewal that transcends all that every new year has come to mean to us in the past, as a people. For at the turn of 1972, we commenced a historic labor of transformation that touches all aspects of our individual lives and our national solidarity. We have brought change into our lives, regardless of obstacles placed in our path and without diffidence and irresolution.

“Today, we say there is new purpose and new meaning in our life as a people. Today, all of us know with sure and certain knowledge that tomorrow will be a better day.

“With full knowledge of what we can do and common resolve to give ourselves to the work at hand, I am certain that this new year will be happy and prosperous for everyone.”

MARKED ACCELERATION in construction work on the Philippine-Japan Friendship Highway Project has been effected after the proclamation of Martial Law, according to a year-end review by the Department of Public Works, Transportation and Communications. Bugged by a series of strong typhoons and the Central Luzon floods, work was slow immediately before Proclamation No. 1081. After Sept. 23, however, said the year-end review, the construction of the 2,076-kilometer long trans-Philippine highway was accelerated. What helped were the following: stabilized peace and order, favorable construction weather, weeding out of non-complying contractors, restructuring of management personnel engaged in the project, actual dismissals, and allocation of more sections to district and city engineering offices.

SOME P96.8 MILLION worth of contraband items was apprehended by government anti-smuggling agencies from January to December 1972. In a year-end assessment on the accomplishments of the bureaus and offices under the Department of Finance, Secretary Cesar E. A. Virata disclosed the exact value of seized smuggled goods from January to December 1972 as reported by the Anti-Smuggling Action Center was P96,882,264.14. The amount of P96.8 million in apprehended contraband items was mostly blue-seal cigarets, illegally exported logs, PX and other commodities and prohibited drugs.

PHILIPPINE MEDICAL CARE Commission considers the deep confidence on the Medicare Program which the PMCC has successfully established as its most significant achievement during the year. Mr. Pacifico E. Marcos, medicare chairman, said that 1972 has been a turbulent year for the Medicare Program due to the fact that it was initially implemented in this year (the benefits became available in April) when powerful forces went all out to try to blunt it into ineffectivity. Dr. Marcos said that some segments of the population openly came out to oppose the program: some members of the medical profession who feared that medicare would adversely affect medical practice. Fortunately, he said, this thinking in the medical profession was an insignificant minority. He said that the program has not only generally increased the income of Filipino physicians front medical practice but it has in fact multiplied it.

January 2—

FOUR QUESTIONS will be asked by the citizens assembly in the 34,000 barrios and municipal districts all over the country in connection with the nationwide referendum to be conducted by these bodies created by Presidential Decree No. 86. The questions are: 1) What are their observations on the New Society? 2) Are they in favor of the reform measures initiated under Martial Law? 3) Do they want Congress to meet again in regular session? 4) How soon would they want the plebiscite on the proposed Constitution? Secretary of Public Information Francisco S. Tatad said the opinion of the people through these consultations in the citizens assemblies will reflect the sentiment and will of the people. He said the President will abide by the collective decision of the people in these assembly meetings.

SECRETARY TATAD also announced in a press briefing that the government is confining some 5,000 criminal elements apprehended by the authorities in the campaign against lawlessness at the Sablayan Penal Colony in Occidental Mindoro. Other points brought out at the briefing by the public information secretary were: The administration is embarking on a stricter enforcement of the curfew hours, the traffic rules, cleanliness drive and the lowering of prices of commodities.

FOREIGN SECRETARY Carlos P. Romulo left for Washington, D.C. to represent President Marcos at the memorial services for the late Harry S. Truman. The 33rd U.S. President, Mr. Truman signed the independence proclamation of the Republic of the Philippines in 1946. He died at 88 last Dec. 27.

FROM THE TIME Martial Law was proclaimed by President Marcos last Sept. 21 up to Dec. 31, 1972 the military has collected 482,248 firearms and 1,334,044 rounds of ammunitions, has killed 89 dissidents in 87 encounters and has recovered 392 stolen vehicles. The Philippine Constabulary said that the collection of these firearms, not to mention other favorable factors made possible by Martial Law, has resulted in the reduction of crimes of all types by more than 50 per cent throughout the country. With respect to the index of serious crimes such as murders, homicides," robbery-rape and others, the reduction effected has averaged 75 per cent to 80 per cent nationwide. The number of crimes in which firearms are used has dropped from 80 per cent to 30 per cent, according to PC records.

January 3—

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE Commission has reported that 2,664 corporations with subscribed and paid up capital of P650, 467,325 and P282 943 780 respectively, and 1,467 partnerships with a total capital of P68, 250,054 were registered in 1972. SEC Commissioner Arcadio E. Yabyabin said that there was an increase of P62.639.574 or 28.4 per cent in paid capital of corporations registered .in 1972, compared to 9.0 304,206 total paid up capital of 2,283 corporations registered in 1971. He also emphasized that the number of corporations registered in 1972 was 381 more than that of 1971.

TAXPAYERS WHO have been issued tax account numbers (TAN) should use the same number in getting their residence certificates from municipal and city treasurers. The BIR warned that taxpayers who secure another TAN, in spite of the fact that they have earlier been issued such number, will be penalized by a fine of not more than P300 or imprisonment of not more than six months. The BIR advised tax payers to keep their TAN because these are permanent, and they will use these numbers in all transactions with the government and with private corporations.

AN INCREASE BY as much as P500 million in revenue collections in Fiscal Year 1972-1973 was predicted by Finance Secretary Virata after reviewing the improvements in the tax collection machinery and the administrative setup of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs. Expressing optimism over a greatly improved collection this year, Secretary Virata said that the BIR is expected to collect P300 million more in taxes while the Bureau of Customs is expected to collect P200 million more.

PROVINCIAL AND CITY medical care councils were authorized to do spot-checking of medicare patients in hospitals. In a resolution, the Philippine Medical Care Commission directed the scrutiny of clinical records of medicare patients, including those who have already checked out. Under certain circumstances, the spot-checking may include interviews with patients. This authority given to the local arms of the PMCC is a kind of preventive measure against possible abuse of the Medicare Program and a protection to beneficiaries who should really get the benefits. The spot-checking will also find out whether the admission of a medicare patient is justified or the laboratory examinations given him and the medicines prescribed for him are those which are necessary only in relation to his illness or for his recovery.

PRESIDENT MARCOS enlisted the help of the largest aggroupment of Muslim leaders in Mindanao to bring back to the fold of the law the insurgents who had taken to the hills, with the promise of selective amnesty. The Muslim leaders belonging to various warring political and factional groups who called at Malacañang pledged to bury then-past differences. They unanimously adopted a resolution reposing their trust and confidence to the President.

January 4—

CLEARED BY a military tribunal after he was tried for illegal possession of firearms and ammunition, was Carlito Ilagan, resident of Mandaluyong, Rizal. Ilagan was cleared of criminal liability after the military court found no sufficient evidence against him. Tribunals, lately, have been sentencing violators of the arms ban to imprisonments ranging from 20 to 25 years, at hard labor.

THIRTY-NINE MORE policemen were suspended in three cities and nine municipalities as the Police Commission discovered strong evidence of guilt in grave administrative cases pending against them. This brings to 579 the number of policemen suspended by the Polcom since it began acting on the President's directives—a relentless cleaning-up campaign in the police service. Among those already suspended are two city police chiefs and 24 municipal police chiefs.

SOME 1,500 members of four subversive organizations in Nueva Ecija reaffirmed their allegiance to the government at a massive rally in Cabanatuan City. Many of those who joined the rally were deeply involved in the violent activist demonstrations in Manila in 1969 and 1970. They were former members of the Samahan ng mga Demokratikong Kabataan, Malayang Pagkakaisa ng Kabataang Filipino and Kabataan Makabayan. In Nueva Vizcaya, 936 members of the Barrio Organization Committee, service support of insurgent groups likewise swore allegiance to the government in simple ceremonies held in Bayombong.

COMMENDED FOR turning over P300 in cash and some documents he found while working at the Central Post Office Building on Liwasang Bonifacio, was Jose Orcilla, 20, an employee of Platon Company, a janitorial firm servicing the Bureau of Posts. The janitor was honored by Postmaster General Felizardo Tanabe by giving him a permanent job in the Bureau, in line with his policy of recruiting employees of good moral character.

“OPERATION PALAGAD ’73 Bagong Lipunan,” an intensified rice production program for the dry season, was launched by government and private agricultural, marketing and financing officials. The program is aimed at producing a surplus of some three million cavans of palay over the regular harvest from 100,000 hectares of

irrigated rice farms in Central Luzon, Rizal and Laguna, or an estimated increase in average yield of 20 to 40 cavans per hectare.

MILITARY COMMISSION No. 6 started the trial of 20 persons accused in the malversation of 4,401 bags of RCA rice intended to assist flood victims during the last flood. Of the 20 accused, six are officers and employes of the defunct Rice and Corn Administration and the rest are private persons who had something to do with the custody and control of the RCA rice on the basis of brokerage, trucking, loading and storage.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: January 5-11, 1973

President's Week in Review: January 12-18, 1973

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

January 12—

MAJORITY OF THE 53 per cent of the citizens assemblies which have completed the referendum on vital issues submitted to them have voiced overwhelming support for the way President Marcos is running the government, for the continuation of Martial Law, and for the approval of the proposed new charter except that portion of it on the *interim* National Assembly. Assistant Executive Secretary Flores A. Bayot who toured some provinces in the Visayas and Mindanao, reported a heavy turnout of local residents at the assemblies. He estimated that some 95 per cent of those who participated in the assemblies endorsed the issues submitted to them. Mr. Bayot likewise reported that the people favor continuation of Martial Law because under it they can have more hope of a better life.

SECRETARY OF PUBLIC Information Francisco S. Tatad appealed to the local Chinese community and other foreign groups to support and extend their full cooperation In the realization of objectives of the New Society because no alien guests whose only purpose is to amass profits will be tolerated. The secretary stressed it is important for the aliens who have decided to build their homes and future in the country to involve themselves in the causes and motivations that, impelled President Marcos to institute the reforms in the New Society. Mr. Tatad, addressing the bi-monthly meeting of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce, likewise favored the assimilation of local Chinese culture into the Filipino way of life because "there is no way out you . . . are here and should help us."

DR. PACIFICO E. MARCOS, chairman of the Philippine Medical Care Commission, reiterated to medicare members compulsorily covered by the Medicare Law, that when they require hospitalization, all they need is to go to a hospital of their choice and be attended to immediately. Dr. Marcos said that in seeking hospitalization or treatment from hospitals or doctors of their choice, the medicare members should bring with them only proofs of active participation in the medicare program, such as: 1) Employer's Medicare Contribution Certification, 2) SSS Identification Card (for SSS members) and GSIS Policy (for GSIS members), 3) Current year employment Identification Card, and 4) Any other proof indicating active membership with the SSS or the GSIS which may include the new Residence Certificate. After presenting any of the proofs, all hospitals and all doctors are duty bound to render the necessary services for the treatment of a medicare patient without exacting any advance payments whether partially or in full from him for services within the benefits allowed by the Medicare Law, Dr. Marcos said.

SELECTIVE BIR OFFICES especially in the national office at the Finance Building Agrifina Circle, are open on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays to accommodate taxpayers. Taxpayers may pay taxes at the Sound floor of the Finance building, seek information at the Tax Information Division, second floor; obtain tax clearance certificates at the third floor Tax Accounts Division, and seek information on presidential tax decrees. A pool of competent BIR officials has been organized on these days so that taxpayers could be helped with authority. BIR regional offices are also open on these days.

BIR COMMISSIONER Misael P. Vera stressed anew the secrecy and inviolate nature of returns filed with the Bureau of Internal Revenue by persons who voluntarily report previously untaxed income or wealth pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 23, as amended by Presidential Decree No. 67. "These returns will be kept in a secret file and will not be subjected to any examination," Commissioner Vera said. He stated that Revenue Regulations No. 15-72 penalizes any person who discloses information relating to the declaration with an imprisonment of not more than two years.

ALL CITIZENS ARE called upon by the Dangerous Drugs Board to equip themselves with the basic factual knowledge of drug abuse so they can effectively help combat the growing menace. Secretary of Health Clemente S. Gatmaitan, DDB chairman, made the call in an address at the opening of the training course on narcotics and 'dangerous drug control and investigation at the Police Commission Academy in Fort Bonifacio. Mr. Gatmaitan stressed that like the trainees taking the course, the citizenry must equally take concern and familiarize themselves

with the symptoms and effect to drugs, adding that they must be prepared to recognize who are the villains and who are the victims. Drug addiction is a grave threat in the school environment, in the home and in various sectors of society, drawing thousands of people to drug dependency and draining themselves of millions of pesos to the illicit drug trade, according to Mr. Gatmaitan.

SOCIAL WELFARE Secretary Estefania Aldaba Lim announced that the DSW is stepping up its comprehensive five-year program so that a larger percentage of the program's target population will be served this year. Secretary Lim said the encouraging results reaped by the DSW during the last six months inspired her to push through the five-year program (1972-76) of the department. The DSW program is designed to provide wider socio-economic opportunities and open avenues for more social benefits for families in the submarginal group or those whose average monthly income is P90 and below. This group comprises 30 per cent (10.9 million) of the Philippine population.

January 13—

TAXPAYERS ACCOUNT NUMBER (TAN) is required of all applicants for residence certificates. This was stressed by Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata as queries on the matter continued to pour in from all parts of the country. Those who do not have TAN's may acquire the same in the BIR national office or in the revenue district offices covering their respective areas. Sec. Virata pointed out that Executive Order No. 213 dated March 5, 1970 requires the extensive use of the TAN in all government transactions. The executive order requires "all departments bureaus, offices, agencies and instrumentalities, including government-owned or controlled corporations, to require every individual, corporation, partnership, and association to state or place on all documents and records of any business transaction between persons and entities whose documents need to be registered, to state or place on said records and documents their tax account number."

ALL PROVINCIAL AND city treasurers and assessors were exhorted to exert utmost effort to collect all delinquent real estate taxes. Finance Secretary Virata made the exhortation after learning that P108 4 million in realty taxes was not collected in Calendar Year 1971. Secretary Virata said that out of a total amount of P241.230.788 collectibles in real property taxes in 1971 from 66 provinces and 61 cities, only P132,892,578 was collected, representing 55.06 per cent of the collectibles, leaving a balance of P108,401,210 still to be collected.

PRESIDENT MARCOS called on the leaders of Congress and the Constitutional convention to submit their recommendations on the advisability of referring more questions of national importance to the citizens assemblies, even as reports on the referendum from different parts of the country continued to be highly favorable to the administration. The president had ordered the holding of citizen assemblies in lieu of open debate on the Constitution over the radio and television which had been abused by elitist groups, because citizens assemblies afforded more free debate and gave the barrio people from 15 years old and above a chance to air their personal views. Meanwhile, some 53 per cent of the citizen assemblies which had completed the referendum on vital issues: 1) Voiced overwhelming support of the way President Marcos is running the government; 2) Approved the continuation of Martial Law; 3) Approved the proposed new Constitution with the exception of the provision on an *interim* National Assembly; and 4) Rejected the holding of elections in November.

January 14—

TOTAL OF 42,237 community development projects costing P52 million were completed by the rural folk with the help of the Presidential Arm on Community Development (PACD) last year. The projects, ranging from big irrigation dams to multi-purpose health centers and feeder roads, provided immediate solution to some long-felt problems of the rural masses. Of the projects completed last year, 1,487 were financed through the grants-in-aid program at the cost of P15.3 million. PACD contributed P2.5 million. The rest were shouldered by the barrio people themselves, socio-civic organizations and civic spirited citizens. The greater bulk of the finished projects was purely self-help undertakings worth P36.7 million. Financed solely by the rural folk with the help of their respective local governments, these projects were generated by the grants-in-aid program that now benefit some 2,771,000 people in the rural areas.

NATIONAL GRAINS AUTHORITY reported to President Marcos that necessary steps have been taken to improve the image of what used to be a graft-ridden entity then known as the Rice and Corn Administration. In his year-end report to the President, the NGA administrator said the following moves have been adopted: 1) Institution of safeguards to avoid the pitfalls that beset the rice program of the government in the past; 2) A thorough house cleaning at the defunct RCA to eliminate opportunities for graft; and 3) A rigid screening of new personnel of the NGA to ensure competent and responsive service.

CUSTOMS COMMISSIONER Rolando Geotina said that government importations subject to taxes and duties under the new Tariff and Customs Code may be released by the Bureau of Customs on condition that the importing government agency concerned submit a "commitment paper." The commitment paper, the customs chief explained, could come in the form of a certification from the head of the importing government agency he will include and work for a budgetary outlay to pay for the taxes and duties due to the importations in the next budget of the office concerned. All collector of customs were circularized to enforce strictly the tenor of the regulation to prevent possible clogging of piers and harbors by the continued stay in port of such importations and likewise in order that it will not imperil the early completion of government projects for which such importation have been made.

January 15—

LIM SENG, alias Gan Sou So, died before an eight-man firing squad early this morning after a military tribunal convicted him for manufacturing and peddling heroin to the country's youth. The Chinese paid for his crime of trafficking in illegal drugs like morphine, heroin and marijuana at 6 a.m. at the firing range in Fort Bonifacio. Seven caliber .30 MI slugs plowed through his body, and in a little over a minute, it was: all over for him. By tradition, one rifle was loaded only with a blank cartridge. The more than 5,000 witnesses who elbowed their way to get a glimpse of the military execution and the 10,000 others who plodded their way to Fort Bonifacio at sunrise in an effort to be on hand at the proceedings, appeared to have expressed no sympathy for the alien who had victimized thousands of young innocent lives in the 10 years that he was in illegal operation as heroin manufacturer.

SOME 14 MILLION members of the citizens assemblies in 65 reporting provinces and 58 reporting chartered cities and the barangays in Manila and other localities have overwhelmingly come, out against the holding of Congress session this month, while 14,602,000 endorsed the continuation of Martial Law. Only three provinces and three cities have not yet submitted the results on the citizens referendum. Those against the holding of Congress sessions represent 94 per cent, while only six per cent or 894,000 favor the opening of Congress. Reaction to other vital issues: 1) Do you approve of the citizens assemblies as the base of popular government to decide issues affecting our people? Yes, 98.8 per cent (14,721,200); No, 1.2 per cent (178,800). 2) Do you approve of the new Constitution? Yes, 97 per cent (14,453,000); No, three per cent. (442,000). 3) Do you still want a plebiscite to be called to ratify the new Constitution?. Yes, seven per cent (1,043,000) ; No, 93 per cent (13,857,000). 4) Do you want to hold elections in November 1973 as provided for in the 1935 Constitution? Yes, 11 per cent (1,639,000); No, 89 per cent (13,261,000). 5) Do you want Martial Law to continue? Yes, 98 per cent (14,602,000); No, two per cent (298,000).

PRESIDENT MARCOS pledged to overcome all threats to his life and to safeguard the life of the Republic "not only with our lives but with everything that we have, including honor itself." The President made the pledge in an extemporaneous speech at the parade and review held in his honor at Malacañang Park, marking the second anniversary of the Presidential Security Command. Mr. Marcos recalled that from 1965 to 1969 there were many attempts against his life and that from 1969 to 1970 there were many plots and conspiracies not only against the life of the President but also against the life of the Republic. "We shall continue to meet these threats, these plots, these conspiracies, firm in the resolve that while we serve our people, while we adhere to the basic principles and tenets of our Constitution and democracy, while we fight for an ultimate kind of freedom which we must guard not only with our lives but with everything that we have, including honor itself which we value more than life, then there is hope for this country and there is hope, for this Republic," the President stressed.

PRESIDENTIAL DECREE No. 98 regulating the issuance of license plates of all motor vehicles to promote traffic safety at night and to further aid the campaign against night crimes and lawlessness was issued by President Marcos. The decree provides that: 1) The Bureau of Land Transportation shall cause reflective number plates to be prepared and issued to owners of motor vehicles and trailers registered under R.A. 4136, charging for each pair, including the numerals indicating the year of registry, a fee of not more than 15 per cent higher than the acquisition cost; 2) All

motor vehicles exempted from payment of legislation fees, motor vehicles for hire and privately-owned motor vehicles shall bear plates so designed and reflectorized with different colors as to distinguish one class from another; and 3) No two license plate numbers bearing the same numerals shall be issued to any motor vehicles regardless of the place of issue or the type, kind or ownership of the motor vehicle.

PRESIDENT MARCOS likewise issued Presidential Decree No. 99 emancipating household help throughout the country from a lifetime of exploitation by increasing their monthly wages and providing penalties for its violation. The decree, dated Jan. 15, provides for a monthly rate of not lower than P60 for house helpers in Manila and the suburban areas located in the province of Rizal; not lower than P45 for those *m* other chartered cities and first class municipalities. The decree takes effect 30 days after the Secretary of Labor has promulgated the implementing rules and regulations. Covered by the P60-rate are Manila, Quezon City, Pasay City and Caloocan City, and the municipalities of Makati, San Juan, Mandaluyong, Muntinglupa, Navotas, Malabon, Parañaque, Las Piñas and Marikina, in the province of Rizal.

January 16—

SOME 120 provincial governors and city mayors informed the President that the people had voted “almost unanimously” during the Jan. 10-15 referendum to have the new Constitution considered ratified. The local executives who reported the results of the referendum made through meetings of some 35,000 citizens assemblies and barangays, also informed the President that the people have spoken overwhelmingly for the continuation of the present policies of the administration.

BRIG. GEN. Fidel V. Ramos, PC chief, appealed to all lawless elements in eight provinces and nine cities in the South to take advantage of Presidential Decree No. 95 granting selective amnesty. Gen. Ramos told those affected by the selective amnesty decree that they have until Feb. 28 to return to the folds of the law. After Feb. 28, Gen. Ramos said, the full force of the military will be sent out to track them down. Affected by the decree are lawless elements in the provinces of Cotabato, South Cotabato, Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Sulu and Palawan, and the cities of Cotabato, Gen. Santos, Iligan, Marawi, Zamboanga, Pagadian, Basilan, Dipolog and Dapitan.

January 17—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, complying with the will of the people as expressed in the January 10-15 referendum through the barangays and citizens assemblies, proclaimed the new Constitution ratified and in force as of 12 noon. In accordance with the unanimous demand of the people, the President also signed along with Proclamation No. 1102 announcing the ratification of the Constitution: 1) Proclamation No 1103 declaring that the *interim* National Assembly provided for an Art. XVII of the Constitution be not convened; and 2) Proclamation No 1104 for the continuation of Martial Law in accordance with the needs of the time and the desire of the people. The three questions were referred to the people in a referendum designed to broaden the base of citizen participation in the democratic processes and afford ample opportunity for the citizenry to express their voice on important national issues.

ISSUANCE BY PRESIDENT Marcos of Proclamation No. 1102 declaring the new Constitution ratified as of 12 noon has among others, the following important effects: 1) The exercise by the President of the r powers of the President and Prime Minister; 2) Abolition of Congress; 3) The change of the presidential to the parliamentary form of government; and 4) Giving the President the discretion When to call the *interim* National Assembly. These were the highlights of a briefing given by Justice Undersecretary Efren Plana at the Department of Public Information where he met with local and foreign newsmen.

FREEZING OF ALL information received during the tax amnesty period from informers relative to undeclared income or wealth until after March 31, 1973, was ordered by Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata. He said that no information from informers should be processed while Presidential Decree No. 23, as amended by Presidential Decree No. 67, is in effect. At the same time, Secretary Virata directed officials of the Department of Finance, Bureau of Internal Revenue, Bureau of Customs, and the Anti-Smuggling Action Center to adopt all measures to

extend full protection to all persons who take advantage of the tax amnesty. Such protection should be from all types of harassment by either government law enforcers or informers. All information from informers will be kept on file so as not to subject persons who are taking advantage of the amnesty to undue harassment. However, the full force of the internal revenue laws and regulations will be applied against all persons who do not declare all their undeclared income or wealth including their assets abroad after March 31, 1973.

PREVIOUSLY UNTAXED INCOME disclosed under the provisions of Presidential Decree No. 23 as amended, if consisting wholly or partly of hoarded cash in the Philippines, need not be invested in any area of preferred undertakings. Revenue Commissioner Misael P. Vera clarified today. He said the requirement of investment or deposit of hoarded cash under the tax amnesty decree refers only to previously untaxed income or wealth consisting of "cash hoarded abroad." The immunities granted now by the tax amnesty include relief from civil, criminal and administrative liabilities arising from or incident to the disclosure under the National Internal Revenue Code, the Revised Penal Code, the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, the Revised Administrative Code, the Civil Service Laws and regulations, Jaws and regulations on immigration and deportation or any other applicable law or proclamation.

OVER 239 FIRMS have expressed their desire to avail of the condonation of penalties on delinquent contributions, according to a report submitted by Administrator Gilberto Teodoro of the Social Security System. The condonation of penalties, as incorporated in Presidential Decree No. 24 amending the Social Security Law, allows the delinquent employers a grace period until April 19, 1973 to remit late contributions, Without the three; per cent monthly penalty. This also includes those employers with pending cases filed with the Social Security Commission, courts, or the fiscal's office related to delinquent payments.

COMPLETION OF a multi-channel microwave VHF communications system, in the Cagayan Valley, was announced by Director of Telecommunications Pedro P. Villaseñor. With the completion of this system, major towns in the Cagayan Valley will be connected for the first time by modern telephone and telegraph facilities with the rest of the country. The newly completed system provides telecommunications services to the major population centers of Tabuk in Kalinga-Apayao, Tuguegarao in Cagayan province, Ilagan and Santiago in Isabela, and Bayombong in Nueva Vizcaya.

January 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS issued the following statement on the ratification of the new Constitution:

"The ratification of our new Constitution marks the end of an old era and its old ways; it marks as well the beginning of a future, tinged perhaps with unknown perils for those who are prisoners of their own tears, but nevertheless a future of novel and unsurpassed opportunities for the fulfillment of our people's long dormant hopes and dreams.

"Our future is here, whether or not we recognize this fact, and there is now no turning back the tide. It is easier perhaps and more comfortable to look back to the solace of a familiar and mediocre past, but the times are too grave and the stakes too high for us to permit the customary concessions to traditional democratic processes to hold back our people's clear and unequivocal resolve and mandate to meet and overcome the extraordinary challenges presented by these extraordinary times.

"Our people have spoken with wisdom and courage. We must now translate their wishes into concrete positive acts. They want a new Constitution, thus we have a new Constitution. They reject the politics of the old, thus we have ratified the citizens assemblies or the barangays as the organ through which government must now consult with the people, and the people with their government. They do not want our people to bear the cost of an ad interim assembly, so we shall not convene them. In ratifying the new Constitution, we ratified the wisdom of the people; it is now for us to live by that new charter.

"Let not our people be swayed from their chosen path by those who are capable of dispensing only high rhetoric and unredeemable pledges, by those who curse the darkness where there really is light.

“Going the new way will require gifts of character our people innately possess. I invite our people now to close ranks and blaze the way to what I am certain is a secure and happy future, guided by God’s awesome grace and the light of our new Constitution.”

PRESIDENT MARCOS, at the same time, called upon everyone to comply with the provisions of the new Constitution as well as with all the laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations now in force. The President, likewise, called upon all provincial governors, city and municipal mayors, barrio captains and all other local officials to continue discharging their duties in accordance with existing laws and with the orderly administration of government. The President pointed out that under the new Constitution, all local officials are to carry on with their functions until otherwise provided by law or by decree. The Chief Executive sounded the call in a message sent out to all citizens assemblies and barangays which he congratulated and to which he conveyed his gratitude for the prompt support and cooperation they extended their government in connection with the recent referendum.

JUSTICE UNDERSECRETARY Efrén Plana said that contrary to popular belief, the President did not ratify the new charter but only proclaimed its ratification by the people through the recently concluded referendum initiated by means of the citizens assemblies and barangays all over the country. He said that the nation is now governed by the new charter and because of the “transition nature” of the government’s machinery at present, there is a need for a “concentration of powers” border to have “decisiveness” in recouping lost ground. The undersecretary said that President Marcos may exercise the powers of the Prime Minister and of the President as embodied in the ’72 charter, in addition to his old powers as President under the old Constitution, as provided for in the Charter.

POLICE COMMISSION Chairman Crispino M. De Castro ordered the suspension of nine chiefs of police and 85 policemen from all over the country who have been charged in various administrative cases. The order brings to a total of 738 police personnel ordered suspended by the Polcom since the imposition of Martial Law. Of this number, 34 are chiefs of police. Chairman de Castro said 706 of those now under suspension have been barred from the police service until after the final disposition of their cases.

GREATER DEDICATION to duty by customs appraisers and examiners at the Port of Manila has netted for the government an additional income of P18,441,199, representing collection of tax discrepancies due to misclassification of 2,795 import entries during the second quarter of the current fiscal year from October to December 1972. Customs Commissioner Rolando G. Geotina said that the figure is P9,774,956 more than what was collected during the first quarter, from July to September 1972, which was only P8,666,243.

ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT agencies were reminded by President Marcos that apprehensions and detentions should be made only on the basis of sworn statements of complaining parties and not on charges made merely through anonymous letters or by irresponsible individuals. In the course of his conferences with a number of local executives, the President emphasized that anonymous letters should, at most, be made the bases for investigation or surveillance.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: January 19-25, 1973

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

January 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS met the Cabinet and leaders of the defunct Senate and House of Representatives to iron out difficulties which might arise during the transition from the old Constitution to the new Constitution which went into effect at noon of last Jan. 17. Following the meeting which was the first held since the ratification and adoption of the new Constitution, the President ordered that: 1) All officials and personnel of the government shall continue performing their duties in their respective offices until otherwise ordered by decrees or by operation of the provisions of the Constitution; and 2) All orders, decrees, proclamations and letters of instructions issued under Martial Law shall continue and remain in force until otherwise revoked or superseded by provisions of the new Charter. The President called the meeting to dispel any feeling of uncertainty which might arise in view of the non-convening of the interim National Assembly which was unanimously rejected by the people in the referendum of January 10-15.

SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES generally have accepted grace fully President Marcos' recent proclamation which in effect abolished Congress and ushered in major changes in the government and social structure. This is the observation of a former opposition member of Congress, Rep. Carmelo Barbero (L, Abra), who expounded his views on the new Constitution during the "Citizens Line" program over Radio Mindanao Network-Interisland Broadcasting System. Mr. Barbero said that members of Congress are merely spokesmen of the people and when the citizenry, through the barangays and citizens assemblies, endorsed the ratification of the new Constitution and the present policies of the President, they had no choice but bow to the will of the people. The former solon classified his status and those of other members of Congress as "assemblymen on forced leave." Mr. Barbero emphasized that under the new Constitution, the *interim* National Assembly exists but that its organization has merely been put off by the President.

SECRETARY OF FINANCE Cesar E. A. Virata assured businessmen that the government has been setting the basic directions towards a more balanced and stable economy and at the same time called upon private business to contribute continuously to the reforms in government as well as in business. In a speech before the Manila Rotary, Secretary Virata pointed out that the elimination of political sponsors and the political and media levers, which were used towards the pursuit of private gain with very little regard to the consequence of the economy as a whole should now encourage confidence in the business community. "On the basis of the most recent developments in our country, major foreign investments have come to the Philippines since many of these foreign businessmen clearly to see the pattern of reform that the government has undertaken since Sept. 21, 1972," Sec. Virata said. He cited the incentives and reforms in the business field undertaken by President Marcos to make private business an effective partner of the government in economic development.

COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL Revenue Misael P. Vera reported that the BIR has registered a two-month collection of P66,261,723 on specific taxes on cigarets for the months of November and December last year. Taxes paid on cigarets for December alone amounted to P36,965,113 representing an increase of P12,313,469 or 49.94 per cent over that of the same period in 1971. Collections for November totalled P29, 296,610, showing an increase of P6, 778,508 or 28.39 per cent over collections in November of 1971. Commissioner Vera attributed the increased collections on specific taxes to the new morality and dedication of BIR personnel and the vigorous and successful anti-smuggling campaign being waged by the government.

TOURIST ARRIVALS last December increased by 17.7 per cent as compared to the same month the previous year. Tourism Commissioner Gregorio Araneta II said this is so far the biggest increase in monthly tourist arrivals since the proclamation of "Martial Law last September, a direct result of improved local conditions. Total national income from these arrivals were estimated by the BTTI at U.S. \$36.7 million.

PRESIDENT MARCOS issued General Order 22 limiting the number of licensed firearms in the hands of civilians and members of the Armed Forces to one long arm and one short arm only for each person. They have to surrender

to>the PC all excess firearms-in their possession. The new firearms collection drive is a continuation of the government effort to remove excess or unauthorized firearms. The President ordered, among others, that: 1) Henceforth, each individual is to hold under license a maximum only of one low-power rifle cal. .22 or shotgun not heavier than 12-gauge, and one pistol or revolver not higher than cal. .38 except cal. .357 mm magnum, cal. .22 center fire magnum, and those which are or may later be classified by the chief of Constabulary as high-power regardless of type, make, or caliber; and 2) Officers and enlisted personnel in the active service of the AFP may hold under license a maximum only of one low-power rifle cal. .22 or shotgun not heavier than 12-gauge and one sidearm of any type or caliber.

TOTAL OF 68 ENLISTED men have been discharged with cause from the service since Martial Law was imposed by the President. General Romeo Espino, AFP chief of staff, announced that of this number, 29 were in the Philippine Army, 26 Constabulary, nine Navy, two Philippine Military Academy and one each from the General Headquarters and Logistics Center. Not a single soldier or airman was booted out from the Philippine Air Force during the period starting Sept. 22. The dismissed servicemen were all found to have committed acts contrary to existing laws of the Republic and regulations of the military. According to General Espino, more erring military personnel are facing dismissal from the service on account of their unlawful acts. Their cases are being investigated by the AFP board and investigation offices.

CRIMES AGAINST PERSONAL liberty as defined and penalized under the Revised Penal Code will now be tried by the military courts. This is the substance of General Order No. 21 issued by President Marcos.

LAND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION plainclothes agents will be assigned on buses and jeepneys to make spot checks on violations of traffic rules by drivers. LTC Commissioner Romeo F. Edu said the plainclothesmen, who will be drawn from the traffic bureaus of the different police departments and the LTC, will be made to ride passenger vehicles as ordinary paying passengers to check such traffic violations as trip-cutting, operating outside of authorized lines or routes, loading and unloading of passengers in unauthorized zones, and discourtesy to passengers by drivers and conductors. While aboard these passenger vehicles, these plainclothes agents will also watch and arrest private motorists who violate traffic rules. The agents are under instructions to give particular attention to reckless drivers.

January 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS reiterated his commitment to the ideals of democracy and rejection of a dictatorial form of government. In his first formal press conference since the proclamation of Martial Law last Sept. 21 the President allayed fears of a dictatorship or the establishment of a revolutionary government as suggested by the people. There are some misgivings about our plunging into dictatorship and into a revolutionary government,” the President said. “On the contrary, one of the principal reasons why I decided immediately to proclaim the new Constitution was that the only other alternative was, as the people themselves suggested, to establish a revolutionary government.” The President said a revolutionary government would set back the return to normalcy and delay the restoration of the normal processes of democracy.

SECRETARY OF FOREIGN Affairs Carlos P. Romulo declared that the real thrust of the New Society is reform, not the patch-work reform intended as mere palliative, but reform along a broad spectrum—social, economic and political—intended to cure the malady rather than merely mask its symptoms. “Accordingly, the main directions of reforms will be, first, land reform and, second, the development of new political institutions, broader and more representative in character,” Sec. Romulo said before cadets of the Philippine Military Academy in Baguio. He stated that the formation of the barangays is a clue to the direction of the impending political reorganization, and although still in raw form, it is intended to give the widest representation to all segments of society.

PROVING TO BE A BIG boost to the administration’s program of free education in the grassroots level, are the three-room, Marcos-type schoolhouses. Introduced in 1966 in order to catch up with the fast-increasing barrio school population, it can accommodate 150 pupils. There are now 107,543 of these built since 1966, where more than 10 million barrio pupils get their formal schooling. Chairman Baltazar Aquino of the Presidential School Building Committee (PSBC), in a recent status report to the President, disclosed that a total of P274 million was

spent from 1966 to 1972 in support of the administration's program of free education for the masses. There are more new classrooms erected under the current program than all previous ones combined since the schoolbuilding program was launched in the 1950's.

January 21—

BRIG GEN Fidel V. Ramos, PC chief, set Feb. 28 as the deadline for the surrender of all excess firearms in the possession of private individuals and members of the armed forces, and laid down the procedure for their turnover in accordance with General Order No. 22 issued by the President last Jan. 17.

STEPS TO HELP alleviate the serious rice shortage in many parts of the world is being taken by the United States government. The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced this is to be done by increasing America's rice acreage for the 1973 crop year (August-July) by 10 per cent—or about 250, 000 acres. Such an increase in acreage is expected to result in the production of an additional 300, 000 metric tons of rice.

January 22—

PROCLAMATION BY PRESIDENT Marcos of the ratification of the new Constitution has been welcomed by local governments to continue their role as effective partner of the national government in working for the people's welfare. This view was expressed by Gov. Isidro S. Rodriguez of Rizal as guest on Channel 13. The Rizal governor said that the local governments can effectively work in partnership with the administration because the local governments are the ones in "direct communication with the people and are, thereby, in a position to relay to national officials the immediate needs for "accelerating economic growth.

PRESIDENT MARCOS exhorted the officials and employees of the Department of Agrarian Reform to strive with all their enthusiasm, fervor and capability to accelerate the land reform program. The President gave the exhortation during the oath-taking of the directors of the bureaus under the department who, along with some 17 foreign affairs officers, were the first government officials to take their oaths of office before the President under the new Constitution. The President, at the same time, enjoined some 90 volunteer doctors and nurses who were leaving for the rural areas, to spread the gospel of the New Society, that "each and everyone of us is his brother's keeper." The President received the members of the medical teams which will attend to the health needs of people in remote localities without pay for one month. He asked the volunteers not only to give medical care but also to involve the people, particularly the youth, in the formation of cooperatives, wholesome recreation, family planning, nutrition and community development.

CUSTOMS DEPUTY COMMISSIONER Pedro Mendoza reported that the amount of P6,371,324 has been collected from previously untaxed motor vehicles as of Jan. 22, 1973. In the port of Manila alone, about 1,500 motor vehicles were already registered in compliance with Presidential Decree No. 52 as amended by Presidential Decree No. 52-A reducing by 50 per cent taxes on motor vehicles on 1970 to 1972 models, and by 70 per cent 1969 and below models. On previously untaxed income or hidden wealth, the BIR has collected as of Jan. 22 a total of P1,133,534 representing 10 per cent of more than P11 million already reported to the BIR as previously undeclared income or hidden wealth. The deadline for the tax amnesty on previously untaxed income or wealth is March 31, 1973.

THREE SURVEY MISSIONS—the Japanese survey mission, World Bank Economic Mission and the Labor Mission—are at present in the country to look into the country's development program with particular emphasis on local projects that could be funded with foreign aid and to examine the trends and problems on employment opportunities in the Philippines. The Japanese mission headed by Akio Suzuki of the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan, arrived last Jan. 15 to discuss with Philippine government officials the country's four-year development program and possible projects for submission to the Japanese government for aid financing. This mission was sent here in connection with the Japanese foreign aid commitment of \$75 million made during the World Bank consultative talks held in Tokyo last year. The World Bank group headed by Russel Cheetham will examine the trends relating to production, employment, public finance and balance of payments and will assess the

Philippine external aid requirements. The labor mission led by Dr. Gustav Ranis came here to study labor and general development policies with the view to expanding employment opportunities.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS, including constitutional officers, who were exempt from taxation under the 1935 Constitution are now subject to tax under the new Constitution. According to Bin Commissioner Vera, this means that constitutional officers such as the justices of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals and other appellate courts, judges of the courts of first instance, the Court of Tax Appeals and similar quasi judicial bodies, judges of city and municipal courts, and also the Auditor General and others, must not only pay income tax but also the annual occupation tax more popularly known as the professional tax. Commissioner Vera directed all revenue officials, especially collection agents, to remind all those affected, to comply with the new provisions of the 1972 Constitution by paying their professional tax on or before Jan. 31, 1973.

TOTAL OF 27 AMNESTY teams have been organized in seven provinces in Mindanao to conduct the initial processing of surrenderors who wish to avail themselves of the amnesty under Presidential Decree No. 95. PC Chief Ramos said the amnesty teams were organized in each of the PC company headquarters in the provinces and cities covered by amnesty proclamations. The incumbent commanding officer of the PC company in each particular area was designated amnesty team leader while the PC headquarters was made amnesty reception center where the surrenderors will be processed and given conditional amnesty.

PRESIDENT MARCOS has issued Presidential Decree No. 101 expediting the methods in prescribing, redefining, or modifying the lines and modes of operation of public utility vehicles in the Philippines through the Board of Transportation. The decree notes that in the Greater Manila area, and in the bigger towns and cities and the main roads connecting them, there exists serious traffic congestion and disorder that have been causing accidents and delays in travel, which are highly detrimental to public safety and convenience and to the functions, of commerce, industry and government. The decree likewise notes that in many parts of the country, due partly to inadequacy of transportation facilities, there have abounded unauthorized operators of public utility motor vehicles(*colorum* and *kabit*) which have clandestinely operated in violation of the penal provisions of existing law, rendered unregulated, unsafe or substandard service, put up unfair competition to legitimate operators, and deprived the government of a considerable amount of taxes and fees.

January 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS declared that the Supreme Court decision on the validity of Proclamation No. 1102 issued last Jan. 17, opened the way for the full implementation of the new Constitution. "Henceforth, there should be no hesitation on the part of anyone in the implementation of the new Constitution. Insofar as I am concerned the ratification is an accomplished fact. The new Constitution is in full force and effect by the sanction of the people," the President said. He pointed out that one of the issues in the high tribunal's decision promulgated last Jan 22 is the validity of Proclamation No 1102 which proclaims the ratification of the new Constitution by the Filipino people. The Supreme Court however, dismissed these petitions and refused to issue a res training order to prohibit the promulgation of both the proclamation and the new Constitution itself.

BOARD OF INVESTMENTS Chairman Vicente Paterno said that the ratification of the new Constitution has considerably improved the business climate in the country and this could result in the entry of more foreign investments. The BOI chairman pointed out that following the imposition of Martial Law, from September to November, businessmen entrepreneurs adopted a "wait-and-see" attitude. "However, this uncertainty vanished when the President proclaimed the ratification of the new Constitution, which states in clear and precise terms the national philosophy in dealing with foreign investors" Mr. Paterno said. The BOI chairman said that under the new charter, the government policy is to move forcefully forward and guide the business sector in the planning and implementation of business policies and ventures. He likewise assured greater participation by the private sector in the development of the national economy. Mr. Paterno pointed out that the new Constitution assured foreign investors of equal treatment, particularly with citizens and firms of the United States.

PRESIDENT MARCOS renewed his appeal to the people to band together in order that they may attain the objectives of the New Society and move forward in progress. The President told members of the Chamber of

Commerce of the Philippines that more than anything else, the country needed unity for “if we are not united, no matter how well meaning the reforms are it will not be possible to attain our objectives.” The President deplored the fact that the people have been disunited for so long that it is now necessary that they be united. He said it was for this purpose that he has granted amnesty not only to the secessionist but to all the insurgents and subversives who want to return to the folds of the law.

PRESIDENT MARCOS led the Filipino people in conveying to Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson and the American people “our deepest sympathies” on the passing of former President Johnson. His statement follows in full:

“The Filipino people join me in conveying to you and the American people our deepest sympathies on the passing of former President Johnson.

“He served the American presidency at a time of severe test and serious decisions for the United States Government. Through all that time, his interest in Asia did not wane, and he remained to the very end, a friend of the Philippines.”

In a separate statement, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo said:

“The death of President Lyndon B. Johnson robs the world of one of its most distinguished post war leaders. A superb parliamentarian, he brought to the presidential office the skill of bargaining and compromise on behalf of domestic social legislation and of world peace.

“Raised on the precepts of the New Deal, he provided America the vision of a Great Society, in which poverty shall be eradicated and where complete equality shall reign.

“In Vietnam, President Johnson ran into the most difficult problem that his country had had to face after the second World War. In his arduous search for peace, he journeyed to Manila to meet with the heads of state of six Asian countries. In this historic meeting, the seven nations laid down the principles that shall govern a just peace in Vietnam. He began the process which today enables his countrymen at last to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

“This greatly gifted man served his tenure in a cloud controversy. But of his compassionate heart there was never any question. America mourns his passing, and I join in that country’s bereavement.”

January 24—

STRONG LEADERSHIP was exercised by President Marcos when he imposed Martial Law because it was his duty to save the old society from its festering diseases and lead the nation on the road to health and progress for future generations of Filipinos. “The President did not grab power or assume the position of dictator but like a surgeon, performed his duty without being disturbed or distracted by internal or external forces to save the patient (old society),” Secretary of Public Information Francisco S. Tatad declared in an extemporaneous speech during the 17th annual convention of the Philippine Association of Military Surgeons. Secretary Tatad traced the charge of dictatorship to some sections of the foreign press and to certain local groups whose personal ambitions and self-interests were negated by the bold reforms of the President under the New Society. The secretary pointed out that above the selfish individual interests of the few dissenters is the national welfare which motivated the President to impose Martial Law because like the military surgeons it was his duty to save the patient.

SECRETARY OF LABOR Blas F. Ople officially informed the unions of government controlled or operated corporations that they were being placed under the civil service in accordance with Section 1, Subtitle B of Article XIII (The Constitutional Commissions) of the new Constitution, which went into force at noontime of Jan. 17. Secretary Ople met with the heads of the government corporate unions to seek; their cooperation in putting into effect smoothly the Constitutional provision. He told the unions that some legal points, including the question of the duration of collective bargaining agreements, have been referred to the secretary of justice. However, the Constitutional provisions placing government owned and controlled corporations under the Civil Service Law was “clear and unequivocal,” according to Sec. Ople.

SECRETARY OPLE likewise stated in a speech before the Davao Jaycees that the Philippines can be “the new Asian prodigy” to watch in the next few years as Filipinos focus all their energies and talents on development goals. The Labor secretary said that while “our neighbors such as Japan, Taiwan, Korea and Singapore spurred ahead economically and socially, the Filipinos allowed themselves to be distracted by incessant party politics which sapped their energies and vitality as well as their resources.” But under Martial Law, Mr. Ople said the government and the people are now insulated for the first time from the crippling interference of partisan politics. Therefore, many people feel that a long tenacious bondage has been snapped and the nation is now free to concentrate on its development goals, he added.

PRESIDENT MARCOS issued General Order No. 24 authorizing the arrest and detention of any person who commits crimes against personal liberty as defined and penalized under the Revised Penal Code. The crimes covered by the order are kidnapping and serious illegal detention, slight illegal detention, unlawful arrest, kidnaping and failure to return a minor inducing a minor to abandon his home slavery, exploitation of child labor and compulsion of anybody to render services in payment of debts. Crimes against personal liberty are now under the jurisdiction of the military courts.

IN BEHALF OF THE FILIPINO people, President Marcos expressed hope that the announcement of a ceasefire in Vietnam will bring about a true kind of peace in Indochina and remove the threats to peace in Southeast Asia and in the world. The President’s statement followed the simultaneous announcements in Vietnam. The President’s statement in full:

“The Philippine Government welcomes the announcement that a ceasefire has been reached, and is shortly to take effect in Vietnam. We, in the Philippines, hope that this will bring about a true kind of peace in Indochina, and that it will remove the threats to peace in Southeast Asia and the world. We congratulate the parties for their labors and their courage in drawing up a document that fulfills the hopes and prayers of so many, and adds new prospects to the future of human understanding cooperation and brotherhood.

“Enforcing and consolidating the peace is always a difficult undertaking, but given the goodwill and the determination that moved the negotiating parties to reach this agreement, we are confident that this will mark a new period in the life of Southeast Asia. With the settlement of the war, the developing nations of the region, beginning with Vietnam, can now fully develop, not only to rebuild the ruins of war, but rather to move ahead to the full limits of progress.

“To us, this day is a victory for peoples all over the world who pray and work for peace.

“In our own modest way, we have sought to contribute to this quest for peace. We have sought to humanize the cruelty and sufferings of war. We sent the Philcag and the Philcon to Vietnam not to kill but to heal, not to take life but to preserve it, not to destroy but to build. For we could not help but be involved in the agony of the human spirit in Vietnam.

“Today, as peace begins to find its way in Vietnam, we see our own share of conflict in our land. Ambition and ideology have combined to mobilize certain forces against our government and our people.

“I ask those fighting the government to now put down their arms. I call upon my brother Filipinos—whatever their ideology or persuasion, Moslem or Christian, communist or democrat, Nacionalista or Liberal, to lay down the weapons of war and take up the tools of peace.

“Let us build a nation in strength and unity, and let us build it now.”

In a separate statement, Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Romulo said:

“President Nixon’s announcement that a ceasefire in Vietnam has been agreed upon ends a cruel war that has weighed heavily on the conscience of the world. We must all hope that the cessation of hostilities will lead, in the not too distant future, to the final political settlement of the status of the entire Vietnamese people.

“The Vietnam ceasefire is a historic point in the lives of Vietnamese the Asians and the world at large. To a generation of Vietnamese that has not known peace, the end of the war means their first real opportunity to build a future. To Asians, it means the end of perpetual tension and grave threats to regional security. To the world at large, it removes a source of friction that has been a constant threat to international security.

“We must now turn to the considerable problems brought about by the termination of the Vietnam War. Among these, the foremost will be the national and regional security in Southeast Asia. We must plan for the reconstruction and development of the devastated areas. We must also begin to think seriously of the shape of Asia that will emerge from the holocaust of the Vietnam war.”

January 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS sent the following congratulatory message to President Nixon for the ceasefire agreement in Vietnam: “The Filipino people join me in congratulating you and the American people for negotiating an honorable peace in Vietnam. Freedom-loving peoples everywhere welcome the ceasefire agreement as a testimony to the courage, patience and will of the United States government which did not shirk responsibility but sought it to the end that peace may be achieved. We are confident that all nations who have a stake, in the well-being of humanity will do their part to make the peace work. Accept, Mr. President, the assurance of our highest esteem.”

INFORMATION SECRETARY Francisco S. Tatad said that the Philippines can expect to enjoy an economic boom when peace finally comes; to Vietnam, and if peace can be maintained particularly in the southern borders of the Philippines, this country can be among the major beneficiaries of a reconstruction bonanza. Sec. Tatad said the Philippines expects to participate in the construction boom in Japan, Hongkong, Australia and Indonesia. All these countries need construction materials from the Philippines. He said that the settlement of the Vietnam war is expected to open Southeast Asia to increased tourism in view of which the Philippines is preparing for the expanded flow of tourists to this country.

MEMBERS OF THE CABINET were directed to submit as soon as possible their respective studies and recommendations on the various provisions of the new Constitution affecting their department. President Marcos reminded the members of his official family that during the meeting of the Cabinet last Jan. 17, he had asked them to study the Constitutional provisions pertaining to their respective departments and to submit recommendations thereon. The President issued the reminder after administering the oath of office to the Cabinet secretaries whom he had reappointed under the new Constitution.

Inducted by the President were:

Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, Secretary of Finance Cesar E.A. Virata, Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos, Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Arturo Tanco Jr., Secretary of Public Works, Transportation and Communications David M. Consunji, Secretary of Education and Culture Juan Manuel, Secretary of Labor Blas F. Ople;

Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, Secretary of Trade and Tourism Troadio T. Quiazon Jr., Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor Jr., Secretary of General Services Constancio Castañeda, Secretary of Social Welfare Estefania Aldaba-Lim, Secretary of Agrarian Reform Conrado F. Estrella;

Director General Gerardo P. Sicat of National Economic and Development Authority; Secretary of Public Information Francisco S. Tatad, Secretary of Local Government and Community Development Jose Roño, Chairman Florencio Medina of the National Science Development Board, Commissioner Mama Sinsuat of the National Integration and Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco of the Budget.

Also inducted by the President were Governor Gregorio S. Licarios of the Central Bank and Solicitor General Estelito Mendoza.

CREATION OF THE NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority provided the principal coordinating agency which will unify the cross purposes of previous economic bodies concerned with planning and implementation of the country's economic policies. As created under Presidential decree issued by the President, the NEDA which absorbed the functions of the National Economic Council and the Presidential Economic Staff, will be the principal economic planning body and policy maker of the government. When its decisions are approved by the President, who is chairman, these decisions become effective immediately. NEDA Director General Gerardo Sicat said that, as in the past, the private sector will be consulted together with the government agencies, in the formulation of economic policies. He predicted that the government's development plans will assume greater meaning for everybody and will yield more results under the reforms brought about by Martial Law.

TWO VITAL ROAD extensions which will link Gov. Forbes (north of the Pasig river) through Mabini (Nagtahan) bridge will soon be advertised for public bidding. These major thoroughfares, which are set to be started this year, will serve as a direct link between the North and South Expressways and will provide the missing link in the circumferential Highway 2 which rings the inner sections of Manila.

TEACHING OF TAXATION in the elementary grade level has effectively raised the tax consciousness of elementary school pupils. This was the finding of the National Tax Research Center following a survey covering 20 cities, 20 provinces and 60 municipalities in the 10 regions of the country. Respondents of the survey were elementary school teachers who taught taxation in their classes, using "The Guide for Teaching Taxation in the Elementary Schools" as basis for instruction. The "Guide" was formulated through the joint efforts of the NTRC (then the Joint Legislative-Executive Tax Commission) and the Department of Education, and adopted for nationwide use in the academic term 1970-71. The Bureau of Internal Revenue extends assistance by requiring its regional offices to provide discussants to the schools.

FILIPINO WOMEN who married Chinese husbands and lost their Philippine citizenship before the effectivity of the new Constitution at noon of Jan. 17, 1973, remain Chinese citizens and are not affected by Sec. 2 Art. III of the new charter which allows Filipino women who marry aliens to retain their Filipino citizenship, Immigration and Deportation Commissioner Edmundo M. Reyes announced.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: January 26 - February 1, 1973

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

January 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS issued Letter of Instructions No. 53 calling on all heads of departments and agencies of the government, including chiefs of government owned and controlled corporations, to draw up plans, programs, studies and recommendations for the immediate implementation of policies contained in the new Constitution. In drawing up these plans, the department heads were cautioned to observe utmost economy without prejudicing the country's development goals. They were also told to attend immediately to matters which do not call for top-policy decision and may be implemented on a department or agency level and to report to the President actions taken on this score. The department heads were required to submit their proposals and recommendations, together with drafts of implementing decrees, orders or circulars, within two weeks.

PRESIDENTIAL DECREE No. 107 creating the National Economic and Development Authority, was issued by the President. The Authority shall recommend to the National Assembly, after consultation with the private sector, local government units and other appropriate public agencies, continuing, coordinated and fully integrated social and economic plans and programs. Under the decree, the NEDA is composed of the President as chairman, the executive secretary, NEDA director general; and the finance secretary, secretary of agriculture and natural resources, secretary of trade and tourism, secretary of public works, transportation and communications, secretary of labor, secretary of education and culture, governor of the Central Bank, commissioner of the budget, and chairman of the Board of Investments, as member's.

ONE PRESIDENTIAL executive assistant and two presidential assistants to coordinate the activities of the President's own staff for a more effective implementation of his policies, decisions and directives under the new Constitution, were reappointed by the President. They were 1) Presidential Executive Assistant Jacobo C. Clave, former press secretary, a lawyer and former foreign affairs and Senate reporter of the *Manila Daily Bulletin*; 2) Presidential Assistant Guillermo de Vega, professorial lecturer at the University of the Philippines, a doctorate degree holder in political history and concurrently chairman of the Board of Censors for Motion Pictures; and 3) Presidential Assistant Juan C. Tuvera, former assistant press secretary, member of the Board of Liquidators and former newspaperman. The three have been serving the President since his inauguration in 1966.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE Juan Ponce Enrile ordered that no arrest, search or seizure shall be made on the person or property of legitimate businessmen and merchants as well as the corresponding release of such person or property without prior clearance from the Office of the Secretary of the Department of National Defense. This directive was contained in DND Department Order No. 738 dated Jan. 25, 1973, which states that the control of such arrest, search and seizure is in consonance with the government's effort to stabilize the peace and order situation by removing the negative factor which may tend to cause alarm or agitation that would unduly disturb the legitimate operation of businessmen and merchants in the country.

BUREAU OF REHABILITATION of the Department of Social Welfare was deputized by the Dangerous Drugs Board to look after drug dependents on probation under the custody of the board. The DDB provided the bureau the following guidelines in handling the drug dependents: 1) The person under probation must be required to be at his home between 7 p.m. and 5 a.m.; 2) He shall not change his residence without first notifying in writing the board's agent and/or representative; 3) there shall be a limitation on the dependent's social activities especially where he is likely to be in contact with persons of disreputable character or brought into association with persons of bad moral habits or inclinations; and 4) He shall be required to report to the board's representatives once every two weeks or as often as may be necessary for educational lectures on the evil effects of dangerous drugs on his physical and mental conditions, as well as on society.

RULES AND REGULATIONS implementing Presidential Decree No. 96 prohibiting, unless authorized, the attachment on any motor vehicle of such signaling or flashing devices as sirens, whistles, domelights, police and emergency red flashing lights and blinkers, bells and very loud and startling horns—were promulgated by the Land

Transportation Commission. Only the following vehicles are authorized to be equipped with those devices: law enforcement vehicles—red domelights and sirens; fire trucks—amber domelights, sirens and bells; hospital ambulances—blue domelights and sirens; tow or service cars and wreckers—blue domelights only. The rules allow the attachment to all motor vehicles of the following: ordinary horn to warn other motorists and pedestrians; signal lights for making left and right turns; amber or white flashers installed in front and red flashers in the rear of vehicles to warn other motorists and pedestrians in case of emergency; and white headlights and rear lights that are red, yellow or orange. Tail lights, stop lights, license-plate lights and parking lights shall be installed in all motor vehicles. Also required are colored riding lights on each of the four corners not more than 10 centimeters from the top of trucks, buses, trailers and other similar vehicles for use during nighttime while on the public highways.

January 27—

DEFENSE SECRETARY Enrile issued Department Order No. 739 allowing bail to detainees in provincial, city and municipal, jails, provided formal request or petition for bail is filed in a civil court which has lawful jurisdiction over the offense and over the person focused. Whenever a petition or formal request for bail is filed with a civil court) the designated representative of the secretary shall officially or formally oppose or interpose no objection on the petition, taking into account the following considerations: 1) Gravity of the offense and evidence of guilt in the possession of the prosecution; 2) The extent of the offense's effect on public order on the internal or external security of the Republic; 3) Whether the accused, by reason of prior criminal conviction, notorious reputation in the community, or overall record, has become a public charge and, therefore, his release on bail will impair public peace; 4) Likelihood of escape pending trial or the result thereof; and 5) Reliability of proposed surety or bond.

POLICE COMMISSION dismissed nine Rizal policemen and ordered the suspension of 29 others, including two municipal police chiefs. Twenty-nine newly suspended policemen, meanwhile, are still awaiting final disposition of their pending grave administrative cases by the new Polcom Adjudication Boards. They were ordered temporarily barred from the police service because of strong evidence of guilt against them. Since October 1972, the Polcom has dismissed 16 and suspended 734 policemen all over the country.

TRICYCLE OWNERS and operators must have to follow strictly the requirement to secure permits from the Land Transportation Commission before they operate. They must also secure PC clearances before they register with the LTC. These requirements were evolved during a conference among PC authorities and officials of the LTC, the Board of Transportation, Bureau of Customs and the Motorcycle Assemblers and Sidecars Manufacturers Association of the Philippines (MASMAP). The officials agreed to adopt the new procedures so as to clamp down on smuggled and stolen tricycles and to supervise more closely the tricycle business which is getting very popular especially in low-income and rural areas. Prior to their registration with the LTC, the tricycles will have to be cleared by the PC. Owners of MASMAP tricycles, however, can go ahead and register with the LTC while awaiting PC clearance. They will have to pay a registration fee to the LTC which will be considered a deposit.

FILIPINOS SEEKING entry to Canada as non-immigrants for employment purposes must first obtain working visas. Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo announced that visitors to Canada for periods of more than three months are also required to register with immigration authorities even if they do not intend to work. The new Canadian immigration regulations known as the Non-Immigrant Entry Records and Employment Visa Regulations took effect Jan. 1, 1973. Workers with pre-arranged temporary employments in Canada can secure their employment visas from Canadian immigration representatives in their home countries. Not affected by the new regulations are Canadians, landed immigrants, diplomats, armed forces personnel on official duty, foreign news representatives, visiting businessmen, members of the clergy, persons engaged in professional sports, crews of foreign transport and tourists and visitors who do not remain for extended periods or take employment in Canada. Violations of the regulations is punishable by fines up to P500 and/or imprisonment up to six months or deportation from Canada.

January 28—

THE PHILIPPINES is well on the way to attaining a record 6.5 per cent economic growth projected for this year based, among others, on the continuing growth rate in the export of semi-processed products and manufactures. Secretary of Trade and Tourism Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. said before an executive conference of the Chamber of

Commerce of the Philippines, that while the country continued to depend on a few primary exports whose world demand remains inelastic, the export growth of semi-processed products and manufactures has been very impressive. Among these products are processed foods, fruits and vegetables, footwear, garments and textiles, furniture, vegetable oils, plywood, glassware and articles made of wood. All of these products are labor-intensive and utilize in abundance domestic raw materials.

ROYAL NEPALESE Government has accepted the nomination of Ambassador Romeo S. Busuego as non-resident Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Philippines. Ambassador Busuego who is the Philippine Ambassador to India will hold his new position in a con-Current capacity. This was announced by the Department of Foreign Affairs.

JULIAN FELIPE, composer of the "Philippine National Anthem was remembered by the nation on the occasion of his 112th birth anniversary. Felipe, music teacher and composer, had joined the fight for freedom during the Revolution and was arrested by Spanish troops. During one of his visits to Cavite after his release, Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo requested him to compose a musical score entitled, "Marcha Magdalo," which later became the "Himno Nacional Filipino." During the Proclamation of Philippine Independence in Kawit, Cavite on June 12 of the same year, Felipe's hymn was played in public for the first time. On Sept. 5, 1938, the National Assembly during the American regime passed a law officially adopting the "Himno" as the country's national anthem.

January 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS pledged his total commitment to the fight against poverty to bring about the complete fruition of the New Society. The pledge came in the form of a message to the squatter families resettled in the PHHC resettlement area in Carmona, Cavite. Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor relayed the presidential pledge to the resettled families who attended the ceremonies for the awarding of passbooks to 100 heads of families in the resettlement area. Secretary Melchor announced that the government will continue its efforts to push through projects designed to make the Carmona resettlement area a viable community. He announced that jobs will be created for many of the resettled people who are still unemployed. He said that a textile company will soon put up a factory in the area; This, he said, is only one of the several projects being drawn up for the Carmona resettlement community.

THE PRESIDENT was informed by a large group of Japanese business-men that the investment climate in the Philippines is very favorable and that they intend to come back in November. Representing such industries as steel, tourism, food, real estate development, and others, the businessmen arrived in Manila last Tuesday at the invitation of a local businessman, "to come and see for themselves the changed atmosphere under Martial Law." Since their arrival in Manila, the businessmen had visited Cagayan de Oro, Del Monte in Bukidnon, Cebu and Baguio, and informed the President that they were surprised by the new atmosphere. "We found many things conducive to investments here, and we hope to come back with more of our friends," they said.

IMPLEMENTATION OF Presidential Decree No. 27 at this stage covers only tenanted rice and corn lands that are 100 hectares and above. Secretary Conrado F. Estrella of the Department of Agrarian Reform said that the promulgation of the rules implementing the decree has been suspended indefinitely to enable the government to arrive at a solution on the adverse effects the decree may have on small owners of tenanted rice and corn lands. The secretary stated that since it is the aim of President Marcos to strengthen the middle class and small landowners form a part of such middle class, all avenues are being explored to soften the impact of the decree on those who own small parcels of tenanted rice and corn lands.

NEW SOCIETY is being formed by President Marcos mainly for the "anakpawis" and the "maliliit" and all who strive and work can certainly expect a better future for themselves and their children in its folds. This was what Secretary of Information Francisco S. Tatad told thousands of residents of Bagong Barrio, Caloocan City, who converged at the barrio plaza to witness the induction of officers of their cooperative. Secretary Tatad declared that citizens assemblies created by President Marcos signify the new hope of the "have-nots" because these are a means of direct communication between the people and the government. He said the CA's did away with political

intercession, patronage and pressure as was the practice in the old order, and through them the barrio folk can solve their local problems by themselves, within the confines of their respective localities.

CLOSER AND STRONGER government supervision of universities where student activism and subversive activities have been reported, was ordered by President Marcos. The President directed Secretary of Education and Culture Juan L. Manuel to submit within 24 hours a report and recommendation on the matter due to persistent reports that these activities are again on the rise in some universities, particularly in Siliman University. The President received a list of the names of students and faculty members, and their respective subversive activities, which he turned over to military authorities for appropriate action. He said he would not hesitate to take drastic steps toward protecting public interest in the management and supervision of schools or universities infiltrated anew by subversion. President Marcos stressed that these institutions should be protected, at all costs, against the inroads of radicalism so that students would not be distracted from their pursuit of learning.

TWO FILIPINO NATIONALS are among those expected to be released from captivity shortly by the Viet Cong following the signing of the Vietnam ceasefire agreement. Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo made this announcement after receiving a formal note from the U. S. embassy in Manila informing him that the list of American and foreign civilians captured in South Vietnam furnished Jan. 27, 1973 by the U. S. Department of State included the names of Filipino nationals, Candido Badua and Arturo M. Balagat. Both were reportedly captured at Hue, South Vietnam on Feb. 1, 1968.

PRESIDENT MARCOS has endorsed the 1973 membership and fund drive of the Philippine National Red Cross and called on every resident of this country to give his share to the PNRC drive, in a message, the President expressed confidence the public will extend their "massive gesture" of support to the PNRC. "The PNRC record over a quarter of a century has been outstanding," the President said. "We can credit this in no small measure to the support that it has enjoyed from the people."

January 30—

IN THE NEW CONSTITUTION, there is now a provision in the Bill of Rights recognizing the people's right to information on matters of public concern. Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos pointed out that Section 6 of the Bill of Rights further provides that access to official records and to documents and papers pertaining to official acts, transactions, or decisions, shall be afforded to citizens, subject to such limitations as may be provided by law.

AMNESTY FORMS being distributed by the authorities are free and should not cost anybody anything. Secretary Tatad issued this announcement in view of reports that certain parties got hold of the forms and are selling them in the South. The Information Secretary, meanwhile, called upon the country's nurses to be social workers, teachers and dependable friends, in the exercise of their profession Secretary Tatad said nurses must not be content within merely assisting the physicians in serving the medical needs of the people, but they must also be the "bearer of the light of modernization," wherever they may be. Calling for the involvement of the medical practitioners in the effort toward the formation of a New Society, Secretary Tatad said that their commitment to the preservation of life must go hand in hand with the enhancement of opportunity for "a higher state of existence" in the new order. "You must not only heal, but you must also give hope," he said.

PHILIPPINE CONSTABULARY Chief Fidel V. Ramos circularized all PC field commanders on the procedures for arrests, searches and seizures as prescribed by DND Department Order No. 740 dated Jan. 26, 1973 for their information and guidance. Gen. Ramos said "citizen's arrests" may be made by a peace officer, Armed Forces personnel or a private person pursuant to Sec. 6 of the Rules of Court. The section specifies that a person can be arrested when he "has committed, is committing or is about to commit an offense" or when a crime has been committed and "there is reasonable ground to believe that the person to be arrested has committed it, or when the person has escaped from a penal confinement. The procedures to follow in this case, according to the PC chief, are: 1) The arrested person shall be brought without delay to the nearest AFP unit by the person who effected the arrest; 2) The AFP unit commander shall then determine whether the offense falls under General Order No. 2 and if so, the arrested person shall be booked, detained and investigated by the inquest officer; 3) Afterwards, the case shall be referred to the provincial investigating coordinating committee, through the provincial commander, for disposition.

In the Greater Manila area, the case shall be referred to any of the investigation units, in accordance with orders issued by the commander of the Command for the Administration of Detainees; and 4) If the offense does not fall under General Order No. 2, the arrested person shall be turned over to civil authorities.

STATE OF HEALTH in the country has considerably improved while the death rate has been drastically decreased. Secretary of Health Clemente Gatmaitan disclosed that the maternal and infant death rates in 1970 were 59.5 and 1.9 per cent, respectively, per 1,000 live births compared to 73.1 and 2.4 per cent, respectively, 10 years ago. Several factors were primarily responsible for this marked improvement in the health of the nation, including the expansion of the health services, efforts toward the control and prevention of communicable diseases and the improvement in the environmental conditions of the people. Sec. Gatmaitan predicted a further decrease in the mortality rate with the cooperation of the people through improved sanitation or cleanliness of parks, playgrounds and private premises, strict observance of hygiene rules, and a stepped-up implementation of health regulations.

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that “with the passing of Don Quintin Paredes, the nation has lost not only one of its truly great men, but perhaps the last of a generation that included the likes of Recto, Laurel and Quezon.” The President extolled Don Quintin as one of those very few whose life parallels the life of his nation in its many states. The full text of the President’s statement follows:

With the passing of Don Quintin Paredes, the nation has lost not only one of its truly great men, but perhaps the last of generation that included the likes of Recto, Laurel and Quezon.

He was one of those very few whose life parallels the life of his nation in its many stages. He was born to a time of beginnings for-the-Filipino-nation, when the Filipino people were only just beginning to experience solidarity. In an era dominated by the presence of the foreigner, he demonstrated early the capacities of the Filipino for self-government and statesmanship.

Through his efforts, and those of his great contemporaries, the country took its rightful place among the nations. Thereafter we were never without the leadership and counsel of this man. In every office that he served—the Judiciary, the House, the Senate, the Cabinet—he brought with him energy, aspiration and giftedness. Even in retirement, during his very late years, now and then he would give his share to the shape of events in our country.

Only three years ago, we were privileged to fete him in the palace, and this remarkable and kindly man seemed as if he could go on for another quarter-century.

But now he is gone, and he leaves behind him only the example of a life to a generation that must now do its share to meet the challenges of a new time.

January 31—

PRESIDENT MARCOS today tapped the services of four key members of the defunct Senate and House of Representatives for specific assignments as Presidential trouble shooters. The four are: former Senators Leonardo Q. Perez and Rene Espina and former Congressmen Jose D. Aspiras and Carmelo Barbero. Earlier the President had appointed former Governors Tito Primicias of Pangasinan and Julian Pacificador of Antique for similar assignments. The President directed the four “to determine and identify the specific areas in the national efforts which require constant supervision” by Presidential trouble shooters. Upon their designation, the President instructed Mr. Espina to proceed to Iligan and look into the conditions obtaining in the Iligan Steel Mills particularly with respect to its labor and milling operations. Former Sen. Perez and former Rep. Aspiras were asked to start “a grassroots information campaign” on the programs that the administration is pursuing for the masses so that citizens’ participation can best be achieved. The President said he would name more Presidential trouble shooters and further bridge the communication gap between the government and the people, stating that in no time is there need for greater citizen involvement in public affairs than now.

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL officials visiting the country said that the improved situation under Martial Law is attracting world attention and that at least one head of government is following the Philippine experiment.

The UPI officials paid their respects to President Marcos following their arrival in Manila to meet American prisoners of war who may be flown to Clark Air Force Base from Vietnam. After welcoming the officials and expressing the hope that more American media men could view the situation at close range, the President briefed them, saying that: 1) He is calling upon senators and congressmen, former delegates to the Constitutional Convention, and other leaders of various segments of society not only to advise him but to help out in various projects such as cooperatives, infrastructures, land reform, labor, manpower training and the like; 2) The Philippines is now tapping sources of geothermal energy for production, particularly the one in Tiwi, Albay; 3) The prospects for striking oil in the Philippines have attracted foreign oil companies, including Russians and Rumanians, who have expressed their desire to apply for oil concessions; and 4) He hopes to achieve national unity by granting selective amnesty and opening the barter trade for the Muslim Filipinos in the South.

SECRETARY OF INFORMATION Francisco S. Tatad advocated brotherhood and peace and above all love among men as the proper foundation in the building of a New Society. In an extemporaneous speech before the Kiwanis Club of Manila, the secretary stressed that love is the basic element that binds the people toward national unity and discipline and from this branch out to other noble values that make a healthy and vigorous society. Mr. Tatad recalled the tendency of the people under the old society into believing unverified or false information which "are not deserving of the society we are trying to build, a society founded on the truth." He pointed out that in the campaign for the magistracy of the truth in places where there is a death of the mass media, it is the duty of the civic-spirited citizens, civic groups like the Kiwanis Club, and others to inform the people of the truth and to reject the rumors and gossips. He urged civic leaders to make sure that the truth has a better chance of reaching the people than false reports and rumors, that they help develop among the people self-reliance and confidence.

DEADLINE FOR RENEWAL of "licenses to operate" by private security agencies was extended to Feb. 28, 1973. Said deadline had been originally set for Jan. 30. Col. Honorio F. Balanon, chief of the PC Supervisory Unit for Security and Investigation Agencies, said the extension was granted by PC Chief Ramos because a great number of private security agencies have not yet fully complied with the requirements for their continued operation. He said many of these security agencies have not yet fully complied with the requirements for their continued operation. He said many of these security agencies have not yet secured clearance from the Department of Labor, the Social Security System and the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered a thorough study of the effects of the return of peace to Vietnam on local affairs as well as on the treaty arrangement of the Philippines with the United States and other foreign countries. The President designated a special committee to analyze effects of the Vietnam peace on the country's security problems, negotiations on the US military bases here, which are expected to be resumed, and negotiations on other arrangements with the United States, particularly the Mutual Defense Pact, Military Assistance Pact and Laurel-Langley Agreement.

MALACANANG RELEASED the text of the Presidential decree providing for the repeal of Republic Act No. 427 which prohibits and penalizes the possession and exportation of silver or nickel coins under certain circumstances. R.A. No. 427 was enacted in 1950 to forestall a threatened coin shortage due to rampant unauthorized outflow of silver and nickel coins abroad. The pertinent provisions of the decree follows: "Whereas, Republic Act No. 427, 'An Act Prohibiting the Possession and Exportation of Silver and/or Nickel Coins under Certain Circumstances Providing the Procedure for Prosecution Thereof,' was enacted in 1950 to forestall a threatened coin shortage; "Whereas, the present fiduciary coinage system of the country allows the replenishment of the coin supply quite easily and economically thus assuring a constant and adequate supply of small change; "NOW THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS, President of the Philippines, and pursuant to proclamation 1081, dated September 22, 1972, as amended, and in order to effect the desired changes and reforms in the social, economic, and political structure of our society, do hereby order and decree the repeal of Republic Act No. 427. This Decree shall take effect immediately."

MALACANANG RELEASED the text of the Presidential decree facilitating the mergers and consolidation of banks to enable them to play socio-economic development. President Marcos said that bank mergers should be encouraged to promote the financial stability of different banking units. Towards this end, the President had previously issued Presidential Decree No. 71, dated Nov. 29, 1972, exempting merged banks from the application of Sec 28 of the Corporation Law, some provisions of which tend to restrict or impede bank mergers or consolidations. The decree

on bank mergers provides that: "Section 1. For the sole purpose of facilitating bank mergers or consolidations duly approved by the Monetary Board of the Central Bank of the Philippines, any bank may merge or consolidate with another bank and the capital stock of a bank may be increased to the extent necessary to effect such merger or consolidation by the affirmative vote of the stockholders representing at least a majority of the subscribed capital stock in a stockholders' meeting called for that purpose, notwithstanding the provisions of Section 28 and 17 of the Corporation Law (Act No. 1459, as amended.) Sec. 2. This shall take effect immediately and shall remain in the force for a period of three-years from the date thereof."

SECRETARY David Consunji of Public Works, Transportation and Communications said that his department has taken big strides in the repair and construction of roads primarily because of the renewed dedication of his men since the imposition of Martial Law. In an interview, the secretary noted that his department is now performing "30 or 40 per cent better than during the pre-Martial period." The secretary said that the proclamation of Martial Law has made department personnel aware of the need to do better in their jobs.

February 1—

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE Juan Ponce Enrile underscored justice as the overriding goal of the New Society, saying that "it is only when we achieve justice for all that we can truly say that we have succeeded in the reformation and transformation of our society." He also called on the members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to continue to live up to the expectations of the people, especially in assuring them of speedy, fair and equal justice. Speaking at the cornerstone-laying ceremonies of the Luis Torres Hall of Justice in Camp Aguinaldo, he pointed out that "any abuse of authority on the part of the members of the armed forces or any injustice they may render will ultimately prove detrimental to the whole enterprise."

BRIG. GEN. FIDEL V. RAMOS, PC chief, reminded all firearm holders to surrender their unauthorized and excess firearms not later than Feb. 28, or be charged under Presidential Decree No. 9. The penalty for the offense, upon conviction, is imprisonment for a period ranging from 20 years to life imprisonment. The following are classified as unauthorized firearms: cal. .22 centerfire Magnum, cal. 357 mm Magnum, cal. 41, or pistols higher than cal. 38. Gen. Ramos said that the possession of any of the above-described firearms by any individual, other than members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines on active duty, police officers, agents of the National Bureau of Investigation, and guards of the Bureau of Prisons, provincial and city jails, is prohibited by General Order No. 22, dated January 17, 1973.

SECRETARY OF JUSTICE Vicente Abad Santos invited the public to air their views on proposed presidential decrees aimed at carrying out the provisions of the new Constitution. Mr. Abaci Santos, who presided at the meeting of the Cabinet Coordinating Conference, said that the Cabinet members decided to organize themselves into committees to study the proposed decrees for submission to the President. The Secretary said that priority will be given to comments regarding the decrees implementing the land reform program, and decrees on economic development. He said interested parties may contact the chairman of a committee to get copies of the proposed decrees and to submit their views on them.

SECRETARY OF INFORMATION Francisco S. Tatad urged the banking industry, as the leaders of finance, to help accelerate the momentum that will ensure the renewal and growth of "our social, political, and economic integrity." Mr. Tatad stressed that as part of the reforms instituted under the New Society, Presidential Decrees Nos. 71 and 72 were promulgated after careful study, analysis, and objective deliberation. "You now have—in these decrees—a charter that fully activates the banking sector as a potent catalyst in realizing the economic goals of the New Order—a healthier, more sure, more productive and more responsive Filipino," the secretary said. He pointed out that what the administration is trying to achieve is a just social order in which the banker will not be held suspect for his just profits, just as the daily worker will not be held in contempt by those who pay him his wages. The DPI Secretary assured the BAP that the government will do all it can to strengthen not only the banking-system, but also the primary Filipino interests in the industry. According to him, the government has decreed that the voting stocks be increased from 60 per cent to 70 per cent Filipino, except in certain cases. "We have sought to purify not only the administrative machinery of the government which deal with the industry, but also of the banks themselves, by prohibiting the occupancy of sensitive positions in these institutions by politicians and others, not expressly prepared

or qualified for such positions. The government will continue to encourage the growth of this policy,” the secretary said.

GENERAL MANAGER Roman Cruz; Jr. of the Government Service Insurance System reported that some 330 GSIS employes have been separated from the service for various offenses since the imposition of Martial Law, and also mentioned the different reforms to improve the systems’ service to its members. He added that another innovation to be implemented shortly is the delivery of retirement checks to the claimants in their respective homes in the Greater Manila area to save them time and avoid inconvenience, especially on the part of the old retirees. The GSIS general manager disclosed that since two years ago the System has initiated 31 group housing projects, throughout the country and the latest of these were finished and awarded last month to qualified members. He said the goal of the GSIS is the construction of 37,000 housing units in the entire country and 6,700 of these have been awarded since the project started two years ago.

MALACAÑANG OFFICIALLY placed the operations of pawnshops under strict supervision to protect small borrowers left unserved by the banking and, other financial institutions of the country. A presidential decree signed by President Marcos has declared it a policy of the state “to regulate the establishment of pawnshops and to place their operations on a sound and stable basis to derive optimum advantages from them as additional source of credit.” Under the decree, no new pawnshops shall be allowed to operate if their paid-up capital is below P100,000. Existing pawnshops with deficiencies in paid-up capital have to comply with this minimum capital requirement within such time as may be prescribed by the Monetary Board. The decree also provides that only Filipino citizens may establish and own a pawnshop organized as a single proprietorship. In the case of partnership, at least 70 per cent of the capital stock shall be owned by Filipino citizens while in the case of a corporation, at least 70 per cent of the voting capital stock shall be owned by Filipinos. In non-stock corporations, Filipino citizens should comprise at least 70 per cent of the voting members. The decree authorizes the Central Bank to issue rules to carry out the provisions of the decree, and to require from pawnshops reports of condition to determine compliance with the provisions of the decree and the implementing rules, as well as to exercise visitorial powers whenever necessary. The decree provides a fine of not less than P100 and not more than P1,000, and an imprisonment of not less than 30 days and not more than one year for its violation.

RURAL BANKS were asked by the Central Bank of the Philippines to extend production loans to graduates of the agricultural skills training program sponsored by the National Manpower and Youth Council in collaboration with other government agencies. Together with the financial assistance asked of them is the technical assistance in the proper utilization of loans and in the marketing of produce. This agricultural training program is aimed at helping the government attain socio-economic progress in the rural areas, through modern farm methods and formation of cooperatives.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: February 2-8, 1973

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

February 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS issued Presidential Decree No. 124 granting amnesty to members of subversive organizations with certain exceptions and under certain conditions. The presidential amnesty covers members, followers and sympathizers of activist groups, subversive organizations and Communist front organizations, who are not die-hard members or ideological believers in communism but have been drawn into these organizations because of their associations with or as a result of subtle indoctrination by hard-core activists and false propagandists. The decree also grants amnesty in favor of all affiliates or members of the Communist Party of the Philippines or other subversive organizations "who may have committed any other offense penalized under any law in furtherance of their political beliefs." The decree covers only those who shall apply for amnesty not later than March 15, 1973. The presidential edict, however, does not apply to the following: 1) Affiliate or member who has committed murder or crimes against chastity or who have taken up arms against the government; 2) Those leaders of rebellion and sedition; 3) Officer or ranking leader of the Communist Party of the Philippines or any subversive association as defined under Section 2 of the "Anti-Subversion Act"; 4) One who conspires with any other person to overthrow the government of the Republic of the Philippines or any of its political subdivisions by force, violence, deceit, subversion or any other illegal means for the purpose of placing such government or political subdivision under the control and domination of any alien power.

SECRETARY OF FINANCE Cesar E.A. Virata reported a heavy turnout of taxpayers who availed themselves of the tax amnesty concessions issued through Presidential Decrees. Initial reports on the tax collection from the tax amnesty proclamations submitted to the finance secretary indicated that a total of P22 million was paid in the Greater Manila area alone as of January 31, 1973. This significant response of the taxpayers was attributed to: 1) The "open-arms" approach of the government to give tax evaders a chance to reform and become part of the New Society with a clean slate; 2) The immunities and security given the taxpayers who availed of the amnesty grants; and 3) The very liberal concessions given in the form of reduction of the taxes due the government. A report from Custom Deputy Commissioner Pedro Mendoza said that taxes from 3,036 motor vehicles which were previously untaxed or improperly taxed, amounted to P11,077,444. On the other hand, Internal Revenue Commissioner Misael P. Vera reported that 2,745 tax payers have taken advantage of the tax amnesty grants and paid the amount of P10,868,145.30.

REGISTRATION OF non-bank financial institutions or intermediaries, as required in a recent circular of the Central Bank, in implementation of Presidential Decree No. 71, has been extended from January 31 to Feb. 28, 1973. This will give more time to the persons and entities concerned who have not yet registered because they are located in remote areas to comply with the circular. The following are required to register with the Central Bank: finance companies, investment or development companies, trust funds, credit unions, pawnbrokers, security dealers, commercial papers issuers, underwriters or dealers, lending investors, and such other persons or entities.

SECRETARY OF INFORMATION Francisco S. Tatad assured a group of Japanese journalists that President Marcos will not stay in power a minute longer than necessary and that the President will only exercise his powers and authority within the constitutional framework. In answer to their queries, he explained the reasons for the closure of some print and broadcast media following imposition of Martial Law. "Since then however, the government after conducting a study, found out that there is no need of allowing other print media to operate since the total circulation of the print media is more today than it was before Martial Law. The studies further show it is not necessary to allow the operation of more television and broadcast media to ensure the quality of programs and to purify the airwaves," the secretary said. Together with this he also laid stress on the invisible but laudable effects of Martial Law on the country's economy like the increased confidence among the foreign investors on the improved business climate.

February 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has issued an administrative order creating three commissions charged with the function of carrying out the provisions of the amnesty granted to certain members of the subversive organizations as provided for under Presidential Decree No. 124. The administrative order provides for the composition of three Amnesty Commissions and their respective territorial jurisdiction, as follows: 1) First Commission for Luzon and Palawan, all provinces, cities and islands traditionally belonging to Luzon and Palawan: the judge advocate general, Armed Forces of the Philippines, chairman; and two judges of courts of first instance to be designated by the secretary of justice, members. 2) Second. Commission for Visayas, all islands traditionally comprising the said group, and all provinces and cities within the said group of islands: the commander, Third PC Zone, chairman; and two judges of the courts of first instance to be designated by the secretary of justice, members. 3) Third Commission for the islands of Mindanao, Sulu Archipelago, all islands traditionally belonging to the said group, all provinces and cities situated therein: the commander, Fourth PC Zone, chairman; and two judges of the courts of first instance to be designated by the secretary of justice, members.

NATIONAL GRAINS Authority Administrator Jesus Tanchangco said there are enough rice stocks from certain areas that have recovered from the recent calamities and the government has authorized importation to avert any shortage of the cereal. The NGA administrator likewise reported that the price of rice and palay have been stabilized due to several factors; among them: the imposition of Martial Law that prevented hoarders and profiteers from practicing their illegal activities; the elimination of the "tong" system in bringing the cereal to the consumers; the much-improved peace and order conditions that enable farmers to work peacefully, and the good harvests in certain areas which have recovered from the ravages of the recent calamities. According to Mr. Tanchangco, the powers of the NGA have been enlarged after it took over the functions of the former Rice and Corn Administration, Rice and Corn Board, Bureau of Commerce.

MANILA INTERNATIONAL Airport customhouse reported that it collected P5,833,736.37 for the month of January this year, representing a 64 per cent jump over its collections for the same month last year, which totaled P3,555,928.20. The increase in collections was attributed to the support and cooperation of all customs personnel at the airport and to help given by military authorities in maintaining discipline and order. Customs procedure have also been streamlined with strict pass control regulations.

MILITARY AUTHORITIES pledged to put more teeth in the government's peace and order drive following reports of a slight resurgence of criminality in the country. The pledge was made after a two-day Command Conference among the military and police authorities at Camp Crame. It was the consensus of the meeting that people might fall back to their old ways if not checked and that the military, especially the Metrocom, is fully capable of keeping down criminality "within a tolerable, if not negligible, level."

GUIDELINES for the Administration of Detainees (CAD) were issued for all CAD detention camps, reception centers, and confinement facilities in admitting persons desiring to visit detainees. Henceforth, visiting hours will be from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. everyday with each visit not to exceed one hour. The detainees are allowed only three visits a week with not more than five visitors at any time. Persons authorized to visit detainees include the immediate members of their families (husband/wife/children) if the detainee is married; and/or parents, brothers and sisters if detainee is single; and relatives within the first degree of consanguinity. Friends and other visitors will be allowed on a case to case basis after they have been screened by the detention camp commander. Visitors must comply with all the security measures adopted in the detention camps, such as the inspection of belongings and accomplishment of information sheets. A legal counsel may visit his client during visiting hours, while private physicians may consult with their clients at the local station hospital and in the presence of a military physician. Conjugal quarters and visits are strictly prohibited. Visiting privileges may be canceled or suspended during red alert when local security or emergency conditions dictate it, or when the guidelines are violated.

February 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS issued a number of directives to the members of his cabinet to hasten the implementation of the provisions of the new Constitution, particularly those dealing with economic development. The President directed: 1) Secretary Conrado Estrella of Agrarian Reform to expedite the listing of big landed estates tagged as priority areas for possible initial execution of the President's land reform decrees; 2) Secretary Juan L. Manuel of

Education and Culture to submit the plans for the integration of alien schools within the framework provided for in the new Constitution, particularly Article XV, Section 8, Subsection 7; 3) Secretary Jose Roño of the Department of Local Governments and Community Development to authorize the holding of referendum, through the barangays and citizens assemblies, in any local area on matters affecting their welfare upon the petition of at least 20 per cent of the members; 4) Director Gregorio S. Cendaña of the National Media Production Center to submit a new organization plan for his agency which can carry out effectively a “grassroots information campaign” down to barrio level to attract further citizen participation in the effort to build a New Society; 5) Administrator Alfredo Juinio of the National Irrigation Administration to report on the construction stage of the administration’s Pantabangan project intended to irrigate a great portion of Central Luzon and to protect the region from the occurrence of seasonal floods; and 6) General Manager Sergio Isada of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System to explain the reasons for the continuing public complaint on low water pressure and to complete the repair of the busted water pipes which, are mainly responsible for low water supply in many areas in Greater Manila.

TWO MEMBERS of the President Marcos’ cabinet are scheduled to address the One-Asia Assembly, to be held in New Delhi, India, from February 5 to February 8. They are Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor Jr. and Secretary of Information Francisco S. Tatad. The executive secretary will talk on human resources, while the secretary of Information will discuss the role of the press under the New Society.

“CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY is a national virtue in our people which in recent years had been more in the mouths of the politicians than in the hearts of the average Filipino, more thought about rather than acted on. But the citizens assemblies have changed this. Filipinos now become more and more conscious of their responsibilities because they now realize that they have a part in the government, that they have a voice in it too. Because of these citizens assemblies, we now have a more responsible citizenry aware of its role in the achievement of national aspiration. It is this virtue which holds the key to our achievement of the national destiny.”

SOME 700,000 needy persons throughout the country found the last six months of 1972 to be exceptionally good. It was a period when they engaged in better jobs which meant additional income for them and their families. This was made possible through the socio-economic advancement program initiated by the Department of Social Welfare which, from July to December 1972, generated some P31 million in terms of much needed income for 713,013 needy persons who are either unemployed youths, disabled persons or heads of families with low income. These needy persons started out on income-producing projects such as livestock raising and vegetable gardening with capital assistance given by citizens collaborating with the department. Under the terms of the socio-economic advancement program, the capital in the form of non-interest loan, is supposed to be paid back by the receivers once their projects prove successful.

DETERIORATION OF RURAL life and the movement of the population from the agricultural areas to the urban centers, are drawing top priority attention in the programs of the government.

Rony V. Diaz, director general of the National Manpower and Youth Council said that the rural sector holds the promise of providing the large masses of our people a more meaningful and abundant life, considering that 70 per cent of our population resides in this area and 57.7 per cent of total employment is in agriculture. The NMYC has developed, hand in hand with its industrial skills program, several agricultural skills training schemes which envision the development of a strong agricultural mass base to supply the raw material needs of the industrial sectors.

HEAVY TECHNICAL and material assistance to farmers and other rural people was provided by the Bureau of Agricultural Extension last year. The technical assistance consisted mainly of teaching farmers new farming methods, introducing high-yielding varieties of crops, and helping farmers utilize their agricultural loans properly. When floods hit Central Luzon in July, the BAE shifted its assistance program to the nine worst-hit provinces of Pangasinan, Laguna, Pampanga, Bataan, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Zambales, La Union, Ilocos Sur, and Ilocos Norte where it distributed 47 farm tractors, 254 irrigation pumps and 1,244 sprayers for pests control and crop diseases. These material aids benefited 76,996 farmers. The BAE also organized 2,900 farmers’ associations with 18,300 members, and 4,654 4-H clubs with 102,256 members. These organizations served as training groups for farm and rural leaders.

NEW BREED OF RICE, actually an improvement of the IR-20 rice variety, has been readied for nationwide planting during the 1973 wet season which starts in May. The go-signal for the planting of the new rice variety was given today by an inter-agency group composed of Drs. Reeshon Feuer and Gurdey A. Khush of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Mauro Ordillo of the Bureau of Agricultural Extension (BAE) and Apolinario Gutierrez of the Bureau of Plant Industry. According to Dr. Feuer, the "reselected" line is more resistant to green leafhoppers and tungro. The new IR-20 has been also conditioned to grow on very poor soils and long dry days. Yet, its medium size grains taste like the local "Wag-Wag" rice. The seeds that will be harvested in May and June will be classified as blue tagged "certified" class seeds, the highest quality rank for rice seeds in the country.

February 5—

ENTERPRISES REGISTERED with the Board of Investments may now be allowed an additional deduction from their taxable income for their labor and training expenses. In addition, special export incentives in the form of tax credit and reduced income tax have been provided for under the Investment Incentives Act. These new incentives are embodied in Presidential Decree No. 92 which amends various sections of the Investment Incentives Act (R.A. 5186), the Export Incentives Act (R.A. 6135), and the Foreign Business Regulation Act (R.A. 5455). This amendment, which is intended to encourage companies to undertake the training of unskilled labor, provides that a BOI-registered firm will be allowed to deduct from its taxable income 50 per cent of its labor training expenses. However, the amount should in no case exceed 10 per cent of the company's direct labor wage. With regard to the incentive in the form of tax credit, the law as amended provides that an enterprise registered under R.A. 5186 which is exporting its registered product will be entitled to a special tax credit on taxes and duties on the supplies, raw materials and semi-manufactured products used in the manufacture of its export products.

COLLECTIONS UNDER the tax amnesty for "hot cars" have exceeded the P12 million mark, according to records of the Bureau of Customs. The collections are expected to increase since some car owners advanced only 50 per cent payment of taxes due from them. In addition, payments will be made by car owners who have been given five days grace period after the deadline last January 31. More than 1,000 hot-car owners made partial payments, and pending completion and tabulation of all tax reports, it is estimated that the government can expect to collect P2 million more. Those who paid partially were given until March 15 to complete their payments. A breakdown of the P12,285,091 collected on 3,353 untaxed or improperly taxed cars and their places of collections are: Manila, P9,946,222; Port of Sual, P1,784,611; Iloilo, P278,815; Subic, Zambales, P151,186; Clark Air Force Base, P115,199; Zamboanga, P6,383, and San Fernando, La Union, P4,672.

SECRETARY OF INFORMATION Francisco S. Tatad, speaking at the Fourth Meeting of the ASEAN committee on Mass Media, held in Manila, declared that the principal task of media in Southeast Asia is to find a language for the Asian masses and to provide them a picture of themselves and of their common life at every instance of change in their society. The Secretary stressed that this language the Asians are looking for "will help them understand what is happening to their lives, a mirror that will show them the unity of their emerging image." Mr. Tatad told the delegates from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand that only four months have passed since the Philippines embarked on a massive program of reform and development and the nation's experience has been one of an over-accelerating process of re-examination, recasting and innovation of its social, economic, and political life. However, he pointed out that in laying stress on the development role of the media in Southeast Asia, "we do not seek or prescribe a system that will stifle the development of media as an industry. On the contrary, it seems to us that in seeking a media industry that reaches out not only the elite in the society, but the masses above all, we are providing for the kind of scope and influence that allow the media precisely to develop. This means that from here on, the development of the media must be solely measured in terms of the advancement of the society."

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS were told recently to participate more actively in the campaign to control population explosion in order to avert the possibility of doubling Philippine population within 21 years. Secretary Cesar E.A. Virata warned that an ever increasing population will mean more problems in the supply and production of foods, employment, housing, education, health services, and other economic and social problems. In the urban areas, overpopulation will pose bigger problems because of the necessity of providing public services. At present, public services needs in Greater Manila Area alone are so great because of the over-concentration of population. Examples are the water works programs in Greater Manila which requires some \$45-million for completion and the sewerage

system project which needs P450 million, it was pointed out. The secretary said that “we have to pay the price of development and we should be prepared to suffer some inconveniences if we are to move forward.”

February 6—

GOVERNMENT EXPERTS are conducting tests of the oil samples discovered in Sulu, Mindanao proper, Cebu and Northern Luzon. The outcome of the tests and analyses of the samples will provide data that will guide any future program of exploration and development. In the meantime, an amount of \$110 million is being offered to the Philippines by two Middle East countries at 6.75 per cent interest payable in 20 years without amortization. The offer is being made to a prominent industrialist by the representatives of these two countries who are presently here in Manila. However, there are still several offers being made to the Philippines. Among them are: a) First National City Bank's offer of \$50 million for the development of the Free Trade Zone in Bataan; b) The offer of the oil-rich Kuwait in the Middle East of financing the oil refineries in the Philippines and any project which has something to do with oil; and c). The offer being made to the Philippines through the first Lady Mrs. Imelda Marcos by Soviet Russia and Saudi Arabia.

PRESIDENT MARCOS issued Presidential Decree No. 116 amending certain sections of R.A. No. 2655, otherwise known as the “Usury Law”. The amendment was made to allow more flexible interest rate ceilings that would be more responsive to the requirements of changing economic conditions.

JAPANESE VISITORS are highly impressed by the new atmosphere of peace and the encouraging business climate in the Philippines. “We found many things conducive to investments, and we hope to come back with more of our friends,” a group of Japanese said after a round of visits extending from Baguio in the north down to Del Monte, Bukidnon in the south. The Japanese had come to Manila on the invitation of a local businessman, “to see for ourselves the changed atmosphere under Martial Law.” The highlight of their Philippine sojourn was an interview with President Marcos who told them, “We Filipinos welcome you and also your investments, especially on joint ventures and on loan basis.”

SEVERAL FIRMS FROM different countries have expressed their desire to import Philippine products such as cigars, bulk cement, fruit juice, veneer and plywood, and others. This was announced by the Department of Trade and Tourism after it had approved the export of cigars to Yugoslavia in line with the government's move to promote trade with socialist countries. The order was made by Miss Nevenka Dzudzalia on behalf of the Yugoslavian embassy in Ethiopia. Other trade opportunities reported are importations to be made by USA, Singapore, and Canada.

BUREAU OF MINES Director Fernando Busuego disclosed that on several occasions, authorities have drilled and tapped oil in many areas in Cebu. The Mines director described the oil found in Cebu as “light gravity oil similar to kerosene.” Although he said “the output per well was still on the low side to be considered a commercial discovery, indications are that steps being taken by the government” will eventually lead to significant discoveries. Mr. Busuego disclosed that oil had been previously discovered in Cotabato, Bondoc and the Cagayan Valley. He predicted that “these discoveries and President Marcos policies to open the country's door to foreign oil exploration firms will eventually lead to significant strikes.”

IF THE MASSIVE turnout of the public to pay their taxes all over the country is any indication of the people's confidence in the government, then the present administration can really take a bow for the reforms it has initiated. In the first few weeks of the New Year, people have trooped to tax collection centers all over the country to pay their obligations, some of them long overdue, in business, real estate, inheritance and other taxes. The unusual tax consciousness of the people may have taken government offices by surprise. In many municipalities, official receipts have run out. During the first two weeks of January alone, many towns have run out of residence tax certificate forms.

PRESIDENT MARCOS expressed the hope that with the ceasefire in Vietnam, all the countries of Asia should now decide to start a period of development which can only be founded on complete peace and order. The President, in an informal interview, confirmed the fear that with the ceasefire in Vietnam, the North Vietnamese forces might be

utilized elsewhere to start another conflict, but said that up to now there is no report of any further fighting anywhere. The President also directed the Department of National Defense and the Department of Foreign Affairs to organize the government effort to extend all facilities to help the American and Filipino prisoners of war who will be flown to Clark Air Force Base from Vietnam.

PRESIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE Assistant Jacobo C. Clave said that the agrarian reform program of the New Society “seeks to redress the tenants’ valid and legitimate grievances” without however depriving landowners of their basic ownership rights. Secretary Clave spoke at a conference of agrarian reform regional directors at the DAR office. “Agrarian reform must reconcile the interests of tenants and landowners,” said Secretary Clave. He urged land reform workers to intensify their information drive on the field level to preclude situations where tenants and landowners affected by Presidential Decree No. 27 unnecessary antagonize each other. Mr. Clave said that the promulgation of the rules and regulations implementing Decree No. 27 has been deferred precisely because the government is making sure it will arrive at a fair and acceptable arrangement for both tenants and landowners.

SECRETARY OF FINANCE Cesar E. A. Virata outlined to Bureau of Customs personnel the role of the customs in the overall program of the government to improve the country’s foreign trade posture and to boost its dollar reserves to propel economic progress and stability. The secretary underscored the need to maximize revenue collection for the administration’s development projects. He also urged the facilitation of export processing to spur export trade and increase the country’s dollar earnings and foreign reserves. The function of customs has become more complex now because the new Tariff and Customs Code was so designed not only for tax collection purposes, but to protect growing industries to develop their export potential. The customs can also perform its role to help in the development of the country by preventing the entry of “undesirable” goods which harm developing industries, destroy moral values, and contribute to the disturbance of peace and order, like guns and narcotics.

MEDICARE PROGRAMS now has a reserve fund of around P82 million obtained from gross collections amounting to P101 million as of Jan. 31, 1973, minus the expenses for Medicare recipients which totaled P19 million. Dr. Pacifico Marcos, chairman of the Philippine Medical Care Commission, in a speech before members of the Manila Public School Supervisors Association, attributed the growth of Medicare funds to the cooperation extended by government and private employers in remitting Medicare premiums to the Government Service Insurance System and the Social Security System. The Medicare commission is planning to use the reserve fund to expand the Medicare benefits and services to the legal dependents of GSIS and SSS members, and to increase the allowance for medicine and professional fees.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC Works, Transportation and Communications said that work on cementing and asphaltting of streets in the city was “30 to 40 per cent better than during the pre-Martial Law period,” as it reviewed the progress of work on streets in the Greater Manila Area which were destroyed during the July floods last year. Shortly after the floods, public works official estimated that it would take at least two years to complete repairs on city streets. But today, almost all city streets have been repaired or cemented. The department also started dredging esteros and repairing the drainage system in the Greater Manila area in preparation for the forthcoming rainy season. So far, 77,000 cubic meters of esteros in Manila have been dredged.

February 8—

BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE reported that based on partial tabulations, some P9.53 million in delinquent taxes have been collected in the Greater Manila area alone pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 68. The collection is broken down as follows: Bulacan, P89,722.02; Quezon City, P4,120,702.30; South Manila, P2,989,972.54; and North Manila, P2,610,703.30. These payments corresponded to some 4,568 tax cases, many of which dated back to many years ago. BIR authorities said that collections may reach the P12 million mark in the Greater Manila area once complete reports are tallied. Presidential Decree No. 68 allowed a tax payer a 40 percent discount of his delinquent taxes if he settled his obligations not later than Jan. 31 this year.

RECENTLY CONCLUDED LISTING of industrial and non-industrial establishments which was conducted by the Bureau of the Census and Statistics reveals that there were 561,791 establishments in operation throughout the country in November–December 1972. Although preliminary, this number far exceeds the number of establishments

reported in the 1967 Economic Census, which was only 360,444. The tremendous increase of 201,347 establishments, or 55.9 per cent, over the 1967 count can be attributed to several factors, namely; increased economic activities as a result of the growth of population; more complete coverage in the 1972 listing as all barrios were visited/investigated by census field personnel; better supervision and control of the listing operation because of the presence of census field offices in every province; and more efficient field procedures.

ANOTHER INDICATION of the growing confidence of other countries in the vitality of the Philippine economy is the grant by the Federal Republic of Germany of a ten-million Deutschmark loan (equivalent to P20,300,000) to the Philippines. The German government has extended the loan for use as capital for Philippine imports of commodities from Germany. Terms for the loan are liberal: repayable in 30 years at two per cent interest per annum, with a grace period of 10 years. A significant aspect of the German aid is that it was offered three months after the imposition of Martial Law (Dec. 29, 1972), doubtless a tangible manifestation of the Bonn government's awareness of the reforms, economic and social, instituted and being instituted under the New Society.

JAPAN NATIONAL TOURIST Organization (JNTO) pledged the cooperation of its office in the effort to promote the Philippine tourist industry, with particular emphasis in Southeast Asia and European countries. Director Kenji Kohata of the JNTO was briefed by Secretary Troadio Quiazon Jr. of Trade and Tourism on existing tourist facilities in the country and on government plans with respect to the development and promotion of tourism. The visiting Japanese was told that tourist facilities in the Greater Manila area are adequate to cope with the increase of tourists this year although there is immediate need of additional facilities in other parts of the country, particularly in Zamboanga City.

83RD BIRTH ANNIVERSARY of the late Claro M. Recto, statesman, parliamentarian, and president of the 1934 Constitutional Convention, was commemorated with a mass, a wreath laying ceremony at his tomb at the North Cemetery, and a simple program at the Recto High School in Manila. Recto, who was born February 8, 1890, in Tiaong, Quezon province, to Claro Recto and Micaela Mayo, was noted for his nationalistic ideas, especially in relation to the country's foreign policy. Of his greatest political achievements was his able stewardship of the 1934 Constitutional Convention where he displayed tact and diplomacy for the smooth functioning of the body. Recto died on Dec. 2, 1960, in Rome, while having a press conference.

ADOPTION of the "assembly line" method of processing import papers has cut down the period of clearing goods from the South Harbor from an average of three weeks to three days. The expeditious releases of goods from the piers and the cutting down on red tape and corruption have resulted in less overhead for businessmen and consequently, a marked reduction in the prices of imported commodities. The new procedure was adopted by Commissioner of Customs Rolando Geotina September last year. Certain unnecessary and tedious procedures, such as the checks on bonds and insurance, have been modified to expedite releases of goods.

IDLE PEOPLE, backyard junk, dirty vacant lots, street corners and islands once littered with garbage now belong to the past. Seldom will one find school children now playing around after classes, or housewives engaged in petty gossip. Menfolk don't squander time in barbershops or kantos any more, where they used to play *dama* and chess or engage in drinking sprees or nonsense discussions. Today, everybody is busy. The atmosphere is one of genuine enthusiasm. Green Revolution has become household lingo for both young and old, for the affluent and the poor.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

Official Week in Review: February 9 — February 15, 1973

February 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS assured the American people through Vice President Spiro T. Agnew that the Filipino people are deeply committed to freedom and that they have pledged not only their fortunes and their lives but also what is the most precious to them—their honor. The President gave this assurance during the luncheon tendered by him in honor of the visiting United States vice president and his party, who planed in shortly before noon from Kuala Lumpur in the course of an eight-nation tour of Southeast Asia. The President also took the opportunity to express the gratitude of the Filipino people to the American people for their generosity in extending assistance to the Philippines. The President recalled that President Nixon sent Dr. Robert Chase, a famous American surgeon, to treat the First Lady for wounds she suffered at the hands of a would-be assassin last December. The President also recalled the grant of a \$50-million aid for the flood victims. The President, likewise, expressed gratitude for the grant recently of \$20 million commodity loan at very generous and concessional terms.

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS announced the start of the registration for 18-year-olds in accordance with the provisions of the new Constitution. Because of the Bureau of Census projection for 1974 that there will be an estimated 4,164,154 in the 15-to-19-years-old age bracket, the commission expects more than two million youths within the 15-to-19-year-old category. The Comelec has also directed its Registration Department to speed up its work of preparing guidelines for the registration of illiterates who have also been enfranchised, by the new Constitution. The registration of illiterates would require procedures not spelled out in the Commission's existing rules and thus, there is need for formulation of new guidelines.

GOVERNMENT POLICY to spur the accelerated development of the Philippine export trade had received another boost with the issuance of a new customs regulation designed to facilitate the processing of export documents and to expedite the loading of export products destined for markets abroad. The regulation, embodied under Customs Memorandum Order No. 9-73, directs and authorizes all collectors of customs throughout the country to accept and process documents involving all exports, except sugar and copra, and to allow immediate loading of the same in the ports concerned. This new procedure eliminates the old requirement that air export documents should be directly forwarded to and processed by the Export Coordination Department of the Bureau of Customs in Manila. The new regulation actually gives exporters the option to file their export documents either in Manila or in the ports where their products are being loaded, whichever is convenient for them.

LAND TRANSPORTATION Commission ordered the impounding of all motor vehicles displaying fake or illegal number plates. Falling within this category of plates are board tacked to the front and rear of vehicles bearing such inscriptions as "REGISTERED—NO PLATES AVAILABLE" "FOR REGISTRATION" and also commemorative car plates, the permit for which have already expired. There is a sufficient number of, LTC plates, the LTC said. The LTC issued letters to car dealers warning them against this illegal practice. Any car owner who desires to operate cars pending registration may do so by applying for a conduction permit at any LTC agency at a charge of P4 per trip.

BOARD OF INVESTMENTS Chairman Vicente Paterno stressed the government's role in the technological development during the seminar of the private sector, and metal industry research and development center workshop. He pointed out that the policies which would greatly spur the transition of the nation's local engineering industries from maintenance part manufacturers to original parts manufacturers are the following: 1) The encouragement and institution of a domestic content program; 2) Adoption of horizontal integration for engineering industries; and 3) Local manufacture of capital equipment. The BOI official deplored the heavy importation of industrial equipment, which can be manufactured locally at lesser cost in view of the nation's vast natural resources and intelligent, highly trainable manpower.

FINANCE SECRETARY Cesar E.A. Virata urged family corporations to open their enterprises to public participation to spur business and economic activity so that a greater number of our people can be benefited. Speaking before the first session of the annual conference of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of the Philippines, the finance secretary said the New Society will move forward with the support of the silent majority which had no

political forums in the past because forums were dominated by vested interests. To achieve the goals of the New Society, the secretary cited the following measures being undertaken by the government: 1) Education and training of the youth to prepare them for future productive employment. 2) Accelerated development of the rural sector which include efficient irrigation drainage and flood control systems, construction of roads and similar projects. 3) Increased production on the countryside to generate employment and discourage the migration of the skilled and unskilled job seekers to the urban areas.

February 10—

ALL PROVINCIAL governors and city mayors are expected to attend a national conference to be field in Davao City February 24-25 to discuss the new role of local governments under the 1973 Constitution. According to the Department of Local Governments and Community Development (DLGCD), one of the principal topics in the conference agenda is the proposed Local Government Code provided in the newly ratified charter. Also to be taken up is the all-important matter of local financing. Under the new basic law, local government units are empowered to create their own sources of revenue and to levy taxes, “subject to such limitations as may be provided by law.”

PROMULGATION OF Presidential Decree No. 87 and the immediate entry of the world’s largest exploration firms—Chevron and Texaco have considerably accelerated a flood of inquiries from both independent and major exploration companies from all over the world. The decree amends Presidential Decree No. 8 and is intended to hasten the discovery and production of indigenous petroleum through the utilization of government or private resources, local and foreign, under arrangements calculated to yield the maximum benefits to the Filipino people and to assure just returns to participating private enterprises, particularly those that will provide the necessary services, financing and technology. Many local concessionaires have also signed contracts of exploration with foreign oil companies and there are more than 40 local oil firms holding exploration concessions under the Petroleum Act of 1949. The government held areas that still remain open for exploration cover between four and nine million hectares.

FOUR WAGE ORDERS have been issued by the Wage Commission after bringing representatives of labor and management together to determine a minimum wage that is both adequate to labor, and economically feasible to management. The revised wage orders are of sugar, industrial and agricultural workers, jeepney drivers in Greater Manila, the desiccated coconut industry workers, and the workers in the coconut oil industry. In determining the minimum wage for the industrial workers, the commission took into account the cost of living, wages established by collective arrangements or wage orders for similar jobs, wages paid by employers who voluntarily maintain reasonable standards for similar jobs and fair return of invested capital. For agriculture, the size, location, and fertility of the land being farmed were taken into consideration. For the industrial workers in the sugar industry, their wages rose from P8 to P11. Sugar’s agricultural workers received P4.75 before. Their daily wages were raised to P8 for Silay City, Talisay, and Enrique Magalona. Workers in other areas of Negros Oriental, and Canlubang, Laguna, will receive P7. All workers in other regions of the Philippines will receive P6. Jeepney drivers in Greater Manila will receive P12 for eight hours daily work; desiccated coconut workers will receive P9.20 a day; and coconut oil workers will receive P9.25 a day.

UNDERSECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS Jose D. Ingles underlined the need for a sustained campaign to disseminate the goals of the New Society during the conclusion of a five-day seminar on the New Society at the Department of Foreign Affairs. He noted that although so much has already been said about the New Society in the media, there is still the need to repeat these things in seminars and other public forums “so that the objectives of the New Society may seep into our consciousness.” The speaker emphasized that the government’s program of reforms has to deal squarely with deeply ingrained weaknesses in the Filipino character brought about by long years of foreign domination. During the Spanish and American regimes, the privileged class imitated the colonial master while the oppressed and the poor lost their initiative for work. During the Japanese occupation, the privation of the war years merely heightened the people’s craving for the return of American consumer goods: the national discipline that was nurtured by the hardships of the occupation was discarded as part of a discredited regime. When independence was proclaimed, the Filipinos clung to the form and ritual of American democracy while ignoring its substance. The poor became poorer and the rich became richer and soon, the country reached the point of near anarchy. It was because of this President Marcos had to impose Martial Law.

ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL Shipping Lines commended the remarkable improvement in the port of Manila since the imposition of Martial Law and the advent of the New Society. The association commented favorably on the noticeable improvement in port security. It noted the welcomed absence of the large number of unauthorized persons called "combacheros" who used to enter and loiter in the piers and even board vessels to engage in deals, pilfer or engage in other shady activities. It observed that the strict enforcement of law in the New Society succeeded in removing these nuisances when continuous complaints in the old society proved fruitless. As a direct result of improvements in the ports, shipping agents who were reluctant before to visit their ships at night, can now walk about at all times of night or day at the piers without fear. Pilferage and loss of cargo used to be a major problem but now reduced to negligible proportions. With the strict security provided by the customs personnel, shipping agents are questioning the necessity of employing their own security guards on board vessels.

ADJUDICATION BOARDS of the Police Commission recently decided a number of administrative cases, with orders for 47 exoneration, 20 dismissals, 20 suspensions and seven lesser penalties in the police service. Cases are being decided rather speedily now with the creation of four Adjudication Boards and seven new local Boards of Investigation, which have wider powers pursuant to Presidential Decrees 12-A and 12-B. The Police Commission has been handing down more exoneration than dismissals, and some of the 473 policemen previously suspended due to the gravity of their cases have been cleared of charges.

INFLUENZA which has afflicted some European countries since last year, and lately the United States, Japan and Hongkong, may also reach the Philippines. The Department of Health said that the flu virus responsible for the epidemic outbreak here last year may be the same as the one isolated in England. This is the virus traced as the cause of the present outbreaks in Europe, the U.S., Japan, and Hongkong. But the health department said that when a virus leaps from one country to another, it may have undergone antigenic changes. If so, the population is still susceptible although immunity from the original virus strain may have been acquired from a previous outbreak.

PUBLISHERS AND EDITORS were enjoined to comply with the Mass Media Council memorandum dated Dec. 15 1972 on the rates for judicial and legal notices. The DPI pointed out that according to the memorandum, newspapers and other publications shall charge not less than P2.50 and not more than P3.00 per column inch for such judicial or legal notices as provided for in Republic Act No. 4569, until such time as the act is amended. The DPI issued the injunction in view of the numerous inquiries received at the council and the Department regarding such rates. The DPI also requests the public to report violations of this order to the MMC or the DPI.

February 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS concentrated his efforts on government projects and asked the different heads of government agencies assigned to undertake various works to submit reports on the progress of the jobs given to them. The President directed Presidential Executive Assistant Jacobo C. Clave and other executive assistants to prod agency heads to expedite completion of the projects assigned to them. He told these assistants to call for progress reports and inquire into the status of the projects periodically. At the same time, the President directed National Irrigation Administrator Alfredo Juinio to submit a new list of irrigation projects, giving priorities to those in the Muslim areas. He is scheduled to release additional funds for irrigation, but told Mr. Clave to check first with the NIA on the status on the rehabilitation of major irrigation systems in rice producing areas, as well as to secure a listing of new communal irrigation projects. He also directed Secretary Jose Roño of the Department of Local Government and Community Development and Undersecretary Rosendo Marquez to check on the various immunity projects, particularly those in the barrios which he wants finished as soon as possible.

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered the establishment and expansion of shipping points for specialized export products, like copra, sugar, ore, logs, and the organization of an authority to supervise and control the export of these products. The President's order was conveyed to Secretary David Consunji of the Department of Public Works, Transportation and Communications and Secretary Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. of the Department of Trade and Tourism. They were required to submit their studies on how best to develop these specialized shipping points. Another directive issued to Director General Gerardo Sicat of the National Economic and Development Authority, the President ordered the organization of an authority to supervise and control the export of the country's principal products, which to the present do not have any agency to guide and direct their exportation or expansion.

“KILUSAN NG WASTONG PAGKAIN SA BAGONG LIPUNAN”, a rice conservation through nutrition improvement movement, revealed that the Filipino people can be self-sufficient in rice again by saving ten per cent of the national rice production through wise consumption of the staple food. The Philippines had been self-sufficient in rice and even exported it in modest amounts from 1968 to 1970. However, typhoons, floods, and other calamities in 1971 and 1972 caused a drastic drop in rice production. Traditional methods of harvesting also reduce palay yield. Modern machines may be used but this involves additional investments and a number of people who rely on the harvest for jobs will be unemployed. The Philippines can regain self-sufficiency if production and marketing is improved and rice wastage minimized. Also, the rain stimulation program of the government coupled with the policy of utilizing only high-yielding rice varieties will boost the nation’s rice self-sufficiency program.

DR. PACIFICO MARCOS, Chairman of the Philippine Medical Care Commission, told student nurses recently that Medicare program has provided Filipino nurses with greater opportunities and higher income in their country. Speaking on “The Role of the Nurses in the Medical Program,” at the University of Sto. Tomas, he noted that with the increased volume of paying patients occasioned by the Medicare program, private hospitals can now afford higher salaries for nurses. In government hospitals, staff nurses, can be given allowance out of the hospital’s income from Medicare. The government hospitals are supposed to put their Medicare income on a revolving fund for expansion, improvement of facilities, and other legitimate purposes. The student nurses were also advised to work in rural areas after their graduation because hospitals are mushrooming in the provinces to serve Medicare patients. The Medicare Commission alone has programmed the construction of 81 hospitals in medically depressed rural communities.

February 12—

DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT and Community Development issued a in a memorandum circular to the heads of local governments throughout the Philippines, reminding them about the implementation of Presidential Decree No. 76, issued, last Dec. 6, which provides for a general revision or revaluation of real property to be undertaken by provincial or city assessors this year. Section 8 of the Decree states: “To effectively implement the objective of this decree, provincial, city, municipal and district boards or councils shall provide the necessary appropriations to underwrite or defray expenses incident thereto, using for the purpose any unappropriated balances in the general, road and bridge and/or permanent public improvement funds; any underestimated revenues accruing thereto or reversions of unauthorized appropriations in their respective budgets which are not otherwise urgently needed, existing laws to the contrary, notwithstanding.” The local government heads have been requested to set aside funds to finance the general revision of the assessment of lands as called for by the decree. The circular also orders that local funds allotted should be supplemented budgets for the current fiscal year, “copies of which should be submitted to the Department of Finance for review within ten days from approval.”

ALL ALIENS in the Philippines are urged to make their annual report to the Commission on Immigration and Deportation on or before March 1 in order to avoid the rush and the administrative fine if they do not meet the deadline. Aliens who are in the country illegally, or whose stay has not yet been legalized in accordance with the laws, are also urged to come forward and comply with all pertinent laws and regulations pertaining to the reporting of aliens or they face arrest and detention without bail under Martial Law rules. The Alien Registration Division of the Commission has reported that only 28,000 aliens have made their annual report to the main offices at Magallanes Drive, Intramuros, as of last week, indicating a very slow turnout among the more than 45,000 alien population in Greater Manila. The Commission offices are open seven days a week, including Saturdays, Sundays and holidays to accommodate those who cannot come on week days.

THE PHILIPPINES exported 96,988 kilos of fresh ginger, mangoes, potatoes, and melons worth \$10,265 to Hongkong and Singapore, and more individuals have indicated their desire to venture into the food crops export business, it was reported by the Plant Quarantine Office of the Bureau of Plant Industry. The plant quarantine office at Port Area, Manila which inspects and fumigates all coming and outgoing crops before they are allowed to be sent to their respective destinations, reported that seven individuals and private companies in Manila exported the food crops. It was pointed out that the “Green Revolution” of the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, has resulted in the increase of fruit and vegetable production in the country.

NATIONAL GRAINS AUTHORITY has relaxed the percentage for rice recovery and milling grade requirements for millers appointed as NGA procurement agents, to accelerate the implementation of the government's cereal procurement program and to encourage more millers to participate in the program to benefit the farmers. The required recovery used to be 63 cavans of rice for every 100 cavans of palay, each cavan weighing 50 kilograms. The 63 cavans has been lowered to 61, which means that another two cavans of rice will accrue to the millers as added income. Other incentives that miller-agents enjoy are the following: all by-products; storage fee of P0.10 per cavan per month if the rice agency fails to order milling within six months; preference in hiring of agent's trucks for transporting milled rice to NGA-designated warehouse or stores; premiums paid by millers for fire insurance of procured stocks will be reimbursed by NGA, and sacks of palay and rice will be provided by the NGA.

FARM EXTENSION office of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has offered the services of its experts to the Bureau of Agricultural Extension (BAE). In a letter to the BAE, William H. Conkle, assistant administrator of the USDA's International Extension Programs, said that over 1,200 American farm extension workers stand ready to assist any and all foreign extension services and agricultural ministries. He emphasized that many of his extension men have the expertise to contribute to a country's economic development through land reform. They are ready to serve in a foreign country for a period of several month to one year. The US Extension team consists of specialists on aerial photogrammetry, aerial photo laboratory, aerial photo interpretation, land records, computer systems analysis, training and supervision of support activities. About 25 per cent of the USDA professional extension staff work as specialists, program leaders, supervisors and administrators. Their fields of training and specialization include all subjects important to economic development through agriculture and welfare of rural families. The BAE was told to write the USDA International Extension Service for any assistance for experts "regardless of what your interests, concern or problem may be."

PUBLIC HIGHWAYS Bureau is in the preliminary process of upgrading the major highways on the island of Luzon. Consultants are in the final design stage of the detailed engineering for 650 kilometers of highways to be constructed, reconstructed and rehabilitated at an approximate cost of about P400 million. Additional length, of major roads in the same general area with approximate construction cost of P100 million are also being designed by consultants for subsequent inclusion in the major highway package. Selected adjacent secondary roads to these major highways will also be rehabilitated and reconstructed for a total costs of about P70 million.

PHILIPPINE READY-MADE garments like men's shorts, jackets, knitwears, ladies dresses and children's' wear have a very promising market in Denmark. The Department of Trade and Tourism announced that, properly explored, this market could prove highly profitable since Danish imports of ready-made garments from developing countries, including the Philippines, are duty free.

ALL FILIPINO MUSLIMS were called upon to support the dynamic leadership of President Marcos within the context of the New Society. The call was sounded by a Pakistani official, Inamula Khan, secretary general of the World Muslim Congress, with headquarters in Karachi, Pakistan. During a convocation held at the Mindanao State University in Marawi city, the Pakistani official urged Muslims to support the goals and objectives of the New Society.

OFFICIALS OF THE AMERICAN Embassy in Manila told Secretary of Labor Blas. F. Ople that certain persons have been illegally recruiting hundreds of Filipinos for non-existent farming jobs in California, United States. No such jobs exist, said the embassy officials and anyone recruiting for this purpose whether here or abroad, is doing so without authority. The labor department immediately warned the public against the nefarious activities of the recruiters and urged them to report such activities to the Philippine Constabulary United Intelligence Operations Group (UIOG) in Camp Crame, Quezon City. They may also dial PLDT No. 717.

February 13—

BEFORE MARTIAL LAW, the Philippine National Railways was plagued by continuous financial losses (it had been on losing streak since 1962, with losses approximating P8 million in 1965-66, P10 million in 1970-71), due to poor service and meddlesome politics which threatened its existence. The PNR's Manila terminal, Tutuban, was a happy ground for pilferers, snatchers, bag lifters, holduppers, tong collectors, ticket scalpers, illegal vendors, and

hoodlums. A visit to Tutuban after Martial Law, however, is another experience. The first impression that one gets is airiness and unhurried, disciplined waiting. The scalpers who accosted you with impunity are gone. The illegal vendors are gone too. Instead well lighted kiosks for candies, magazines, foodstuffs.

BUREAU OF INTERNAL Revenue warned the public against securing more than one tax account numbers and reminded taxpayers that this practice is punishable with a fine of not more than P300 and/or imprisonment for not more than six months. The TAN of every taxpayer serves as a permanent number, the BIR said, and anyone who loses it should not get a new one. Instead, he should verify his old TAN with the BIR'S data processing center. To avoid loss, taxpayers are advised by the BIR to keep a permanent record of their TAN at home, office, or on their person.

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE and Tourism directed all provincial commercial agents of the Bureau of Commerce to report to the Securities and Exchange Commission any person or entity soliciting or selling securities, investment plans and shares of stocks without SEC approval in violation of Sec. 4 of the Securities Act. The department crackdown on business malpractices came in the wake of reports that this particular malpractice is committed with impunity especially in the provinces where there are no SEC field men. The Bureau of Commerce agents were told to enforce the securities law in areas where there are no SEC offices since unscrupulous entities might take advantage of the absence of SEC representatives.

THERE ARE NOW 353 farmers cooperatives in active operation in the Philippines having a combined membership of 107,012 individual producers and an aggregate authorized capital of P389,497,600 of which P284,596,603 had been paid up. Duly affiliated with the Agricultural Credit Administration, they are strategically located in 240 municipalities and cities covering 2,000 barrios in 54 provinces. Operationally, they are classified according to the crops and/or services they handle. Topping the roster are 197 palay farmers cooperatives, followed by 50 tobacco (native and Virginia) farmers cooperatives. Third, fourth and fifth placers, respectively, are 35 sugar, 23 poultry and livestock, and 23 fishery cooperatives. The other types of cooperatives, particularly, supply, sugar and tobacco groups, operate with their own financing or under special government program such as the Virginia tobacco subsidy and the United States Agency for International Development feed grain program.

PHILIPPINE MEDICAL CARE COMMISSION (PMCC) announced that President Marcos has approved its recommendation to extend medicare coverage to all legal dependents of members of the Government Service Insurance System and the Social Security System. The extension of the medicare benefits to legal dependents is effective retroactively as of Jan. 1, this year. This was the original plan of the PMCC for the date of effectivity of the coverage of legal dependents of the employed sector.

PRESIDENT MARCOS issued Memorandum Circular No. 623 "authorizing the Secretary of Local Government and Community Development to act on requests of local governments for exemptions under the provisions of Memorandum Circular No. 593" dated Aug. 8, 1972. The 1972 circular directs all government agencies, including government owned or controlled corporations, "to comply with all 12 restrictions on government expenditures which are all embodied in the said memorandum circular. Exemptions, however, do not apply to the following cases: "1). Purchase of motor vehicles and other supplies and equipment which are not essential for public service; 2) Authority to undertake financing arrangements with private financing institutions or banks; and 3) All cases of expenditures when the status of funds of the local units do not justify such expenditures."

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE announced that owners of motor vehicles are now permitted to use a six-inch-high Scotch tint strip at the top portion of the front and back glasses of motor vehicles. Curtains are also allowed now at the back of motor vehicles, provided there is an opening of from 18 to 24 inches at the middle. This opening is intended to afford the driver a rear view for driving safety. These changes are amendments to the previous provisions of DND Department Order No. 278 issued last Nov. 23, 1972 banning the use of tinted glasses and curtains on motor vehicles. It was stressed, however, that the use of the Scotch tint is still prohibited on the side windows of motor vehicles.

SIRENS WILL be sounded in the Greater Manila area to remind the public about the 12 o'clock Curfew. At 11:30 p.m., sirens will sound one short, one long blast for three consecutive times to give a half-hour warning to the

public. At exactly midnight, sirens will be sounded for one minute to mark the start of curfew. This will be done every night. The Metrocom is coordinating with all municipalities and large industrial plants who have sirens to be used in signaling the start of curfew hours. Even Metrocom cars with sirens will be used. Military authorities hope this will be done in the entire country.

February 14—

DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN Reform stressed that the *status quo* order governing the relationship between tenants and landowners, at the time Presidential Decree No. 27 was promulgated, be strictly maintained, pending approval of the implementing regulations. In a circular to its fieldsmen, the DAR urged intensification of the drive to inform tenants as well as landowners, that to ignore the order would constitute acts undermining or subverting the intent of Presidential Decrees Nos. 2 and 27, Letters of Instructions Nos. 45, 46 and 52, and the President's instructions that "no tenant-farmer should be ejected from his farmholding without just cause." This move was made because of reports that landowners refused to recognize the leasehold system as the governing rule between tenants and landlords. As a result, adverse consequences such as non-liquidation of harvest, harassment through filing of ejectment cases, change of crops from palay to others; physical acts of dispossession like bulldozing of farms, demolition and burning of houses, sale or mortgage of land, conversion of land into urban purposes, subdivision and fragmentation, followed.

The DAR reiterated the fact that it is the DAR which determines the rate of rentals to be paid by the farmers to landowners. In connection with this the DAR fieldsmen were authorized to enforce the provisions of the decrees and letters of instructions and to seek the assistance of the Philippine Constabulary provincial commanders, if necessary.

THE PHILIPPINES AND BELGIUM plan to expand economic, industrial and technical operation between them, with major emphasis on foreign trade and tourism. Two officials of Brussel's department of foreign trade, E. P. Bailey and Roger de Winter, formally agreed to merge efforts with the Philippine, government and inquired into the extent of the privileges and incentives granted by the government to foreign investors and to tourist-oriented firms and enterprises. The Belgian representatives were informed by the Department of Trade and Tourism of the business incentives and reforms embodied in Presidential Decree No. 94 and of the various national changes since the imposition of Martial Law. Philippine imports from Belgium include: base metals, chemical elements and compounds, machinery, dairy products, scientific instruments, explosives, miscellaneous chemicals, and metal products. Philippine Belgian trade has steadily increased from (FOB value in US\$) \$86,000 in 1965 to more than \$10 million in 1971.

PRESIDENT MARCOS has issued Presidential Decree No. 126 vesting the Circuit Criminal Courts with concurrent jurisdiction with the Courts of First Instance over crimes, whether simple or complex, which may be punishable by life imprisonment or death. The decree, promulgated Feb. 12, provides, however, that where the offense charged is a complex crime and only the lesser offense is punishable by a penalty less than life imprisonment is proved, the court shall not dismiss the case but shall decide the same and impose the corresponding penalty. The decree, which amends R. A. 5179, does not apply to offenses falling within the jurisdiction of military tribunals.

PRESIDENT MARCOS has promulgated Presidential Decree No. 127 authorizing local school boards of chartered cities and all first class municipalities (Class I and Class II) created under R. A. No. 5447 to invest in government bonds in amounts not less than 30 per cent of their respective shares from the one per cent additional real property tax levied and apportioned under said law. The decree signed Feb. 12, noted the urgent need to implement immediately the Educational Development Decree of 1972 to assure improved management and operation of the educational system and thereby achieve quality academic instruction and develop skills among the citizens belonging to the lower-income group, specially those coming from the rural areas. The school boards concerned have been authorized to invest, beginning March 1, 1973, in government bonds issued or which may be issued under the provisions of R. A. 4861.

LOGGING BAN CLAMPED on all logging concessions in watersheds whose waters drain into Central Luzon is still on and is not likely to be lifted in the immediate future. This statement was issued by the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources which explained that the ban will stay, pending the completion of an exhaustive

study on the effects of logging on watersheds feeding water to the Angat, Pampanga and Agno; river basins. Watersheds are, bodies of forest drained by rivers or creeks. They are usually mountainsides which regulate water flow and minimize run-offs or floods. There are estimated 390,000 hectares of critical watersheds all over the country whose denuded state need immediate reforestation and afforestation.

February 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS signed a presidential decree governing the establishment of investment houses and prescribing the rules for their operation. The decree, known as “The Investment Houses Law,” defines the scope and functions of an investment house to include any enterprise which engage in the underwriting of securities, buying or selling securities of other persons or enterprises. The new law directs the Securities and Exchange Commission not to register the articles of incorporation of any investment house which does not comply with the provisions of the decree with respect to the amount of capital, the proposed organization, direction and administration, integrity, experience and expertise of the organizers and the proposed managerial staff, and the assurance that the enterprise, will be conducted with financial prudence. All enterprises already in operation as investment houses prior to the promulgation of the decree, are required within six months to file information sheets with the SEC containing the necessary data about their organizations and operations to enable the SEC to determine whether they meet the prescribed requirements.

SECRETARY OF INFORMATION Francisco S. Tatad revealed that although the Philippines stands to lose in its external debts because of the recent dollar devaluation, these losses will be offset by gains in; our non-dollar and gold assets. During a briefing, the secretary said that the country incur the following losses in our foreign debts: \$11 million this year, \$2.7 million in 1974, and \$5.4 million in 1975. After 1975, there will be still losses, but these will be negligible. However, gains in our non-dollar and gold assets are expected to reach between \$58 and \$60 million, broken down as follows: \$10 million in non-dollar currencies (yen, deutchmark) and between \$48 and \$50 million in our gold assets. It was also reported, that prices of commodities quoted in US dollars are expected to remain at present levels, while prices of imports from Japan and Europe are expected to rise. This will result, the secretary said, in a reduction of demand for Japanese and European imports. A shift of importation to the United States is expected to offset the ill-effects of high importation costs from Europe and Japan.

BOARD OF TRANSPORTATION told all delinquent transportation and other public utility operators to settle all their unpaid obligations like fines, supervision and regulation fees, on or before Feb. 28, 1973. Total collectibles amount to P46,308. Failure to settle these obligations will force the BOT to cancel their franchises and/or certificates of public convenience and/or certificates of public convenience and necessity.

PHILIPPINE MEDICAL CARE COMMISSION (PMCC) issued instructions for establishing the identity of legal dependents of members of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and the Social Security System (SSS) who may seek admission in hospitals as Medicare beneficiaries. The PMCC said that pending the release of the Medicare legal dependent identification form, the GSIS or the SSS member whose legal dependent is to be hospitalized should accomplish the following: 1) A certification signed by him stating that the person he claims to be his legal dependent is indeed his legal dependent; and 2) Authentication of his signature through certification issued by his employer. The PMCC has considered the following as legal dependents: 1) The legitimate spouse; 2) The unmarried and unemployed legitimate and legitimated children who are below 21 years old, and 3) Parents who are totally dependent for support on a son or daughter who is a member of the SSS or GSIS.

TRAUMATIC INJURIES (inflicted by wounds, shock and others) admitted for treatment at the Dr. Jose Reyes Memorial Hospital registered an unprecedented low after the proclamation of Martial Law, according to records of the Department of Health. The reports showed a marked decline three months after the imposition of Martial Law on the following cases; maulings, from 4,451 to 1,007; vehicular accidents, 2,919 to 799; stabbings, 1,502 to 317; shootings, 486 to 31. Total of cases admitted for treatment dropped from 9,358 to 2,154 showing a difference of 7,204; traumatic operations dropped from 3,305 to 828. Traumatic cases came from all parts of Manila but the greater number came from Tondo, due perhaps to its heavy population and to Tondo's proximity to the hospital. The district of Binondo registered no case after the imposition of Martial Law.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

Marcos, F. E. (1973). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 69(8), lxxix-xc.

President's Week in Review: February 16-22, 1973

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

February 16—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the Philippine Medical Care Commission (PMCC) to supervise and administer the expenditures of the income of government hospitals from the medicare program. The President's instruction was aimed at expediting the use of the earnings of the government hospitals from medicare to their own improvements.. As provided for by E.A. 6111, otherwise known as the Medicare Law, the income of government hospitals from medicare is to be constituted as a revolving fund for the particular hospital, for the upgrading and expansion of its facilities and for its maintenance and operation, subject to the approval of the Department of Health. In view of the authority given the PMCC, the commission issued the following guidelines for the government hospitals: 1) Deposit the earnings from Medicare in interest-bearing government depository banks doing business in the Philippines, preferably in the Philippine National Bank or in any of its branches or agencies; 2) Formulate plans and programs for the upgrading and expansion of their facilities and for other necessary improvements; and 3) Submit to the PMCC for approval such plans and programs.

SECRETARY OF INFORMATION Francisco S. Tatad said that in any program of social change, education is always a central agent for the changes being sought, and for the arrival of the new order. The DPI secretary pointed out that at this particular time, when we have, committed all our lives and resources to the transformation of our society, our inquiry into our educational system must be directed at the outset to fundamental question of making 'cultural revolution. He recalled that in the past we have always been hampered by our colonial heritage and by the models offered by the Western World and it was by this route that the "empty shibboleths of revolution and relevance found their way into our vocabulary and thereby prevented us from really understanding our conditions and what had been happening to us this many years." He asked the educational institutions to unravel the talent latent in the people to give it illumination and scope thereby open to it the possibilities of liberation, noting that we can "proceed to educate the young if we are clear about the image of the Filipino individual and the society we seek."

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE board of the "Mabuhay Ang Pilipino Movement" announced that it has decided to convert the movement into an incorporated foundation after a meeting last Feb. 13. A committee is now working on the final draft of the by-laws of the de facto foundation. The movement was organized last Nov. 30 by civic leaders representing a-cross-section of both governmental and non-governmental sectors. As constituted at present, it is a loose confederation of some 50 civic organizations and trade and professional groups whose voluntary membership and services are being directed by a national executive board. Projects to be undertaken by the movement will complement government activities in the fields of youth development, environmental beautification, pollution control, health and sanitation; small business development, consumers cooperatives, self-help marketing assistance, etc.

NOBODY SHOULD take Filipino citizenship lightly to suit his convenience. The consequences may be harsh and irreversible. This dictum was expressed by Commissioner of Immigration and Deportation Edmundo M. Reyes when he denied the petition of a Chinese national to reassume his Filipino citizenship after having renounced it for flimsy reasons; Ang Chu, 45, of Calamca, Misamis, Occidental, was recognized as a Filipino citizen by the commission upon his claim that he is the son of a Filipino father and a Chinese mother. A look at his records revealed, however, that on February 9, 1949, Ang executed a document renouncing his Filipino citizenship so that he could be issued a reentry permit to enable him to visit his family and relatives in Hongkong and China. At that time, restrictions on the travel of Filipino citizens made it hard for them to travel to Hongkong and other contiguous areas and the only way Ang could go there was to renounce his Filipino citizenship and apply for documents as a Chinese citizen. He filed a renunciation of his Filipino citizenship under oath with the help of travel agents. Later, Ang applied for the return of his Filipino citizenship and the issuance of an identification certificate as a Filipino. This application was granted by the commission on the approval of a former associate commissioner, and the favorable recommendation of immigration officials. When the Commissioner discovered the old documents of renunciation, he revoked the old order, and ruled that with Ang's renunciation of citizenship, he may reacquire

Filipino citizenship only through naturalization. Ang was ordered to surrender his ID certificate and comply with the Alien Registration Law requirements for aliens or face arrest.

TWO IMPORTANT Philippine projects, the Laguna de Bay Water Resource Development Project and the Special Assistance for Highway Rehabilitation Project were approved by the governing council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The Laguna de Bay Project involves approximately US\$101,000 intended to confirm the feasibility of utilizing the Lake as source of fresh water supply. Specifically, the project involves studies on water quality and management, water supply plant design, and a hydraulic control structure with navigational lock. The Highway Rehabilitation Project involves approximately 249,900, intended to restore road networks in Central Luzon which were destroyed during the July-August floods.

February 17—

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE advised the public that all properties located in the Philippines should be insured only with insurance companies duly authorized to do business in the Philippines. It was pointed out that this is one of the explicit provisions of Presidential Decree No. 63 which introduced several amendments to the Insurance Act. The Commission is now authorized to appoint an administrator to manage the affairs and properties of an erring insurance company in lieu of the usual rehabilitation proceedings. This new power of the Insurance Commission is in addition to its authority to suspend or revoke the certificates of authority of insurance companies found violating the Insurance Act.

BUREAUS OF INTERNAL REVENUE and Customs granted tax credits amounting to P1,831,820.89 to 34 export firms registered with the Board of Investments under the Investment Incentives Act (Republic Act 5186) and the Export Incentives Act (Republic Act 6135) for the year 1972. Among the non-traditional products exported by these firms during the year were: sewing machine cabinets, cements, garments, acrylic wigs, crumb rubber, pianos, paints and varnishes, and food products. Of the P1 8 million tax credits granted by both offices, P1,578,789.89 represented the amount to firms registered under R.A. 5186 and P253,013.00 to those under R.A. 6135. Tax credits represent the refund of taxes and duties paid by BOI-registered firms on the raw materials and supplies they used in the manufacture of exported products. The tax credit certificate issued to them may be used in paying other taxes, duties, fees and charges due the national government.

DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL Government and Community Development called on all provincial governors, city and municipal mayors, and barrio captains to “preserve the lists of the names and officials of Barangays (citizen assemblies)” so that these assemblies could continue functioning as the base of popular government in deciding issues affecting the people. In its Memorandum Circular No. 73-2, the DLGCD ordered that: 1) Barangays must update the membership of their duly constituted assemblies to include 15-year-olds and the illiterates; 2) For purposes of codifications, sufficient copies of the updated list be prepared, distributed, coded as follows—code one for the file copy of the barangay, code two for the copy of the municipal or city secretariat, code three for the copy of the provincial secretariat, and code four for the copy of the executive secretariat of the Katipunan ng mga Barangay; 3) Immediate steps be taken toward the organization of barangays in municipalities and cities where no barangay has as yet been organized or constituted.

101ST DEATH ANNIVERSARY of Fathers Jose Burgos, Mariano Gomez, and Jacinto Zamora, popularly known as “The Three Martyred Priests of 1872” and whom historians consider as the “Forerunners of Philippine Nationalism” was commemorated today with a mass and a simple wreath laying ceremony at the foot of their monument at Plaza Roma, Aduana St., Intramuros. It will be recalled that when the Cavite Mutiny of Jan. 20, 1872 took place, Fathers Burgos, Gomez and Zamora were implicated. They were arrested and imprisoned at Fort Santiago by the Spanish authorities. Subsequently, they were tried by mock military tribunal, found guilty and executed at Bagumbayan, now part of Rizal Park.

PHILIPPINE EXPORT receipts in the fourth quarter of 1972, the period covering the first three months under Martial Law., amounted to \$285 million, considered the biggest for the year, according to the report of the Department of Finance. Compared to the export receipts of the fourth quarter of Calendar Year 1971, which was \$249.25 million, the export receipts for the fourth quarter of last year was \$38 million more or an increase of 14 per

cent, and was also 7 per cent more than the average of the first three quarters of the year. From 1966 to 1971, export receipts during the fourth quarter were always the lowest for the year, but because of improved conditions brought about by Martial Law, the export receipts of the fourth quarter of 1972 registered the highest level for the year.

February 18—

IMPORTANT ROLE of radio and telecommunications in safeguarding the national security and in promoting a healthy atmosphere for business, tourism and the economic development of the country, was underscored by Ceferino Carreon, officer-in-charge of the Radio Control Office. Because of these vital functions, the RCO has exercised stricter supervision and control over radio broadcasting stations, television networks and other telecommunications facilities since the imposition of Martial Law, resulting in the improvement of the standard of broadcasts, according to the RCO chief. The RCO expects to improve its facilities, with the recent Integrated Communications Network ordered by the President designed to provide communications facilities to the far flung areas of the country not yet serviced by government or private network.

EXCESS AND OTHER unauthorized firearms should be deposited only with the PC firearms and explosives unit in Camp Crame, Quezon City for residents of the Greater Manila area or with the nearest provincial headquarters for residents of the provinces, according to a reminder issued by Col. Alfonso C. Trance, commanding officer of the firearms and explosives unit, in the wake of inquiries from the people who want to know if they could surrender their excess guns to any military officer. The PC firearms chief said that the PC firearms and explosive unit in Camp Crame, and the provincial headquarters located in the capital of each province are the only places where excess and other unauthorized firearms can be deposited. There is only one form of official receipt used in acknowledging the deposit of excess and unauthorized firearms, a copy of which is furnished by the PC computer center at Camp Crame. It was also explained that these firearms holders cannot transfer their excess or unauthorized firearms even to their next kin because all transactions involving the issuance of licenses, alteration of licenses, change of firearms, change of residence, have been suspended after the proclamation of Martial Law.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM fieldmen have been authorized “to exhaust all the remedies within their authority” and, if necessary, avail themselves of military assistance to avert disruption of the peace and order conditions now prevailing in the countryside. The authorization was made due to the intensification of the drive to inform tenant-farmers and landowners of their respective responsibilities under the mandate for agrarian reform. It has been reported that some landlords do not recognize the good intent of the provisions of the Presidential decrees and letters of instructions, resulting in conflicts between tillers and landowners. In this connection, the DAR stresses strict observance of the following guidelines: As of Oct. 21, 1972, all tenant-farmers are deemed owners of the land they till; no tenant farmer shall be ejected from his farmplot pending promulgation of the agrarian rules; the leasehold system shall be provisionally maintained; tenants shall continue to pay lease rentals, the rate to be determined by the DAR (the rent may be credited as amortization payment later); and, all pending cases in, courts between tenants and landowners shall be held in abeyance.

February 19—

THE PRESIDENT signed a decree penalizing the theft of government property by any government employee or laborer. The Presidential decree ordered that “any employee or laborer who shall steal any, material, spare part, product or article that he is working on, using or producing shall, upon conviction, be punished with imprisonment ranging from *prison correctional* to *prison mayor*.” All laws inconsistent with the decree were repealed or modified accordingly, unless they provided, a heavier penalty. The decree was made a part of the law of the land and to take effect immediately after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

LAND BANK BONDS may not be legally used in payment of rentals of government properties, according to the provisions of Sec. 85 of the Code of Agrarian Reforms which enumerates the purposes for which Land Bank bonds may be utilized. Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos promulgated this legal opinion in reply to a question from the director of the Bureau of Building and Real Property Management. It was ruled, however, that the bonds may be used in consideration of the sale of government lands to private parties as provided for by paragraph one of Sec. 85

of the Agrarian Reform Code which specifies, as one of the purposes for which bonds may be used, "payment for agrarian lands or other real properties purchased from the government."

BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE announced the availability of a new BIR form for income tax purposes for use of Filipinos residing abroad. Known as BIR Form 1701-C, the form has been designed to meet the requirements of Presidential Decree No. 69 taxing non-resident citizens on their gross income earned abroad. A non-resident Filipino citizen becomes subject to taxation under Presidential Decree No. 69 if he has stayed abroad for an uninterrupted period covering at least an entire taxable year. He shall be taxed on his gross income at the following rates: 1) One per cent of gross income abroad not exceeding \$6,000; 2) Two per cent of gross income abroad exceeding \$6,000 but not exceeding \$20,000; 3) Three per cent of gross income abroad exceeding \$20,000; The new rates apply to income earned abroad beginning January 1972. BIR form 1701-C is exclusively for declaring income earned abroad. If a non-resident citizen has earned income both here and abroad/then two returns must be filed by him; one for income earned abroad using BIR form 1701-C, and another for income derived or earned from sources within the Philippines using either BIR Form 1701 or 1701-A Regardless of amount of income earned abroad, a non-resident citizen or Filipino is required to file income tax returns, the BIR said.

BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE also announced that the collection in specific taxes registered several increases this year. Collection in specific taxes for January 1973 alone reached P71,739,184.11, showing a 27 15 per cent increase over collections for the same month last year. For a seven-month period, from July 1972 to January 1973, total specific taxes paid amounted to P413,393,797.09 representing a P27.44 million over the July 1971 to January 1972 collections. The January 1973 collection is broken down as follows: P32,916,650.49, tobacco products; P15,737,261.13, alcohol products; P22,663,683.23, gasoline and oil products, and P421,589.26, cinematographic films. The increases were attributed to close supervision exercised over factories and establishments producing articles subject to specific taxes and the changed attitude of taxpayers since the imposition of Martial Law.

February 20—

THE PRESIDENT laid down three basic policies to prevent forest destruction and to encourage the establishment of wood processing industries. After inducting into office the officials of the Philippine Chamber of Wood Industries at Malacañang, the President promulgated the following basic policies governing forest concessions: 1) The phasing out over a three-year period of the exportation of raw timber or logs; 2) Limitation of logging concessions to not more than 100,000 hectares each, as provided by the Constitution; 3) The punishment, without further notice, of all violators of the laws, rules and regulations governing timber concessions. The President said that the exportation of logs will be phased out and that after three years, he will not authorize the shipping of logs out of the country. Regarding the violation of laws, rules and regulations governing logging concessions, such as the provision for the reforestation of logged-over areas and the prohibition against leasing the logging concessions to operators on a fixed royalty basis, the President said the government is going over the records and will punish all violators without giving them further notice. The President said this is necessary not only to protect the interest of the people and the people in the wood industries but also to perpetuate this legacy and hand it over to the next generation, "if not increased, at least not diminished."

THE PRESIDENT issued a decree creating the Fertilizer Industry Authority (FIA) to regulate, control and develop the fertilizer industry in the Philippines with the end in view to assuring the agricultural sector of adequate fertilizer supply at the lowest possible cost. Under the decree, the FIA shall have jurisdiction over all existing and potential Manufacturers and suppliers of fertilizers and fertilizer inputs. Among its function are the control and Regulation of the prices, distribution channels, promotion and storage; the establishment of implementing regulations governing import and export of fertilizer and the regulation of all aspects of domestic fertilizer production. The FIA shall also assist in the financing of the importation of fertilizers and the expansion of the local industry.

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE and Tourism has asked the business community to keep levels of profit within the bounds of dignity as defined in the pricing guidelines of the New Society. Secretary of Trade and Tourism Troadio Quiazon Jr., said in a meeting with members of the Philippine Marketing Association Inc., that while the government does not intend to remove profit motivation which is the major incentive of business, it will not allow undeserved profit due to profiteering and manipulation of prices. The government has introduced the social pricing-

concept on basic commodities in its bid to curb the sharp increase of prices, but prices of other goods may be allowed to be determined by the existing supply and demand situation. Retailers and wholesalers were warned against undue increases with the admonition that violators will be promptly prosecuted with their licenses or permits canceled. It was pointed out that violators may be detained pending resolution of their cases.

PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS will be fielded as volunteer barrio workers to organize barrio associations in the rural areas for the period of one year starting this month. This was the subject of the memorandum of understanding between the Department of Local Government and Community Development and the Department of Education and Culture which pointed out that since the formation of full-fledged cooperatives start with the organization of barrio associations, there is an urgent need for volunteer workers at this crucial stage. Teachers who will serve as volunteer workers will be assigned in the barrios where they are teaching. Their working hours in the organization of the barrio associations will be calendared in such a way as not to disrupt their regular school activities. Aside from the service credit that the Department of Education and Culture will allow the teachers, they will also be provided with a P30 monthly honorarium for their voluntary services. The barrio associations would be the first stage in the launching of cooperatives which may result in the total emancipation of the tenants in heavily tenanted areas of the country.

DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL Government and Community Development reported that local governments have retained control and supervision of national aid for the maintenance of local roads following an amendment of Presidential Decree No. 17. The decree, issued last October had revised the Philippine Highways Act of 1953 and transferred the control and supervision of road maintenance funds from the local governments to the Bureau of Public Highways. The President, after a conference with local government executives, ordered the amendment of the decree and directed that the control and supervision of funds for the maintenance of local roads be returned to the local governments.

THE GOVERNMENT chalked up an additional income of P8,120,074 out of tax discrepancy collection made in January by the customs appraisers division in Manila on 683 entries. The amount almost equaled the tax discrepancy collections made during the first quarter of this fiscal year. Of the total tax discrepancy collected last month the iron and steel section led with P2,286,169, followed by the miscellaneous section with P760,759; hardware section, P753,132; foodstuff section P722,694, and ten other sections with collections ranging from P52,000 to P400,000.

February 21—

MALACANANG HAS RELEASED the official text of two Presidential decrees, one providing for the allocation and expenditures of all money accruing to the Highway Special Fund and the other imposing a tax of 15 per cent on interest on foreign loan. Presidential Decree No. 130 which further amends PD No. 17 provides that at least six per cent of all money accruing to the Highway Special Fund shall be made available for administering the provisions of the Act as the secretary of public works, transportation, and communications may deem necessary, four per cent allotted for administrative management and two per cent to be allotted for engineering management. These allocations shall be used exclusively to pay the salaries and other operational expenses of officials and employees of the Bureau of Public Highways engaged in administrative management and engineering management, as defined in the act. Presidential Decree Xo, 131 on the other hand, further amends Sees. 24 (b) (1) and 53 (b) (2) of the National Internal Revenue Code, as amended, by imposing a tax of 15 per cent on interest on foreign loans earned beginning Jan, 1, 1973. The decree states that it is imperative to adopt measures responsive to the requirements of a developing economy, foremost of which is the speedy restructuring of the social, economic and political institutions of the country. Economic development of this country needs funding from domestic and foreign sources and in order to attract loans from foreign countries, an appropriate tax on their income should be levied on interests earned and remitted abroad.

TAXPAYERS WHO HAVE delinquent accounts with the Bureau of Internal Revenue have only up to Feb. 28 to avail themselves of the tax amnesty granted under Presidential Decree No. 68, according to the Department of Finance. Under the decree, delinquent tax accounts which remained unpaid, involving an amount exceeding P100, are reduced by 20 per cent if these are paid in full on or before February 28. Failure to avail of the amnesty before deadline renders the delinquent tax accounts as final, executory and demandable and shall be collected by court action, by distraint and levy, or both, simultaneously.

LAND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION announced that the last day for the payments of registration fees of all “for hire” motor vehicles is on Feb. 28, 1973. All LTC agencies throughout the country will be open until 10 p.m. to accept last-hour payments. According to the LTC the usual payments of 1st installments of their registration fees may accepted on or before Feb. 28th and the second installments on or before Aug. 31, 1973. Similarly, the LTC also announced that the last day for Payment of registration fees of private motor vehicles for the current year is May 31, 1973.

THE PRESIDENT designated two special groups of presidential assistants to conduct a performance and management audit of provincial governments and a number of state corporations which have not lived up to expectations. The President is particularly interested in finding out how local governments are implementing the program of reforms, especially those dealing with development and the elimination of political patronage. The first group, to handle state firms, will be composed of Presidential Executive Assistant Jacobo C. Clave and Presidential Assistants Guillermo C. de Vega and Juan C. Tuvera. The second team includes the presidential trouble shooters, former senators Leonardo B. Perez and Rene Espina and former Congressmen Jose D. Aspiras of La Union and Carmelo Z. Barbero of Abra.

SECRETARY OF INFORMATION Francisco S. Tatad said that the government will help firms that are indebted to state financing and lending institutions get back on their feet, but will institute foreclosure proceeding against big borrowers who try to defraud their creditors. He explained in a briefing that the government will avail itself of funds and inject competent management in enterprises managed by people without expertise and competence to enable them to recover and settle their obligations. He stressed, however, that foreclosure suits will be filed against firms found to be under the following conditions: 1) If there is deliberate refusal on the part of the delinquent company to pay its debts in spite of its capability to pay; 2) If there is concealment of assets of the borrower with the intent to defraud its creditor; and 3) If there is illicit channeling of the assets of the delinquent borrowers with intent to defraud its creditors.

DANGEROUS DRUGS BOARD approved guidelines for hospital and community pharmacists in their reports on the dispensing of medicine and filling of physician’s prescriptions. Reports required of pharmacists are of three categories namely: 1) records of dangerous drugs dispensed for in-patients in hospitals and similar institutions; 2) records of dangerous drugs required of pharmacists dealing in dangerous drugs required under Sec. 25(a), Republic Act 6425, as amended, and 3) quarterly reports of dangerous drugs dispensed in in-patient wards of hospitals and similar institutions.

February 22—

THE PRESIDENT issued Decree No. 134 setting the guidelines for barangays’ (citizens assemblies) participation in the resolution of local issues affecting their welfare. The decree was issued upon request from various barangays, relayed to the President and the Department of Local Government and Community Development, to hold referendums on some important issues, in line with Presidential Decree No. 86, dated Dec. 31, 1972, which has made it the policy of the state “to broaden the base of the citizen participation in the democratic processes and to afford ample opportunities for the citizens to express their views. Under PD No. 134, the DLGCD is directed to authorize and supervise the calling of referendum in all local units and for this purpose requests the participation of the Department of Education and Culture and other offices in the localities concerned in conducting the barangays (citizens assemblies).

THE PRESIDENT underscored the urgency of more extensive economic relations among the members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). Addressing the secretaries general of ASEAN member countries who called on him, the President stressed the need for ASEAN nations to get together and agree on points of reference, especially with regard to the economic development of Asia. The ASEAN secretaries general who called on the President were George E Bogars of Singapore; Klos Visessukara and Vibkal Bhinyoying of Thailand; Yusof Ariff of Malaysia; Marjad Njotowijono of Indonesia and Modesto Farolan of the Philippines.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE moved for the application of the full force of the law against all persons still in possession of untaxed or improperly taxed motor vehicles or imported goods in commercial quantities. According to

the department, the presidential decrees granting tax amnesty to possessors of untaxed or improperly taxed motor vehicles and imported items, expired last Jan. 31, 1973. Secretary of Finance Cesar Virata has made representations with the Land Transportation Commission not to register motor vehicles without prior clearance from the Bureau of Customs. Sterner measures are being studied for implementation soon.

GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM reported that it has disbursed a total of P6,266,237-78 as payment of claims for government employees under medicare, broken down as follows: paid to hospitals, P3,799,991.86; paid to doctors as medical expenses benefits, P535,172.33; as surgical expenses benefits, P1,734,829.89; paid to drugstores P127,010.70; advance paid to hospitals, P69,233. From May 1972 to January 1973, a total of 24,690 claims and applications for payment of hospitalization expenses have been received from all over the country. As of Jan. 26 this year, 23,909 applications constituting 96.84 per cent of the claims received have been approved and paid. The GSIS also announced that in due time all medicare claims will be processed upon receipt so that applicants or claimants will immediately have the results of their applications or claims.

THE PRESIDENT ISSUED a proclamation declaring the period from Feb. 26 to March 4, this year as National Press Week. The President issued the proclamation, "in order that the people may appreciate fully the vital role of the press in community life, particularly in the building of a New Society." He enjoined all people to lend their full support and cooperation in the proper observance of the National Press Week, "to the end that the press shall continue to be an instrument of good' unbiased, fair and just."

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: February 23-28, 1973

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

February 23—

THE PRESIDENT directed all heads of departments, bureaus and agencies of the government, including the local governments, to extend the tallest support to the scouting movement and its projects, and to all other groups with similar objectives. The President, in a memorandum circular, pointed out that the Boy Scouts of the Philippines is now engaged in promoting the various government programs, notably the food production and Green Revolution drives; the conservation and reforestation program; the beautification, health and sanitation program, and the campaign against drug addiction. The President issued the memorandum following the call at Malacañang of some 250 delegates to the BSP Special Key-Three Conference held in Manila. The delegates which represented all the 77 local BSP councils from the different provinces and cities, presented the President with a resolution informing him that the BSP, "now more than ever, commits its unequivocal support and active involvement of its manpower and resources to help improve the lot of the people and to help achieve the aims of the New Society, so that the Filipino may live in a new atmosphere of peace, justice, dignity and prosperity."

BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE announced that taxpayers who file their 1972 income tax returns on or before April 16, 1973, may still claim exemptions for dependents not over 23 years old as of last Dec. 31, 1972. The announcement was made in view of Presidential Decree No. 69 which reduces the age limit of dependents from 23 to 21 and imposes a limit of only four dependents who will be entitled to exemption. The BIR explained that the limitation took effect only last Jan. 1, 1973 and does not affect the taxpayer's 1972 income tax returns.

THERE IS NO FEE OR CHARGE required in the filing of the sworn statement of the true value of real property when this is subscribed under oath before the provincial or city assessor, the municipal treasurer or before any public officer authorized to administer oath. The clarification was issued by the Department of Finance in view complaints from the public regarding fees charged in connection with filing of sworn statements on real property as required by Presidential Decree No. 76. The uniform and simplified sworn statement forms will be given free for the use of property owners in the local government offices where the properties are located. Presidential Decree No. 76 requires all persons, natural or juridical, owning or administering real property including the improvements thereon, to file sworn statements on the value of their real property as a basis for tax assessments. These sworn statements shall be filed with the provincial or city or the municipal treasurer not later than June 30, 1973.

SECRETARY OF INFORMATION Francisco S. Tatad announced the appointment of the acting director and acting assistant director of the Bureau of National and Foreign Information (BNFI) and the Bureau of Standards for Mass Media (BSMM) under the Department of Public Information. Named acting BNFI director was Lorenzo J. Cruz, with Florentino Macabenta as acting assistant director. Appointed acting BSMM director was Andres Cristobal Cruz, with Amante Bigornia as acting assistant director. Secretary Tatad said these new appointments will considerably improve the services of the DPI and afford better consultation between the DPI and the mass media for the purpose of improving the performance of the media.

THE PRESIDENT DIRECTED the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Board of Investments and Central Bank to take immediate steps to limit the area planted to banana only to what the current export market can absorb. The directive was contained in Letter of Instruction No. 53 which states that the area to be planted for export bananas shall be the optimum hectareage which can be absorbed by the Japanese market and other markets as may be developed in the future without creating a surplus situation that could depress the export price of bananas. Under present conditions and until new markets can be developed or an unexpected increase in the Japanese market occurs, the hectareage planted to bananas for export shall be limited to not more than 21,000 hectares, to be distributed among present banana producers in accordance with certain guidelines.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION clarified that individual clearances for the publication of school yearbooks or annuals should be secured from the office of the DPI secretary. All such requests for clearances should be addressed to the office of the DPI secretary in Malacañang, and not to the Mass Media Council in Camp

Aguinaldo, Quezon City. The clarification was made in answer to queries from interested parties who wanted to know whether their communications should be forwarded to the Mass Media Council or to the office of the DPI secretary in Malacañang, his view of the fact that Secretary Francisco S. Tatad is also the chairman of the Mass Media Council.

February 24—

THE PRESIDENT underscored the pivotal role played by local government officials, in the transformation of society in line with the strictest standards of discipline, morality and efficiency. In a speech read for him by Secretary Jose A. Roño of Local Government and Community Development at the convention of the League of Governors and City Mayors in Davao City, the President said that local officials, in a sense, act as “go-between” for the national government and the people. He added, however, that as indispensable parts of the government’s political machinery, local officials are duty-bound to carry out the policies, rules and regulations of the national government. In recognition of the important role being played by the local governments, the President has created the Department of Local Governments and Community Development. The Chief Executive said that he hopes that this will enhance the adaptability of the local governments to the “exigencies of our time.” The local officials were exhorted to keep up with the strict standards and the high goals set for the New Society so that they may serve as examples of the new politicians endowed with “competence and integrity of the highest degree.”

SECRETARY OF INFORMATION Francisco S. Tatad said that there is a definite boom in the country’s industrial, commercial, mining oil and other business activities based on the reports of the Manila and Makati stock exchanges. The secretary said that because of this unprecedented business activity, foreign investors are coming from Tokyo, Singapore, and Hongkong. The latest word is that the top six months makers of Hongkong are due in Manila early next week and are reported considering the investment of some \$500 million in local business ventures. The increased business activities were boosted further with the reported discovery of copper deposits in Davao Oriental, Kalinga-Apayao and Ilocos Norte and another possible huge oil deposit in Camarines Sur, in addition to the highest gas pressure discovered in the Sulu Archipelago. The business boom was earlier confirmed with the stock market registering sales volume of P51 million last Friday, the highest in three years, as compared to the highest volume of P30 million in 1969.

POOR MEN may now pursue their claim and complaint against big insurance companies without spending a single centavo for legal expenses. The newly approved rules of procedure governing hearings before the Insurance Companies provide that the commission will extend full assistance, free of charge, to any complainant who has been found to have no means for legal services. The assistance includes exemption from the payment of legal fees, printed records and printed briefs and from the filing of the appeal bond. The rules are aimed at attaining the commission’s principal objective of adjudicating or settling claims and complaints and assisting parties in obtaining just, speedy and inexpensive determination of claims and complaints. Only claims not exceeding P100,000, however, are covered by the new rules.

TRAINING PROGRAM for young offenders was launched recently by the National Manpower and Youth Council in collaboration with the Bureau of Prisons at Camp Sampaguita Youth Rehabilitation Center, Muntinglupa, Rizal. The project, which started late last year, is a new government scheme of rehabilitation and reform for disadvantaged youth of the country. It is designed to help young offenders to develop proper habits and attitudes to prepare themselves for eventual integration into the free community. It also seeks to provide them with basic skills needed to acquire jobs and become productive members of the society. Some 200 inmates from 16 to 19 years old are undergoing training in practical electricity, woodworking, radio mechanics, etc. Graduates of the course will be assigned to prison industries while serving their respective terms. On the other hand, released prisoners will receive placement assistance from the Bureau of Prisons in cooperation with the Department of Social Welfare.

February 25—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the Commission on Immigration and Deportation to liberalize the visa requirements for stock brokers and investors from Hongkong, Singapore, Taipei and other big cities abroad who are coming to the country to make investments in local business ventures. The Presidential directive was spurred by reports of

executives from the Manila and Makati stock exchanges that a big group of investors, led by six top money makers in Hongkong with investment potentials estimated at \$500 million, are scheduled to arrive in Manila to confer with local business executives. The President's order carried instructions to the immigration bureau to waive the visa requirements initially for at least 72 hours to make it easy and convenient for these stock brokers and investors to enter the country. Existing immigration laws are particularly strict against the entry of aliens from Hongkong and Taipei. The President also ordered the immigration commission to study how to make it more convenient and attractive for investors who wish to enter the country to participate in the burgeoning stock business registered by the local bourses.

BARRIO SANTA ROSA in Sarrat, Ilocos Norte, offers a lesson in community development worthy of emulation by the over 33,800 barrios in the country. Specifically, the success story of this once-sleepy barrio shows what a functional barrio council and civic spirit, properly guided, can do to uplift a village and its people. When community development workers, some years back, arrived in Sta. Rosa, they saw a basically agricultural community peopled by some 800 farmers. The place seemed bereft of potential except in the area of agriculture. They soon realized, after, series of surveys and research work, that the people needed skills training to give them the ability and confidence to do various community Projects. The community development workers decided to hold a series of training activities for barrio council members and lay leaders. The barrio folk were taught the provisions of the Revised Barrio Charter, the laws affecting the barrios, the anatomy of the barrio government and how to manage and administer local affairs. After the training, the people's efforts and enthusiasm were then, directed towards the improvement of their community. A number of projects long needed bid for decades not achieved soon sprang up. Among which are: 1) A multi-purpose center which took the barrio people a cash contribution of more than P10,000 and P6,000 in labor to complete, with the Presidential Arm on Community Development chipping in P7,000 as counterpart fund. 2) A barrio market where even the people of neighboring barrios converge to sell their wares and buy necessities. 3) A spring development scheme which provides potable water to the Presidents as well as to nearby barrios. 4) Communal fishponds with the aid of the Bureau of Fisheries, the PACD and the barrio council. For its many achievements, Sta. Rosa was adjudged the regional winner under the community award category. The barrio council had earlier been selected as the "Most Outstanding Barrio Council" in a provincial contest, in connection with a province-wide institute on barrio administration, for its being viable, dynamic and functional.

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION (BAE) will mark this year's celebration of Nutrition Week, March 1-7, as proclaimed by the President, with a series-of demonstrations and training lessons on fruit, vegetable, meat, and fish utilization. The theme for this year's Nutrition Week Celebration of the BAE is "War Against Waste", signifying the need to utilize fully our food resources in the national food production program, and in supplying the necessary nutrition needs of the population. The demonstrations and training lessons will be held on March 3 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Maria Orosa Hall, BAE head office, Diliman, Quezon City.

February 26—

SECRETARY OF JUSTICE Vicente Abaci Santos ruled that the prospective members of the *interim* National Assembly (members of the defunct Congress and Constitutional Convention delegates who have opted to serve in the Assembly) are not disqualified, at present from: 1) Holding any office or employment in the government or its agencies, including government-owned or controlled corporations or be appointed to any civil office. 2) Appearing as counsel before any court inferior to a court with appellate jurisdiction, before any court in any civil case wherein the government or any of its agencies is the adverse party or before any administrative body (The prohibition against being directly or indirectly, financially interested in any contract with or in any franchise or special privilege granted by the government or any of its instrumentalities, including government-owned or controlled corporations, shall not apply to them. 3) Serving as officer director legal counsel or consultant of any private bank. 4) Serving as members of the Monetary Board or as deputy governor of the Central Bank.

SOLICITOR GENERAL Estelito P. Mendoza stressed that the archipelago doctrine, which the Philippines is vigorously advocating as the guiding principle for delimiting seabed areas and territorial waters is vital to Philippines national interest. In a speech before a meeting of the Philippines Society of International Law and the Philippine Commission of Jurists, the government official said that the doctrine implies full dominion and sovereign rights over the waters among the islands which comprise the Philippine archipelago. It was emphasized that it is imperative for the country to control the waters within the archipelago and within the broadest possible area, over

waters surrounding it, to assure that these waters may not be used for hostile purposes. Such control was also deemed necessary to prevent "pollution to a degree which would cause irreparable injury to us," so that the people may enjoy the water resources which logically belong to them. The archipelago concept allows an archipelago like the Philippines to draw straight baselines connecting the outermost points of the outermost islands and drying reefs and call the waters within the baselines as internal waters and the waters seaward from the baseline as the territorial sea, as limited by Article II of the Treaty of Paris.

LAND TRANSPORTATION authorities agreed to extend the mantle of legitimacy to public motor vehicles which operate by attaching to lines of authorized franchise holders in what is more popularly known as "kabit" system, upon their owners' compliance with certain requirements. Under the system agreed upon among LTC Commissioner Romeo F. Edu, Board Transportation Chairman Cesar Guzman and Col. Paulino Briones Jr., the owner of the "kabit" vehicle must execute an affidavit stating the name of the operator under which the "kabit" is being operated; that he is the real and lawful owner of the vehicle and that he is applying or has applied with the Board of Transportation for a separate certificate of public convenience for operating motor vehicles as a public utility; the payment to the Land Transportation Commission in the form of a deposit subject to the approval of the BOT of their certificate of public convenience; and in the case of disapproval, he shall return the public utility plate or plates that were issued to him by the LTC. They also agreed that effective this year, public utility vehicles with bus-bodies, but previously registered as PUJ, shall be registered only as buses. The BOT agreed to amend the franchises covering these vehicles so that they shall be operated as buses instead of PUJs.

REPRESENTATIVES of the government of the Philippines and of the United States Agency for International Development signed a loan agreement in Manila, providing \$20 million to finance the acquisition and importation from the United States of wheat and other selected agricultural and industrial commodities and related services, it was announced. The agreement was signed for the Philippines by Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata. United States Agency on International Development Director Thomas C. Niblock signed for AID. The AID loan is repayable over a 40-year period, with a grace period of 10 years during which no repayment of principal will be due. Interest on the loan is payable at two per cent per annum during the grace period, and three per cent thereafter.

ACTING ADMINISTRATOR Reynaldo J. Gregorio of the Social Security System urgently calls the attention of all SSS members to review their membership records, and correct, if necessary, the important data on designated beneficiaries, dependents, and civil status. It must be noted that the basis for the adjudication of social security claims is the SSS member's record, otherwise known as SSS Form E-1. This record shall be the basis for determining the legal dependents entitled to Medicare benefits. It is, therefore, imperative that SSS members submit the duly accomplished form correctly prior to any claim for benefits. This announcement is made in the light of actual eventualities wherein persons have been unjustly deprived of benefits due to the member's oversight or forgetfulness. For purposes of clarification, the following information must be noted by the members: 1) Beneficiaries are persons named by the member in his SSS Form E-1 who are entitled to receive the death benefit, when the member dies. The law limits the choice of beneficiaries specifically to the following persons: the legitimate spouse, the legitimate, legitimated, acknowledge natural children and natural children by legal fiction, and their legal descendants, and the legitimate parents, the brothers, and the sisters. The beneficiaries mentioned in the SSS Form E-1 of the members are the only ones entitled to his benefits. Dependents include the member's legitimate spouse, the unmarried legitimate or legitimated children under twenty-one years of age, of the member's parents who are totally dependent upon him for regular support. Mr. Gregorio also calls the attention of women members who have changed their civil status to indicate in their records their husband's surname. The same report must be made in case the marriage is dissolved, if the member desires to revert from her husband's surname to maiden name. With the unmarried male, they need not report their change of civil status should they get married, but may report any change in their data of beneficiaries and dependents.

COMMISSION ON IMMIGRATION and Deportation issued Office Order No. 117 in implementation of the President's directive to ease visa requirements for Chinese stock brokers and investors from Hongkong, Singapore, Taipei and other financial capitals of the world who wish to enter the country. The order states that the certification of a Philippine consular officer abroad or a local capitalist or stockholder regarding the profession of the prospective applicant, and the purpose of his coming, may be filed with the office of the Commission of Immigration, together with a request for the applicant's entry pursuant to this order. If the request is approved, the airline or shipping concerned will be authorized to book the applicant for entry to the Philippines without a visa for a 72-hour stay. In

meritorious cases, a 72-hour stay may be extended upon application, after justification that a longer stay is necessary.

February 27—

THE PRESIDENT received three separate foreign economic missions which are currently conducting surveys on the feasibility of investing in the country. The first group, composed of English and Hongkong businessmen informed the President, that they had long wanted to invest in the country but were prevented from doing so by the peace and order problem. After observing present conditions, they said that everything was in proper order under the New Society and added that the present atmosphere makes them feel that investment will be secure David Stapleton of the W.I. Carr of England, whose volume of business reached P26 million last year, and William Garrett of Jardine-Fleming and. Christopher McMaster of Hongkong, said they have invested \$2 million in the last two weeks and are prepared to put in a total of \$500 million in investments in the Philippines. The second economic mission is composed of the Spanish Ambassador Nicolas Martin Alonzo. It was said that Spain imports some eight million kilos of tobacco from Cagayan annually, all of which are consumed by the Spanish smokers. The third economic mission which was composed of Spanish shipbuilding-officials, namely: Rafael Gomez, director general; Jesus Casa technical director; and Enrique Silvela, commercial assessor of Talleres y Varaderos, S. A. of Spain paid their respects to the President. They are here to survey the possibility of establishing shipbuilding facilities in the country.

SECRETARY OF FINANCE Cesar E. A. Virata, in a television interview, attributed the current sustained heavy transactions in the stock markets to the reforms introduced since the declaration of Martial Law in the country. Citing the market boom, the finance secretary urged

big business corporations to consider issuing more shares to the public, particularly under-capitalized corporations which need additional capital for their expansion. The changes favoring the stock markets have been enumerated as follows: 1) Renewed confidence of the people due to the reforms that have been undertaken and the improvement of prices of many Philippine export products like sugar, logs, copra and copper; 2) Amendments to the Petroleum Act of 1949 and the issuance of a Presidential decree allowing service contracts; 3) Reduction of the transaction tax on shares; 4) The action of the Central Bank's Monetary Board allowing foreign investors and depositors of dollars in the Philippines to buy and sell shares among themselves without limitations; 5) Introduction of liquidity into the market coupled with the increased expenditures of the government for development purposes; 6) A balance of payment surplus which has also improved the liquidity of the business sector.

ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE Secretary Roberto V. Reyes told a gathering of office heads that any success under the New Society will depend mainly on the total abrogation of the malpractices of the old system. Secretary Reyes said that in personnel recruitment and management, actions should no longer be based on the malpractices of the old society such as "palakasan", influence peddling, and political interventions, but strictly on the basis of merit and fitness. He gave special emphasis on individual attitudes as key to meaningful reforms, in which men in the government should take the lead role. Mr. Reyes also explained that the imposition of Martial Law provided the proper atmosphere for the entering into a new and brighter era in our national life, a brighter future for our country and people.

INTENSIFICATION of agricultural production and exploitation of natural resources can be done by a shift to labor intensive short-run crops in selected areas, expansion of irrigated lands to primary crops, and development of processing plants in forestry and mining. This is the gist of a speech delivered by DANR Undersecretary Jose D. Drilon Jr. at the National Science Development Board, at the opening of a series of seminars on "Promoting the Application of Science and Technology in the New Society."

The crucial factors toward achieving agricultural production and exploitation, Mr. Drilon said, are circumspect planning and well-managed implementation. He said that shifts to short-run labor intensive crops like fruits and vegetables will multiply the usefulness of the chosen land areas, besides offering additional employment opportunities. Multi-cropping of vegetables, Mr. Drilon cited, could easily multiply two hectares of land to 9.5 crop hectares. On rice production, Mr. Drilon said that expansion of well-irrigated lands and the use of scientific production technology, particularly in typhoon-free regions, constitute a logical strategy to follow. Thus expansion

of the irrigated lands is needed to make possible increased yields of primary crops over wider areas. Increased yields mean not only increased incomes for producers but also incremental employment opportunities in activities involving the handling, transportation, storage, processing and marketing of these crops, he said.

February 28—

THE PRESIDENT released P2.6 million to provide a counterpart fund for an aquaculture research and production project, primarily for shrimps and prawns. Southeast Asian governments, including Japan, have allocated some P4 million for this project during the initial year. The Philippine government has designated the Mindanao State University in Marawi City as the implementing agency for the project. Q. F. Miravite, MSU vice president, who is in charge of the project, informed the President that nowhere in the world, except in the Philippines, has a breakthrough been achieved in the production of shrimps and prawns under laboratory condition. This is the main reason, he said, why SEAFDEC agreed to establish the center in the Philippines. According to Miravite, shrimps and prawns are more profitable to raise. He pointed out that while bangus fishponds yield some P3,000 worth per hectare, prawn ponds are said to produce about P50,000 income per hectare.

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL Red Cross, on the occasion of "Fire Prevention Week", has issued the following pointers: When there is a fire 1) Once you detect fire or smoke, act quickly. Ask for help as soon as possible. Contact the fire department immediately. 2) If you must leave through thick smoke, stay close to the floor. A wet cloth placed over your face may help breathing. 3) Close doors and windows behind you to prevent the rapid spread of the fire. 4) Know the nearest exits of any building you are in. In case your clothes catch fire—1) Don't run. Running only fans the flame. 2) If possible, wrap yourself with blanket or mat. 3) If there is nothing to wrap yourself with, drop to the floor and roll over briskly. 4) Avoid the smoke; place yourself close to the floor. 5) If possible douse yourself with water. Some measures to prevent fire—1) Crush thoroughly cigarette butts or cigar stubs. 2) Oil, gas, or other types of lamps should be placed away from curtains and other objects that easily catch fire. 3) Don't place open lights where the wind, children, cats and other moving objects may topple them. 4) Put out the flame or light before going to bed. 5) Never store flammable liquid near the stove. 6) Extinguish all live charcoals and embers before leaving them. Most fires occur at night. 7) Don't heat wax, paint and other flammable substance over open flame. 8) Remove the accumulation of leaves, paper, and other trash around your home. 9) Be sure that your electrical wiring are inspected regularly and that circuits are not overloaded.

THE PRESIDENT directed the secretary of finance, the secretary of Trade and Tourism, the Board of Investments and the National Economic and Development Authority to submit their recommendations on the requests of investors to reduce the stock broker's fee or commission. The President specifically asked these officials to determine how much the broker's fee is and by how much can it be reduced in the same manner that the government reduced the stock transfer tax from two per cent to one fourth of one per cent. Stock brokers, under existing practice at local stock exchanges, collect two per cent from sales of stock. The Presidential directive was designed to stir up the economy by encouraging more trading at local stock exchanges. Earlier, the President promulgated Presidential Decree No. 16 exempting capital-gains from taxes, except shares of stock of corporations covered in Sec. 2 of Republic Act No. 1641, provided that such gains are invested within six months from the date the gains are realized in the following: government bonds, government securities, treasury notes, government debentures, and any productive enterprises.

PHILIPPINE MEDICAL Care Commission (PMCC) has received reports that unscrupulous persons have been soliciting money from residences establishments in greater Manila purportedly for Medicare. The PMCC stressed that it has not authorized any fund solicitation and that the persons reportedly soliciting contributions for Medicare are imposters. The public is advised to report to the authorities any persons or group of persons doing fund solicitations in the name of the Medicare program.

SECRETARY OF FINANCE Cesar E. A. Virata sees great employment opportunities during the coming months because of increased activities in government infrastructure projects and private industries. Government infrastructure spending, which will be 70 to 100 per cent more than what was spent last year, will activate many industries and bring about employment opportunities. With continuous flow of development assistance, the Philippines faces a high level of sustained activity in construction programs.

THE PRESIDENT reemphasized the supremacy of civilian authority over, the military, and warned members of the Armed Forces against complacency and display of arrogance which might result in the loss of public support. Speaking at the graduation exercises of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Command and General Staff College at Fort Bonifacio, Rizal, the President said that a wise leader must be on the alert, especially when everything appears to be going well. Today, the President said, everything is moving well: there is confidence, a new hope, and a new-found dignity. "But let us not rest on these laurels," he said. "Let us warn ourselves against the display of arrogance and retain our humility because the bases of our power is the people." Pointing to the success of the program of reforms, the President said that while the principal mission of the military is to ensure the integrity of the Republic and to protect the people, it has become a creative force for the attainment of more sophisticated aims, thereby acquiring a new kind of dignity. "But the armed forces is nothing but an instrument of popular will. Civilian authority shall continue to be dominant over the military and there shall be no deviation from this," the President said.

ACCORDING TO THE figures released by the Department of Local Government and Community Development, the country's local government structure has a pyramidlike profile, with 33,832 barrios serving as the broad base, 1,429 municipalities, 21 municipal districts, 61 cities, 68 provinces and three subprovinces. The country has a total of 317,907 local officials, broken down as follows: 68 provincial governors, 68 vice governors, 167 board members, 60 city mayors, 60 vice mayors, 485 city councilors, 1,450 municipal mayors, 1,450 municipal vice mayors, 11,237 municipal councilors, 33,832 barrio captains, 202,926 barrio councilmen, 33,832 barrio secretaries and 33,832 barrio treasurers. It was noted that the town of Miagao in Iloilo is the municipality with the most number of barrios 119 while the province of Cebu has the most number of towns 48. Batanes province has the least number of towns six and the least number of barrios, 27. The DLGCD also reported that there is an apparent moratorium among the local governments in the creation of more barrios since the ratification of the new charter. The provincial boards, it was pointed, are waiting for the drafting of a local government code before creating more barrios.

HOLDERS OF EXCESS or unauthorized firearms who failed to beat the Feb. 28 deadline may still surrender them to the Philippine Constabulary without incurring penalties by depositing them in "garbage boxes" placed by the PC in front of all camps and other prominent places. Brig. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, PC chief, announced that it was decided to give holders of excess or unauthorized firearms a last chance to surrender them. He warned, however, that those who continue to disregard this last chance must face the consequences sooner or later. Holders of these excess firearms are instructed to wrap their firearms, including their corresponding licenses, and drop them inside the "garbage box".

BUREAU OF INTERNAL Revenue urged Filipinos to send copies of the new BIR tax forms to their relatives abroad to facilitate the latter's payment of just taxes to the Philippine government. The BIR said the salient features of the amendments to the National Internal Revenue Code, as contained in Presidential Decree No. 69, offer liberal tax concessions to Filipinos residing and earning income abroad, Dec. 21 of the amended code imposes a tax upon non-resident citizens on their gross income received from sources without or outside the Philippines at the following rates one per cent for income not over \$6,000, two per cent for income over \$6,000 but not over \$20,000, and three per cent for over \$20,000. The income tax return of a non-resident citizen may be filed with the Philippine Embassy or an officer of the Philippine Consulate General nearest to his place of residence. Non-resident citizens deriving income from sources within and without the Philippines should file two income tax returns: a) BIR Form No. 1901 or BIR Form No. 17.01-A, for income derived from sources within the Philippines.

REALTY TAXES on tenanted rice and corn lands should be paid by the tenant-farmers beginning this year if the lands are 100 hectares or more in area but the real estate taxes should be paid by the present landowners if the lands are less than 100 hectares. Justice Secretary Vicente Abad Santos issued the legal opinion in reply to a request from the secretary of agrarian reform who stated that in view of Presidential Decree No. 27 declaring that tenant-farmers "shall be deemed owners" of the lands they till, there is now a serious problem arising from the refusal of landowners to pay real estate taxes due on their tenanted rice and corn lands. He said, however, that as regards lands containing less than 100 hectares, it is believed that, all things considered, it would be more logical and reasonable to conclude that pending implementation of the decree as to those lands, the ownership of the lands remains with or is still retained by the present landowners, hence the real estate taxes should, accordingly, be paid by the said landowners.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: March 2-8, 1973

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

March 2—

THE PRESIDENT received the officials of two foreign oil companies, one Australian and the other American, who are at present negotiating with local companies to enter into a service contract with the government for oil prospecting and drilling. The oil executives headed by-Eric Webb, president of Endeavour Oil of Melbourne, Australia, and Tom Holt, vice president of Super Oil of Austin, Texas, USA, are negotiating with Philex, Baguio Gold Mining, Philippines Overseas and Sabina Mining, for oil drilling operations in the Sulu Sea which they described as the "hottest spot" for offshore oil drilling. The officials informed the President that they have already selected the drilling sites and will start operations in three to four months. The government will receive 60 per cent of the net profit while the remaining 40 per cent which is tax free will be shared by the members of the consortium of oil drillers and concession holders.

THE PRESIDENT directed Highway Commissioner Baltazar Aquino to speed up the completion of the roads within the vicinity of Manila, and other priority projects particularly in Mindanao, such as the 209-kilometer Cotabato City-General Santos road. During his conference with Commissioner Aquino, the President also directed that: 1) Loggers along the Marbel-Lapulapu segment of the Cotabato City-General Santos road remove their logs which are blocking road construction, before the end of the month and to pay for damages for roads and bridges caused by them. 2) The Philippine Constabulary immediately to stop logging operations in the Mt. Matutum forest reservation which has been declared off-limits to loggers since three, years back.

TARGET TAX revenue growth of 6.5 per cent for fiscal year 1973; ending June 30, may be surpassed in view of the tax reforms instituted by the President, according to the 1972 annual report of the National Tax Research Center (formerly Joint Legislative-Executive Tax Commission). Noting that a series of natural calamities and the deceleration of the export or stabilization tax had caused a decline in tax collection efforts (ratio of total tax revenue to Gross National Product) in 1972, the NTRC observed that tax reforms became imperative to close the revenue-expenditure gap. Additional revenue from the tax reforms, among others, is expected to close or at least narrow the "gap" between revenues and expenditures. The NTRC also noted that in 1971 the tax effort (defined as the ratio of revenue to Gross National Product) has amounted to 11.9 per cent. This slipped down slightly to 11.7, per cent in 1972. This is attributed to the deceleration of the export or stabilization tax by P102 million. In addition to the tax reforms already instituted by the President through various tax decrees, the NTEG recommended further revisions of the National Internal Revenue Code and the Tariff and Customs Code. It also recommended the reexamination of the laws covering real property taxation, and the transfer of certain taxes now collected by the national government to the local governments.

THE PHILIPPINES has been officially invited to participate in the Expo '74 World's Fair to be held in Spokane, Washington, from May to. October 1974, according to the Department of Trade and Tourism. The fair is geared to the theme of ecology, or the preservation of the natural elements of the environment. It will be the first world's fair in the United States within this decade. DTT authorities recommended Philippine participation in the fair for the following reasons: 1) It is an opportune time to maintain and enhance the position of Philippine export products in the US market in view of the termination of the Laurel-Langley Agreement in 1974. 2) Expo '74 will be a propitious stage to display the gains made in the social, political and economic fields under the New Society; and 3) Expo '74 will be an excellent medium for the exposure of Philippine tourist attractions.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY has been organized under the Department of Public Information and is now in operation, DPI Secretary Francisco S. Tatad announced. He said that the PNA is operating on a limited scale from the former offices of the defunct Philippine News Service at the National Press Club building on Magallanes Drive in Port Area, Manila. "Initially the news agency is servicing the major print and radio media in the Manila area," Secretary Tatad said, "Expansion plans call for the organization of a nationwide and international teletype network," he said. Two former Philippines Herald editors—Jose Pavia and Renato Tiangco—will manage the PNA, as part of the newly created Bureau of National and Foreign Information.

March 3

THE PRESIDENT issued Presidential Decree No. 143 prescribing a weekly rest period for workers in any undertaking or enterprise, whether for profit or not, by authorizing employers to determine and schedule the weekly rest day for their employees, subject to collective bargaining agreement and to such rules and regulations, as the secretary of labor may prescribe. The decree orders every employer to give his employees a rest period of not less than 24 consecutive hours of each period of given days. In cases of force majeure, public emergencies, serious accidents and other exceptional cases as determined by the secretary of labor, any employee may be required to work on his scheduled rest day provided he is paid an additional compensation of at least 25 per cent of his regular wage. If such work falls on a Sunday, the employee shall be entitled to additional compensation of at least 25 per cent of his regular wage for work performed on Sunday. The decree, which takes effect immediately, repeals all provisions of existing laws, orders, and regulations contrary to, or inconsistent with it.

MALACANANG ISSUED Presidential Decree No. 140 formalizing the retirement for the registration of xerox and other copying-machines and setting a new deadline for complying with the new directive. The decree, signed by the President March 2, 1973, modifies an earlier order issued by the Bureau of Standards for Mass Media, requiring owners of xerox and other copying machines to register with the BSMM at the Beneficial Life Bldg., in Intramuros, Manila, not later than March 15. PD No. 140 sets the deadline on March 17, or 15 days from the date of the signing of the decree (March 2, 1973). In issuing the decree, the President notes that xerox and other copying machines or equipment have been utilized for the production of subversive propaganda materials and in the falsification of letters.

PHILIPPINE MEDICAL CARE COMMISSION (PMCC) issued guidelines for the hospital admission of the legal dependents of members of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and the Social Security System (SSS). The guidelines are as follows: 1) The GSIS and SSS member should present to the hospital his employer's medicare contribution certification; 2) The SSS member should present to the hospital a xerox copy of his Member's Record (SSS Form E-1) or his Member's Record of Additional Dependent (SSS Form E-4) depending on which form the legal dependent to be hospitalized is listed; and the GSIS member, likewise, should present the duplicate copy of the GSIS Information for Medicare Membership. 3) If the above stated GSIS and SSS papers are not available at the time the dependent is to be hospitalized, the GSIS or SSS member should present a document signed by him which: a) Certifies that the person whom he claims to be his legal dependent is indeed his legal dependent; and b) The signature of the GSIS or SSS member on the same sheet of paper wherein the certification is written.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR has this timely reminder for job applicants seeking employment abroad: "Beware of illegal recruiters or hirers who promise overseas jobs that may not exist at all, and who exact fabulous sums of money from unwary applicants." The warning was made by the department upon receipt of numerous complaints about the nefarious activities of job recruiters including some travel agencies still operating outside the pale of the law. Not a few people have been victimized, in Manila and the provinces. Applicants are advised to apply for jobs only with recruiters licensed or authorized by the labor department's office of Manpower Services. Some 68 recruiters have already been authorized to recruit for overseas jobs, while 37 recruiters have pending applications to recruit. Before applying for overseas jobs, applicants should consult the OMS on whether a recruiter is licensed or not for their own benefit.

SECRETARY OF INFORMATION Francisco S. Tatad assured the petroleum dealers throughout the country government support for the solution of their problems, particularly with respect to their reasonable margin profit now threatened by the new policies enforced by the major oil companies in the Philippines. Mr. Tatad said the Administration has always been for the protection of the interest of the consuming public, in keeping with the policy of the government. He added that in case of conflict of interest between small groups of businessmen and the big corporations, the government will side with the just and the legitimate demands of the small businessman.

March 4—

THE FIRST LADY called upon the nation's artists "to push forward across new frontiers and open up new territories in the quest for a new and better society." In a brief speech before officers and members of the Art

Association of the Philippines, the First Lady urged the artists to “help create a new world . . . where our traditions and our values will be at home . . . one that will be uniquely and honestly Filipino.” The First Lady was at the AAP’s award ceremony held at the Maharlika hall of Malacañang in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the association. At the ceremony, some 31 artists were awarded plaques for accomplishments which served to advance the cause of art in the country.

SECRETARY CONRADO F. ESTRELLA of Agrarian Reform emphasized that in agrarian reform, the important thing is not land transfer *per se* but the equitable distribution of natural wealth; not the profits to be derived from the land, but justice for the farmer who works to make the land profitable. In an address before a seminar sponsored by the Quezon Board of Realtors, the secretary cautioned his audience to understand fully the underlying rationale of the agrarian reform program “or all our efforts to build a New Society might be imperilled.” It was stressed that the attainment of land reform objectives is premised on the establishment of owner-cultivatorship and the economic family-size farm as the basis of Philippine agriculture.

FINALLY SETTLED is the controversial issue of whether personal cultivation by the landowner or a member of his family is a ground for ejecting a tenant. In a precedent-setting decision, the Court of Appeals has ruled that a tenant-farmer may now continue working under the leasehold system despite the threat of ejection by the landowner who wants to cultivate the land personally. The court decision was made in the case of a landowner who instituted legal action to expel his tenant who was cultivating a one-and-one-half hectare of rice land in San Pablo, Aliaga, Nueva Ecija. The decision was a reversal of a previous ruling by the Court of Agrarian Relations made two years ago in Cabanatuan City, ordering the tenant to vacate the land he was tilling. The court decision was hailed by Department of Agrarian Reform officials who called it a boon to the government’s land reform program.

ADMINISTRATOR Jesus Tanchanco of the National Grains Authority appealed for the support of local government leaders in the task of institutionalizing the grains industry as a means of hastening the country’s economic and social development. Addressing the fourth annual convention of the League of Provincial Governors and City Mayors in Davao City, the NGA chief said that the local officials are in good position to advise the NGA on the wisdom of its projects since the local executives “know best the conditions obtaining in your respective places.” The convention delegates were told to write down their suggestions affecting the rice and corn industry in their regions to serve as guidelines in the formulation of policies for the growth and development of the industry. They were also exhorted to encourage their constituents to eat more vegetables and change their wasteful habits which are costing the country some \$50 million annually.

March 5—

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady led Philippine government officials and other groups in welcoming the two Filipino prisoners of war who arrived at Clark Air Force Base in Pampanga together with American and German POW’s. The President flew to the American base to personally welcome Conrado Badua and Arturo Balagot, the two returning POW’s from Hanoi. Accompanying the President, aside from the First Lady, were Secretary of Information Francisco S. Tatad and Secretary of Defense Juan Ponce Enrile. In a brief speech following the welcome of Badua and Balagot, the President thanked the United States military and civilian authorities, as well as the American people for extending to the two Filipino POW’s the same facilities given to released American POW’s.

THE PRESIDENT lauded the boy scouts movement for giving underprivileged and out-of-school youths an opportunity to improve themselves and to participate in community development activities. In a speech read for him by Secretary of Defense Juan Ponce Enrile during the launching of the 10th Regional Jamborette at the Boy Scouts of the Philippines in Gattaran, Cagayan, the Chief Executive observed that the new projects of the scouting movement are geared to provide the less privileged boys training for big, significant tasks. It was stressed that the jamborette in Cagayan is in line with the principles of the New Society of building a new order where the people may live in justice, peace, dignity and prosperity. He informed the scouts that he has directed all heads of departments, bureaus and agencies of the government, including the local governments, to extend the fullest support to the movement and its various projects.

BUREAU OF FORESTRY, the Reforestation Administration, and the Parks and Wildlife Office have been abolished and in their place, the Bureau of Forest Development has been created to achieve maximum efficiency in the protection and conservation of the nation's forest resources. The functions of the new bureau include the following: economical, efficient and effective classification, protection and conservation of public forests and forests reserves; implementation of multi-use and sustained-yield management of public forest; preparation of a comprehensive program of forest research; protection, development and preservation of national parks, games, and wildlife laws; and the carrying out of a continuing program of kaingin management within the public forests;

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT Administration has launched a massive drive to raise the viability of some 355 farmers cooperatives operating in strategic sections of the country. The drive, started last month, was initially launched in Eastern Visayas and in the northwestern part of Mindanao comprising the provinces of Misamis Oriental, Misamis Occidental, Lanao del Sur, Lanao del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur and Zamboanga del Norte. The immediate objectives of the campaign are the following: to maximize loan collections; to change erring management officials; to eliminate non-farmers from membership in the cooperatives; and to select cooperatives for concentrated build-up. The ACA also announced the suspension of its functions of organizing and registering farmers cooperatives and associations pending the promulgation of the necessary policies and procedures by the newly organized Bureau of Cooperative Development under the Department of Local Government and Community Development. The new bureau is charged with the promotion, organization, and registration of all types of cooperatives.

March 6–

THE PRESIDENT received the letters of credence of Ambassador Olaf Tellefsen as the new non-resident ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Norway to the Philippines. Following the presentation ceremonies, the President received Ambassador Joze Smole of Yugoslavia who made a farewell call before returning to his country on an official mission. In receiving the credentials of Ambassador Tellefsen, the President said that the atmosphere in the Philippines under the New Society is conducive to greater foreign investments and the promotion of trade with other countries. The President said the new envoy will have an opportunity to observe how a “determined government and an equally determined citizenry band together to make this nation a better place to love in.” In presenting his credentials the new Norwegian envoy assured the President that he will exert his utmost to see that the good relations existing between his country and the Philippines will be further developed and strengthened.”

BUREAU OF POSTS has increased by 50 per cent the rates on postage stamps and other postal charges for local and foreign mail since March 1, 1973, to finance the bureau's infrastructure and expansion program, for the purchase of delivery vehicles, mechanized postal services and office equipment to increase the bureau's standard of efficiency. The increase covers local ordinary mail, from 10 to 15 centavos, and airmail, from 40 to 60 centavos. Foreign ordinary mail charges from P1 to P1.50. Other postal rates increased are lock box rentals, collect on deliver (COD) fees, parcel and insurance fees, money order fees and telegraphic transfer fees. The increases are the result of studies undertaken by the bureau's planning service, based on international and bilateral agreements, particularly the Universal Postal Union (UPU) convention to which the Philippines is a signatory.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE announced the creation of provincial and city assessment boards to hear protests of property owners regarding assessment of their properties, and the issuance by Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Verata of the rules governing appeals with the provincial or city Board of Tax Assessment Appeals pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 76. Under Presidential Decree No. 76, all owners or administrators of real property are required to file sworn statements of the true value of their real property and the improvement for purposes of taxation. The deadline for the submission of the sworn statement is June 30, 1973.

As prescribed under Department Order No. 6-73, the Board of Tax Assessment Appeals is composed of the register of deeds, as chairman; the auditor and engineer of the provincial or city government as members. According to the regulations, any owner who is not satisfied with the action of the provincial or city assessor in the assessment of his property may direct his appeal to the board. The appeal should be made within sixty days following the receipt of the notice of assessment on his property. The board on the other hand, are directed to decide on appeals made by property owners within 60 days upon receipt of such appeals.

MALACAÑANG ISSUED Presidential Decree No. 144 revising the present system of national internal revenue allotment to local governments to establish a more equitable system of distribution of allotments and introduce the developmental concept in the allocation of funds to local governments. The new decree provides that 20 per cent of national internal revenue tax collections which are not meant for special accounts and special funds in the general fund shall be distributed to local governments, computed on the basis of collections for the third fiscal year preceding the current fiscal year. The allotment shall be distributed as follows: 30 per cent to provinces, 45 per cent to municipalities and 25 per cent to cities. The share of local government unit shall be determined according to the following formula: 70 per cent based on its population, 20 per cent on land area and 10 per cent on equal sharing.

LAND TRANSPORTATION Commission has instructed all its regional directors and registrars to coordinate efforts with municipal mayors, barangay chairmen and barrio captains all over the country for an orderly and smooth registration for the current year of motor vehicles in their respective areas on or before May 31, 1973. All LTC Inspectors will be fielded to facilitate the registration. They will also give all the necessary information and guidelines to the barangay chairmen and barrio captains for the proper inspection of motor vehicles in their areas.

THE PRESIDENT has reappointed Secretary Manuel Elizalde, Jr. presidential assistant on national minorities. Mr. Elizalde has been Panamin secretary since 1967. He reported to the President recently that in the course of his trip abroad, he had noted very widespread approval in responsible quarters of the President's policy towards the cultural minorities. He submitted to the President an advance copy of the Encyclopedia Britannica Yearbook for 1973 which congratulates President Marcos and the First Lady for their "quick and decisive steps" to help the Tasaday and other minority people through Panamin.

BEING A SOCIAL legislation designed to give relief to labor in case of injury, the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act should be given a liberal interpretation to fully carry into effect its beneficial provisions, and all doubts as to the right to compensation should be resolved in favor of the grantees and all presumptions should be indulged in their favor. Justice Secretary Vicente Abad Santos issued this legal opinion with reference to the claim of a former Bureau of Prisons' employee who retired on March 10, 1972 and claimed disability compensation for illness he had contracted during his employment as nursery foreman. The employee had been awarded P6,000 in view of which the Bureau made a partial payment of P2,000. Later, the bureau director entertained doubts on the right of the employee to said compensation because the latter received his salary from Sept. 3, 1971 to March 10, 1972, during which he was presumably suffering from the illness which was the subject of the claim for compensation. The justice secretary ruled that the employee's receipt of his salary should not affect his right to the compensation. He pointed out that during the time the employee received the salary in question, said employee had not actually gone to work for he was on leave and such pay was salary earned for such leave.

UNDER THE NEW Constitution, the previous owner may not recover the land from the American buyer and the American buyer may validly convey the land to a qualified individual or corporation and when this is done, the state may no longer seek reversion of the property. This assertion was made by Solicitor General Estelito P. Mendoza who discussed the effects of the new charter in relation to the celebrated case of the "Republic of the Philippines vs. Quasha" where the Supreme Court ruled that citizens of the United States and American corporations may not acquire agricultural lands and that their rights over these properties cease upon the expiration of the Parity Amendment to the Constitution in 1974. Mr. Mendoza stated before the Philippine Council of the International Chamber of Commerce that if the American holder of lands in the country be a corporation, it may either convey the property to a qualified individual or corporation or restructure its corporate holdings into a 60-40 ratio and it may thereafter, if it so desires, lease back the property.

March 7-

THE PRESIDENT ruled out publicity-making and image-building from the national pattern under the New Society. Addressing the new officers of the National Press Club of the Philippines following their induction in Malacañang, the President said he would like to see the media set its own guidelines and standards and for government to stay away from its "self-regulating activities." The President asked them to avoid publicity and image-building which are not part of the New Society, but to write about positive things with excellence as their only guideline. The President said that the standards for those writing commentaries are that what they write should be interesting and excellent, and should portray accurately what they write about. Inducted by the President were: Primitivo Mijares of the *Daily*

Express, president; Laurencio Zabala Jr., of *Bulletin Today*; Vicente Tañedo of *Times Journal*; Miguel Genovea of *Daily Express*, vice presidents; Sol Villa of *Metropolitan Newsweek*, secretary; Ernesto Singson of *Bulletin Today*, treasurer; Neal H. Cruz, Teresita Orendain and Roberto Cuevas of *Daily Express*, Roy Acosta and Reynaldo Naval of *Times Journal*, Cresencio Marquez of *Balitang Maynila* Estrella Alfon of *Bituin Magazine*, and Benjamin Peñaranda of *United Daily*, directors.

SECRETARY OF LABOR Bias F. Ople announced that Presidential Decree No. 143, amending the Blue Sunday Law, will become effective 15 days after the issuance of the implementing rules by the Department of Labor. The labor chief said the Bureau of Labor Standards is now preparing the rules which may issue within this week. The main features of the decree, Sec. Ople said, are the following: 1) The economy has gained one more productive day a week or 52 more productive days a year; 2) The Decree will make possible the employment of more workers as a result of the increase of working days; 3) The opening of retail, service and other establishments on Sundays will benefit the public, especially those in the rural areas who go to the poblacion on Sundays to sell their products and buy their provisions for the week; 4) The decree eliminates what used to be the source of graft in connection with the enforcement of the Blue Sunday Law, especially the issuance of permits for establishments to operate on Sundays; 5) The decree is indicative of the development of new labor and social policies; and 6) All these benefits are made possible without sacrificing any of the old-established rights and benefits of the workers, including the right to one rest day a week, the right not to work on Sundays on religious grounds, and the right to at least 25 per cent per premium pay for work on a rest day.

SIX-MONTH GRACE period from October 19, 1972, granted under Presidential Decree No. 24, concerning the condonation of the three per cent penalty per month for the late payment of Social Security System contributions by delinquent SSS member-firms will end on April 19, 1973. Failure to remit contributions with the corresponding collection list on or before April 19 will subject the delinquent employer to payment of the three per cent penalty per month. The employer shall also be liable to criminal prosecution under Sec. 28 of the SSS law.

CIVIL SERVICE Commissioner Epi Rey Pangramuyen warned the public anew against unscrupulous persons out to make money on civil service exams after receiving reports that some people have been offering assistance for a fee to applicant for re-rating in the career service, second grade, and teacher examinations. He said that the application period for re-rating in these examinations ended last Dec. 29, 1972. The CSC has stopped accepting applications for re-rating in any examination given previously, the commissioner explained.

March 8—

SECRETARY OF INFORMATION Francisco S. Tatad said that the reforms implemented since the imposition of Martial Law five months ago have accomplished meaningful changes under the New Society and welded the people together in making a brighter and better tomorrow. The DPI secretary stressed that the “social child” born five months ago under the New Society “is now on its feet standing strong” compared to a five-month old infant which is still crawling in its crib. Mr. Tatad reviewed the events that transpired since the birth of Martial Law and what could be expected under the administration of the President, in an extemporaneous speech before the Makati Rotary Club West during the club’s regular luncheon-meeting at the Hotel Inter-Continental. He pointed out that the discipline is now evident among the people as they obey traffic rules, wait at bus stops, line up in cinema houses. Drivers are more courteous and careful and have developed the habit of parking their vehicles at the proper parking areas, it was added. Mr. Tatad likewise noted increased and better respect for the law with government officials and employee showing more decency and civility in dealing with the public. He expressed optimism that a more relaxed policy may be forthcoming in connection with, the ban against travel abroad. Mr. Tatad likewise said that foreign investors have been assured of protection in the immediate repatriation: of their profit from their investments here.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE approved new increased tobacco inspection fees and enumerated the kind of articles subject to such fees. The new fees were fixed in revenue regulations recommended by the Bureau of Internal Revenue Code, as amended by Presidential Decree No. 69. The new fees, taking effect on Jan. 1, 1973, are: P0.50 for each 1,000 cigars or fraction thereof; P0.10 for each 1,000 cigarettes or fraction thereof; P0.02 for each kilogram of leaf tobacco or fraction thereof. The amount of F0.08 for each kilogram or fraction thereof of scraps, include stems, stripped tobacco, threshed tobacco, sweepings, siftings, snuff, smoking, chewing, and other manufactured products of tobacco, tobacco powder or dust or other waste removed for agricultural, industrial or research purpose.

Those required to pay the tobacco inspection fees are manufacturers, producers, exporters, importers, redriers, whole sale tobacco: dealers or owners or possessor of cigars, cigarettes, leaf tobacco, scraps and all other products and by-products of tobacco. The inspection fees are to be paid 10 days after the removal of tobacco from their respective factories for domestic sale.

NATIONAL GRAINS Authority has announced that it is ready to accept applications for registration and licenses from all persons, natural or juridical, engaged in the business of rice, corn and other cereals. All persons engaged :n the storing, milling, warehousing, retailing, wholesaling, and processing of cereals must register and secure a license to operate, as provided by Presidential Decree No. 4 or the NGA Act to avoid any disruption of their normal business activities. The NGA previously extended up to March 31 of the current year the validity of registration certificates and licenses issued by the Rice arid Corn Board and Bureau of Commerce. Failure to register and secure a valid license to engage in, the grains business will subject the offender to the penal provisions of the NGA Act.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: March 9-15, 1973

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

March 9—

THE PRESIDENT welcomed the plan of the Bank of America to expand its investments in the Philippines and assured an official of the bank who called on him that the policy of attracting foreign investments to the Philippines will continue under the New Society. In receiving C. Van Vlierden, executive vice president of the Bank of America, the President said the bank has been a very vital factor in the development of the country and that it is welcome to continue doing so. Mr. Vlierden informed the President that the bank is planning to participate actively in the development of the country by either incorporating locally, increasing its capital, or merging with European, Japanese or Filipino development banks. Mr. Vlierden also said that compared to Hongkong and Singapore which he had also visited, the Philippines has the lowest cost of living. But the most important thing, according to him, is the fact that the Philippines has very rich manpower and natural resources which are vital to development. The President and Mr. Vlierden also agreed that the Philippines should now conduct a more aggressive and persistent campaign to gain recognition in the European Common Market countries in order to diversify its financial and trade relations.

ALFREDO MONTELIBANO, chairman of the Philippine Sugar Committee Inc., has endorsed a proposal for a public accounting of the P30 million amelioration fund generated annually by the sugar industry to benefit its workers. The proposal, drawn up by the Sugar Workers' Conference in Bacolod City, was announced recently by conference chairman Prudencio Jalandoni, president of the "Lakas ng Manggagawang Filipino." The P30 million amelioration fund, set up by the President in 1968, funnels P1 per picul of sugar produced by the industry to the workers in forms of bonuses to supplement housing, educational and medical benefits already extended to workers in some sugar areas. The PSCI chairman specifically endorsed the proposed participation of the sugar workers in the disbursement of the fund for the financing of cooperatives, the establishment of free vocational and technical schools and free clinics and the granting of scholarships. The formation of the Sugar Workers' Welfare Fund Council was also suggested.

REPRESENTATIVES of multi-national corporations shall be free to enter and leave the country without following the usual procedure and requirements whereby after 59 days they leave and renew their visas. The policy was contained in instructions directed to the Commission on Immigration and Deportation in connection with the government's desire to attract foreign investors to help in the development and improvement of the national economy. Under the relaxed policy, representatives of foreign investors and capitalists will be granted special non-immigrant status that will enable them to stay longer than 59 days in the country to attend to their business transaction. The new policy will do away with the usual fingerprinting, clearances and cash bonds required in the past.

ALL TAXPAYERS concerned were urged to avail of the benefits afforded by Presidential Decree No. 23, as amended by Presidential Decree No. 67. The appeal was made by Bureau of Internal Revenue Deputy Commissioner Conrado P. Diaz before a seminar on tax amnesty in Olongapo City. Presidential Decree No. 23, as amended by Presidential Decree No. 67, imposes a tax of 10 per cent on all previously untaxed income or wealth if declared or reported with the BIR on or before March 31, 1973. Diaz cited the following benefits to taxpayers who avail themselves of the tax amnesty on previously untaxed income or wealth: 1) The books of accounts from 1971 down shall be considered closed by the BIR; 2) Peace of mind forever; 3) No more obligation from any and all taxes from 1971 down; 4) No more verification of investigation of income tax returns from 1971 down; 5) The secrecy of the declaration under the tax amnesty decree shall be inviolable and guaranteed; 6) The declaration under the tax amnesty cannot be used for or against the taxpayer in any forum or court of justice where he is a respondent or a defendant. Mr. Diaz warned that all taxpayers who fail to avail themselves of the provisions of the tax amnesty will face the full force of the law and suffer the penalties for tax evasion.

BRIG. GEN. Fidel V. Ramos, PC chief, and Director Jolly Bugarin of the National Bureau of Investigation, prescribed the joint rules and regulations for the implementation of Presidential Decree No. 140 dated March 2,

1572, calling for the registration of all reproducing, copying, duplicating, and facsimile machines or equipment. In a joint memorandum, the PC chief and the NBI director said owners and possessors of these machines in the Greater Manila area shall register the same with any of the following offices: the PC-Metrocom, PC Civil Relation Office at Camp Crame and the NBI in Manila. Those in the provinces shall register with their respective PC commands or the local offices of the NBI. Covered by new decree are any machine or equipment operated manually, electrically or electronically which is capable of reproducing, copying, duplicating or facsimiling printed documents or materials, including but not limited to, the commonly known xerox machines, thermopax machines, blue printing machines, photostat machines, printing machines, or mimeographing machines of any type, make or model. Deadline for the registration of all duplicating equipment is on March 18 after which all unregistered machines shall be seized and confiscated by the PC or NBI in accordance with Department Order No. 740 of the secretary of National Defense dated Jan. 21, 1973.

ALL MEDICARE beneficiaries are entitled to the same basic benefits rendered by service beds and hospital staff physicians without additional charges. The Philippine Medical Care Commission reiterated this policy which requires all government and privately owned hospitals and their staff physicians to charge only the medicare rates for services rendered to medicare patients. The basic benefits mentioned as provided by the Medicare Law (RA 6111) include a 45-day hospital confinement a year at M2 a day for room and board (or a maximum of P540); a P150 maximum for medicines, laboratory examinations, X-ray and operating room fee; surgical expense benefits of F-50 for minor operations, F150 for medium operations and P350 for major operations; and a P100 maximum doctor's fee at P5 a day for general practitioners and P10 a day for specialists. The PMCC, however, clarified that any medicare beneficiary will be charged for additional expenses if he would occupy more expensive accommodation.

March 10—

MALACANANG announced that the President has signed Presidential Decree 145, amending "The Local Autonomy Act" in order to insure the sound and lawful exercise, of the local taxing power Presidential Decree 145 amends the penultimate and last paragraphs of" Section 2 of Republic Act No. 2264, otherwise known as "The Local Autonomy Act." Under Sec. 2 of Republic Act 2264, the secretary of finance is authorized to suspend the effectivity of any local tax ordinance within 120 days after its passage if the tax or fee therein levied is "unjust, excessive, oppressive or confiscatory. However, due to certain defects and ambiguities in the existing law, the authority of the secretary of finance cannot be effectively carried out. Under the amendment, a tax ordinance shall go into effect on the 15th day after its passage. The secretary of finance shall have the authority to suspend the effectivity of any ordinance within 120 days after receipt of a copy if he believes that the tax or fee therein levied is unjust, excessive, oppressive or confiscatory or when it is contrary to declared national economic policy. The secretary of finance can suspend, either in part or as a whole, such ordinance for a period of 30 days within which period the local legislative body may either modify that tax ordinance to meet the objections or file an appeal with a court of competent jurisdiction. If the local legislative body does not make the necessary corrections or file an appeal with the court, the tax ordinance or parts thereof shall be considered revoked. A formal protest may be filed within 120 days after the passage of that tax ordinance provided the secretary of finance shall have 60 days, after receipt of the protest, to decide the protest. If the decision of the secretary of finance suspends in part or in full the tax ordinance protested, the local legislative body may either modify the ordinance in accordance with the decision of the secretary or exercise the right to appeal to the court within 30 days, otherwise the secretary's decision becomes final.

THE PHILIPPINES and Yugoslavia have signed an agreement to abolish non-immigrant visa requirements for nationals of both countries, the Department of Foreign Affairs announced. Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo and Yugoslavia Ambassador Jose Smole, the nonresident Yugoslavian envoy to the Philippines based in Tokyo, signed the agreement, the first to be concluded between the Philippines and a socialist country. The agreement which will take effect on April 15, 1973, provides that citizens of the two signatories may enter each other's territory without visa for a stay of not more than 59 days for tourist or business purposes. It further stipulates that either country may refuse the entry or stay of citizens deemed to be undesirable.

THE PRESIDENT said that the soldier under the 'New Society has become not only the guardian of our security and freedom but also a real and effective worker for development and just like the rest of our people, is entitled to a

measure of decency, dignity, and social and economic well-being. The President noted that a majority of the Armed Forces personnel, especially those in the enlisted ranks, retire homeless notwithstanding the fact that they have served their maximum years in the military. The President's speech was read by Maj. Gen. Gaudencio Tobias (ret.) general manager of the National Housing Corporation, at the turn-over ceremony of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Mutual Benefit Association housing project at Barrio Butatan, Muntinlupa, Rizal, with an area of 56 hectares. There are similar housing project sites in Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija; and Cabuyao, Laguna, which are now in the process of development. The AFP further envisions the establishment of at least one housing community in each of the army brigade headquarters, PC zone, air force bases and naval stations throughout the country.

THE PRESIDENT approved the merger of the three competing local airlines to improve the efficiency and service of a deteriorating industry which is very vital to the development of the national economy. The decision to merge was prompted by a thorough study of the financial situation of the Philippine Airlines, Filipinas Orient Airways, and Air Manila Inc. Aside from their loan obligations with the government institutions, the government itself has equity holdings amounting to 21 per cent, of PAL stocks and 17 per cent of that of FOA. The government has also P226.6 million collectibles from the three airlines. The merger of the local airlines, according to Secretary of Information Francisco S. Tatad, was ordered in view of the fact that all three firms are losing, with the government as investor in these companies, being the biggest loser.

DEPARTMENT OF Education and Culture has ordered special committee to facilitate the processing of application papers filed by schools and civic organizations desiring DEC accreditation of their civic action activities. It was pointed out that student participation in duly accredited civic activities is now a requirement for graduation as per Department Order No. 53, S. 1972. The following activities may be given accreditation by the DEC: 1) Summer workcamps, sponsored by public or private schools with activities along the lines of technical-vocational training like animal husbandry, productive farming and fishing, reforestation, etc; and social orientation like adult and community education, family planning, household management, cooperatives, etc; 2) Civic projects similar to the ones mentioned in No. 1, initiated by local social action groups, sectarian or non-sectarian; 3) Summer workcamps sponsored by the DEC's National Youth Volunteer Coordinating Center for National Development, for graduating students.

March 11—

THE PRESIDENT has promulgated Presidential Decree No. 146 upgrading the quality of education in the Philippines by requiring all high school graduates seeking admission to post-secondary degree programs necessitating a minimum of four years' study to pass a national entrance examination. In a related development the President directed the secretary of education and culture to suspend action on any petition for increases in tuition and other school fees in private schools, colleges, and universities until further notice in view of relevant studies being conducted on the state of private education in the country. The entrance examination was issued under Presidential Decree No. 6-A, which declares it a policy of the state to maintain the highest quality of education for purposes of national development. The decree provides that full implementation of the program should be made effective for freshmen of the school year 1974-1975.

THE PRESIDENT called on members of the economic community to cooperate with the government in its effort to disperse credit over a wider area and channel it to projects geared to national goals. Toward this end, he said, financial reforms had been instituted under the new order not only to make credit control a more effective weapon in maintaining stability but also to streamline the structure and operations of the credit system to make it more responsive to the demands of development. The President expressed his views in a speech read for him by Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata at the 1973 National Credit Congress sponsored by the Management Association of the Philippines in Makati. By now, he said, the direction of government action in this was quite clear: to provide adequate credit facilities over a wider area instill discipline in the use of credit and ensure the productive and economic use of credit resources, and to shape a more efficient and stronger mechanism for mobilizing capital resources.

DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL Government and Community Development announced the completion of 840 community projects worth P986,027.90 in nine Central Luzon provinces during the six-month period of Martial Law. The DLGCD said 158 of the finished projects were done under the grants-in-aid program of the Presidential

Assistance on Community Development. The rest were self-help projects costing P470,571.90 of which P427,999.90 was contributed by barrio folk in the form of materials, like sand, gravel and lumber. The provincial and municipal governments in the nine provinces concerned contributed a total of P42,552. These provinces include Pampanga, Bataan, Tarlac, Bulacan, Zambales, Nueva Ecija and Aurora.

NATIONAL GRAINS Authority assured the public of enough buffer stock of rice ready for distribution throughout the country with the continuous arrival of imported rice contracted from Japan last year to augment locally procured and previously imported stocks now stored in various NGA warehouses. The government cereal agency has recently concluded a contract for the purchase of additional rice from suppliers abroad, the arrival of which will start next month to supplement domestic consumption requirements. Not only this but harvests are now going on in different provinces like Cagayan Valley, Bicol region, Leyte and Panay Island and some parts of Mindanao. At present rice shipment from Japan totalling 8,800 metric tons are being unloaded at the ports of Tabaco in Albay and General Santos in Cotabato. Another vessel carrying a load of 4,000 metric tons of rice is expected to arrive this month at Poro Point, San Fernando, La Union.

DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL Government and Community Development has issued a circular to provincial governors and city mayors prohibiting lavish or extravagant display in local activities, including agro-industrial fairs, conferences, seminars and fiestas. DLGCD memorandum circular No. 73-6, which specifically enjoins local officials to avoid and prevent ostentatious display of wealth and extravagance, including lavish town fiestas or social gatherings, stresses the need for austerity and simplicity as basic guidelines for all local activities. DLGCD Secretary Jose Roño also reiterated strict compliance to General Order No. 15 insofar as celebrations of town fiestas are concerned. The DLGCD was ordered to call the attention of local officials to cease in the old society practice of seeking privileges, power and favors, and instead dedicate themselves to developing their respective communities.

A TOTAL OF 392 persons have applied for amnesty under Presidential Decrees 95 and 124, the Philippine Constabulary judge advocate general's office reported. Brig. Gen. Fidel Ramos, PC chief, was informed by Col. Hamilton Dimaya, PC JAGO chief, that 240 persons have applied for amnesty under Presidential Decree 95, and 152 others under Presidential Decree No. 124. The deadline for the filing of applications for amnesty under Presidential Decree No. 95 expired last Feb. 28, while the deadline under Presidential Decree 124 is March 15, 1973.

March 12—

THE PRESIDENT lauded the people of Caloocan City for setting an example on how the citizens can help in the efforts to attain progress and do their share in nation-building. In a message read for him by Secretary of Trade and Tourism Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. on the occasion of the opening of the Caloocan City agro-industrial trade fair, the President said that the success of the New Society and the reforms being done will depend greatly on the willingness of the people to do their share. The President said: "We are at the cross road of our history as a nation and it is but fitting that we realize that progress can only be attained by helping build, not destroy; by pointing out the good inherent in every man, not by criticizing; by offering our best in the service of our nation."

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY Alejandro Melchor has formed a Public Information Unit to attend to and act on problems of the under-privileged and to bridge the gap of communications between the citizens and the government. The PIU, aside from, handling matters within the scope of the Executive Office, also deals with complaints arising from the misuse of power by government officials in implementing the President's Letters of Instructions Nos. 14 and 14-A.

DEPARTMENT OF Social Welfare has instituted two crash assistance programs, the General Assistance (GA) program and the Aid to Families in Economic Distress (AFED) program. While the GA gives assistance to remedy immediate needs, the AFED not only provides money enough for immediate needs, but also, capital to establish small businesses.

RULES AND PROCEDURES on merger or consolidation of insurance companies were approved by Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata. The consolidation or merger domestic insurance firms is provided for in Sec. 175 Of the

Insurance Act as amended by Presidential Decree No. 83. The Insurance Circular setting the rules for consolidation or merger of Insurance firms takes effect immediately.

March 13—

BRIG. GEN. Fortunate U. Abat, chief of the Central Mindanao Command (CEMCQM), announced that the situation in Cotabato is “quite well in hand” and that operations, to stabilize effective government control over the entire province were proceeding “satisfactorily.” At a briefing held at PC Hill, headquarters of the CEMCOM in Cotabato City, Gen. Abat, who had been flown from Cebu to take over-all command of the operations, said government troopers were up against several thousand well-armed insurgents. The rebels, who appeared to have received military training, are made up of secessionist Muslims and Christians identified with Maoist-oriented organizations, principally factions of the Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas and the Kabataang Makabayan, Secessionist Muslims and certain factions of the PKP and KM appeared to have entered into a temporary alliance to achieve a common objective; the overthrow of the government. It was also noted that the insurgents appeared to have a foreign assistance. It was based from the modern weapons captured by the troopers. Field commanders often hear foreign language: communications coming in their radio frequencies. But the nationality, of the foreign language is yet to be determined and a foreign adviser has yet to be captured.

PHILIPPINE exports last month registered a total of \$120,791,088.75 indicating a favorable trade balance for the country this year. The country’s exports last February totalled \$22,083,945.36 or 22.4 per cent higher than the export value receipts for February last year and \$12,383,-383.70 better than last January’s total of \$108,460,705.75, according to Customs Commissioner Rolando Geotina, who released the export figures. Total exports for the months of January and February have reached \$229,251,793.80 while government collection or wharfage dues alone is P2,674,607.36. The bulk of the registered value came from provincial export loadings with \$103,485,063.48; followed by Manila with \$12,546,800.57 and by the Board of Investments certified exports with \$4,753,224.70.

BRIG. GEN. Fidel V. Ramos, PC chief, issued an order prohibiting all military personnel from displaying their firearms while in civilian attire. The PC chief’s order was spurred by reports that some military personnel are flagrantly displaying their firearms while in civilian attire. He said that regardless of whether these military personnel are on actual mission or not, there is no valid reason for carrying their firearms in indiscreet manner. This malpractice has served not only as bad example to good civilians but also constitutes a violation of General Order No. 7 if the military personnel concerned is not in actual performance of official duties, Gen. Ramos said. Gen. Ramos held all unit commanders responsible in seeing to it that all military personnel under them comply with this order.

GROUP of Japanese businessmen is coming to Manila to team up with a Filipino company and engage in a deep sea fishing and eel culture, it was learned from the Commission on Immigration and Deportation. The one-week stay in Manila of the Japanese businessmen, scheduled to arrive on March 20, had been approved by the immigration commission. The visiting Japanese businessmen are Senator Saburo Oca, chairman of the Board of Daisho Bussan Co. Ltd. of Yokohama; H. Matsumura and Kyuji Iura, president and managing director of the same trading company; Mitsuyoshi Gohara, managing director of the Gadeco Schlage Co., Ltd. of Tokyo; and U. Namada, executive director of the Japan Eel Culture Association of Kochi City. Eel culture is a capital-intensive and long-range venture but highly profit-oriented and its introduction will redound to the economic benefit of the country through the long-range capital outlay and the know-how which foreign experts would impart to local groups.

March 14—

THE PRESIDENT and the respective managements of the country’s three airline companies agreed that in the interest of the public and for the security of the country, only one airline should operate the international and domestic nights. At a meeting presided over by the President in Malacañang and attended by representatives of all government agencies involved in their operations and the three airline companies, the President ordered that until a definite decision is forged on April 1, the three airlines—Philippine Airlines, Filipinas Orient Airways and Air Manila—will continue operating as usual. The President asked the airlines officials to submit their proposal to Secretary of Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, who is currently the chairman of the board of the Philippine National Bank

to which the FOA and the AMI are heavily indebted. The President also; directed the PNB and the NIDC to continue giving the FOA and the AMI financial support for their continuous operations on condition that whatever income they make will be put in special account for the liquidation of their obligations. He said that the government is determined to improve public service and preserve the security of the country.

THE PRESIDENT promulgated Presidential Decree No. 150, amending Republic Act No. 4860 (Foreign Borrowing Act), authorizing the President in behalf of the Republic, to contract foreign loans and credits, including supplier's credit and deferred payment arrangements. The new decree also empowers the President to enter into and conclude bilateral agreements involving other forms of official assistance, with governments of foreign countries with whom the Philippines has diplomatic or trade relations or which are members of the United Nations, or with reputable international organizations or non-governmental national or international lending institutions, or firms extending supplier's credit or deferred arrangements. Under these contracts, the government is authorized to undertake—through any government office, agency or instrumentality, or government-owned or controlled corporations—industrial agricultural or other economic and social development projects which may from time to time be recommended by the National Economic and Development Authority and approved by the President.

THE PRESIDENT promulgated Presidential Decree No. 148 imposing a tax of 15 per cent on interest on foreign loans. The decree amends Section 24(b) (1) and 53(b) and (2) of the National Internal Revenue Code. The President also promulgated Presidential Decree No. 149 amending Sections 137 (b) and 156, Title IV, of the National Internal Revenue Code by specifying tax rates on cigars and cigarettes. Under Presidential Decree No. 148 the government will impose a 15 per cent tax on interest on foreign loans. It states that in order to attract loans from foreign countries, an appropriate tax on their income should be levied on interest earned and remitted abroad. Presidents Decree No. 149, on the other hand, amends a section of the National Internal Revenue Code pertaining to specific taxes on cigar and cigarettes. Promulgation of P.D. No. 149 was prompted by a study which showed that the rising cost of cigar and cigarette production leaves the manufacturers no more leeway for any future price adjustments in selling prices. The study also showed that the maximum amount of manufacturers and importers bond provided for under Section 156 of the NIRC has been found to be too numerous and cumbersome on the part of the taxpayers concerned.

BUREAU OF INTERNAL Revenue said that income tax returns filed on or before April 16 this year will not be covered by the revenue code amendments contained in Presidential Decree No. 69 since only incomes earned in 1972 will be declared. The BIR issued the clarification after the approval of Revenue Memorandum Circular No. 2-73 containing the amendments provided for under Presidential Decree No. 69. The circular provides that only the provision imposing a graduated tax on the gross income of Filipinos residing abroad has become effective as of Jan. 1, 1972. The circular, approved by Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata, directed all BIR officials and fieldmen to conduct a systematic information campaign to assist income tax filers in the filing of their income tax returns to avoid any misunderstanding on the part of the taxpayers in the applicable provisions of Presidential Decree No. 69.

PHILIPPINE MEDICAL Care Commission (PMCC) advised all government hospitals to submit immediately their respective programs of expenditures of their income from medicare. Programs of expenditures are to be approved by the PMCC before they take effect to provide for upgrading and expansion of the facilities, maintenance, and operation of the government hospitals. Under Republic Act No. 6111, otherwise known as the Philippine Medical Care Act of 1969, the income of a government hospital from medicare is to be constituted into a revolving fund for the upgrading and expansion of its facilities and for the maintenance and operations subject to the approval of the Department of Health. In compliance with the directive, the PMCC has issued the following guidelines for government hospitals: 1) Deposit the earnings from medicare in interest-bearing government depository banks doing business in the Philippines, preferably in the Philippine National Bank or in any of its branches or agencies; 2) Formulate plans and programs for the upgrading and expansion of their facilities and for other necessary improvements; and 3) Submit to the PMCC for approval these plans and programs.

THE PRESIDENT conferred the ancient order of Sikatuna, rank of datu, on former Senate President Protempore Camilo Osias, in grateful appreciation for his "long and substantive service to the nation, particularly his lasting contribution to the educational system." The awardee, who will celebrate his 84th birthday anniversary on March 23, was almost choked with emotion when he accepted the decoration before a large crowd composed of high government officials, close friends and admirers, at the Malacañang Reception Hall. The President described Mr.

Osias as one of the pillars of the Philippine independence movement who, together with the late President Quezon, President Osmeña, President Roxas and Senator Recto, worked for political independence and later served his government faithfully. The President recalled that Mr. Osias was the first Filipino superintendent of schools, the first Filipino scholar to the United States when he was only 16 years old, the first director of public schools, the first secretary of education, and resident commissioner to Washington. The President said that the granting of the award to Mr. Osias was necessary "to manifest and demonstrate our gratitude to those who suffered and sacrificed in the name of the Republic.

THE PHILIPPINES shipped to Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) 18,000 long tons of copra valued at \$4.5 million. The copra export approved by the Department of Trade and Tourism, was the biggest export to Soviet Russia since the Philippines started commercial and industrial relations with communist and socialist bloc countries. The bulk of Philippine exports to socialist and communist countries consist of Portland cement, plywood and veneer, crude coconut oil in bulk, desicated coconut, copra and woodenware.

March 15—

THE PRESIDENT assured the people engaged in local oil exploration ventures of extraordinary and more than usual protection and support from the government. He made the assurance after inducting the officers of the Petroleum Association of the Philippines in Malacañang. The President reminded the PAP officers of the government's policy to encourage oil exploration as shown by the approval of various proposals for oil exploration submitted by both local and foreign oil companies. He also informed the oil officials that he had already endorsed for study the association's request for the amendment of the Presidential decree on oil explorations to the secretary of agriculture and natural resources and the director of mines. Inducted were: Mario S. Nieto, president; Luis Guerrero, vice president; Edgar Khrohn, treasurer; Oscar C. de Venecia, chairman; and Exequiel Toeg, Oliveros Liperla, Jose Andrada, Romeo Villonco, Carmelo T. Sison and Vicente Serrano, directors.

THE PRESIDENT has promulgated Decree No. 151 allowing Filipino citizens or corporations and associations whose capital is at least 60 per cent owned by Filipinos to enter into service contracts with foreign persons and corporations for the exploration, development, exploitation or utilization of lands of the public domain. The service contracts refer to financial, technical, management or other forms of assistance, with any foreign persons or entity when such contracts are vital to achieve sound and more expeditious exploration, development, exploitation or utilization of such lands owned, held or controlled by the Filipino citizens or corporations. For purposes of the decree, a service contract with a foreign, citizen' or entity shall be considered vital to the national interest if, consistent with the requirements for national security, the exploitation, exploration or utilization of land subject thereof is necessary for carrying out agricultural, industrial and commercial development projects.

SECRETARY OF FINANCE Cesar E. A. Virata announced that the government has collected over P50 million from taxpayers who availed of the tax amnesty benefits. He reminded taxpayers that the deadline for declaring previously untaxed income or wealth is April 2, 1973. The P50 million so far collected through four presidential decrees granting tax amnesty were paid by some 16,000 taxpayers. The secretary warned that after the tax amnesty period the government will flush out all tax evaders and apply the full force of the law against them Topping the collections were those from previously untaxed motor vehicles which amounted to P19,429,295.50 collected from 4,111 motor vehicles Some P12 million has been collected so far from about 1,000 taxpayers who voluntarily reported their previously untaxed income or wealth as provided for under Presidential Decree No. 67.

MALACAÑANG has issued Presidential Decree No. 147 authorizing the commissioner of public highways to dispose of all unserviceable equipment arid property of the Bureau of Public Highways while some parts or assembly of such equipment or properties are still usable and of value. The decree amending Executive Order No. 37, series of 1954, and Executive Order No. 290, series of 1958, was promulgated in view of the existence of considerable quantity of unserviceable equipment and property of the bureau in its field offices throughout the country. A committee was created to effect the speedy disposal of all unserviceable equipment and property of the BPH. It is composed of the representative of the BPH, as chairman, and representatives of the Bureau of Supply Coordination and Department of Public Works, Transportation and Communications, as members.

CULTURAL CENTER of the Philippines has announced a nationwide march/hymn contest under the auspices of the First Lady. The contest is in two categories: a march and hymn for band/orchestra and chorus. The lyrics must be in Filipino and the music should be expressive of the ideals and goals of the New Society. A prize of P5,000 each will be awarded to the best entry in each category, for both music and lyric. All entries must be submitted to the Cultural Center of the Philippines, Roxas Blvd., Manila. The deadline for the submission of entries shall be 12 noon on Friday, May 10, 1973.

THE PRESIDENT has proclaimed some 1,590 hectares of public land in Guadalupe, Agusan del Sur, as a Manobo civil reservation to protect the minority group from encroachment by other settlers. The area is bounded by the Agusan del Sur municipalities of Simamagat and Guadalupe, the Davao-Agusan national road, the Bayugan and Labao rivers and the Tagminiang creek. The presidential proclamation would benefit the Manobo tribes scattered all over the affected area.

BUREAU OF CUSTOMS registered a total collection amounting to P171,291,403 which was P34 million or 25 per cent more than last year's February total. Customs Commissioner Rolando Geotina reported. Last month's collection boosted to P133 million the increase in collection from July to February this year as compared with the same period in the previous fiscal year, based on comparative gross general fund receipts. The bureau collected P1,242,133,599 from July 1972 to February 1973, which was 11.9 per cent more than the P1,109,128,688 collection from July 1971 to February 1972. The customs commissioner said that the volume of imported cargo dropped last month in the port of Manila due to the reduction in crude oil imports by 22.7 per cent and bulk wheat by 40.4 per cent. Manila, like four other ports, chalked an increased collection of P9.414 million or 3.8 per cent over that of February last year. The Manila port was credited with 80 to 85 per cent increase in the customs' overall collections.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: March 16-22, 1973

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

March 16—

THE PRESIDENT has promulgated Decree No. 152 prohibiting the employment of the use of share tenants in complying with the requirements of the law regarding entry, occupation, improvement and cultivation of public lands under the provisions of Commonwealth Act No. 141 (the Public Land Act). The decree was issued following reports that applicants for, or holders of, lands of the public domain do not occupy and cultivate the lands themselves but have resorted to the pernicious practice of employing or using tenants for the purpose of complying with the entry, occupation and cultivation requirements of the Public Act. The decree provides that it shall be an essential condition in every application for, or grant of, agricultural lands of the public domain, under the Public Land Act, that the applicant or his transferee shall enter the work upon, improve and cultivate the land himself within the period prescribed for the various modes of concession under the said Act. The employment of the use of share tenants in whatever form for the purpose of complying with the requirements of the Public Land Act is prohibited and any violation hereof shall constitute a ground for the denial of the application, cancellation of the grant and forfeiture of improvements on the land, in favor of the government.

JUSTICE SECRETARY Vicente Abad Santos stated that there is no provision in Republic Act. No. 2056 or in the Letter of Instruction No. 19 from which may be inferred that the removal or demolition of a prohibited construction would extinguish or remove the criminal liability of those responsible for the illegal construction. He issued the legal opinion in reply to a request from the Department of Public Works, Transportation and Communications on whether it can still criminally prosecute a person under Sec. 3 of RA No. 2056, after his illegal construction on esteros and river banks have been ordered demolished pursuant to Letter of Instruction No. 19, dated October 2, 1972, of the President. He stated that he is not aware of any law or legal principle supporting the proposition that the criminal liability of the persons responsible for the illegal construction is extinguished after the demolition or removal of such illegal construction. He added that remedies against public nuisances, like these illegal construction in question, namely, criminal prosecution, civil action or abatement, are cumulative and do not exclude one another.

THE PRESIDENT conferred the ancient Order of Sikatuna, rank of datu, on Dr. Goh Keng Swee, defense minister of Singapore, for "outstanding achievements" in the enhancement of close and friendly relations between his country and the Philippines. Before a large gathering of high government officials, RM awardees and members of the Ramon Magsaysay Foundation board of trustees, the President described Dr. Goh as a man who has gained distinction in Asia and the world not only through his counter-insurgency lectures but also through his courage and ingenuity in breaking the communist threat in his country. The awardee was also cited for being largely responsible in the orderly and systematic development of the various projects in Singapore which have made the city-state a model and source of pride for many countries in Asia today. The President said that through his dedicated efforts, Dr. Goh has helped strengthen friendship and enhance understanding between his country and the Philippines through an exchange of know-how in economic, education, social services, and defense planning.

SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION has ruled that as of March 7, 1973, Social Security System sickness allowances shall be paid to the employees entitled thereto only after their company sick leave (with full pay) shall have been exhausted. SSS Resolution No. 203, dated March 7, 1973, supersedes paragraph (d) 2 of SSS Circular No. 91-T which provided that any current company sick leave pay paid to the employee during his confinement shall form part of the employee's sickness benefit and the employer shall be reimbursed by the SSS to the extent of such payment not exceeding the sickness benefit allowed under the circular. In view of the recent SSS resolution on the payment of sickness benefit, SSS sickness allowances shall be paid to qualified member-employees only after their company sick leave with full pay shall have been exhausted.

March 17—

THE PRESIDENT promulgated two presidential decrees aimed at providing delinquent taxpayers all the liberalization and the facilities to enable them to settle their obligations with the government voluntarily and without

suffering the penalties imposed on tax evasion. Presidential Decree No. 156 was issued by the President to encourage self-declaration of hidden or untaxed wealth and acquisitions up to last year. Presidential Decree No. 157 was issued providing amnesty for unrecorded or undeclared acquisitions made in 1972. To guarantee the confidential nature of the taxes paid under these decrees, the President issued Letter of Instruction No. 65, directing all heads of departments, bureaus, agencies and instrumentalities of the government, to observe the secrecy of the taxpayers' declarations made pursuant to the decree and to hold them "forever inviolate."

THE PRESIDENT issued the following message on tax amnesty on unexplained wealth: "The period for tax amnesty will expire on March 31, 1973. One who avails of this amnesty by making a voluntary disclosure of any previously untaxed income and/or wealth and pays the 10 per cent tax due thereon will be relieved of all civil, criminal, or administrative liabilities arising from or incident to such disclosure. I assure you that all such statements or disclosures, as well as the payment of the amnesty tax, will be held in strictest confidence and shall forever be kept inviolate. They cannot be the subject of any inquiry, examination, and verification nor could they be used as evidence against, or to the prejudice of, any declarant in any proceeding before any court of law or body, whether judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative, in which he is a defendant or respondent. Let this be the solemn covenant between the taxpayers and the State, upon which I ask the people to entrust their confidence in the integrity of the government's commitment."

SECRETARY OF PUBLIC Information Francisco S. Tatad called on the Filipino Boy Scouts to bring the message of national discipline to the remotest areas of the country to the end that discipline would become a way of life for all our people. The DPI secretary made this appeal at the grand opening of the third regional boy scout jamborette in the Bicol region which opened in Legazpi City with about 6,000 boy scouts from the region attending. National discipline, Mr. Tatad said, is the key to the transformation of the nation. The DPI secretary took account of the fact that all over the country, national discipline was gradually taking root, and that "among the humblest of our people, there is now a growing of pride in what they are, in what they can do, in what they can become."

THE PRESIDENT made a short flying trip to Mindanao and Sulu to make an on-the-spot survey of the area where government forces had to turn back Maoist-led attacks on government outposts during the past few days. The President found the situation in Cotabato, Basilan, Zamboanga del Sur and Zamboanga del Norte to be under control. Insurgency has practically been crushed, and the insurgents are on the run, the President noted. He also noted the morale of the government troops and the Muslim and Christian civilian population in these areas to be "extremely high."

March 18—

THE PRESIDENT promulgated Presidential Decree No. 158 extending to April 15, 1973, the deadline for the filing of applications for amnesty to all persons covered by Presidential Decree Nos. 95 and 124. The decree states that in view of the limited period within which to disseminate fully the details of the said presidential decrees (Nos. 95 and 124), especially in the remote areas of the country, many of those who could have availed themselves of the benefits of amnesty therein proclaimed were unable to file their applications on time. It further notes that reports from the field units of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the feelers from leaders of misguided elements revealed that many have signified their intention to surrender to the military authority and avail of the amnesty in accordance with the said presidential decrees.

BOARD OF TRANSPORTATION and the Land Transportation Commission have issued regulations for the licensing of "colorum" public utility vehicles. The regulations are aimed at legalizing a big number of clandestine public motor vehicles before the deadline on July 17, 1973, in line with the government's policy of "maximum utilization of existing public motor vehicles." The regulations are: 1) The applications will be filed with the LTC agency in whose territory the "colorum" or "kabit" operator operates, where his base of operation is situated, or where the motorized tricycle applicant proposes to operate. 2) The applicant must present the certificates of registration with the corresponding official receipts of payment of registration fees of the motor vehicles for the year 1972 in his name. 3) The applicant will be required to submit an authenticated copy of the PSC decision or order issued to the authorized operator, showing the existence of the line or zone of operation where the "colorum" operator should want to operate. 4) Submission of notarial deed of transfer of the motor vehicles from the authorized operator to the "kabit" operator; and the sketch of the line proposed by the applicant, showing all the streets and

roads traversed by the line. 5) The LTC will assign in chronological order a case number to each of the applications accepted for filing. A filing fee of P30 will be charged by the Board of Transportation.

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT Administration collected over P21.9 million during the first five months and nine days of Martial Law (Sept. 22, 1972 to Feb. 28, 1973), a record it has never achieved before as a credit instrument for land reform. This record collection topped by P4.3 million, or 50.25 per cent, the collection of P8,637,000 during the same period in fiscal year 1971–1972. Administration of the ACA is unique because the credit for production loans is extended without collateral. Poor, often propertyless, farmers are the principal clients and the individual loans are small and therefore risky.

BRIG. GEN. Fidel V. Ramos and Col. Hamilton Dimaya, PC judge advocate and concurrently director for amnesty, reported that a total of 1,550 persons applied for amnesty as of now under Presidential Decrees Nos. 95 and 124. Col Dimaya told Gen. Ramos that 329 persons applied for amnesty under Presidential Decree No. 95, while 1,221 have applied under Presidential Decree No. 124.

March 19—

THE PRESIDENT enjoined all certified public accountants to continue cooperating with the government in the pursuit of prosperity for the people, stressing that accounting services are imperative in the government's programs since these necessarily involve planning, financing and reporting. The President pointed out that the government, as the country's biggest business and largest employer, has been availing itself more and more of the services of the CPAs in its accounting, auditing, budgeting and financial agencies. He said the revitalized scheme of government operations provides for each agency three essential services, which are planning, financial management, and administration. In calling upon the accountants to continue cooperating with the government, the President expressed confidence that the CPAs are in a position to contribute to the realization of the multiphased projects that the government has embarked upon for the well-being of the nation, particularly for the less fortunate among our population.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ruled that benefits under Sec. 699 of the Revised Administrative Code (The Workmen's Compensation Act) and the Medicare Act may be recovered simultaneously and the benefits under anyone or two of them are not deductible from the benefits collectible under the other or others. Justice Secretary Vicente Abad Santos issued the legal opinion in reply to a request from the Department of Public Works, Transportation and Communication, in connection with the claim of Jerimias C. Apolinar of the Apayao Engineering District for reimbursement of his medical expenses under the Workmen's Compensation Act. He explained that the benefits under the Medicare Act constitute medical care expense benefits for any sickness suffered by members of the Social Security System or the Government Service Insurance System payable from the Health Insurance Funds of the SSS or GSIS, as the case may be. The benefits under the Workmen's Compensation Act covers compensation to be paid by the employer to the employee on account of employment-connected injury or illness suffered by such employees while the benefits from Sec. 699 of the Revised Administrative Code refers to "allowances to be paid by the government in case of death or sickness incurred by a government employee in the performance of duty, in consideration of the past services and efficiency."

SECRETARY OF Public Information Francisco S. Tatad asked the country's police forces to use "the force of good example in winning back public confidence and in seeking to establish a reasonably crimeless society." The secretary made these remarks during the opening clay session of a three-day special information seminar sponsored by the Department of Public information for policemen. The seminar is heavily attended by police participants from the Greater Manila Area. In his keynote speech, the chief spokesman of the government said citizen-police cooperation should not be limited to the prevention and solution of crimes, but should extend to the actual effort of trying "to destroy the ecology of crime." The secretary added that "the duty of policeman is to contribute towards the building of a society where the citizenry will have no need to be constantly reminded of the presence of the police because they themselves will be checking themselves to do only what is right and just, by the standards of a good society."

EXECUTIVE OF A Taiwan textile firm have been impressed with the policies adopted by the government to attract foreign investors to the country in the development of the national economy. John Hsu and Paul Hsu, president and legal counsel, respectively, of the Far Eastern Textile Ltd., of Taiwan came over to Manila last week to look over investment possibilities. Mr. John Hsu informed the President during a courtesy call at Malacañang, of his desire to enter into a joint venture with a local firm for the manufacture of men's garments for the American and European markets. The venture will generate \$600,000 in earnings and 1,000 new jobs annually, with the Taiwan firm providing the technical knowhow in the manufacture and marketing of the product.

CIVIL SERVICE Commission's board of examiners for chemists announced that the examination for the practice of chemistry will be given in Manila beginning May 21, 1973. Applicants must file their applications with the office of the Board of Examiners located at P. Paredes-Nicanor Reyes, Sr. streets, Sampaloc, not later than May 11, 1973.

March 20—

THE PRESIDENT has approved the resolution of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) limiting the scope of price control to basic commodities that are consumed by the low-income groups to enable a more effective supervision of price control activities. The NEDA explained that government regulation of prices must not necessarily choke business into an intolerable cost price squeeze. It also said that price fixing is being utilized at present merely as an interim measure. In the long run, prices can only be reduced or maintained at tolerable levels by expanding production and improving the distribution system, it added. The commodities included in the scope of price control are food—rice, corn, wheat flour, some basic cuts of meat (fresh), canned fish, sugar, condensed milk, evaporated milk, infant dietetics and cooking oil; Clothing—ordinary fabrics, fuel and light, kerosene and some oil products; Medicine—antibiotics and some selected drugs and medicines; Household supplies—laundry soap, construction materials, cement, fertilizer and animal feeds.

SECRETARY OF JUSTICE Vicente Abaci Santos suggested to the insurance commissioner the filing of a plea with the proper court—together with the surety firm's motion for approval and acceptance thereof as an amendment to the existing bail bond—to comply with a directive in Letter of Instruction No. 40 which recalls all existing bail bonds. Letter of Instruction No. 40 provides that every bail bond for the provisional release of the accused in every criminal case shall contain a stipulation that the surety firm and the accused agree that, in case the accused jumps bail or fails to appear for trial despite due notice to his bondsman, his absence will be deemed an express waiver of his right to be present. He pointed out that the directive that all existing bail bonds shall be recalled does not require that all such bonds be detached from the "expediente" (records) of the case so that it can be returned to the surety firm for amendment. He said that the existing bail bond shall remain in the records and a new one containing the stipulation in question, with the conformity of the surety firm and the accused, should be filed.

MALACAÑANG released the official text of Presidential Decree No. 154 providing that "no stockbroker using the facilities of any stock exchange shall charge, collect or receive a commission of a more than one per cent of the value of each transaction, whether a purchase or sale, but in no case shall the commission be less than P20 for a transaction." The Securities and Exchange Commission shall have the power to study and adjust from time to time the rate of commission established by the decree to conform with the prevailing conditions when the same is necessary in the public interest, but in no case shall the change of rate be more than once a year. The decree takes effect immediately and modifies or repeals accordingly, any law, executive order, rule or regulation in conflict or contrary to it.

BUREAU OF CUSTOMS issued an ultimatum to delinquent importers, exporters, and shipping companies to settle their accounts within the prescribed deadlines. Shipping companies which have arrears in tonnage, berthing, storage and other fees are given up to May 31, while big time importers and exporters were given up to June 30 to settle delinquent taxes and duties. The bureau warned that those whose schedule of payments are approved but who fail to show "appreciable interest" in paying their accounts will be immediately charged in court. All port collectors were ordered to report progress of all pending seizure and protest cases from which the government is expected to earn more revenues.

THE PRESIDENT has issued Proclamation No. 1122 declaring some 1,590 hectares of public land in Guadalupe, Agusan del Sur, as a Monobo civil reservation, to protect the minority group from encroachments by other settlers. The area—one of the many scenes of conflict between minority groups and Christians—is bounded by the Agusan del Sur municipalities of Simagat and Guadalupe, the Davao–Agusan national road, the Bayuga and Labao rivers and the Tagminiang creek. The presidential proclamation would benefit the Manobo tribes scattered all over the affected area. The reservation is subject to valid private rights existing at the time the proclamation is issued, if any there be, under the administration of the commissioner of National Integration, in accordance with existing laws and regulations.

CIVIL SERVICE examinations for junior and senior stenographers scheduled in Manila on May 6 will also be given in Cebu City and Davao City on the same date, it was announced by the Civil Service Commission. Cebu City and Davao City examinees should file their applications with the local examining committees in those cities not later than April 18. For Manila examinees, applications must be filed with the Civil Service Commission, E. Rodriguez Sr. ave., Quezon City, not later than March 30.

March 21—

MALACANANG issued Memorandum Circular No. 627 clarifying the new schedule of office hours for government offices in the Greater Manila area, on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. The circular provides: 1) There must be a skeletal staff in the offices of the department secretary and bureau director which shall be composed of one key official and two or three staff members who shall attend to urgent official transactions. They shall also monitor and transmit messages or directives coming from higher authorities for implementation or summon the proper officials who shall act on the matter. 2) Whether or not a skeletal staff should be maintained in the subordinate level is left to the sound discretion of the heads of offices bearing in mind the nature and volume of work of their offices and the number of people expected to transact urgent official business. 3) Service on such day need not be eight hours. Some employees may be assigned to the morning shift while others to afternoon duty for which they shall be provided with meal allowances. 4) Full time service rendered on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays may entitle the employees concerned, with off-duty the following working day.

SECURITIES AND Exchange Commission has reported that 1,439 corporations with P360,191,103 in subscribed capital, of which P134,371,420 is paid up, have registered during the first six months of the Martial Law on account of the incentives offered by the government to foreign and local investors. The acceleration of capital investments was first noticed during the last quarter of last year when the SEC recorded a total of P79,669,896 in paid up capital of corporations, representing a P9,715,048 increase over the P69,954,848 paid up registered in the third quarter. The increase of capital investments perked up the stock market. The SEC commissioner said the favorable market reaction was encouraged further by the government policies reducing the stock transfer tax from two per cent to one-fourth of one per cent and the policy allowing repatriation of capital and profit without time restriction on all foreign investments which came to the Philippines after March 15, 1973.

THE PRESIDENT conferred the Presidential Merit Medal on an American citizen who helped train top Filipino executives in management and, posthumously, on two distinguished public servants who died in line of duty. Awarded the Presidential Merit Medal were: Dr. Harry L. Hansen, who served as an extension of the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration in the establishment of management training in the Philippines, the forerunner of the Asian Institute of Management; and, posthumously, the late Director Vicente Valdellon of the Bureau of Lands and the late Director Alejandro B. Deleña of the Bureau of Public Works.

SECRETARY OF Information Francisco S. Tatad said that local and foreign tourists have responded favorably to the administration's program to develop the country into a tourism center under the stable peace and order condition brought about by the imposition of Martial Law. The secretary told members of the Skat Club of the Philippines, in a speech at the Hotel Intercontinental in Makati, that more local tourists are now seeing the Philippines first, driving to mountain resorts and hitherto undeveloped beaches. Among the rich, there is a high rate of buying and development of beach and resort houses in remote places and isolated islands, he added. This has been supplemented by the arrival of foreign tourists including businessmen and nature lovers who had sought and found scenic places in once unexplored and unnoticed areas of the country, the secretary said.

DEPARTMENT OF Finance ordered provincial, city and municipal treasurers to intensify the collection of delinquent realty taxes which amount to P108,401, 209 as of calendar year 1971, even as acting Secretary of Finance Alfredo Pio de Roda also reminded the public that first installment of payment for real property taxes is on March 31. Real property taxes are paid on quarterly basis: Sec. De Roda also directed the provincial, city and municipal assessors to provide assistance to taxpayers who are filing sworn statements of the true value of real properties pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 76. The sworn statements are to be submitted to the assessors on or before June 30, 1973.

DEPARTMENT OF Finance issued the procedures in filing protests against tax ordinances as provided under Presidential Decree No. 145 which amended Republic Act No. 2264, otherwise known as Local Autonomy Act. Presidential Decree No. 145 empowers the secretary of finance to review tax ordinances and to suspend their effectivity if the taxes levied, or imposed are unjust, excessive, confiscatory or contrary to declared national economic policy. Formal protests against tax ordinances enacted by the municipal or district councils must be filed with the respective provincial treasurers while protests against ordinances enacted by city councils and municipal boards must be filed with the respective city treasurers. In both cases, a formal protest may be filed within 120 days after the passage of the tax ordinance provided that the secretary of finance shall have 60 days, after the receipt of the protest, to decide the case. Protests, relying on joint or multiple grounds of illegality and unreasonableness of the rates of imposition or levies, will be administratively resolved by the secretary of finance insofar as the grounds provided under Sec. 2 of RA No. 2264, as amended, are concerned.

BUREAU OF Internal Revenue issued a clarification for the guidance of taxpayers who wish to avail themselves of the tax amnesty grants. The clarification: Presidential Decree No. 23, as amended by Presidential Decree No. 67, refers to untaxed income or wealth as of Dec. 31, 1971 and back years and provides that, upon payment of 10 per cent on such untaxed income, all increments and penalties incident to non-payment as well as all criminal and civil liabilities under the National Internal Revenue Code, the Revised Penal Code, the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act or any other law applicable thereto are condoned. Presidential Decree No. 157 covers the hidden income or wealth for 1972. This decree grants the same immunities afforded taxpayers under Presidential Decree No. 23, as amended. However, the tax to be paid under Presidential Decree No. 157 shall be the amount shown on the return filed or of an amount equal to the income tax paid for the taxable year of 1971 plus 40 per cent thereof, whichever is higher.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH warns against the use of anti-rabies vaccine which could have negative effect on the brain. The department directed its warning to parents since school children would be subject to greater exposure to rabies due to dog bites during the summer vacation. Dr. Jacinto J. Dizon, chief of the Disease Intelligence Center of the Department of Health, bewails the practice of people who immediately try to obtain anti-rabies vaccine for their use without the advice of a doctor, after being bitten by a dog. The safest way, he said, is to consult a doctor or go to the nearest government health center. The common vectors of the rabies in the Philippines are the dogs, cats, pigs, monkeys, bats. In case a dog bites, do the following emergency measures: 1) Wash wound with soap and water. 2) Apply any available antiseptic solution. 3) Observe the dog for 14 days for rabid signs. 4) Consult a doctor, or go to the nearest government health center.

March 22—

THE PRESIDENT announced the adoption by the military of the *kamagong* concept—proven to be very successful in combat operation in Mindanao—as the nucleus of the citizens army envisioned in the new Constitution. The President, in his brief remarks at the 76th anniversary celebration of the Philippine Army at Ft. Bonifacio, Rizal also announced amendments to the Trainee Utilization Law (RA No. 4091). The amendments provide that: 1) A trainee, on completing his basic military instruction, may be drafted into the selective emergency service for a specified period of time; 2) Once drafted, he will be employed in the same manner as any regular enlisted personnel and will be entitled to the same pay and allowances a private receives; and 3) The trainee, upon completion of the prescribed tour of service, will be entitled to one month separation gratuity and given preferential employment in the government service, commensurate with his training, experience and education qualifications. Under the *kamagong* concept—which revolves around the employment of 20-year old trainees side by side with the regulars in actual military operations—the reservist gets an opportunity to apply the skills he acquires in basic military instruction in the actual field maneuver, giving valuable field experience.

CENTRAL BANK announced that it has issued a circular liberalizing extensively its regulations on new foreign investments and repatriation of investment withdrawals, as well as lifting the limitations on remittances of profits and dividends. CB Governor Gregorio Lecaros said this action of the Monetary Board embodied in Circular 365 gives full meaning and effect to the several policy pronouncements of the President extending full support and incentives to foreign investors. It also provides the necessary assurances to American investors who may be affected by the termination of the Laurel–Langley Agreement in 1974. The circular treats separately foreign investments existing as of March 15, 1973, arising from direct inward remittances in cash or in kind, as well as those generated out of reinvestments of peso earnings from original investments, are assured of repatriation in varying degrees depending on whether the enterprise invested in is a) export-oriented, b) BOI-registered and c) others.

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE and Tourism said the Price Control Council is empowered to check the prices of basic consumer commodities excluded from the controlled list if it finds out that their prices become unreasonably high. The DTT made this clarification as it issued the complete lists of items whose maximum price ceilings remain effective and those already removed from the controlled list. The rationale for limiting the scope of price control was to enable a more effective supervision of price control activities that will lead to a greater impact on prices and commodities. Price fixing is being utilized merely as an interim measure, the DTT said, adding that prices can only be reduced or maintained at tolerable levels by expanding production and improving the distribution system. As of March 21, 1973, the commodities under PCC control are rice, wheat flour (hard and soft), meat (some basic cuts), canned fish (salmon, mackerel, sardines in tomato sauce and squib).

THE PRESIDENT expressed gratification over the role of the churches in helping bring about the regeneration and reformation which the government is seeking to institute in this country. The President pointed this out during the call of Archbishop of Canterbury and Mrs. Michael Ramsey. He said that the change the country is seeking is “a change of the heart and spirit” and the churches are best qualified to help bring about the change. Archbishop Ramsey on the other hand thanked the President for the “great interest” shown by the people in his visit, despite the fact that the Philippines is a predominantly Catholic country.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: March 23-30, 1973

President's Week in Review: April 1-5, 1973

President's Week in Review: April 6-12, 1973

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

April 6—

THE PRESIDENT has committed the entire machinery of the government in the development and rehabilitation of Mindanao amid encouraging indications that the peace and order condition has been greatly stabilized in the area. The Chief Executive, through, Executive Order No 411, created a special task force to coordinate all government efforts to further develop the southern island. Under Executive Order No. 411 the President invested the task force with the following tasks: 1) The immediate assessment of the damage wrought on private property and government facilities, services and establishments; 2) The identification and mobilization of all sources of funds and preparation of an integrated plan necessary for the context of the national development program; 3) The restoration of peace and order by adequate military operations, apprehension of rebellious leaders and followers and the implementation of a selective amnesty and rehabilitation program; and 4) Such other action that may be needed for the above objectives. The task force shall operate and continue to exercise its powers until such time as its designated tasks are completed.

SECRETARY OF INFORMATION Francisco S. Tatad expressed hope that from today's legion of campus journalists will emerge real journalists and citizens who will serve the truth at all times not merely to satisfy personal avocation but above all to "fulfill our national goals." The secretary pinned his hopes on the new and young crops of writers after expressing serious doubts on the possibility of reorienting or retraining the old journalists to abandon their old ways and live the life required by the New Society. He spoke on the "Role of the School Paper in the New Society" at the seminar-press conference of the Greater Manila Area public high schools at the Philippine Science High School in Quezon City. He urged the campus journalists to make the campus paper a repository of intelligence, a fort of excellence in intellection and in thought to advocate scholarship and sincere efforts for the national good and to insist at all times that a university should remain a school of learning, not a place where one must originate a movement to overthrow authorities in government, where one must collect groups of men to carry out a campaign of terrorism.

APPLICANTS for amnesty under Presidential Decrees Nos. 95 and 124 rose to 2,101 and another batch of 100 persons has filed applications in the various amnesty commissions, it was reported to Brig. Gen. Fidel V Ramos Constabulary chief, by Col. Hamilton B. Dimaya, PC judge advocate general. Col. Dimaya told the PC chief that 471 persons have applied for amnesty under Presidential Decree No. 95 while 1,630 others have applied under Presidential Decree No. 124.

SOME P1-million worth of Philippine handicraft products have been ordered by the largest department store chain in Spain, according to the Department of Trade and Tourism. The order of El Corte Ingles, Spain's largest department store, is the first to be made since the visit to the Philippines last November of a Spanish trade mission which contracted P3-million worth of Philippine handicraft products. The first shipment worth \$90,000 is scheduled to leave the Philippines on April 6. The export of handicraft products to Spain was the result of the government's efforts through its trade representatives assigned in that country who encourages the Spanish trade mission to the Philippines.

CIVIL SERVICE Examination for fishery technologists, fishery biologists, fishery officers and fishery agents have been reset from April 29 to June 17, 1973, the Bureau of Fisheries announced. Director Felix R. Gonzales said that the bureau is still accepting applications of examinees in fishery technologists, fishery biologists and fishery officers. Last day for filing applications shall be on May 11. Mailed applications should be post-marked not later than May 4. For fishery officer examinations, graduates of law, criminology and B.S. Fisheries without experience may be admitted but applications will be closed as soon as the required quota for applicants has been reached.

April 7—

THE PRESIDENT promulgated two presidential decrees intended to further bolster the government's intensified drive against criminality by imposing stiff penalties against doctors and hospitals who refuse to report treatment of

criminals and by empowering the secretary of national defense to place police forces under Constabulary control. Presidential Decree No. 169 requires the attending physician of any hospital, medical clinic, sanitarium or other medical establishments, or any medical practitioner who has treated any person for serious or less serious physical injuries as defined by the Revised Penal Code to report such treatment personally or by the faster means of communications to the nearest PC unit without delay. Presidential Decree No. 170 delegates the President's power of placing cities or municipal police forces under PC control. The two decrees were issued in line with the objectives of Martial Law, to restore peace and order in the country and to insure the security and protection of the state.

LABOR SECRETARY Blas F. Ople said Presidential Decree No. 143, making Sundays and holidays regular working days applies only to private establishments. He issued the clarification in answer to queries on whether government employees are covered with the decree. Ople said the decree and its implementing rules and regulations, which became effective 15 days from promulgation of the rules, also apply to public utilities operated by private persons and those previously exempted from the work prohibition prescribed by the Blue Sunday Law, otherwise known as Republic Act No. 946.

SECRETARY OF INFORMATION Francisco S. Tatad declared that trade unionism could be directed truthfully towards the reconstruction of society without its being necessarily committed to violent action. The secretary, speaking at the closing ceremonies of the 33rd Asian Labor Leadership Institute at the Asian Labor Education Center in Quezon City, said the path to reconstruction and development has been opened by present day conditions in Asia and indicate the direction in which Asia's labor leaders may conceivably lead these regions working masses. He also stressed that the task of trade unionism is promoting and expanding the human factor development which is how labor has been traditionally called by the economists. Mr. Tatad added that in our countries where the governments are increasingly recognizing the necessities for centralized economic planning, trade unionism must seek participation in the planning process itself.

THE PRESIDENT pledged the resources of the government in the campaign against pollution and other destructive forces that threaten the environment. The President made the pledge at the launching of the Environmental Center of the Philippines at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang which was attended by local and foreign representatives. The center is chairmanned by the First Lady with prominent representatives from the government and the private sector as members. The Chief Executive underscored the importance of the drive against pollution when he announced that the Water and Air Pollution Council will be enlarged to an environmental commission.

BOARD OF INVESTMENTS has approved the applications of 19 firms under the Investment Incentives Act and the Export Incentives Act last month. Six of the 19 approved firms are engaged in preferred areas of investment listed in the BOI Fifth Investment Priorities Plan while the 13 others are covered by the BOI Third Export Priorities Plan. One of the six firms approved under the Investment Incentive Act, the Philippine Cellophane Film Corporation, is engaged in a pioneer area of investment. It will therefore be entitled to two additional incentives besides those granted to non-pioneer projects, namely, post-operative tariff protection and exemption from all taxes (except income tax) in the Internal Revenue Code on a gradually diminishing basis for 15 years. The five non-pioneer projects which have been approved are 1) Red Palms Development Corporation (REPADECO); 2) J & C Fishing Corporation; 3) Universal Robina Corporation; 4) Prime White Cement Corporation; and 5) D.C. Crystals, Inc. The only firm which has been approved as a service exporter is Bancom Development Corporation in the field of financial and economic consultancy services.

COMPLAINTS and Investigation Office of Malacañang has created a complaints and public assistance division to make the CIO "more responsive to the needs of the citizenry." The new division will: 1) Receive, process and evaluate all grievances, complaints and problems brought to it and initiate appropriate action thereon; 2) Assist those seeking help in determining what proper government agency should be appropriate for the desired assistance and extend help in the preparation or formulation of written complaints and requests; 3) Evaluate, analyze and take action to effect prompt and successful disposition of grievance, complaint or problem; 4) Maintain direct and effective working relationship with all departments, bureaus, offices, agencies, and other instrumentalities of the government, including government-owned or controlled corporations for the expeditious settlement of grievances, complaints or problems.

THE PRESIDENT told the new officers of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines that their plan to provide legal aid to indigents would promote the government's program to enhance the people's faith in the administration of justice. The Chief Executive made the statement after he was informed of the plan during the courtesy call at Malacañang by the new IBP officers. Associate Justice Fred Ruiz Castro of the Supreme Court who spearheaded the movement to integrate the Philippine Bar, said the IBP projects calls for the establishment of branch officers in every province primarily to provide legal assistance to the poor. During their call, the IBP officers also sought government assistance to raising funds to finance the varied projects of the organization. Justice Castro said that the IBP contemplated the establishment of a P3 million headquarters in Manila on a lot to be donated by the government. The President agreed to launch a fund-raising campaign in ceremonies to be held at the Maharlika Hall tentatively on May 7.

BUREAU OF INTERNAL Revenue said all certifications issued by its regional directors and district officers to taxpayers that they have filed their tax amnesty returns for 1971 are illegal and must be surrendered to the office of the BIR commissioner. Revenue Commissioner Misael P. Vera issued a strongly worded memorandum to all regional directors and district officers to desist from issuing such certification. The commissioner also reminded the directors of the penalty provided for under Presidential Decree No. 161 which is not less than five years imprisonment and dismissal from the service for any government official or employee who discloses any information relative to the returns filed. He directed the regional directors to submit to his office any request for certification.

SECRETARY OF INFORMATION Francisco S. Tatad exhorted the youth to help in the dissemination of a new idea wherein "we as a people will work with our own hands in order to attain the destiny of our people." The secretary stressed that "we are not going to rely on the kindness or generosity of others but will work to the best of our ability, to the best of our skills so that we will produce things of excellence." The secretary also pointed out during the commencement exercises of the college of education and high school of Western Colleges in Naic, Cavite that one of the recent proclamations of the President had asked college students to go to the barrios, rural areas, to serve the people before they can qualify for graduation. He added that the government is trying to integrate the student population into the actual population of the nation. Underscoring the role of the youth in the country, Mr. Tatad stressed that in the great moments of the country's history, the people have always placed their hope in the youth.

BUREAU OF INTERNAL Revenue announced that all letters of authority to investigate the tax liabilities of taxpayers issued to BIR examiners have been revoked. Revenue Commissioner Misael P. Vera said the move was taken to carry out effectively the provisions of the law on tax amnesty. A memorandum issued by the BIR commissioner outlined the following guidelines relative to the revocation:

- 1) All authorities issued before and up to April 2, 1973 are hereby cancelled and revoked. These include those authorities issued but have not yet been served to taxpayers; those served, the investigation of which have not been terminated; those whose investigations have been terminated but the reports of investigation have not yet been submitted; 2) No authority to investigate shall be issued from April 2, 1973 until advise from the commissioner's office has been received; 3) Fieldmen shall submit not later than April 2, 1973 the list of letters of authority issued to them. Commissioner Vera also directed regional and district officers not to allow fieldmen to conduct field or office investigation and instead help in the tax information and collective drive of the bureau.

COUNTRY'S EXPORTS of marine products have registered in 1972 a total value of P68 million, surpassing all records during a 24-year period, according to the Bureau of Fisheries. The growth of the industry, which became evident since the imposition of Martial Law, has benefited some 2.2 million persons who depend directly on fishing. The 1972 annual report of the Bureau of Fisheries indicated an increase of P29 million or 76 per cent earnings over that of 1971 which totalled only P39 million. Shrimps took one-half of the P68 million earnings from fishery exports with P34.1 million, followed by tuna which earned for the country P18.3 million. Other dollar-earning marine products in the order of their earnings are: fresh live fish, P3.2 million; lobster, P2.1 million; seaweeds, P1.6 million; fresh frozen fish, P1.6 million and wet salted fish, P1.4 million.

April 9—

THE PRESIDENT called for total dedication on the part of the people in order to fulfill the dream of Bataan heroes of building a strong and indestructible nation. In a radio-television address broadcast nationwide from Malacañang on the eve of the 31st anniversary of the Fall of Bataan, the President said the people have a new and healthful life before them and should go into it with courage and spirit, "for these are the legacies of Bataan." The President said "the spirit and courage that made Bataan endure for so long, past the threshold of human fortitude did not die with surrender but continued fiercer than ever." At the same time, the President said implacable forces—oligarchs, politicians, leftists, rightists and mercenaries—were out to destroy the Republic. But he pointed out that the complacency of the people was most dangerous. The President said that "when we took the fateful step of throwing off the shackles of a defeated and fatalistic society," the people were transformed and there was a resurrection in the land. Today, the President said, "the youths are once more earnest, straight and hard-working, the people again believe in the old and hardy virtues, in government, in peace and order, honesty and integrity, and even purity of heart."

NUEVA ECIJA land reform integrated development program (NEL-RIDP) has been gaining successful results since the proclamation of Martial Law, it was announced by the Department of Agrarian Reform. According to a report from the project fieldmen in the country's premier rice-producing province, the NELRIDP has accomplished as of March 31 the following: 1) Identified 57,678 farmers tilling 155,280.57 hectares in 32 municipalities covering 639 barrios and sketched 48,702 lots covering 77,763.04 hectares; 2) Issued land transfer certificates to 7,773 farmers tilling 20,321.69 hectares and organized 14 barrio associations and seven marketing cooperatives; 3) Released loans amounting to P428,107 since 1971 to 11 compact farms involving 398 cooperators and tilling 103,819 hectares and production loans amounting to P12,321,920 since 1971 to 15,550 farmers tilling 48,712.55 hectares; 4) Released through the ACA marketing loans amounting to P1,819,900 to 27 hectares and distributed 22,536 cavans of palay seeds and 12,275 sacks of fertilizers to 7,510 farmers; 5) Serviced through Operation Palagad '73 (OPAL) 2,701 farmers cultivating 5,126 hectares with P1,718,069.61 in cash, seeds and fertilizers and chemicals; 6) Reported the active participation of 21 rural banks in the program; 7) Extended irrigation service through: gravity system—48,511.61 hectares; pump system—15,189 hectares and through the National Irrigation Administration—16,208 hectares; and 8) Serviced 413 units of pumps from the Department of Local Governments and Community Development.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE announced it will publish a monthly technical journal beginning next month. The publication, to be called *Finance Journal*, will contain Presidential Decrees and other Presidential issuances affecting the Department of Finance and all its bureaus and agencies, official documents including rulings of the secretary of finance, commissioner of internal revenue, commissioner of customs, and the Insurance Commission, department orders, memorandum circulars, provincial circulars, customs tariff circulars, customs administrative orders, revenue regulations, revenue orders, insurance circulars and other important official decisions. Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata said that the publication will help taxpayers and businessmen in facilitating their official business with the department, Bureau of Internal Revenue, Bureau of Customs, Insurance Commission, Bureau of the Treasury and the Embroidery and Apparel Control and Inspection Board.

SOME 500,000 to 750,000 commuters in the Greater Manila Area are expected to be serviced by commuter trains when the Philippine National Railway's mass transit rail system swings into full operation by 1980. The whole plan envisages an expansion of the present skeleton services of the PNR with the introduction of 112 diesel cars and 210 electric cars to be able to operate 430 trains per day with a three-minute frequency during peak hours. This calls for what railways officials described as "critical engineering works" such as doubling of tracks between Malolos and Caloocan and San Pedro, Laguna, including the installation of electric automatic block signalling system and passenger amenities at stations. The operation of commuter trains has been possible by the conversion work of the existing diesel motor cars. Eight cars had already been converted by January, 1973, while eight more are still undergoing conversion work.

April 10—

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE Secretary Vicente Abad Santos said that personnel holding positions declared to be policy-determining, confidential, and highly technical, cannot be removed or suspended except for reasons as provided by law. The justice secretary issued his opinion in reply to a request from the chairman of the Population Commission on the possible effects on the security of tenure of certain commission employees who have permanent

appointments to their positions, and whose positions are proposed to be declared as technical or professional, pursuant to Sections 8 and 11 of Presidential Decree No. 79 (Revised Population Act of the Philippines). The secretary said it is clear from Sections 8 and 11 of the decree that the commission is placed within the scope of the civil service. The exemption of certain positions of technical and professional staff and those declared by the board to be highly technical, policy-determining, and primarily confidential, is intended to refer only to appointment or selection which does not have to take into account merit and fitness as determined by competitive examination, Mr. Abad Santos said. He added that incumbent officers and employees of the Commission who hold permanent appointments do not lose their security of tenure by accepting appointment to the technical or professional staff.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN Reform reported that a total of 12,000 farmers throughout the country has received land transfer certificate-since the government initiated agrarian reforms. The latest to receive land transfer papers were 2,948 tenant-farmers from 84 barrios in Nueva Ecija at awarding ceremonies held last April 7. A week earlier, the DAR distributed 2,571 land transfer certificates in Guimba and Nampicuan towns in the same province. Similar award ceremonies were held in Camarines Sur, Cebu, Bulacan, Isabela, Iloilo and Cabanatuan City.

THE PRESIDENT will join the Asian Rice Trade Fund which will be officially established at the 29th session of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE). The President has approved membership in the Asian Rice Trade Fund and has designated Secretary of Trade and Tourism Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. as the head of an 11-man delegation to the ECAFE conference. The delegation left for Tokyo today. The Fund is a significant step towards the stabilization of the region's rice trade. The Philippines, and other developing countries in the region, could benefit by participating in the fund either as importer or exporter.

SECRETARY OF INFORMATION Francisco S. Tatad declared that when the government is afflicted by corruption and threats from without, constitutional authoritarianism may be used to save it if it is the only recourse left. The secretary said the government made a giant leap and "Martial Law came as a matter of course" when everything that the government did, including the best laws and most sober judges, the combined authority of the home, school and church and even the suspension of the *writ of habeas corpus* could not turn back rebellion pestering in the countryside and threatening to engulf the city. Mr. Tatad was the guest of honor of the Manila conference of Jaycees International Senators at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Roxas Boulevard which was attended by Jaycees senators and delegates from Japan, Hongkong, Taiwan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and other countries.

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE and Tourism called upon local government officials and leaders of the private sector to actively participate in the development of the tourist industry and the industrial growth of the country. In separate conferences with officials of Angeles City, Pampanga, and La Union, Secretary of Trade and Tourism Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. said their active participation is necessary to help the national leadership translate immediately into reality the country's economic goals. On tourism, Mr. Quiazon said the assistance of local governments is necessary to ensure success.

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL Bank reported it has obtained a \$25 million loan from the Chase Manhattan Bank of New York, even as PNB President P. O. Domingo announced that the government bank had reported a net profit of P9.9 million for the first quarters of 1973. The loan agreement with the New York bank would allow the PNB to avail itself of dollar funds for terms longer than the usual 180-day credit lines from foreign banks and does away with the sublimits in the cause and disposition of the dollar proceeds, Mr. Domingo reported.

April 11—

THE PRESIDENT issued General Order No. 27 prohibiting any private contractor or person to use on any vehicle or equipment the orange color used to identify vehicles or equipment of the Bureau of Public Highways and other' bureaus and offices of the Department of Public Works, Transportation and Communications engaged in the government's infrastructure program. The President noted that private contractors, undertaking the construction of infrastructure projects through contracts with the government, have used and adopted orange color in painting their private vehicles and equipment to make them identical with the vehicles and equipment of the Bureau of Public Highways. Any violation of the general order shall be penalized with a fine of P2,000 and or the impounding of the vehicle or equipment until such time as the owner undertakes the repainting of the same.

BUREAU OF INTERNAL Revenue asked local governments to stop campaigning for tax payments in their respective cities and municipalities in order to get bigger shares in excess income tax. BIR Commissioner Misael P. Vera said that the place of payment of the income tax is now immaterial since the principal basis for tax allotment to local governments is on population and land area. Presidential Decree No 144 has nullified Republic Act 2343 which allowed local governments to get the allotments on excess income tax. The BIR commissioner however, made it clear that those who want to avail themselves of Presidential Decree No. 23 (the 10 per cent tax amnesty on previously undeclared income or wealth) should file and pay their 1972 income tax in places where they previously filed tax amnesty returns.

BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE reported that the tax amnesty collections now total P530,899,400 which were paid by 129,847 filers.

First installment payments amounted to P343,757,327.19 while receivables totalled P182,642,073.19. Secretary of Finance Cesar E.A. Virata, meanwhile ordered all provincial and city assessors not to compel real property owners to personally declare under oath their sworn statements. The warning was issued following reports of complaints that real property owners are being compelled to appear personally in certain assessment jurisdictions for purposes of declaring under oath their sworn statements. The secretary further reminded the assessors that the sworn statements of real property owners should not directly be used as basis for assessment of real property as this will negate the principle of unity which Presidential Decree No. 76 seeks to ensure.

THE PRESIDENT assured other nations, especially the country's Asian neighbors, that the self-reliant posture the Philippine has assumed to determine its own destiny is being supplemented by a policy of mutual accommodation with other countries. The President, in his address before the opening session of the five-day conference of the Jaycees International, reiterates his invitation to foreign investors to participate in the economic development of the country. He also expressed hopes for the immediate formulation of an Asian Forum among all Asian nations, "irrespective of persuasion and ideology."

DANGEROUS DRUGS Board prohibited the distribution of free samples of dangerous drugs by pharmaceutical and chemical laboratories. Secretary of Health Clemente S. Gatmaitan said the move, adopted on the recommendation of the Food and Drug Administration, was in connection with the present campaign against drug dependence under the Dangerous Drugs Act of 1972. He explained that allowing the distribution of free samples of dangerous drugs, if continued, would adversely affect the government drive.

PRICE CONTROL Council announced a 12 per cent increase in the price of the poultry and livestock feeds effective April 10. Secretary of Trade and Tourism Troadio T. Quiazon Jr., who is concurrently PCC chairman, explained this meant an average increase of P4 per bag of feeds. The old price average was P33 per bag. Mr. Quiazon said the price increase was necessary to bail out the feed milling industry which has been hard-pressed by a worldwide shortage of feed ingredients. He added that even with the increase, the feed millers will expect to incur losses totalling P28 million which would in effect wipe out the industry's profit for the past three years. The DTT secretary explained that the prices of imported feed ingredients had gone up considerably. Soybean meal went up by 184 per cent, meat and bone meal by 172 per cent, fish meal by 196 per cent and corn by 80 per cent.

ARMED FORCES issued a clarification on the registration of 20-year-old male citizens for military training which terminated last April 7, to allay fears of parents that their sons will be drafted into the regular military service after their training. AFP officials stated that the registration of 20-year-olds for military training is an annual requirement as provided by the National Defense Act and is not prompted by an emergency need of the military. The AFP disclosed that many ROTC cadets voluntarily presented themselves for military training during the last registration. The AFP also pointed out there are enough volunteers for enlistment in the military service and that the candidates for regular enlistment are only those in the 21-25 age group with college degrees.

April 12—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the drafting of a final government stand regarding a tax policy on private educational institutions in consonance with an amendment in the new Constitution that deleted tax exemptions on real property

used for educational purposes. The Chief Executive issued the order to Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata, Secretary of Education and Culture Juan Manuel, Director General Gerardo Sicat of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Internal Revenue Commissioner Misael P. Vera, Presidential Assistant Guillermo de Vega and Director Angel Q. Yoinco, of the National Tax Research Center. In the present Constitution, however, the tax exemption privilege for such real property devoted to educational purposes was removed and only those exclusively and directly used for cultural and charitable purposes are now exempted from taxes. It was for this reason that private education groups sought exemption for educational institutions from the operation of this constitutional provision.

CENTRAL BANK'S Monetary Board approved guidelines that will promote bank mergers or consolidations. CB Governor Gregorio S. Licaros, who is also concurrently chairman of the MB, said the guidelines principally affect the total resources of the entire banking system, the increase in minimum paid-in capital of banks, and the equity by foreign banks in local banking institutions. The guidelines provide that the paid-up capital base of the private sector of the commercial banking system should aggregate at least P3 billion within the next three years. To promote stability, existing banks would need a minimum of P100 million paid-in capital each within two years. Commercial banks and/or groups should submit within six months their respective programs by which they would achieve the minimum P100 million capital requirements. Should the aggregate of the banks' viable capitalization programs submitted within six months be inadequate, the Central Bank shall fill the gap by entertaining applications for, and encouraging the establishment of, new banks with at least P100 million paid-in capital, until the total P3 billion paid-in capital target is reached.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile has enjoined the country's youth to involve themselves in national development and to follow the inspiration and guidance of the 1972 Ten Outstanding Young Men awardees during the recent awarding ceremonies of the prestigious annual research. The defense secretary said that the group of awardees exemplifies "the inquiring mind that is forever in search for scientific and moral truth, the rectitude of character that climbs the barriers of corruption, improbity and selfish opportunism and the courage to do what is right before God, fellowman and country."

BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE reported that revenue collections under Martial Law—from November, 1972, to March, 1973—totalled P1.7 billion, or an increase of more than 94 per cent over the collections made in the same period during the previous fiscal years. BIR Commissioner Misael P. Vera said that the total collections amounted to P1 717 373,757.37 while the collections for the same five-month period during fiscal year 1971-1972 totalled only P823,639,074.49. The BIR commissioner also reported that the following fund contributions from the gross collections: net to local government—P1,072,183,551.09; allotments to local governments—P348,783,799.22; and various special funds—P180,579,079.87. The tax information division also reported that another P5,561,533.94 in collections under the tax amnesty had been tabulated as of 6:00 p.m. of April 11. This brought the total collections to P536,460,934.32 which were paid by 136,842 filers accounting for 97 per cent of the completed collections from national and regional offices.

SECRETARY OF INFORMATION Francisco S. Tatad declared that the government needs the initiatives of the private sector in its efforts to solve the problems and burdens of peace. The secretary said that such cooperative endeavors are now evident in the Philippines where the government and the people joined hands fully "to attack basic social and economic problems that had long bound them along with the great masses of the peoples of Asia and Africa, in poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition and disease." The secretary said it is appropriate that as war and destruction begin to lift from the face of Asia, representatives of Jaycees International (JCI) should meet in Quezon City to discuss certain problems that continue to exist with the emergence of peace. Mr. Tatad said that in a world where government is primarily the custodian of a people's aspirations and interest, it is the government's duty to gather together the most beneficent qualities that grow out of contemporary societies in order to create a new prototype.

COMMISSION ON IMMIGRATION and Deportation has noted an enthusiastic response by foreign tourists to the administration's relaxed rules on tourism following the approval of the no-visa visit of two tourist groups made up of 37 Chinese nationals. Immigration Commissioner Edmundo M. Reyes said that the two Chinese groups were approved for entry under the auspices of Butterfield and Swire and Travel Advisers, Ltd., two prestigious tour agencies in Hongkong. The approval of the visits, according to the immigration commissioner, is pursuant to the

administration's policy to attract more tourists through relaxed visa requirements brought about by the changed peace and order condition in the country due to the imposition of Martial Law.

CIVIL SERVICE Commission has announced the schedules of examinations in May and June for doctors, nurses, therapists and dietitians. Examinations are as follows: 1) Physician examination for the practice of medicine will be given on June 1, 4, 6 and 8. Applicants must file their applications with the office of the Board of Examiners not later than May 22. 2) Nurse examination for the practice of nursing will be given on May 21-25. Deadline for applications is May 11. 3) The first physical therapist and occupational therapist examinations will be given on June 2 and 9, respectively. Deadlines for applications are May 3 and 10, respectively. 4) Dietitian examination will be given on May 2, 4 and 7. Deadline for applications is April 23. All application must be filed with the office of the Board of Examiners located at P. Paredes-Nicanor Reyes Sr. Sts., Sampaloc, Manila.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: April 13-19, 1973

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

April 13—

THE PRESIDENT assured the country's inventors of a "new deal" that will extend them organizational and financial assistance—from both the government and the private sector—in the production and marketing of their worthwhile inventions. The Chief Executive, therefore, directed all government financing institutions and the private sector to immediately formulate a more intelligent and liberal policy to provide easy and reasonable credit to inventors. Speaking at the Maharlika Hall in Malacañang during the awarding ceremonies capping the celebration of Filipino Inventors' Week, the President announced the blueprint providing fund support and incentives to inventors, whom he emphasized should be bailed out from the seeming apathy and neglect. The President enjoined the Filipino Inventors Society and the National Science Development Board to bring to his attention any government financing institution disregarding his order. The President said easier credit for inventors is also in consonance with the New Society's aim to create a strong middle class which will not only be able to earn its living but to create and produce enough so that it can foster greater growth in the country.

THE FIRST LADY lauded the launching of the "Alay Lakad 73" as the beginning of a fine partnership between the government and the private sector for the cause of the country's underprivileged youth. The "Alay Lakad '73" is sponsored by the Philippine Jaycees with the support of other government and private entities. Speaking at the kick-off ceremony of the project at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang, the First Lady declared that the campaign reaffirms the government's commitment to the less privileged youths' emancipation from poverty, indifference and ignorance and "his emergence as the new Filipino—strong in spirit, rich in ideals and staunch in heart." She appealed to all concerned to help the government in its effort to improve the lot of the less fortunate Filipino youth and assured that she and the President will do their share in behalf of the less privileged members of society.

SECRETARY OF INFORMATION Francisco S. Tatad said the new graduates must gear their idealism and moral purpose in evolving a New Society. The secretary told the graduating class of the Philippine Women's University that the government expects the youth to help imbue in their respective communities and the nation "a strong ethical sentiment and a serious moral purpose." The secretary said that the basis of the highest type of genius is "the unity of thought and action: the ability to be thinker and doer at the same time." He declared that the idealism of the contemporary leaders in the Philippines is also "unfailing practical and pragmatic." Mr. Tatad said that forming a New Society involves a medium of personal sacrifice, obedience to the law and the much deeper unity of sharing the work and responsibility which living in a community entails, so that the comfort, health, welfare and security of those who live in the community are ensured.

THE PRESIDENT assured that every peso paid in taxes will be spent in infrastructure projects, social services and investments that will bring about the country's growth and development. In stressing this point at the nationwide radio-tv program, "Pulong-pulong sa Kaunlaran", the Chief Executive said, "we want taxes to become the direct expression of our collective will to progress." At the same time, the President called on all Filipinos to file their income tax returns, noting that while government collection of income taxes has been increasing through the years, the number of income tax filers still remains far from ideal.

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN Affairs announced that the 29th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, held in Geneva, Switzerland, has adopted a resolution declaring and punishing apartheid as a crime against humanity. Foreign Undersecretary Jose D. Ingles, who was elected chairman of the working group that drafted the convention on suppression and punishment of the crime of apartheid, reported that the resolution is an important contribution to the development of international penal law. The Commission on Human Rights, which adjourned on April 6, adopted 24 resolutions (12 of which require action by the UN Economic and Social Commission). Among these were: 1) A resolution on the question of punishment of war criminals and of persons who have committed crimes against humanity. 2) A resolution on a Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. 3) Resolutions on questions of violation of human rights in territories occupied as a result of hostilities in the Middle East. 4) Draft principles relating to equality in administration of justice. 5) A study of

discrimination against persons born out of wedlock and non-discrimination in respect to such persons. 6) Realization of economic, social and cultural rights in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

SECRETARY OF FINANCE Cesar E. A. Virata issued the rules and regulations covering the release of internal revenue allotments to local governments, as provided for under Presidential Decree No. 144. The regulations provide for the release in full amounts of the respective shares of the local governments, thereby eliminating the incurrence of deficiencies in allotments commonly experienced under the old procedures. The Bureau of Internal Revenue will now determine the amount of monthly internal revenue allotments of provinces, cities and municipalities. The rules and regulations further provide: 1) That 20 per cent of such collection shall accrue to the local governments to be distributed among provinces, cities and municipalities as follows: 30 per cent to provinces; 45 per cent to municipalities; and 25 per cent to cities. 2) The share of each local government unit shall be apportioned as follows: 70 per cent on the basis of population as shown by the latest official census; 20 per cent in proportion to the land area; and 10 per cent to be apportioned equally among municipalities, cities and provinces. 3) The basis of internal revenue allotments shall be the national internal revenue taxes, not otherwise accruing to special funds and special accounts in the general fund, collected during the third fiscal year preceding the current fiscal year. For fiscal year 1974, 1975 and 1976, the annual allotment of any local government shall not increase by more than 15 per cent nor be decreased by more than 50 per cent of its actual allotment during the fiscal year 1970-1971. Beginning July 1, 1973, the actual collections in the locality will no longer be a factor determining the amounts of internal revenue allotments to be released to each local government unit. Instead, at the end of every month, the treasury field cashiers shall draw check equivalent to the authorized 12 annual allotments as determined by the BIR prior to the beginning of the fiscal year.

CENTRAL BANK announced that the country's international reserve has increased to an unprecedented \$462.5 million at the end of the first quarter of the year along with a general improvement in all sectors of the economy. This was reported by Central Bank Governor Gregorio S. Licaros to the President in his assessment of the performance of the economy during the first three months of 1973. Mr. Licaros reported that, after the unusual stresses encountered in the first nine months of 1972, the economy started to recover soon after Martial Law was proclaimed and continued to improve considerably through January-March, 1973. During the period under review, the CB governor also noted the strong performance of the external sector while developments in the monetary and fiscal sectors resulted in the growth of domestic credits of the monetary system and the improvement in the cash position of the national government. There were also indications, he added, of relative stability of domestic prices particularly during the early part of the quarter.

AFP CENTRAL MINDANAO Command has reported that demoralized rebel forces in Cotabato are now sending feelers to the Government for possible surrender under the extended amnesty decree for outlaws in Mindanao (Presidential Decree No. 95). This was revealed by Brig. Gen. Fortunato Abat, Cemcom commander, in a report to Brig. Gen. Cicero O. Campos, PC deputy chief of staff for home defense, during the latter's three-day survey of peace and order conditions in the insurgent-infested areas in Mindanao. Gen. Abat said that the insurgents in Cotabato are now surrounded in one area by military forces, adding that their proposed surrender is now the subject of a series of conferences between military officers and Cotabato Muslim leaders. The Cemcom commander also revealed that the rebels, after being driven to the hills by military forces with the determined support of civilian home defense units, "now realize that they cannot even win the sympathy of the civilian populace."

NATIONAL MANPOWER and Youth Council has announced the recruitment of trainees for the second basic pre-employment course at the National Manpower Skills Center in Fort Bonifacio, Rizal. Entrance examination will be conducted at 9:30 a.m. daily from June 4 to June 8. Out-of-school youth and unemployed adults who are 17 years old and above and who have at least finished high school are qualified to take the test. The basic pre-employment course, which will start in July, will train some unemployed young adults in machine-fitting, automotive mechanics, electronics, and electricity to prepare them for created employment. Training will be conducted for the first six to ten months in the center followed by another two to eight months on-the-job training in selected industries where trainees may be employed after the training period.

THE PRESIDENT said the Government will soon embark on the pioneer production of small aircrafts to compliment the program to modernize strategically-situated airports in various points of the country. The President spelled this out during the inauguration of the extended airport runway in Bacolod City. The improved runway is one of the first projects completed in the Government's crash program to modernize and energize domestic aviation. In a speech read for him by Department of Public Works, Transportation and Communications Secretary David M. Consunji, the President lauded the people and city officials of Bacolod for taking the initiative in modernizing its airport facilities. Aside from extending the runway to accommodate bigger planes the project also involved the completion of an aerodrome tower.

The President said that the production of small or light aircraft will be undertaken by the Philippine Air Force.

SECRETARY OF INFORMATION Francisco S. Tatad said the Philippine experiment in Martial Law is an example for the world because it involved the restructuring and relocation of responsibilities and privileges "without the terrible cost and waste of bloodshed and violence." Speaking at the commencement exercises of the Bicol University in Legaspi City, where he was conferred the degree of humanities *honoris causa*, the secretary noted that in other countries where governments use extraordinary powers to deal with vested groups and fanatical ideologies, the restructuring of society is accomplished at the cost of terrible anguish to the people. But in the Philippines, Secretary Tatad said, the government set an example, not of brutality and repression but of humanity, clemency and accommodation.

THE PRESIDENT has approved the recommendation of the secretary of national defense to maintain the old price ceiling of P1.25 per lineal foot for the common 31 gauge GI sheets being used for roofing by low-income groups. Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile also announced that the new price ceiling gauge of 26 GI sheets at P2.30 per lineal foot shall take effect on April 16. The new price gauge 26 GI sheets shall be the old price ceiling prescribed by the local control council, plus P.45 per lineal foot, outside the Greater Manila Area. The President, on recommendation of the Steel Committee, has earlier approved the price increase of gauge 26 GI sheets to help the steel rollers and galvanizers from incurring big losses in view of the increase in the price of steel raw materials and other base metal used for galvanizing.

CENTRAL BANK'S Monetary Board approved a credit system to be known as "money shops" for the benefit of the average Filipino consumer. A brainchild of the Philippine Commercial and Industrial Bank, the novel credit system was approved by the Monetary Board because it will provide credit to the grassroots level and to as wide a base as possible with benefits to the average Filipino consumer. The "PCI Bank's Money Shops" will be established in large public markets offering working capital or inventory financing to stallholders up to a maximum of P10,000. For this pioneering effort, the MB gave PCIB preemptive rights to establish the "money shops" for a period of six months, after which other banks may follow suit.

THE PRESIDENT has promulgated Presidential Decree No. 174 extending the tax amnesty to May 31, specifically for taxpayers residing abroad and in six Mindanao provinces and Isabela. The decree grants amnesty on persons who may declare their hidden wealth or untaxed income up to May 31 because of their earlier failure to avail themselves of the amnesty "due to fortuitous events such as unstable peace and order conditions." The Mindanao provinces covered by the new decree included Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur, Cotabato and South Cotabato. The decree further covers residents of the cities of Basilan, Zamboanga, Pagadian, Dipolog, Cotabato, Gen. Santos, Iligan and Marawi.

THE PHILIPPINES will acquaint the foreign ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) with the real facts in Mindanao during the forthcoming ministerial meeting in Pattaya, Thailand. In a statement before his departure for Thailand, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo said that he would also express the concern of the Philippine government over the interference of certain foreign countries to encourage secessionist tendencies in the Muslim areas. Mr. Romulo said that he would explain to the 10 nation conference both the short-term reconstruction programs and long-term development projects of the Philippine government to bring the benefits of progress to the entire Muslim populace of Mindanao.

GENERAL IMPORTS Ltd., a worldwide shoe-importing enterprise, has allocated \$50 million for the import of Philippine-made shoes over a four year period. The commitment was made to the President by David Graves and Joel Glasman, president and chairman, respectively, of the board of governors of Genesco Imports Ltd., during a call at Malacañang. The shoe import executives told the President that after making a survey and finding investments climates in the Philippines very favorable, they have decided to make the Philippines their base of operation in Asia. The shoe import executives said Genesco has programmed some \$50 million for imports from the Philippines and has already purchased an initial shipment worth P300,000.

BUREAU OF CENSUS and Statistics listed Rizal, Cebu, Negros Occidental, Manila and Cotabato as the five most populated provinces and city in the country. The statistics also projected the population will hit the 50-million mark by 1980. The list of the 12 most populated places in the country and their present population are as follows: Rizal—3,429,616; Cebu—1,758,212; Negros Occidental—1,562,235; Pangasinan—1,481,341; Cotabato—1,286,425; Iloilo—1,247,656; Leyte—1,146,559; Zamboanga del Sur—1,145,657; Quezon—1,105,978; Batangas—1,023,466; and Pampanga—1,012,864. The BCS projected a revised list for 1980 though Rizal, Cebu Manila and Negros Occidental will still be in the five most populous. The projection showed that Rizal will have 5,209,715 residents; Cebu—2,063,065; Manila—1,743,522; Pangasinan—1,711,078; Negros Occidental—1,696,266; Cotabato—1,690,679; Iloilo—1,444,494; Zamboanga del Sur—1,429,772; Quezon—1,427,869; Pampanga—1,288,882; Batangas—1,278,962; and Leyte—1,225,730.

NATIONAL GRAINS Authority has directed all restaurant owners in the country to help in the nationwide rice conservation campaign. Statistics of the Directorate for Grains Economics of the NGA showed that a total of 23,500 sacks of rice is being wasted daily, costing the country P475 million a year. Mr. Tanchanco asked restaurant owners to submit a written report of the rice conservation efforts every three months.

April 15—

THE PRESIDENT was informed by a group of local and foreign business executives that their companies will undertake the \$50-million development of the Export Processing Zone Authority in Bataan. The project according to the business executives will be financed by a \$50-million loan from the First National City Bank of New York under a semi-concessional term, which is one of the largest single financial assistance to the Philippines by a single overseas bank since the Proclamation of Martial Law. They told the President that the FNCB New York will give a \$25-million loan to the Philippine Government project within the EPZA and another \$25-million to the Landoil Resources Corporation for the putting up of a housing and community complex around the zone for some 40,000 zone workers.

THE PRESIDENT expanded the apprenticeship program in preparation for the expected increase in the labor demands of the country's growing industries. He spelled out the new labor scheme in Presidential Decree No. 173 which amended Republic Act 1826, otherwise known as the National Apprenticeship Act, preparatory to becoming full-pledge employees. The new decree: 1) Eliminated the requirement that any candidate for apprenticeship be at high school graduate. It provided that even non-high school graduates may now apply for apprenticeship. 2) Gave the secretary of labor the discretion to lower the statutory apprenticeship wage set at 75 per cent of the minimum wage, provided the employer requesting for the lower rate submits exemplary conditions supporting his stand, and the rate is not lower than 50 per cent of the minimum wage. 3) Provided for three training schemes for apprentices. 4) Empowered the President to order the employer's establishment of apprentices for any job or occupation which may be needed because of a national emergency or for national development. 5) Creation of a Bureau of Apprenticeship pursuant to the integrated reorganization plan.

MORE FARMERS in settlements and landed estates will soon be using tractors and irrigation pumps to boost farm productivity, the Department of Agrarian Reform reported. In a memorandum to all regional directors, DAR Secretary Conrado F. Estrella said appropriations for the purchase of farm tractors and irrigation pumps have already been earmarked. Secretary Estrella also advised farmers to consolidate their requirements and organize themselves into groups so that they could avail themselves of the DAR assistance. Under the agrarian reform program implementation plan, infrastructure and land consolidation projects such as dams, pumps, canals, roads, and bridges will be given top priority in the development scheme.

THE PRESIDENT has approved a plan to convert the Greater Manila Food Terminal Market Inc. into an agro-industrial-commercial complex which will operate under a regional concept of supply and outlet. Development Bank of the Philippines Chairman Leonides S. Virata and GMTFM President Jose D. Drilon Jr. have earlier made the proposal to the Chief Executive. The two officials specifically proposed to turn the 120-hectare GMTFM establishment into a multi-purpose site. The GMTFM, which is at present engaged only in marketing commodities (mostly agriculture produce), will be developed with the view of easing the financial burden of the DBP and the GMTFM regarding the terminal's operations.

SECRETARY OF FINANCE Cesar E. A. Virata said that the heavy turnout of income tax filers indicates the growing tax consciousness of the people. The finance secretary made this assessment even as he assured that the increased tax revenue would be used for financing more development and social projects. The secretary also met with tax experts of the government to finalize proposed amendments to the National Internal Revenue Code for submission to the President. Some important matters discussed during the meeting included uniform rates of taxes on franchise, corporation taxes, tax treatment of private educational institutions, income tax of public utilities and the lowering of taxes on locally manufactured items.

April 16—

THE PRESIDENT has organized a land reform council to further hasten the transfer of land ownership to tenant-farmers. The council, with the President himself as chairman, is also aimed at protecting the present system of small land ownership that has developed over the years through thrift of the small workers who put their savings in land. With the creation of the Land Reform Council, the President intends to resolve faster whatever problems are still existing concerning the implementation of the land reform program.

BUREAU OF LANDS announced that its regional oilier throughout the country have been authorized to approve survey maps and plans. The directive took effect April 4. Licensed private geodetic engineers may also submit to the regional land officers all isolation surveys for the necessary verification and approval. Acting Director Ramon S. Casanova listed the following lands offices authorized to approve survey maps: Region I—San Fernando, La Union; Region II—Tuguegarao, Cagayan; Region III—San Fernando, Pampanga; Region IV—Manila; Region V—Legaspi City; Region VI—Iloilo City; Region VII—Cebu City; Region VIII—Tacloban City; Region IX—Zamboanga City; Region X—Cagayan de Oro City and Region XI—Davao City.

THE PRESIDENT called on the country's unresponsive leaders and bureaucrats to reform themselves, reexamine their values and gear their efforts to conform to the goals of the New Society. In a speech read for him by Philippine National Bank Director Renato Tayag during the 55th anniversary and reunion of the Upsilon Sigma Phi Fraternity of the University of the Philippines at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, the Chief Executive said these unresponsive leaders may have interest identified and vitally tied up with the corruption, the "palakasan system", the injustices and the excesses of the old order. The Chief Executive added that he is giving these people enough time to mend their ways and to commit themselves to the new program of the government.

April 17—

THE PRESIDENT has promulgated Presidential Decree No. 175, granting cooperatives the rights and privileges enjoyed by business organizations, including the operation of enterprises and rural banks. The decree also provides for a cooperative development loan fund and the extension of preferential rights to cooperatives in the supply of prime commodities like cereals and agricultural products to government agencies. The decree is envisioned to strengthen the cooperative movement to effect an increase in the income and purchasing power of the low income sector of the population, thereby attaining the administration's goal for the equitable distribution of the country's wealth.

SECRETARY OF INFORMATION Francisco S. Tatad said the Government does not intend to transform the people into automatons. Mr. Tatad made the statement to allay fears that the call for the immersion of the individuals in the building of the nation may rob the people of their individuality and transform them into robots or automatons. Speaking during the 23rd commencement exercises at the University of Baguio, the information secretary said that,

although the Government seeks to inculcate discipline it does not seek to have a society where individual initiative is discouraged. He stressed that it is the wealth of the spirit that creates equality of life.

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN Affairs has warned Filipinos seeking foreign employment of the illegal operations of job placement agencies based in the United Kingdom and the United States. The DFA said the Philippine Embassy in London was apprised by the British foreign office of the inadvisability of remitting money to the agencies by Filipino job seekers. The Philippine London embassy reported having received numerous letters from Filipino job seekers regarding the reliability of certain job placement agencies in UK which assure “summer employment” and placement assistance. The DFA said such “assistance” usually rendered is merely a list of jobs and perhaps hints about application procedures, which are virtually useless.

BUREAU OF INTERNAL Revenue has so far collected P639,976,309 through tax amnesty decrees as of 6 p.m. of April 16, according to internal Revenue Commissioner Misael P. Vera. The latest figures showed that 137,579 individuals and corporate income taxpayers have availed of the provisions of Presidential Decree No. 23 granting a 10 per cent amnesty on previously undeclared income or wealth, while 24,402 have so far availed themselves of Presidential Decree No. 157 granting the same immunities and benefits afforded to taxpayers for taxable year 1972 who availed of Presidential Decree No. 23.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE reiterated the Government’s policy to protect local manufacturers from injurious competition posed by imported items, when it reaffirmed a previous decision imposing a dumping duty on Japanese electrical resistance welded pipes. The department’s action followed a motion for reconsideration filed by the P. I. Hardware and Mill Supply in connection with a decision of Finance Secretary Cesar E. A. Virata imposing a dumping duty on the imported pipes. In denying the motion for reconsideration, Secretary Virata said there are no new justifiable reasons to warrant the modification of or departure from the decision in Dumping Case No. 70-3. According to an investigation conducted by the Tariff Commission, locally manufactured welded pipes can serve the same purposes as the electric resistance welded steel pipes imported from Japan.

YOUTH VOLUNTEERS who will go to the countryside for their summer civic action workcamps will initially concern themselves with the beautification, health and sanitation, reforestation, literacy and citizenship training and environmental planning. This was announced by the Department of Education and Culture and the National Youth Volunteer Coordinating Center for National Development with the issuance of guidelines and outlines of programs for the summer workcamps. The first wave of Youth Civic Action Program participants will get their assignments from local youth centers which will be established in every school that will determine the respective areas for the participating students. The civic action program will focus on the adopt-barrio-concept wherein each school youth center pick a particular barrio or area to develop.

DANGEROUS DRUGS Board announced the guidelines in the procurement and purchase of dangerous drugs. The following procedures must be followed: 1) File application form with the DDB 2) Attach the following to application form; a) Copy of registration certificate issued by the board of medical examiner or in the lieu thereof the official receipt of the registrar or certificate, b) Copy of opium license. c) Privilege receipt to practice under the dangerous drug. Prescription forms may be obtained at the DDB office at the Bureau of Quarantine, Port Area, or at the different regional health offices under the Department of Health.

April 18—

THE PRESIDENT said he may issue a presidential decree providing for the creation of new departments under the Government’s reorganization plan to ease the functions of oversized governmental entities. The President made the announcement after he embarked from the *RPS Ang Pangulo* at the Philippine Navy base in Poro Point, San Fernando, La Union. The President said he is presently studying the creation of additional departments on tourism, public highways, industry, natural resources and housing settlement. The new departments are considered vital in the administration’s program to develop the nation’s economy.

THE FIRST LADY congratulated city officials and residents of Baguio City for the successful cleanliness and beautification campaign in the city that has impressed the First Lady. She observed that the last time she and the

President were in the Pines City some three weeks ago, they were disappointed over the lack of improvement in Baguio despite the general cleaning and beautification activities all over the country. As a result, the President instructed former Rep. Jose D. Aspiras, now a presidential trouble-shooter, to stay behind to oversee the implementation of the beautification drive. After the First Couple enplaned for Manila, Mr. Aspiras met with Baguio City Mayor Luis Lardizabal and other city officials, barrio captains and representatives of local civic organizations. In a short while, streets and sidewalks were scrubbed, fences and lamp posts painted and flower pots dotted the city.

BUREAU OF PUBLIC HIGHWAYS reported its accomplishments since the imposition of Martial Law, including the construction of 24,327 kilometers of roads and 35,541 meters of bridges all over the country. Highways Commissioner Baltazar Aquino said the BPH has completed 48 kilometers of concrete roads and 50 meters of permanent bridges in Central Luzon and Metropolitan Manila after the devastating floods last year. The highways bureau has also repaired 11 kms. of concrete roads, 1,354 kms. of asphalt roads, 1,082 kms. of gravel roads and 3,173 meters of bridges in Central Luzon and the Greater Manila area. From Sept. 30, 1972, to Feb. 28, 1973, the BPH also reported that it has accelerated work on the Japan-Philippine Highway where 189 kilometers were paved, 183 kms. were concreted and six kms. asphalted. Massive road and bridge repair works were launched by the BPH floods had inundated the majority of the country's highways and bridges.

OPERATION PALAGAD '73, the second rice crops program ending this month, has improved the credit extension system with more rural banks participating in rice production efforts, according to the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. DANR Secretary Arturo R. Tanco Jr. said that a total of P24 million has already been released to rural bank in Central Luzon, Laguna and Rizal. Secretary Tanco added that the credit extension system will be streamlined further for the national *Masagana 99* production program starting May. The production-marketing tie-up phase of the Palagad program began in the middle of April when farmer-cooperators involved were expected to start depositing their harvests to the National Grains Authority warehouses. Each cooperating farmer will be guaranteed a minimum price support of P25 per cavan of palay produced and sold under this program. Next month, farmers who participated in this program will receive the payments for their produce after the warehousemen have deducted their loans from the rural banks. They will thus be eligible again for another loan.

BUREAU OF PUBLIC Highways will embark on a roadside beautification drive along national highways to further boost the tourism program of the Government. Code named "Operation Complete Highway", the plan involved the building of roadside parks, complete with all the essential facilities that would bring comfort to travelers like rest rooms, refreshment stands and gasoline stations. Highways Commissioner Baltazar Aquino said that flower boxes with a distance of 2 and 1/2 meters in between will take the place of guardrails on both sides of the highway especially on approaches to permanent bridges to avoid road erosion. In the meantime, Commissioner Aquino directed all district engineers to submit a list of local potential tourist spots that could be developed also for inclusion in the program for fiscal year 1973-1974.

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT Administration has collected a total of P4.4 million last March—the highest amount collected by ACA in many years. The agency's collection last month surpassed by P2,002,120, or 85 per cent the figures for the same month last year which was P2,363,261. From September 23 to February, the ACA also registered substantial increases in its collection.

THE PHILIPPINES has increased its exports to Canada by 91 per cent thus reducing the trade imbalance with that country by 47.25 per cent. This was contained in an official report submitted to the President by the Department of Trade and Tourism. The DTT report said Philippine exports to Canada amounted to \$11.85 million in 1972 from \$6.2 million the previous year. Because of this increase, Philippine trade imbalance with Canada was reduced from \$33.1 million to \$17.46 million last year.

BUREAU OF FOREST Development officials and employees were ordered to refrain from frequenting amusement centers like night clubs, classy restaurants, cockpits, race tracks and other places of gambling. The order, issued by BFD Director Jose Viado, also warned the same officials and employees that they will be dealt with severely if found fraternizing with loggers and other forest users. Director Viado said any one found violating the order will be dismissed from the service. His action was spurred by the President's disclosure of a report on the alleged extortion activities of certain forestry officials in Surigao del Sur and Davao del Norte. The President ordered the arrest and detention of the suspects.

BOARD OF EXAMINERS of the Civil Service Commission announced that the board examination for dietitians has been reset to May 26, 29 and 31. Acting Civil Service Commissioner Epi Rey Pangramuyen said the dietitian examination, originally set for May 2, 4 and 7, was re-scheduled on the request of the Department of Public Information.

April 19—

REVAMP OF THE GOVERNMENT, along the lines of the parliamentary concept, will be pushed through by the next fiscal year through the adoption of “staffing patterns.” The staffing patterns, approved by the Cabinet during its last meeting in Malacañang, determine who of the personnel should be retained or laid off. The overriding factors in the preparation of the patterns are the best interests of the service, streamlining of functions and conformity with the change in the form of Government. The staffing patterns were worked out by the respective heads of the executive departments with officials of the WAPCO, Civil Service and the Reorganization Commission.

THE PRESIDENT approved in principle a three-phase Mass Transit Rail System for Metro Manila as a way of easing the chronic commuter problem. With the growing demand for cheap transportation, the plan, proposed by the Philippine National Railway, contemplates sprawling network of railway for the populous Greater Manila metropolis. Acting PNR General Manager Nicanor T. Jimenez recommended the more ambitious rail transit program because of the favorable public response to the railroad’s commuter service. Under Phase I, some 12,500 passengers will be accommodated daily. The outlay is P2.18 million and the schedule of implementation encompasses the period between December 1972 and December 1973. As for the Phase II, a daily PNR capacity of 25,000 passengers will be handled, with an investment of \$3.95 million and P8.21 million. Schedule of implementation—December 1973 to June 1974. Phase II involves the daily transport of 50,000 to 150,000 passengers. The fund requirements for the project run up to \$20.3 million and P60 million. Schedule of implementation—June 1974 to December 1977.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT’S general fund registered an operating surplus of P185,462.92 in March, 1973. This was announced by Secretary of finance Cesar E.A. Virata, who also revealed that the cumulative surplus from July 1, 1972 to March 31, 1973 amounted to P424,858,742. The operating surplus represented the excess of the general fund cash receipts over the general fund cash disbursements. In other words the cash receipts were much bigger than the cash disbursements during the period referred to. The beginning cash balance of the general fund in the Bureau of Treasury as of March 31, 1973 amounted to P1,114,999,773.

THE PRESIDENT expressed his desire to renegotiate the whole range of Philippine relations with the United States in one sitting. In an interview with Manila newsmen in Baguio City, the President stated that the renegotiations are demanded by fast-changing developments, not only in Asia, but in the whole world. He said that in-depth studies are now being undertaken on the matter. The Philippines has several treaties with the United States, among them the military base agreement, the Mutual Defense Act and the Laurel-Langley Agreement. The Chief Executive said that the Philippines and the United States may also include in the renegotiation exploratory talks on the extradition treaty between the two countries.

NATIONAL FOOD and Agricultural Council revealed there are about eight million undernourished children of the one-to-four-year old bracket in the country today. Alarmed by these findings, Secretary Arturo R. Tanco Jr. of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources and concurrently chairman of the NFAC, convened some 60 heads of various government agencies and representatives of private and international groups to find ways and means of curbing or minimizing malnutrition. The conference’s main objective was the establishment of an effective implementing program and closer coordination between the agencies involved in the nutrition development.

THE PRESIDENT took up anew with local officials the water shortage problem of Baguio City. In a conference with Benguet Gov. Ben Palispis, Baguio City Mayor Luis Lardizabal and Bureau of Internal Revenue Commissioner Misael P. Vera, the Chief Executive directed that a study and the drafting of plans be made to solve the perennial problem once and for all. At the same time, the President ordered an investigation of complaints that mining firms in the province of Benguet have been drawing water from the mountains, particularly Mt. Sto. Tomas, which is the watershed of the city. The President received reports that the Benguet Exploration and Black Mountain mining

operations not only prejudiced the water supply but also caused the pollution of the river which goes all the way to the lowlands. He stressed the urgency of solving the water problem which residents and thousands of vacationists experienced every summer in the summer capital.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: April 20-26, 1973

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

April 20—

THE PRESIDENT has directed the immediate implementation of a provision in the new Constitution requiring educational institutions to be solely owned by Philippine citizens or Filipino-controlled corporations to effect the desired changes and reforms in the country's educational system. The President's order was contained in Presidential Decree No. 176. Aside from the requirement that all educational institutions be vested in the citizens of the country, the presidential decree also provides that membership in the governing bodies or boards of such educational institutions shall be limited to Filipino citizens. Henceforth, no educational institution shall be established exclusively for aliens, nor shall any school offer any curriculum exclusively for aliens. The enrolment of aliens in any school is limited to not more than one-third of the total enrolment therein. Full compliance with this requirement in any school shall be effected not later than the beginning of the schoolyear 1976-1977. These provisions, however, shall not apply to schools established for foreign diplomatic personnel and their dependents and, unless otherwise provided by law, for other foreign temporary residents.

FRUIT TREES and bamboo plants are exempt from real property taxes unless they are grown principally for commercial purposes. This clarification was issued by Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata following reports that landowners are planning to cut down trees grown in their lands because all fruit trees will be subject to taxation under Presidential Decree No. 76. Secretary Virata stressed that fruit trees and bamboo plants not grown for commercial purposes are not subject to real property tax under the old law or even under Presidential Decree No. 76.

THE PRESIDENT initiated a massive tree-farming program to prevent soil erosion and floods, and pinpointed the watershed areas of Ambuklao and Binga as pilot projects in the nationwide reforestation campaign. The President made this move after expressing grave concern over reports that the water level in the hydro-electric power projects in Northern Luzon has been going down and might trigger power problems as far south as Greater Manila. In a conference with forestry officials, Northern Luzon governors and officials at the Mansion House in Baguio City, the President stressed the necessity of the tree-farming program because of the continuous deforestation of the country's forest due to unscrupulous logging and *kaingin*. He called on the people to coordinate in this massive tree-farming program.

THE PRESIDENT ordered the release of P2 million for the improvement of the water system of Baguio City, following reports of a serious water shortage in the country's summer capital. The President made the order of release to the city government with the condition that it will turn over one-half of the amount to the National Power Corporation in partial settlement of its electric power and light bills. The President assured the Baguio City officials that the national government is interested in their problems and that the release of P2 million should help improve the city's water and sewerage system.

BUREAU OF INTERNAL Revenue officials and men who divulge trade secrets will be penalized by an imprisonment of not less than six months nor more than five years or both or a fine of not more than P5,000. This warning has been issued by Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata as he called the attention of all BIR officials and men to Section 347 of the National Internal Revenue Code as amended by Presidential Decree No. 69. "Trade secrets" are spelled out as information regarding the business, income, or inheritance of any taxpayer, the secret operation, style of work, or apparatus of any manufacturer or producer, or confidential information regarding the business of any taxpayer.

PLANT AND SOIL experts have discovered that the use of potassium in lowland rice production has yielded excellent results in terms of soil fertilization. This new boost to rice production was underscored by the Bureau of Plant Industry. The seminar was held in San Agustin, Pili, Camarines Sur. Dr. S. K. de Datta, agronomist of the International Rice Research Institute, reported the dramatic response of high-yielding rice varieties to potassium fertilization in cooperative experiments conducted in various BPI stations. Dr. de Datta added that in areas where continuous rice cropping is done, the application of complete fertilizers (NPK) is needed to sustain high yield grains.

April 21—

THE PRESIDENT has formulated plans to revitalize the country's tobacco and coconut industries in a move to boost their dollar earning capabilities. In two separate moves, the Chief Executive directed the Philippine Tobacco Administration to immediately draw up its program for the purchase of native leaf tobacco starting next month and created a three-man ad hoc committee to pave the groundwork for the consolidation of the country's coconut agencies into one body. The President's directive to the PTA is aimed at stabilizing the prices of native tobacco leaf to protect farmers from the fluctuations in domestic prices of the commodity. The ad hoc committee on the other hand was directed to study the mechanics of stabilizing a consolidated Philippine coconut administration which is calculated to revitalize the country's top foreign earner. It has been noted that proliferation of coconut agencies with overlapping functions has done more harm than good to the industry.

THE GOVERNMENT has now collected a total of P750,059,700 from five tax amnesties, according to the Department of Finance. The figure is contained in the latest report on revenue collections submitted to Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata by the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs. Topping the collections were tax amnesty on previously untaxed income or wealth which amounted to P538,316,327. This amount was paid by 137,579 individuals and corporations who took advantage of the amnesty. Collection from another tax amnesty (Presidential Decree No. 157 which provides amnesty of income for the taxable year 1972) have now reached P172,102,426. The Bureau of Customs on the other hand, collected P19,429,295 from previously untaxed or improperly taxed motor vehicles. The Government also collected P6,852,290 from previously untaxed or improperly taxed goods in commercial quantities. The tax amnesty on contested assessments netted the Government P13,359,360.

BUREAU OF INTERNAL Revenue issued several clarifications in the interpretation of the new Internal Revenue Code. These are: 1) A person who is both a certified public accountant (CPA) and lawyer is subject to two fixed taxes if he is engaged in the practice of both profession. 2) A public utility operating under a legislative franchise is not subject to income tax under Presidential Decree No. 69. 3) Quarterly returns are actually intended to reflect correct figures although a percentage leeway for errors is provided for. Inventories must be actual, not estimated. 4) The two per cent common carrier's tax is based on gross receipts. The taxable gross receipts cannot include the two per cent tax itself or any other tax paid by the carrier. All common carriers are subject to Income tax. 5) Claims for representation expenses must be justified and only taxpayers whose work requires representation can claim for such expenses. However, representation expenses not exceeding P1,000 or 5 per cent of taxpayer's gross income whichever is lesser need not be justified. 6) The tax on foreign income, of non-resident citizens is based on gross and on business, the basis is on net computed in accordance with the provisions of Title II. 7) The conversion rate of the foreign income of non-resident citizens for 1972 is P6.70. 8) The interest income of foreign companies from money market placements of temporarily idle funds is subject to percentage tax.

THE PRESIDENT appointed nine officials for three examining boards and one director for the Export Processing Zone Authority. The three examiners boards were the board of examiners for social welfare, the Philippine Licensing Board for contractors, and the Board of Examiners for Geology. The new appointees were: 1) For the board of examiners for social welfare: Guillerma L. Batto, chairman; Mrs. Editha G. Mar-tillano, Miss Teresita L. Silva, and Sister Amelina Villegas, members. 2) For the Philippine Licensing Board for Contractors: Eduardo Escobar, senior member, promoted to chairman of the board; Quintin K. Calderon and Vicente Esguerra Jr., members. 3) For the Board of Examiners for Geology: Oscar A. Crispin and Generoso R. Oca, members. 4) For the Board of Commissioners of the Export Processing Zone Authority: Rolando P. de la Cuesta, member.

April 22—

THE PRESIDENT directed the Department of Local Governments and Community Development to stop the suspension or dismissal of local officials by provincial governors without his prior approval. The Chief Executive issued the directive in Baguio City after receiving reports that some provincial governors have been suspending municipal officials without corresponding charges being filed against them. In issuing the directive, the President stressed he wanted to prevent possible disruption of essential services in the local government level. He explained that the country cannot afford a breakdown in the administrative machinery at this time when the development programs are being rigorously pursued down to the grassroots level.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE said it expected government revenue to increase further with the automatic abolition of many tax exemption laws by Presidential Decree Nos. 34 and 69. In the past, the Government had lost some P400 million annually because of the proliferation of tax exemption laws granted by Congress. Secretary Virata also said that the National Internal Revenue Code, as amended by Presidential Decree No. 69, abolished the grant of tax exemption on the payment of compensating tax except on the following cases: 1) Those enumerated under Section 190 of the Tax Code; 2) Exemption granted under the Investment Incentives Act, Export Incentives Act and R.A. No. 5490; 3) Those granted in pursuance of or in compliance with international treaties or commitments, such as ADB-RP Host Agreement (1966), the 1947 convention on privileges and immunities of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, the United States Agency for International Development-RP Agreement, the 1947 Military Base Agreement, and other similar treaties or commitments; and 4) Those that may be granted by the President upon recommendation of the NED A in the interest of economic development.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE announced that a bigger share of the Government's tax money will be channeled to accelerate economic and social development projects. The announcement was made as Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata noted with satisfaction the increase of percentage of the national Government's tax effort. Secretary Virata said that emphasis will be placed on farm-to-market roads and projects so that farmers will not meet difficulties in marketing their products and thus increase not only their income but also their purchasing capacity.

EFFECTIVITY of several tax ordinances enacted by local governments, considered unjust, oppressive and contrary to national economic policies, have been suspended by the Department of Finance. Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata said that some tax ordinances passed by various municipalities are clear cases of multiple taxation. Among the suspended tax ordinances were those passed by: 1) A suburban town imposing a graduated fixed license tax on a certain kind of business, the rate of which was 500 per cent higher than those prescribed by adjacent cities and municipalities. 2) A municipality in the South increasing the production tax on a manufacturing firm to as much as 2,000 per cent of the original tax being levied. 3) A municipality in Central Luzon imposing different kinds of taxes on a certain kind of business, which if added together, would amount to a staggering amount.

PHILIPPINE RICE prices have remained the cheapest in the world despite an upward price spiral in the international rice market caused by an acute worldwide rice shortage. National Grains Authority Administrator Jess Tanchanco disclosed that rice prices in the United States, Europe and Asia have increased to more than twice the price of rice in the Philippines. The NGA administrator said that the price of rice in the United States has risen to about \$300 per metric ton; in Egypt and Italy, \$280 per metric ton; in Thailand, from \$150- to \$180 per metric ton; and in Pakistan, from \$150 to \$260 per metric ton. On the other hand, he pointed out, the retail price of rice in the Philippines only from P1.00 to P1.25 per kilo, while in other parts of the world the cost of rice is more than P2.00 per kilo. The worldwide shortage of grains, he added, coupled with the upward price movement in the international market, is expected to add to the cost of rice importations by the Philippines. However, despite this added cost of importations, rice prices in the Philippines will still remain within the price ceiling of P3.00 per ganta set by law, Mr. Tanchanco said.

April 23—

THE PRESIDENT initiated moves to accelerate the development of the country's marine resources through the establishments of cooperatives among subsistence fishermen and the waging of effective control against destructive fishing. Specifically, the Chief Executive ordered the Bureau of Fisheries to undertake a thorough review of government policies on the preservation and development of marine resources. Receiving reports from Ilocos coasts, Pangasinan and Manila Bays, the President ordered that a restudy be made on the policies concerning fishing in these areas with the objective of encouraging cooperatives among subsistence fishermen and of waging effective control against destructive fishing. The policy on cooperatives is expected to help thousands of small fishermen who can avail themselves of Government financing assistance in groups.

THREE MAJOR resolutions which were filed by the Philippines with the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East have been approved during the 28th ECAFE plenary session in Tokyo. This was reported by Trade and Tourism. Secretary Troadio T. Quiazon Jr., head of the 11-man Philippine delegation to the ECAFE meet, who returned from Tokyo. The three approved Philippine proposals were: 1) The creation of an Asian Rice Trade Fund; 2) The restructuring of the over-all objectives, targets and strategies of the ECAFE; and 3) The

integration of women in the development process. Secretary Quiazon, who was the first presiding chairman of the plenary session, said the creation of the Asian Rice Trade Fund was one of the most important matters approved at the conference. Membership of the Philippines to the Fund was approved by the President.

THE PRESIDENT has promulgated Presidential Decree No. 177 providing for increased Social Security System retirement benefits and authorizing the SSS administrator to extend the deadline for the payment of delinquent SSS employers' contributions. The decree also reinstated the previous procedure of extending sickness benefit payment to members only after they have exhausted all their earned sick leaves, and imposed stiffer penalties on violators of provisions of the SSS law. The President issued the decree in response to numerous appeals from employers who have a hard time meeting the deadline set by PD No. 24, condoning the three per cent penalty provided the delinquent employers updated their contributions remittances not later than April 23.

INFORMATION SECRETARY Francisco S. Tatad assured that labor is a high priority of the Government in the form of continuous employment promotion, the implementation of social justice and the maintenance of industrial peace in the field of manpower and labor development. Addressing the First National Congress of the Trade Unions of the Philippines and Allied Services in Quezon City, Secretary Tatad stressed that the Government has initiated plans to make labor a full-pledged partner of capital. Mr. Tatad also assured the workingman need no longer fight for recognition and respect because these are given to him by law as a matter of right under the new Constitution.

THE COUNTRY may soon avail itself of the expertise and know-how of United Kingdom economists and infrastructure experts in the field of housing, health and education. This was gleaned from an exchange of views between the President and Mr. Evelyn de Rothschild during a dinner in Malacañang. Mr. Rothschild said that the experiences in his country in the fields of infrastructure like housing, sanitation, health and education, may be useful to the Philippines. He added that if given the opportunity, the people with the capacity and the knowledge, would gladly come to the country and help in the tremendous task of moving forward and effecting changes in the areas that lay ahead.

SECRETARY OF INFORMATION Francisco S. Tatad said that the public school teachers in the New Society must be "as disciplined and research-oriented as other professionals" even as he pledged government action in their problems. The secretary made these remarks during his keynote speech opening the three-day seminar for public school teachers sponsored by the Department of Public Information at the Ateneo de Manila auditorium on Padre Faura, Malate. The secretary emphasized that the school teacher has the privilege of having the greatest access to the young, whose participation in the task of building a New Society shall prove indispensable.

April 24—

THE PRESIDENT was apprised by the Trans World Airlines' recognition of the tourism potentials of the Philippines which it has included in the "Getaway Orient Tour Series" for the first time. Joseph L. Brumit, TWA Vice-president, presented to the President a brochure on the \$4.2 million orient tour program during a courtesy call in Malacañang. The program, which started last month, is expected to draw more tourists to the country. It features three tours and year-round monthly departure from the United States of at least 2,000 tourists yearly. The President expressed gratitude for the program and was confident that it will boost local tourism.

THE NEW SOCIETY has given the country a new image that is winning the respect and admiration of neighboring Asian countries. Department of Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Romulo made this assessment during a panel discussion on the 6th ASEAN conference of foreign ministers held in Pattaya, Thailand, last April 16-18. Secretary Romulo said the fact that the Asian Forum, which is a proposal of the President, was unanimously approved showed "the confidence and respect that our Southeast Asian colleagues have in our New Society." On the matter of the Asian Forum, Mr. Romulo stated that its approval was the outstanding achievement of the conference. The Forum, initially called the All Southeast Asian Nations Conference, will discuss matters of vital interest to the region, including the establishment of political and economic stability and social tranquility in this area of the world.

INFORMATION SECRETARY Francisco S. Tatad called on the trained manpower of the country to share its expertise with the rest of the people in order to accelerate national development. Speaking at the opening day of the

Rural Broadcasting Week in Pasig, Rizal, the Secretary said the progress of the nation can be achieved fastest through a “share of expertise” program along with the fundamental “share the wealth” program. He asked the farmers to show their children pride in their own toil so that they would take up work, not as a punishment for the inferior or the unfortunate but as the self-expression of those who desire to create their own future. Paying a tribute to the rural broadcasters for choosing what he called “a real vocation in the service of our people,” Mr. Tatad lauded the program “Sanggunian sa Himpapawid” which was launched last December by the Department of Public Information through the Rural Broadcasters Council for agricultural workers. He said that despite the various dialects and geographical barriers that divide the masses, the rural broadcasters have been able to communicate to the people, because “theirs is a message of hope and salvation.”

FOR 11,927 farmers in the country, everything, including the meaning of the New Society, revolves around the plow and a piece of priceless document—the land transfer certificate. This number of tenant-tillers has received such certificates since the promulgation of the historic presidential decree on agrarian emancipation. A total of 412,619 tenant-tillers, who have been identified and interviewed, will soon be granted the same certificates. These official figures are included in the latest report which was submitted to the President by the Department of Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado F. Estrella. The report also indicated that the parcellary mapping of lands with areas of 100 hectares and above had been completed and the sworn statements of 6,331 landowners in 33 provinces had been taken.

PERSONS INVOLVED in swindling and other crimes of deceit punishable under Article 315 and 316 of the Revised Penal Code will be arrested and detained. The President issued this directive in General Order No. 29 which amends General Order No. 2, dated September 22, 1972. Swindling or estafa, as defined under articles 315 and 316, involves crimes committed by any person who shall defraud another through unfaithfulness or abuse of confidence, false pretenses or fraudulent acts and means. Deceitful acts covered by the articles including the disposing of real property by any person who pretends to be the owner; the disposing of property falsely represented as free from its lawful possessor; the execution of fictitious contracts; the acceptance of compensation for services not rendered; and the disposing of properties by surety in a bond.

MANUFACTURERS HANOVER Trust, a large US-based banking institution, offered to form a consortium of American and European banks to extend a \$100 million loan to finance some priority imports of the Philippine government. The offer was made to the President by Mr. Tristan Beplat, senior vice president of Manufacturers Hanover Trust, who was with two groups of American businessmen who called on the Chief Executive. The American businessmen informed the President of plans to expand investment in the country’s development program. They also offered to renegotiate on easier terms the reconstruction loan granted to the Philippines in 1970 and to extend further credit for the modernization of the country’s communication facilities.

BUREAU OF CUSTOMS collectors are now authorized to accept and process export documents and to allow immediate loading of export products except sugar and copra in their respective ports. This was announced by Customs Commissioner Rolando Geotina even as he ordered the holding of an intensive on-the-job training of customs collectors and examiners on the latest export regulations and procedures. The customs head warned customs personnel against any form of harassment against exporters or undue delay in the processing of export documents.

LAND APPLICANTS in far-flung areas of the country need no longer travel all the way down to Manila to follow up the verification and approval of land survey applications. The first groups to rid themselves of this time-consuming procedure included the residents of Region IX of the lands bureau in Zamboanga City. The signing of the land survey applications was held in simple ceremonies attended by local officials, district land officers and prominent Zamboanga residents.

ROLE OF THE country’s more than 125,000 farmers in the New Society will be the highlight of the farmers’ forthcoming convention in Baguio City from May 9 to 13. The three-day convention of the Federation of Farmers’ Association of the Philippines, Inc., which is under the auspices of the Bureau of Agricultural Extension, will have for its main speaker Secretary of Information Francisco S. Tatad, Secretary Arturo R. Tanco of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, National Grains Authority Administrator Jess Tanchanco and Secretary Jose A. Roño of the Department of Local Governments and Community Development. Some 400 delegates and observers

representing the country's farmers are slated to attend the FFAP's 9th convention at the r Teachers' Camp in Baguio. FFAP National Chairman Lucio A. Lim said that the convention theme is doubly significant in that the farmers are now free from the "bondage of the soil." "They should be acquainted with the roles expected of them as a new breed of farmers under the New Society," he added.

April 25—

THE PRESIDENT instituted a new national health plan which envisions a system of rural hospitals and increased health units, and provides for the conversion of the Makati Medical Center into a cancer research foundation. The Chief Executive has directed Department of Health Secretary Clemente Gatmaitan to draft the details of the plan in cooperation with the Philippine Medical Association, the Philippine Nursing Association and other medical organizations. The President issued the directive in his speech during the 66th annual convention of the PMA at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang.

ROLE OF THE PHILIPPINES as a stabilizing factor in Southeast Asia is being keenly watched by the people of Austria. This was reported to the President by Ambassador Gehard Gmoser, the incoming non-resident ambassador of the Republic of Austria to the Philippines. The new ambassador presented his credentials to the Chief Executive at the Malacañang ceremonial hall. The Austrian ambassador said that the Austrians and the Filipinos have a lot of things in common, since both are exerting efforts to raise their standard of living and to avail themselves of the benefits of modern science and technology. The President responded that the current changes in the country are signs that a determined and forceful government and an equally determined citizenry can unite and cohere towards evolving a better place to live in. He said that under the prevailing atmosphere, the country has once more reverted to its stableness and security, marked with the great promise for foreign investments and joint ventures.

THE PRESIDENT ordered the Bureau of Public Works to complete its flood control projects before the rainy season sets in. Apparently concerned about the possible recurrence of devastating floods that hit the country last year, the Chief Executive gave the BPW Director Desidero Anolin the task of finishing the flood control projects, particularly in the Greater Manila area and Central Luzon.

THE FIRST LADY lauded the anonymous but sincere men and women who have helped her in numerous humanitarian and public service projects. The First Lady made the tribute in a speech after receiving a plaque of merit from the Philippine Medical Association for exemplary services in public service and in the field of medicine. The plaque was presented to the First Lady by Dr. Jose G. Tamayo, outgoing president of the PMA, during the opening session of the 66th annual convention of the association at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang. In expressing her gratitude, the First Lady pointed out that she was not alone in this task. She paid tribute to others—men and women, young and old—who sought to "fulfill their duty to country and people but who were not placed in the proper limelight."

THE GOVERNMENT has set up standard specifications for tinplates, blackplate and paper products to protect the consumers from unscrupulous manufacturers and traders. The Department of Trade and Tourism has issued the following new standard specifications: 1) For tinplate and blackplate: The Bureau of Standards enumerates the grades, tin coating weight, temper classifications and the criteria for determination of tin coating weight. The standard specification for tinplate and blackplate were intended to ensure the quality and acceptability of these products in the world market. 2) For paper products: The Bureau of Standards requires that the surface of the manifold or onion skin paper shall be free from corrugations, fuzz, or any particles which will pick, lift, or fluff under normal conditions of use. On mimeograph paper, among the specifications included that quality shall show no linting in operation, and shall produce sharp, clear, clean and legible copies on both sides.

DR. PACIFICO E. MARCOS, chairman of the Philippine Medical Care Commission (PMCC), requested the hospital administrators to "see to it that medicare patients get their money's worth." The P12 allowance per day for room and board of medicare patient is adequate for good food and services but hospital administrators must guard against overuse of medicare allowances of medicines and laboratory examinations. Dr. Marcos made the assessment in his address before the members of the University of the Philippines Hospital Administration Alumni Society at the United Laboratories in Mandaluyong. The PMCC head said there have been reports of hospital claims for

payment of medicare services wherein the overuse of the allowances for medicines and laboratory examination were very evident. Dr. Marcos stressed that it should be the duty of all parties involved in the medicare program to conserve medicare funds for maximum utilization.

SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION Chairman Adrian E. Cristobal underscored the role of the teacher in the New Society as propagator of experience. The task of the teacher is to inculcate the human values of the New Society in their students, the SSS chairman stressed in his address before the Public Teachers Conference sponsored by the Department of Public Information. Explaining the role of the teacher as propagator of experience, Mr. Cristobal said that to teach is not merely to instruct certain skills but to teach man a way of communicating with his fellowmen. This essential role of the teacher was lost in the old society which made of the teachers a commodity, an organizer, a time-saver, a fund raiser; and not as a communicator of the moral, intellectual and spiritual experience of man, he said. He also urged the teachers to end the alienation of the students from the learning environment. This alienation, he noted, was one of the causes of the rise of student radicalism in the old society.

PHILIPPINE BANANA exports, if present trends continue, will soon be one of the chief dollar earners for the country. The latest report from the Bureau of Plant Industry showed that Philippine export earnings from bananas last March exceeded P14 million—the highest monthly banana export record since the Philippines entered the banana world market in 1968. The report also showed that last month's export earnings of the preceding month which was P10,064,076.

CAMPAIGN ON RAT control will be expanded to coconut-growing regions, a move to boost the directive of the President to revitalize the country's coconut industry. This was reported during the opening day of the first annual-conference of the Philippine-German Field Rat Control Project at the Bureau of Plant Industry office on San Andres St., Malate. Dr. Juergen Schaefer, German project manager, revealed the expansion plan during a briefing on the plans and forthcoming projects of the rat control campaign. The program, implemented in 1969 in cooperation with West Germany through its German Society for Technical Assistance of Developing Countries, has so far established 18 pilot projects in the country and benefitted farmers of rat-infested ricefields.

NATIONAL GRAINS AUTHORITY Administrator Jesus Tanchanco, in a speech before the Makati Rotary Club, stressed that the expertise and resources of the private sector could boost the grains industry which he called "a fertile area for investments." He cited that modern agricultural techniques, the development of better strains of rice and corn, and the building of irrigation systems, roads, ports and bridges, has trebled the income of farmers. Mr. Tanchanco mentioned that once the country attained self-sufficiency in rice, possible exportation of the cereal may provide a bigger volume of such business, which is encouraging, inasmuch as rice prices in the world market has been on the upswing.

April 26—

THE PRESIDENT sought a coordinated effort by the Government, management and labor to solve the country's unemployment problem in order to complement the successful land reform and peace and order programs of the New Society. The Chief Executive, in addressing the opening session of the three-day tripartite labor congress, also cited the need for a corollary program to build the competitive edge in local products through better skills and craftsmanship. In seeking for a new social contract wherein the individual, the laborer, the employee and the lowest class will be considered an important element in society, the President outlined the following policies: 1) All energies and resources of both Government and the private sector will be focused on the paramount goal of national development. 2) Employment is a top priority objective of social and economic planning. 3) Industrial peace will be maintained to make possible the fullest use of the productive energies of the people. 4) Efforts will be exerted to improve working conditions of employees and laborers.

THE GOVERNMENT has released P1.5 million for the "small fishermen's credit fund." An additional outlay of P10 million is also expected to beef up this non-collateral financial assistance to small fishermen. The release of the outlay came a few days after the President directed the creation of cooperatives for the country's small fishermen. Under the experimental program, small fishermen have been able to avail themselves of loans (at an average of P5,000 each without collateral) after meeting two conditions, namely: 1) That the fishermen of an area organize

themselves into a cooperative which would serve as their guarantor, collection agency and marketing outlets; and 2) That they will submit to close supervision by government technicians who would see to it that the loan proceeds are used properly. To finance the pilot scheme, the Government released a total of P3.5 million to initially form the small fishermen's credit fund. The three government agencies which chipped in to raise the P3.5 million are the Department of rural banks of the Central Bank, the DANR and the Agricultural Credit Administration (ACA).

THE PRESIDENT called on the Asian Development Bank to establish multi-lateral forum to safeguard developing nations against the harmful effects of realignments among powerful currencies. He said that such a forum should be consulted before monetary decisions affecting world trade are made, and should also set up means for absorbing currency losses caused in the developing nations by such monetary decisions. The President made this appeal in welcoming more than 100 finance ministers and senior officials from 40 countries attending the 6th Annual Meeting of the ADB Board of Governors at the ADB headquarters in Pasay City. He said the development of the poorer nations is not the exclusive concern of these developing nations, but it is equally in the interest of the fully developed and affluent nations that the advancement of the poorer nations toward prosperity is accepted by them as a condition to world peace.

PHILIPPINE MEDICAL CARE Commission recommended the assignment of at least one government physician in every municipality in the country. PMCC Chairman Dr. Pacifico E. Marcos said that the recommendation should be embodied in the Rural Health Act as he observed that "there are many places where there is neither a private nor government physician resulting in the death of many people without the benefit of medical consultation." In a meeting of the PMCC during the convention of the Philippine Medical Association, Dr. Marcos also recommended: 1) The activation of all ghost hospitals; 2) The organization of a lineal roster of all government physicians so that promotions in rank, place of assignment and areas of responsibility could be more systematically defined; 3) An inspection of services should be established in the Department of Health.

AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT between the Philippines and Indonesia for the operation of bilateral air services is now in effect. Foreign Secretary Carlos P. Romulo said the Indonesian Embassy has informed the Department of Foreign Affairs through a diplomatic note that the formalities required for the approval of the Air Transport Agreement have been complied with by the Indonesian government. The air agreement, signed in Manila on March 24, 1972, provided that each country shall have the right to designate one airline for the purpose of operating the agreed air services. Both countries agreed to operate weekly services from points in the Philippines to Jakarta with Singapore and Bangkok as points beyond for Philippine carrier and from points in Indonesia to Manila with Hongkong, Taipei and Tokyo as points beyond for the Indonesian carrier.

THE GOVERNMENT is set to clamp closure proceedings on mining companies that refuse to install anti-pollution facilities in vital agricultural areas in Benguet. Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources Secretary Arturo Tanco Jr. served this stern warning in the ultimatum following reports that several mining companies in Benguet have not complied with orders to treat or contain mining mill wastes or slime. Mr. Tanco said that the discharges from the mills have poisoned irrigation water and killed rice crops in adjacent farm areas. He also stressed the importance of the cooperation of the mining companies in the anti-pollution campaign. The Government has so far undertaken the following: 1) The Bureau of Mines has instructed mining companies to implement the second phase of chemically treating affected rivers in the Benguet area. 2) The National Science Development Board has funded a study on the effect of mine tailings on marine and animal life in the disposal area.

Source: Supreme Court Library

President's Week in Review: April 27 - May 3, 1973

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

April 27—

THE PRESIDENT said that the Asian Development Bank has shown the capacity to attain objectives that diplomatic relations and international conferences failed to achieve. The Chief Executive reemphasized that the ADB was created principally to eliminate and eradicate the specter of poverty, illness and underdevelopment. The President made these remarks during a state dinner the First Couple had tendered in honor of the ADB board of governors at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang. He said the ADB and institutions similar to it seem to attain the objectives that statesmen and political leaders "had failed to even grope for" in the formality of diplomatic relations and international conferences. Mr. Ali Wardhana, Indonesian minister of finance and chairman of the ADB's board of governors, responded that the Presidential address in the opening session served to reemphasize the great task the ADB has embarked upon. He added that Asians have discovered each other once again and the Bank is one of the results of regional cooperation.

THE PRESIDENT ordered the immediate shipment of corn grits to several areas in the Visayas and Mindanao where signs of a corn shortage have been noted by the National Grains Administrator. The Chief Executive has dispatched a Philippine Air Force Hercules cargo plane and a Philippine Navy vessel to transport the cereal in order to augment the dwindling local supply in the shortage-stricken areas and to stabilize the price of corn. The shipment, specified in a directive to the NGA, was first sent to Dumaguete City. Succeeding shipments will be forwarded to Tagbilaran City, Cagayan de Oro City and Iligan City. Officials of the NGA stationed in the shortage-affected places were instructed to receive the cargoes for immediate distribution to stave off a possible cereal crisis.

BUREAU OF INTERNAL Revenue issued the following tax reminders for private corporations, employers and government offices for May: May 10 deadline: 1) For employers who withheld taxes of P200 or more from wages during the month of April, 1973 to deposit their collections with the BIR; and 2) For government offices, agencies, and instrumentalities to submit BIR Form 7.50 and remit internal revenue taxes withheld under R.A. 1051 for the month of April, 1973. May 15 deadline: 1) For payment of the second installment of the taxes due by taxpayers whose delinquent tax accounts exceed P300,000 and who availed of the partial amnesty under PD No. 68; 2) For filing of the final income tax return by corporations whose taxable year ended on January 31; 3) For payment of one-third of the income tax due on the quarterly return filed by corporations whose taxable year ended March 31; 4) For payment of one-half of the income tax due on the quarterly return filed by corporations whose taxable year ends June 30, 1973; and 5) For payment of the second installment of income tax by corporations whose preceding taxable year ended October 31, 1972. May 30 deadline: 1) For filing of the quarterly corporate income tax return by corporations whose taxable year ends on September 30, 1973; 2) For filing of quarterly corporate income tax returns by corporations whose taxable year ends on December 31, 1973; and 3) For Submission of inventory list by taxpayers whose taxable year ended on April 30, 1973. May 31 deadline: For filing of the quarterly corporate income tax return by corporations whose taxable year ended on April 30, 1973.

LAND ACQUIRED by a tenant under Presidential Decree No. 27 is not transferable except by hereditary succession or through Government takeover. Agrarian Reform Assistant Secretary Benjamin Labayan made this clarification in a speech before the Rotary Club meeting in Quezon City. The DAR official further explained that the acquired land is to be paid by the tenant direct to the landowner in equal amortization for a period of 15 years at six per cent interest. The value of the land is two and one-half times the average harvest of a three normal crop years immediately preceding the promulgation of the Presidential decree, he said. He also reported that the DAR has completed operations in the tenanted corn and rice lands over 100 hectares. The DAR is operating in land-holdings of 50 or more hectares and expects to finish the project before June 30 this year. The DAR's "Operation Land Transfer" is done by phases while waiting for the promulgation of the rules and regulations that will complement PD No. 27, the DAR official said. He added the tenant-tillers are identified and their farms sketched by the Bureau of Lands.

THE GOVERNMENT has assured Filipino shippers and exporters of protection and a better deal in their business dealings with foreign countries with the official organization of the Philippine Shippers' Council. The election of the PSC officers, the creation of the steering committee and the adoption of its articles of incorporation and by-laws highlighted the meeting. Trade and Tourism Secretary Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. said the country now has an effective and cohesive body that can protect the interests of Filipino shippers and assure the competitiveness of Philippine export products in the world market. Mr. Quiazon stressed that the council will promote and protect the economy, the common interests of Filipino exporters and negotiate with foreign shipping concerns for reasonable freight rates and optimum shipping terms.

ALL FIREARMS LICENSES, certificates of registration and special permits may be renewed starting on the first week of May the Philippine Constabulary announced. The renewal was approved by Brig. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, constabulary chief. Col. Alfonso Trance, firearms and explosive unit chief, said the renewal will involve regular licenses issued to private persons and entities, special permits for government officials and employees, and certificates of registration for government-owned firearms.

COMPLAINTS AND INVESTIGATION Office (Malacañang) has warned the public of illegal solicitations. The CIO has warned the public specifically against agents soliciting advance payments with promises of backpay, bonuses, employment and other benefits. Agents soliciting payments for identification cards, membership fees and other advance payments for promise of service should be reported to the nearest law enforcing agency, according to CIO. The *modus operandi* is explained thus: The agent will ask for service fees with promise of backpays in the case of veterans, bonuses in case of separated or retired employees, employment for jobseekers and such other benefits.

SOME 128,863 beneficiaries have availed themselves of medicare benefits since April 2, 1972, when the health program became operative. Payment for medical services amounted to P30.9 million. This was reported by Dr. Pacifico E. Marcos, chairman of the Philippine Medical Care Commission (PMCC), which was organized August 9, 1971. Dr. Marcos reported that some of the 81 medicare community hospitals and health centers (CHHCs), 10 of which are projects of the President's medical assistance program, are already in operation. Others are jointly being constructed by the Armed Forces Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Public Works and local residents. The PMCC chairman reported that the commission is at present formulating the proposal for Program II of the medicare plan intended to cover those who are not members of the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System and their legal dependants.

April 28—

THE PRESIDENT sought to redefine and draw a new Filipino elite from the country's "rich mosaic of groups" who are united in their ability to perceive national interest. During 20th anniversary ceremonies of the Summer Institute of Linguistics at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang, the President lauded the SIL for its mission and commitment to work among cultural minorities to bring them, through literacy, closer to the world of modernization, and to increase their potentials for individual and community welfare. He said that one of the Government's most urgent tasks is to disseminate a redefinition of the Filipino elite, a status in the New Society that inheres in those who have the ability to perceive the national interest, and who have the capacity to perceive and pursue approaches or solution to national problems."

SECRETARY OF INFORMATION Francisco S. Tatad said society must safeguard its moral and intellectual resources from "the shallow expressions of panderers, psychopants and false experts who will set the standard of what is current and, therefore, what is intelligent." The DPI secretary told the biennial conference of the Philippine Library Association that service to the New Society will not be found in educators who silence their students from discussing the various realms of thoughts and in public advocates who refuse to state objectively in the media of the merits of the Government's efforts but state them instead in a fawning and mendacious manner. Mr. Tatad pointed out that in nation rebuilding, the reexamination of certain values, including those in learning and scholarship, is of primary importance.

FORTY MAJOR rice-producing provinces, notably in Mindanao, are now ensured of increased rice production and smooth distribution to market places following the release by the President of P35 million for construction of "rice

roads” and river control projects. Immediately after releasing the amount, the President authorized Commissioner Baltazar Aquino of Public Highways and Director Desiderio Anolin of Public Works to rush construction of the projects either by administration or by contract without public bidding to expedite the work. Of the P35 million released by the Government, P13 million will be used for the construction of farm-to-market roads in the rice-priority areas in 15 provinces to ensure the smooth flow of the staple from the farms to the market places.

THE PRESIDENT said that sports reinforces a citizen’s commitments to the goals of his community and his country, apart from being a bridge towards greater brotherhood among countries. The President made this observation in a speech read for him by former Sen. Ambrosio Padilla, Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation president, at the opening of the 10-day Asian Baseball Championship Series at the Rizal Memorial baseball stadium. He also said that when groups of people contend with each other as in the current baseball series, “sports assumes a more profound meaning and wider dimension.” The Chief Executive also received the heads of the delegations participating in the series from Japan, Australia, China and Korea in Malacañang.

BUREAU OF CUSTOMS released guidelines on seizure, forfeiture and custody of apprehended, untaxed or underpaid motor vehicles. The guidelines, which are aimed at protecting those who availed themselves of the car tax amnesty are: 1) Seizure of untaxed motor vehicles shall be made only by persons lawfully authorized to effect seizure. 2) All applications for the issuance of warrant of seizure and detention shall be made under oath subject to the penalties of perjury and falsification. 3) All seizures shall be reported to the collector of customs under whose authority the warrant was issued and the motor vehicle apprehended shall be deposited with the Auction and Cargo Disposal Division. 4) For the purpose of giving such notice and all other proceedings in the matter of such seizure, the person named in the registration papers issued by the Land Transportation Commission shall be deemed to be the “owner” of the car. 5) The seizure case shall immediately be heard and the collector of customs shall enter a declaration of forfeiture. 6) After the decision has become final and executory, the forfeited car shall become the property of the government. 7) All motor vehicles paid under Presidential Decree No. 52 shall be considered as legally released and cleared of any duty, taxes and liabilities except those which are withheld by the commissioner for further verification and or investigation.

MONETARY BOARD of the Central Bank has recommended an increase in the capital base of rural banks by at least P200 million to make them more responsive to the land reform program of the Government through expanded lending operations. The board drew up a plan to convert the outstanding rediscounting obligations of the rural banking system totalling P200 million into equity of the Government in the rural banks. CB Governor Gregorio S. Licaros said that the scheme will enable the Agrarian Reform Fund to enlarge its resources and exercise a bigger degree of influence over the rural banks in the latter’s financing program. It will also strengthen the financial condition of the rural banks and relieve them of a financial burden in that the funds that otherwise would go to the servicing of their CB obligations would instead be utilized for wider lending operations.

MEDICARE has not left out the unemployed segment of the population. Dr. Pacifico E. Marcos, chairman of the Philippine Medical Care Commission, stressed this in a speech before the Philippine Medical Association convention at the Hotel-Intercontinental in Makati, Rizal. It is true, Dr. Marcos said, that in Program I of Medicare, only employed (members of either the Government Service Insurance System or the Social Security System) are covered by Medicare. But Medicare Program II, which will be implemented as soon as possible, will provide medical care even to the unemployed. At present, the Medicare chief explained further, the unemployed are indirectly benefited by Medicare Program I because this phase of Medicare has removed the unemployed from the charity wards of government hospitals. Thus the charity wards are left to the truly indigent, he said.

April 29—

THE PRESIDENT has released P73 million for the construction and development of top priority public works projects including ports, flood control systems and farm-to-market feeder roads. The amounts ordered released by the President are earmarked for the following: 1) Some P22 million for the completion of flood control projects in Central Luzon to avert disastrous floods similar to those that wrought havoc last year. A total of P13 million for the construction of farm-to-market roads in the rice priority areas in 15 provinces and to spur increased rice production in those areas and better marketing facilities. 3) The sum of P23,105,000 for the port works throughout the country,

with the Mariveles port getting a separate funding of P2,126,000. The new fund releases supplement earlier releases of P8.5 million for flood control projects in Greater Manila and P1 million for river control projects in the provinces.

THE GOVERNMENT'S land reform policies will be re-oriented to effect a wider coordination among the agencies involved in land reform activities in view of the creation of the Land Reform Council by the President. This was the subject of a week-long conference among land reform regional directors convoked by Department of Land Reform Secretary Conrado F. Estrella. Secretary Estrella explained that the rationale for the creation of the LRC is to facilitate policy decisions by the President who is at the helm of the program, particularly on assistance the PAR will need from other government agencies.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE announced a five per cent rate increase effective January 1, 1973 on the gross income of financing companies. The old rate was one per cent. The Finance Department has also approved a recommendation of the Bureau of Internal Revenue imposing 50 per cent surcharge on banks, finance companies and insurance firms which have wilfully neglected to file the required quarterly returns of their taxable receipts or have filed false or fraudulent returns. The BIR said the surcharge shall be applied on the tax or deficiency tax of the erring company. Also, the BIR has announced that insurance companies are required to pay their taxes on quarterly basis for purposes of uniformity.

THE GOVERNMENT has launched a series of moves to boost further the country's gold mining industry. This was gleaned in a report of Central Bank Governor Gregorio S. Licaros who announced that the monetary board has approved guidelines for price support and credit assistance for the gold mining industry. The CB governor also said that seven new gold mining firms are being organized while six pre-war firms are being rehabilitated. The Central Bank's move is in line with the President's policy to encourage production of new gold mines and push rehabilitation and expansion of existing ones to generate more employment and boost foreign exchange earnings. Aside from the approval of the new guidelines Mr. Licaros said that the Government will purchase all gold output from local producers at prevailing free world market price less the equivalent of the export tax.

COCONUT COORDINATING Council (CCC) has organized a total of 725 Coconut Town Associations throughout the country since the imposition of Martial Law. This was revealed by Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources Secretary Arturo R. Tanco Jr. in an accomplishment report he submitted to the President. These coconut town associations are being converted into marketing cooperatives to serve as efficient marketing outlets for individual coconut farmers and as quality control centers and copra kilo operators, the DANR secretary said. The CCC was created by the President in 1971 in an initial attempt to consolidate various coconut agencies of the Government.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE announced that boxing exhibitions and shows sponsored or produced by charitable institutions or associations are now subject to the payment of the full amount of the amusement tax effective Jan. 1, 1973. The ruling was provided for under Presidential Decree No. 69 which amended section 260 of the National Internal Revenue Code. The amendment has removed the 50 per cent exemption from the amusement tax previously extended to boxing exhibitions and the provision limiting the maximum tax imposed by local governments on boxing exhibitions to five per cent. Presidential Decree No 69 also repealed section 21 of the NIRC which provided for the collection of 50 per cent of amusement tax where the admission fee or charges are collected by or for and in behalf of a duly registered charitable institution.

April 30—

THE PRESIDENT rallied the workers to help maximize national development as he reiterated the commitment of Government to improve their living conditions in a message on the eve of the observance of Labor Day. In his message, the President said the Government has always concerned itself with the social conditions of the working mass. The new Constitution according to the President, has strengthened the basic rights of the workers employment opportunities and their working conditions. However, the President pointed out that "what the state is doing to protect the workers does not ensure the full realization of the promise of a better life." He concluded that "the burden is upon you—workingmen, laborers, fielders—and all of us to realize the full benefits and fruits of labor."

THE PRESIDENT ordered the development of self-supporting penal colonies to enable them to operate on their own to decongest the state penitentiary in Muntinlupa and other crowded prisons. In an instruction he issued to Prison Director Vicente Raval, the President ordered the immediate preparation of a penal colony program to solve the perennial problems plaguing most of the country's prisons. Noting that penal self-sufficiency has been the objective of many administrators because of rising maintenance costs, the President urged a fresh approach to the perennial problems of prisons and directed the prison director to: 1) Conduct an immediate survey of the various penal colonies to determine which areas may be suitable for the cultivation of staple products like corn, sugar, rice, sorghum, etc.; and 2) Recommend the proper disposal of areas found suitable for agricultural purposes.

THE GOVERNMENT has now tallied more than P830 million in its latest count on collections from five tax amnesty decrees. Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata, after receiving the latest reports on the collection figures from the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs gave the following breakdown; 1) Collections from previously untaxed income or wealth for 1971 and prior years: P538,316,327.43 paid by 137,579 individuals and corporate taxpayers; 2) Collections from taxable year 1972: P252,069,488.79 paid by 57,827 individuals and corporate taxpayers; 3) Collections from previously untaxed motor vehicles: P19,429,295.50 from 4,111 motor vehicles which were previously categorized as "hot cars." 4) Collection from contested assessments: P13,359,360.58; 5) Collections from previously untaxed or improperly taxed goods in commercial quantities: P6,852,290.29.

SECRETARY OF INFORMATION Francisco S. Tatad warned the public against persons posing as DPI or Mass Media Council representatives. Secretary Tatad's warning follows in full: "It has come to our attention that there are a number of persons in various parts of the country, representing themselves as representatives of the Department of Public Information, either as alleged representative of the Secretary of Public Information, or as alleged representatives of the chairman of the Mass Media Council, and engage in certain malpractices punishable bylaw. It appears that these persons are determined to make use of the Government for their private ends, and have succeeded in coercing certain citizens to give in to some unlawful demands. We have asked the military to arrest these impostors and poseurs, but we appeal to the public, most of all, to help us identify and apprehend these undesirable elements."

THE GOVERNMENT may open some 17 additional branches of lending agencies in order to boost further the "Masagana 99" rice program in 600,000 hectares of rice lands throughout the country. In a situation report to the President, Secretary Arturo Tanco Jr. of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources said that rice producers are extended a loan ceiling of P700 per hectare for the purchase of farm necessities like fertilizers, pesticides, seeds and equipment. Proceeds of the loan will be released in one lump sum which will be credited in a special savings deposit (ssd) account in the name of the farmer-borrower. The borrower will be charged one per cent interest per month on the total of his loan while his "ssd" earns an interest of 12 per cent per annum. Numbered purchase order booklets will be issued to the borrowers for fertilizers and pesticides by the loan agency concerned.

May 1—

THE PRESIDENT said that the country's efforts to attain economic growth and to evolve a New Society are principally geared to uplift the common man through gainful employment and meaningful social justice. The Chief Executive set down a six-point labor policy in a labor Day address to the nation through a nation-wide radio-television hookup from the Maharlika Hall in Malacañang. The labor policy is spelled out with the following basic principles: 1) The real objective of the struggle for growth and development is the common man. 2) Economic growth must lead to fuller and better employment and increased social justice. 3) All labor and agrarian laws will be revised and updated in accordance with the overall goals of the New Society. 4) Trade Unions will be restructured to make them true agents of democracy, social justice and development. 5) An all-out war against unemployment will be waged. 6) A new labor relations machinery will be set up to ensure a dynamic and just industrial peace. The President emphasized that all the national strivings have one cardinal objective—the upliftment of the common man.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT opportunities must be extended to Muslim Filipinos and members of other cultural minorities as a matter of primary concern. This was one of four general resolutions hammered out during the three-day national tripartite labor congress which were reported by Department of Labor Secretary Bias F. Ople. Secretary Ople who reported the accomplishments of the tripartite congress to afford added meaning to the celebration of

Labor Day, said the other resolutions were: 1) The giving of top priority to the utilization and development of human resources in national economic planning. 2) A continuing dialogue of labor, management and government representatives through an executive committee to insure the effective implementation of the congress' recommendations. 3) Observance of the equal representation of labor and management in government boards and other bodies to be secured through nominations by labor and employer organizations.

THE PHILIPPINES, along with other ASEAN Member countries, should be prepared to live in a New Asian Society. The New Asian Society—the goal of all Asia now that the Vietnam war is over—will arise from on-going and intended reforms in national societies throughout Asia, notably the Philippines. These reforms will be the base for solving economic dislocations in the region brought about by the end of the Vietnam war. This was the gist of a speech delivered by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo before the Management Association of the Philippine. Warning Asians on the perils—especially economic dislocations—facing Southeast Asia after the Vietnam war, Secretary Romulo stressed the need for reforms in national societies throughout Asia. Secretary Romulo said the economic problems that Asia will face after the Vietnam war include expansion of the power and interests of nation-states, multi-nationals, consortiums and megabusiness. To meet these problems, the ASEAN member-countries have to rationalize their economies, integrate programs and development plans.

PRICES OF GALVANIZED iron sheets (gauge 31 and 26) have been revised based on current handling and freight costs by the Price Control Council. The new price schedules were contained in an amended order issued by the council pursuant to a resolution of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA). The computation of the prices was based on handling and freight charges which vary in 11 regions of the country. The price are lowest in the Greater Manila area and Rizal and are highest in Cagayan Valley, the Mountain provinces and Mindanao and the Visayas. The need to transport the commodities was the principal factor for the fluctuating prices. In Greater Manila, the costs per lineal foot or gauge 31 galvanized iron sheet are P1.22 (wholesale) and P1.25 (retail); and gauge 26, P2.26 (wholesale) and P2.30 (retail). The maximum selling prices of gauge 31 GI sheets are lower by about eight and 14 centavos per lineal foot while those of gauge 26 are lower by three and eight centavos per lineal foot.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE and Natural Resources, in an accomplishment report to the President, said that research on the “miracle coconut tree” has started after the DANR obtained a 500-hectare plantation from the San Ramon penal colony in Davao. The report also said that the DANR has synchronized research efforts by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Bureau of Plant Industry and the Philippine Coconut Research Institute on the cadang-cadang problem. The department has also initiated, with the participation of the local flour mills, feasibility studies on coconut flour-making, aimed at finding out if 10 per cent of the country's wheat flour (65,000 metric tons a year) can be replaced by coconut flour.

MANILA INTERNATIONAL Airport customhouse has chalked on all-time high record collections of P8,712,845.40 for the month of April. This was reported by Airport Collector Cesar Dario to Customs Commissioner Rolando Geotina. Last month collections exceeded the collections for April, 1972, by as much as P4.4 million, or an increase of 132.9 per cent. Collector Dario said that the April collections registered tin-highest monthly total attained by the airport customhouse since the upswing in collections was first noted in January, last year. Collector Dario attributed the uptrend in collection to the efficiency and new-morality among customs officers, examiners and appraisers.

2,910 PERSONS from all over the country applied for amnesty under Presidential Decree Nos. 95 and 124 as of April 26. This was reported by Col. Hamilton B. Dimaya, Constabulary Judge advocate general Reports of amnesty applications are still coming in from remote localities, especially in Mindanao, Visayas and Northern Luzon, and the authorities are optimistic that the total number will increase until all applications are received Col. Dimaya reported that 613 persons have amnesty under Decree No. 95 while 2,297 others have applied for amnesty under Decree No. 124.

EVERY BETTING tickets in Jai-Alai and horse racing is now subject to documentary and science stamp taxes effective January 1, 1973. This was the latest in a series of amendments in the National Internal Revenue Code, as provided under Presidential Decree No. 69, which was announced by the Department of Finance Secretary Cesar E.

A. Virata. A new sub-section (226-A), which has been added to Title VI of Documentary Taxes, imposes a five centavo documentary stamp on every Jai-Alai or horse racing ticket. If the cost of the ticket exceeds Pi, an additional tax of five centavos on every PI addition is further imposed. A science stamp equal to the internal revenue stamp tax on each betting ticket is likewise collected.

May 2—

THE PRESIDENT reiterated the country's policy of self-reliance even as he lauded the Philippine Air Force for its indispensable service in the fields of national defense, relief and communications. The Chief Executive addressed PAF officers and men during the 38th anniversary celebration of the PAF at the Nichols Air Base where he conveyed the gratitude of the Filipino people to US President Richard Nixon who had sent a message through Mrs. Anna Chennault, widow of the founder of the flying tiger squadron. The President expounded on the celebration's theme of self-reliance and pledged his support to his concept initiated by the armed forces and the Department of National Defense "to move forward and attain progress on the basis of our own limited resources." He stressed that the training of the Filipino soldier is based on the principle that no one can help the Filipino soldier but himself. He further pointed out that no people can become strong if they will depend on any foreign power.

THE PRESIDENT said that under the New Society, various employment-generating measures have been implemented with the end view of employing the most number of persons possible. During his fourth appearance in "Pulong-pulong sa Kaunlaran" to cap the celebration of Labor Day, the Chief Executive enumerated several measures undertaken by the Government to combat unemployment and underemployment. According to the President, the Government, in its program to solve unemployment, had so far: 1) Exempted small-scale industries (with only five employees or workers) from the minimum wage and initiated feasibility studies to exempt those with 10 employees; 2) Given priority to labor-intensive industries, like those to be established in the Export Processing Zone in Mariveles, Bataan, where 10,000 new jobs are expected to be created; 3) Intensified the pace of housing and construction of infrastructure like irrigation systems, roads, bridges, fisheries and other fishery projects and in the production of GI sheets, steel products, cement and other construction materials in order to create more jobs; 4) Geared the educational system to vocational training in order for it to become a good source of qualified manpower for the country's economic development.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE said persons found guilty in criminal actions arising from tax cases also be ordered to pay the tax deficiencies. Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata said this is one of the stronger remedies adopted by the Government to collect delinquent taxes. The finance chief said that the judgment in criminal cases shall not only impose the penalties but shall also order payment of the taxes as finally decided by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

ACCELERATED EXPANSION of trade and tourism, arising from the inflow of foreign resources and the increased volume of tourist arrivals, has helped spur the growth of the Philippine economy at a highly satisfactory level. But while the country has opened its doors wide open to the entry of foreign capital and resources it has adopted sufficient safeguards⁷ to protect national interests. Trade and Tourism Secretary Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. made these statements in his latest assessment of the economic development of the country in a speech before the University of the Philippines Vanguard Annual Convention and Homecoming held at the UP Diliman campus. Secretary Quiazon said that the higher level of growth of the Philippine economy will generate more employment opportunities, more income and better living standard for the Filipino people.

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE and Tourism has warned against the sale of galvanized sheets beyond the maximum ceilings pegged by the Price Control Council for retail and wholesale prices throughout the country. The new prices which took effect May 2, 1973 were contained in an amended order issued by the council pursuant to a resolution of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA). DTT secretary Troadio T. Quiazon Jr., who is concurrent PCC chairman, said the price body fixed the maximum wholesale and retail prices per lineal foot of galvanized iron sheet, gauge 31 and, in cooperation with the Presidential Steel Committee, of galvanized iron sheet gauge 21.

DR. TRINIDAD A. GOMEZ, chief of the office of health education and personnel training of the Department of Health, in a speech before the annual conference of health educators at the Bureau of Quarantine, asked the delegates to help enlighten the public on medicare, family planning and nutrition. These are three areas of health activities which the Government is giving emphasis. Dr. Gomez said that health education has approved its usefulness in raising the level of health consciousness of the people.

FIRST EXAMINATION for the practice of sugar technology in the Philippines in accordance with Republic Act No. 5197 will be given in Manila on June 11, 13 and 15, 1973. This was announced by the Board of Examiners for Sugar Technologists of the Civil Service Commission. Registration as sugar technologists without examinations under the RA 5197 has also been opened. Applications and information forms may be secured from and filed with the application section, office of the Board of Examiners, P. Paredes and Nicanor Reyes Sr. streets, Sampaloc, Manila. The last day for filing applications for examination is Friday (May 11) and for registration as sugar technologists without examination is from March 19, 1973 to February 7, 1975.

May 3—

THE PRESIDENT authorized negotiations with the World Bank on the possible financing of an integrated development program for an entire area in the country, to include the two Mindoro provinces, the two Lanaos. No figure is at the moment being quoted but the financing scheme is expected to cover all critical aspects of the Government, namely: roads, irrigation, education, health facilities, agricultural credit, market facilities, training of extensions workers and technicians. This is the first integrated development scheme for an entire area to receive the support of an international financing institution since the President sounded a call at the meeting of the Asia Development Bank's board of governors for financing institutions to support not only isolated projects, but integrated projects for the whole area. This is also a further manifestation of the concern of the President and his Cabinet for the massive development of the Muslim provinces.

THE COUNTRY'S position on the archipelagic theory to delineate a nation's territory, which was advanced by the President, has gained wide support from other countries. This was assured by former Senator Arturo M. Tolentino when he submitted a preliminary report on the results of his mission in the United Nations Seabed Committee in New York to the President. The Archipelagic Theory, which is now engrained in the new Constitution on the section on national territory, proposes that the baseline from which the territorial waters of an archipelago be determined by joining appropriate points of the outermost islands by straight lines. The connected baselines enclose the territorial inland waters and seas between islands.

THE PRESIDENT received a 39-man delegation of city council members of Greater Jakarta in Malacañang where he reiterated the Government's commitment to make Greater Manila a model city and a better place to live in. The Chief Executive told the Jakarta city council members that he has already approved and authorized a plan to place Metro Manila under the supervision and control of a single body. Mr. Moeffreni Moe'min, the delegation's head, informed the President that they were very much impressed by the cleanliness, the improvement of peace and order, the progress, and increased community discipline in the places they had visited in Metro Manila "which could have been possible only through your able guidance and leadership." In response, the President congratulated the councilmen, for Jakarta's success.

BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE assured taxpayers of the early refund of their overpayments in income taxes which the BIR has to settle in 90 days or pay an interest of six per cent per annum. Acting Internal Revenue Commissioner Conrado P. Diaz said processing of income tax returns, checks and treasury warrants will be speeded up so that overpayments will be refunded as soon as possible.

INFLUX OF tourists through charter flights under package plans and the utilization of bigger planes have been proposed to boost the country's tourism program. The President received the proposals from officials of the International Air Carriers' Association (IACA) and the Boeing Aircraft Company who paid courtesy visits in Malacañang. Mr. Andres Helgstrand, IACA president, said charter flights for tourists from Europe and the United States will cost less, thus attract more tourists to come to the Philippines. The Chief Executive was also consulted by

Mr. Helgstrand on the proposed date for the holding of the Second World Congress on air transportation and tourism scheduled this year in Manila.

THE PRESIDENT issued a proclamation declaring May 12 to June 12, 1973 as the period to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Philippine Independence. The President directed the Independence Day Committee to carry out necessary measures for the successful observance of freedom day. This year's celebration of freedom day, the first under the New Society, will mark the diamond jubilee on June 12, 1973 of the proclamation of the Philippine Independence. The Chief Executive also enjoined the national, provincial, city, municipal and barrio governments, the ecumenical church, all schools, and civic and business organization to participate.

THE PHILIPPINES last March netted \$1,319,936.64 from the exports made by embroidery firms. This was reported to Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata by Undersecretary of Finance Alfredo Pio de Roda, Jr., who is also the chairman of the Embroidery and Apparel Control and Inspection Board. In his report, Undersecretary De Roda said several embroidery firms exported finished embroidery materials valued at \$2,596,775.84 last March. Labor benefited in the amount of P5.5 million in the form of labor costs from the \$2.5 million exports of the embroidery firms in March, 1973.

NGA ADMINISTRATOR Jess Tanchanco issued a clarification that there will be no exportation of palay by the National Grains Authority to other countries. He issued this clarification following the shipment of a small quantity of palay to Bangladesh. The NGA administrator said the shipment included purely certified seeds for planting purposes and was motivated by "humanitarian reasons." The seeds will be replaced by Bangladesh in the form of milled rice, he added. He said that "strict observance of the export ban has been coordinated with various PC provincial commanders. Mr. Tanchanco appealed to the public to report to him or to the military persons suspected of violating the cereals export ban.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: May 4-24, 1973

President's Week in Review: May 25-31, 1973

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

May 25—

THE PRESIDENT ordered a revision of the traffic experiment in Metro Manila to remove the impression that the Government is discriminating against certain sectors of society. In a meeting with Metro Manila Traffic Management and Implementing Committee at Malacañang, the President issued guidelines for the committee to follow in its effort to improve traffic conditions in the Metro Manila area. The guidelines are: 1) Not less than 1,000 jeepneys will be allowed to operate in the main thoroughfares by Monday. They will be chosen from the 23,000 jeepneys authorized to operate in the Greater Manila Area which will be reduced to 10,000. 2) Engineering facilities of the streets in Manila should be improved. On recommendation of the technical men, the President directed that the islands in the middle of the main thoroughfares of Manila be removed in order that the whole street may be used. Noting the adverse public reaction to the week-old traffic experiment under which all jeepneys were banned from main thoroughfares, the President told the committee: "We don't want to leave the impression that the rich are allowed the beautiful highway and the poor are shunted to the small roads."

NATIONAL GRAINS AUTHORITY has assured all private persons and entities who will invest in the grains industry of full protection and support from the Government. In a speech delivered for him" before the Rotary Club of Olongapo City recently, NGA Administrator Jesus Tanchanco disclosed that a Business Promotions and Development Division will soon be created under the NGA Public Affairs Office to render full assistance to investors by providing all possible information about the country's grains business. At the same time, the NGA head reiterated his call on all leading businessmen and industrialists to share their talents and resources by investing in the grains industry for its full development.

FILIPINO agricultural scientists were asked to work as teams behind the national efforts to increase food production. Undersecretary of Agriculture Jose D. Drilon Jr., speaking before the Crop Science Society of the Philippines in Cebu City, observed that scientists should no longer work in isolation but in concert with his colleagues. The agriculture undersecretary called on crop scientists to work harder "because they have to work with less resources and because the results of their labor will affect the lives and destinies of millions."

THE PHILIPPINES was visited by a total of 18,078 tourists last April, indicating the steady growth of the industry since the imposition of Martial Law eight months ago. American tourists dominated the arrivals of 6,777, followed, by the Japanese at 3,988. The Filipino tourists registered the second highest rate of increase at 48 per cent, followed by the British which registered a 46 per cent increase. Australian arrivals rose by 33 per cent. This is the first time in 15 years for tourist arrivals from the Philippines' traditional markets to achieve these increases, according to the Department of Tourism.

PHILIPPINE Virginia Tobacco Administration has started a new tobacco leaf procurement system aimed at rechanneling the benefits of the industry to the farmers. Known as the tobacco auction on sale, the system drastically cuts tobacco procurement costs of cigaret manufacturers, exporters and redryers by eliminating the middlemen. The first auction floor system, enables Virginia tobacco buyers to deal directly with farmers and offer better prices for the farmers' tobacco. The new procurement system is one of the first major steps that the Government is taking towards rechanneling the benefits of the industry to the farmers and their cooperatives with the help of the private sector.

DEPARTMENT of National Defense ordered the lifting of Constabulary control over the police forces of three cities and 28 towns in 10 provinces following the return of normalcy of peace and order conditions in these localities. The lifting of PC control over these police forces was recommended by Brig. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, PC chief. The three cities and 28 towns are: Cavite City, Tagaytay City, and Trece Martires City; Silang, Tanza, Naic, Gen. Trias, Alfonso, Amadeo, Imus, Indang, Kawit, Maragondon, and Mendez, all in Cavite; Bangued, Abra; San Ildefonso, Bulacan; Alacapan, Ballesteros, Calayan, Rizal, and Sanchez Mira, all in Cagayan; Banawe and Lagawe

in Ifugao; Balaoan and Bauang in La Union; Marcos, Ilocos Norte; Malasiqui, Mangatarem, and Urbiztondo, in Pangasinan; Capas and Concepcion in Tarlac; and San Marcelino Zambales.

May 26—

THE PRESIDENT appointed former Senator Leonardo B. Perez as chairman of the Commission on Elections. Two others were named members of the nine-man electoral body. The other appointees are Venancio Duque, appointments secretary and director of the National Shipyards and Steel Corporation, and former Rep. Fernando Veloso of Western Samar. The latest appointments brought to seven the members of the Comelec. Earlier appointed were Assistant Executive Secretary Flores Bayot and and former 1971 Constitutional Convention Delegates Venancio Yaneza, Liningding Pangandaman and Casimiro Madarang Jr. Two more commissioners are expected to be named to the nine-member Comelec.

THE PRESIDENT said he will convene the country's citizens assemblies for the second time to ascertain whether their earlier mandate for the administration to continue with its reforms under Martial Law is still the majority's will. The Chief Executive announced this during the annual reunion of the University of the Philippines Law Alumni Association held at the Maharlika Hall of Malacanang. The citizens assemblies are expected to be convened before the end of the year to allow them to: give their views on "whether or not to continue with the present administration and the reforms of the New Society", the President said.

THE PRESIDENT has pledged more Government incentives for small-scale businessmen in the form of added investment, administrative and advisory support and appropriate tax breaks. In a speech read for him by Undersecretary of Trade Mario Reyes during the Fifth Convention " of Modern Small-Scale Industries in Cebu City, the Chief Executive said that these incentives to small entrepreneurs are in line with the administration's policy to create a healthy economic environment wherein both big and small enterprises could flourish side by side. The new incentives will complement the financing programs which at present total P100 million for small-scale business which also include management and technical assistance.

THE PRESIDENT sought the help of the country's top educators in formulating a plan to involve: the nation's youth in national development projects even as he reiterated the need to restructure higher education toward national development goals. In a speech read for him by Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile at the University of the Philippines alumni homecoming in Diliman, the President said the Government seeks to ensure the maximum contribution of the educational system to the overall national development goals within the context of a free and democratic society. These educational reforms—the President added, are based on the philosophy that the national community is not free as long as freedom is the preserve of a privileged few.

PEOPLE'S Republic of China is importing \$1,326 million worth of crude coconut oil from the country, the Department of Trade reported. Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. has approved the exportation of the coconut-product by the Legazpi Oil Company, a domestic corporation which pioneered exports to China. The commodity's buyer is the China National Cereals, Oils and Foodsuffs Import and Export Corporation of Peking, China. With the exportation, the country's export to China since May, 1972, will amount to \$20,508,550. This will represent a trade balance in the country's favor since China's exports to the country at present amount to \$19,352,020.

May 27—

THE GOVERNMENT has enlisted the aid of teachers to intensify its efforts in propagating the goals of the New Society among the students in all levels of the educational system. In a directive to the Department of Education and Culture, President Marcos has asked for a progress report on the Department's ongoing special programs aimed at reorienting teachers on the objectives of the administration. The President considered these programs, which he had ordered drawn up sometime ago, of utmost importance since school teachers mold the minds of about 10 million students, roughly one-third of the country's population. The Government's move was announced by the President over the weekly multi-network, *The DPI Report*, wherein he spoke on "Freedom from Ignorance," the third in a

series of discussions in the four freedoms, in connection with the month-long celebration of the 75th anniversary of Philippine Independence.

FOUR INTERNATIONAL conferences are scheduled to be held in the Philippines between this year and 1975. These international meetings, which will gather in one roof the core of tourist industry leaders, are expected to intensify the country's bid for international tourists. The four international conventions to be held in Manila from 1973 to 1975 are: 1) The Hongkong Association of Travel Agents, June 3-6, 1973; 2) The International Congress and Convention Association, November, 1973; 3) The meeting of Rotary International in Asia, January, 1974; 4) The Asian Regional Conference of Rotary International, January, 1975. These international meets, particularly the HATA and ICCA conventions, will be attended by prominent tourist industry leaders who are in the best position to promote the Philippines as tourist destination point.

SOCIAL SECURITY System has announced that cessation of operations or separation of employees will not exempt employers from registration and payment of contributions for the period the separated employees were under their employ. SSS Administrator Gilberto Teodoro issued this clarification in connection with the deadline on May 31 this year foil the payment in full of delinquent accounts and the submission of proposals of payment without incurring criminal liability of fine. Mr. Teodoro said that the general rule since June 18, 1960 is compulsory coverage for industrial and agricultural employees and casual workers.

THE PHILIPPINES appealed to the colonial powers to heed the pleas for independence of colonized nations as it reaffirmed its policy to uphold the right to self-determination of all peoples. The appeal was aired by acting [unreadable] Secretary Jose D. Ingles in a press statement relayed [unreadable] Philippine deputy permanent representative to the United Nations session of the UN marking the Week of Solidarity with the colonial peoples of Southern Africa, Guinea (Bissau), and Cape Verde in their struggle for independence. Expressing sympathy with the colonial peoples in these three countries in their struggle for freedom. Secretary Ingles said the Philippines was reaffirming its fervent belief that in due course there will no longer be any country or peoples suffering from colonial domination.

May 28—

THE PRESIDENT has approved the recommendations of the Special Committee on Travel authorizing the travel overseas of different categories of Filipinos. Foreign Undersecretary Manuel Collantes, chairman of the special committee, announced that the recommendations have been contained in Letter of Instructions No. 76 issued by the President. Authorized to travel under LOI 76 are immigrants; persons under contracts of employment in other countries; bonafide businessmen; permanent residents; contract workers and students who come to the Philippines for a visit and thereafter return to the country where they reside or currently work and study; government officials on official business; and scholars and trainees.

THE GOVERNMENT has earmarked P300 million to be used for buying local palay right in the field. The move to bring Government palay buying operations right to the field is intended to complement a parallel move by the Philippine National Bank to process bank loan applications literally at the farmers doorsteps. The scheme to buy and pay cash for local palay right in the fields was announced by Secretary of Agriculture Arturo R. Tanco Jr. in his capacity as chairman-coordinator of the National Food and Agriculture Council (NFAC).

THE PRESIDENT sought the cooperation of surrendered Muslim rebel leaders in the restoration of peace and order in Cotabato for the immediate implementation of the province's development projects. The Chief Executive made the appeal in a meeting with 14 Muslim rebel leaders in Malacañang. He reemphasized that the planned road building, irrigation system improvement, port works and infrastructure projects will only start when the pockets of resistance and occasional ambushes in the province have been totally wiped out.

THE GOVERNMENT has started to break down many Philippine tribalistic enclaves and to merge all of them into a cohesive society. Since the imposition of Martial Law, reforms have been instituted to erase the idea that the Philippines is made up of a majority of minorities. More specifically, Filipinos are being urged to develop a new outlook towards the so-called cultural minorities, specially the Muslims. Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor

made these observations in a speech delivered during the launching of Dr. Cesar Majul's book, "Muslims in the Philippines." The book, Secretary Melchor said, relates to the present effort of building a new nation. He said the "Muslims in the Philippines" is valuable because it reveals to all Filipinos the manner and the degree of differences among themselves and bridges the gaps that have arisen as a result of these differences.

DEPARTMENT of Local Governments and Community Development enjoined all provincial governors, city and municipal mayors to help in the orderly and efficient registration of reservists of the Armed Forces throughout the country. DLGCD Secretary Jose Roño noted that in the past, annual registration of reservists had been ineffective due to procedural hitches like non-availability or shortage of prescribed forms and a weak distribution system, defective administrative mechanics and inadequate information campaign. To facilitate this year's registration, Mr. Roño has directed local government executives to provide the local civil registrars in their respective areas: 1) Authorization for the detail of reasonable number of personnel in extending all administrative assistance; and 2) Authority to render overtime work during weekends and holidays within the month-long period.

THE PRESIDENT has devised moves to effect immediate reemployment for some 50,000 to 60,000 personnel of governmental agencies and entities abolished by Martial Law, the reorganization plan and the new Charter. In Letter of Instructions No. 77, the Chief Executive directed Budget Commissioner Faustino Sychangco to give priority to bid government employees before accommodating new personnel. To broaden possible sources of employment, the President further directed the budget commissioner to coordinate with various chambers of trade and industry for hiring of the displaced government employees.

BUREAU OF INTERNAL Revenue reported a total, of P853.29 million as the gross tax collection for April. In a report to Finance Secretary Cesar E. A. Virata, Acting BIB Commissioner Conrado Diaz said that the April collection exceeded by 36.7 per cent the collection for April, 1972. It also surpassed by 94.7 percent the collections for March this year which was P438.64 million. A breakdown of the tax collections for the month of April follows: specific tax, P54.8 million; license, business and occupational taxes, P110.82 million; income tax, P408.59 million; hidden wealth P250.63 million; and other taxes and fees, P28.45 million.

May 29—

THE PRESIDENT assured that there will be no school crisis this year. "My orders are strict, no child should be refused attendance in the public schools, especially in the lower grades," the President stressed at the "Pulong-pulong sa Kaunlaran" radio-television program. At the same time, the President ordered Secretary of Education and Culture Juan Manuel to look into the reported jacking up of school supplies prices. Secretary Manuel admitted that "there seems to be an indication that the prices have gone up." However, he added, the Price Control Council has pegged prices of these items. The education secretary warned that if storeowners do not abide by these established prices, "they are subject to disciplinary action."

THE PRESIDENT directed the Commission on Elections to prepare the list of new voters and members of the citizen's assemblies. At the same time, the Chief Executive paved the way for the implementation of the new Constitution when he inducted into office the newly-named Comelec chairman and the six members of the nine-man electoral body. The President said that since the new Constitution lowers the voting age from 21 to 18 years and since citizens from 15 years old have been allowed to participate in the citizen's assemblies, the immediate task of the Comelec now is to prepare a new list of voters and members of the citizen's assemblies.

DEPARTMENT of Social Welfare has intensified its seminar-workshop program on regional level to pave the way for the implementation of a day-care project that would provide pre-school education and supplemental milk feeding to some 18 million indigent children throughout the country. The DSW had just concluded a seminar-workshop on responsible parenthood and on the social development of pre-school children for day-care workers of the department's Region IV, covering Southern Luzon. DSW Secretary Estefania Aldaba-Lim, in a speech delivered during the seminar's closing ceremonies, stressed the significance of the day-care program in that it would assure the country of useful citizens in the coming generations.

THE PHILIPPINES has proposed a list of some 80 export products which can be exported to Indonesia in volumes quantities as the two countries further explore trade possibilities. The list was submitted to the Indonesian embassy here. The export products range from building materials to fertilizers and food preserves. Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. said the Department of Trade submitted the list following a conference with Mr. B. S. Kusumonegoro, minister counselor of the Indonesian embassy, which discussed ways of improving trade between the two countries. Indonesia and the Philippines will also review the implementation of the various economic agreements between the two countries through the Joint Philippine-Indonesian Commission.

DEMOLITION crews from the Bureau of Public Highways and the City Engineer's Office of Manila will tear down traffic islands along three major thoroughfares in the city. Work has to be made in the evening so as not to interfere with the smooth flow of traffic. This was agreed upon during a meeting of the district engineers of South and North Manila and the city engineer and their staff at the office of Highways Commissioner Baltazar Aquino. The three main roads where demolition work will be made are Rizal avenue (from Claro M. Recto to Carriedo); España Blvd. (Quezon boundary to Lerma); and Magsaysay blvd. (from west approach of the overpass to the Carriedo Fountain).

GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System (GSIS) and the Social Security System (SSS) announced that all Medicare members who have been hospitalized will be provided with a copy of their statement of payments from the health insurance funds made to the hospitals, doctors and drugstores for services rendered. The Philippine Medical Care Commission has recommended this arrangement to keep members posted on the balances of their benefits and those of their legal dependents. The statement of payments will indicate the exact payments made on the member's behalf by the medicare program.

May 30—

THE PRESIDENT issued a decree amending the Judiciary Act of 1948 by relocating the permanent stations of district judges to strategically-located cities and capital towns to improve the efficient administration of justice. The new decree aims to make permanent stations of district judges more accessible to the people by amending Section 52 of Republic Act No. 296. Issued upon the recommendation of Justice Secretary Vicente Abad Santos, the decree seeks to amend the present problem of ineffective district courts which: had been established in certain municipalities which lack facilities for holding court.

THE GOVERNMENT approved the exportation of \$2-million worth of buri fibers to the People's Republic of China. The one million kilos *buri* fibers (buntal) exports, the first since 1966 and the biggest over recorded in the industry, was approved by Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr., who has been designated by the President his sole-representative to- pass upon applications to export the fibers. The exportation is expected to encourage the production of the local fibers and harness to the full the foreign exchange earning capacity of this sector.

SECRETARY of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile ordered the Coast Guard to work out measures designed to effect close coordination between transport companies and rice merchants in order to expedite delivery of rice and other prime products to the Visayas and Mindanao regions. The defense chief issued the directive following a meeting with representatives of local shipping companies and trucking firms at Camp Aguinaldo. The defense chief was assured by the transport officials that the shipments of cereal and other foodstuff will be given priority so that the flow would be free and uninterrupted. Secretary Enrile directed the Coast Guard to strictly enforce his orders and to see to it that priority is given by transport companies in the shipment of rice, corn and other foodstuffs.

THE PRESIDENT has ordered a study on ways of setting up a center for Islamic studies in the University of the Philippines and has also directed the extension of authority for the use of Arabic as medium of instruction in schools and areas where its use is permissible. The President's directives were embodied in two Letters of Instructions he issued, one to UP President Salvador P. Lopez and the other to Secretary of Education and Culture Juan L. Manuel. The President stressed that "it is recognized that much of Philippine culture is Islamic in character and influence," and that "Philippine history cannot be written and studied in its full dimension and depth without an examination and appraisal of our past and present relations with the Islamic world, in-corn and other foodstuff.

DEPARTMENT of Finance reminded real property owners that they have only up to June 30, 1973, to file the sworn statement on the true value of their real property pursuant to President Decree No. 76. Real property owners were asked to note that under the decree, the current and fair market value was defined to mean the "price at which seller would sell and a willing buyer would buy, neither being under abnormal pressure." Finance Secretary Cesar S. A. Virata clarified that fruit trees and bamboo plants are exempt from real property taxes unless the land where these are grown is principally planted to such growth for commercial purposes. All provincial and city assessors were directed not to compel real property owners to appear personally for purposes of declaring under oath their sworn statement.

SECRETARY Jose Roño of the Department of Local Governments and Community Development announced that a massive financing scheme has been evolved for the small fishermen as part of the Government's campaign to make the country self-sufficient in foodstuff. He stated this in a conference with officers of the National Federation of Fishermen's Cooperatives, Inc. During the meeting, Secretary Roño also assured the fishermen that the Government, will extend to them all the help they need to uplift, the living standard of small fishermen all over the country.

May 31—

THE PRESIDENT has ordered the lifting of military supervision and control over four of seven utility firms which had been taken over, managed and operated by the Armed Forces after the imposition of Martial Law. In Letter of Instructions No. 84, the Chief Executive ordered Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile to withdraw military supervision over the Manila Electric Company, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company, and the Philippine National Railways. This was aimed to further normalize the national situation. The President also delimited the span of control over the country's three airlines. Henceforth, military supervision over the Philippine Airlines, the Filipinas Orient Airways and Air Manila will be primarily concerned with maintaining national security and ensuring the continued operations of these firms.

THE FIRST LADY placed priority on the control of heart diseases in the country as she pledged to "pursue with resolution and sincere dedication the noble task of curbing heart disease" through the Heart Foundation of the Philippines and the Heart Research Center for Asia. Mrs. Marcos made the pledge as she received a special citation for her unselfish effort in the promotion of interest in treatment and research concerning the many problems associated with heart disease. The citation was given by the Merck, Sharpe and Dohme International through its vice president, Mr. James Latendresse, in appropriate ceremonies at the Malacañang Ceremonial Hall.

THE PRESIDENT has proposed to the International Consultative Group of Aid to the Philippines a reorientation of its policy in order to place greater emphasis on the development of rural areas. The Chief Executive made the proposal in a message delivered for him by Finance Secretary Cesar E. A. Virata during the opening of the two-day annual meeting of the World Bank-sponsored group in Paris. The message stressed that with this new policy, the income distributive growth rate of the country would further improve as this would optimize all development inputs within a given area. In his message, the President said that the phase of reforms in the country has been accelerated. He also explained the necessity for the imposition of Martial Law last year "to solve grave problems caused by certain sectors of our society who escalated their destructive activities and mounted a rebellion against our Republic after the floods and droughts disrupted the Philippine economy."

LANDOWNERS were reassured of just compensation for their lands under the Government's land transfer program. Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado F. Estrella reiterated the Government assurance as he appealed to landowners to give their all-out support to the land reform program. Speaking before the Civic Assembly of Women at the Philippine Women's, University auditorium, Secretary Estrella assured landowners that under the President's program of providing land to deserving landless tenants, the landowners will get just compensation for their lands.

SECRETARY of Information Francisco S. Tatad urged campus journalist to be actively involved in community—even national—undertakings. Speaking before the National Workshop and Seminar for Advisers of Public High School Papers in Cebu City, the information secretary said that campus journalism—like the professional press—should be a potent instrument for dynamic social change. He explained that campus journalism should not be merely confined to campus goings-on. It should also involve itself with community and national undertakings. Secretary

Tatad said campus journalism does not aim to inculcate the support for the New Society. Rather, it is aimed at inculcating the values and developing young minds in order to train them for living, he added.

CIVIL SERVICE Commission will issue guidelines to all government appointing officials in connection with the reemployment of some 60 000 displaced government workers. CSC Commissioner Epi Rey Pangramuyen said that the Commission will enforce strict measures in the reemployment of qualified laid-off employees in order to do away with the “palakasan” system of seeking employment. Letter of Instructions No. 77 has directed the re-hiring of some 60,000 government workers who had been laid-off in the wake of the ratification of the new Constitution and the reorganization of the Government. The .CSC head stressed that those who have already retired and those who have already received gratuities from their respective agencies are no longer covered by the re-employment program.

INSURANCE Commissioner Gregoria Cruz Arnaldo announced that the cost of private motor vehicle insurance will be reduced effective June 1 but compensation for third party liability cover will be increased from P10,00 to P20,00, Commissioner Arnalso explained that the revision of the premium rate on private motor vehicles was needed so that the cost of insurance may be rationalized and allocated among the insured more fairly. She added that the increase of the compensation for third party liability was in consonance with recent jurisprudence raising compensation of accident victims. The Commission also said that the improved peace and order condition since the imposition of Martial Law has reduced motor vehicle thefts, thus justifying the reduction of premium for theft cover.

MEDICARE MEMBERS can also avail themselves of adequate medical services in small hospitals and clinics and must amend their habit of patronizing big and expensive hospitals. Dr. Pacifico E. Marcos chairman of the Philippine Medical Care Commission (PMCC), made this observation based on statistics that majority of Medicare members who complained against the high cost of hospitalization had been confined in big private hospitals and attended by “big-time” doctors. Dr. Marcos clarified that PMCC cannot assume all hospital expenses which will be incurred by Medicare members who will seek confinement in expensive hospitals. Medicare members must be assured that small hospitals, except in cases where more sophisticated equipment and instruments are needed can meet the needs of most patients, he added. The PMCC chairman advised Medicare members who fully depend on their Medicare benefits to seek confinement in Medicare or service wards of government hospitals and to ask for government staff physicians.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: June 1-7, 1973

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

June 1—

THE PRESIDENT announced that all foreign firms setting up manufacturing plants in the Philippines have applied for space in the Export Processing Zone in Mariveles, Bataan. He made the announcement as he reiterated his advice before a group of businessmen and industrialists to set up factories in the sprawling Export Processing Zone. The group included officials of the Mariwasa and Honda Motors Corporation who paid their respects to the Chief Executive at Malacañang to inform him of the formation of a joint venture for the manufacture of motorcycles and parts in the Philippines.

THE PRESIDENT created a three-man Professional Regulation Commission to oversee the various boards of examiners in an effort to upgrade the standards of professionalism. The President explained he was prompted to organize the commission because the boards of examiners have acted only as examining units; though they are supposed to supervise and regulate professional practices. The PRC will be composed of full-time commissioner, who will act as chairman to serve for nine years without reappointment, and two full-time associate commissioners, one appointed for six years and the other for three years.

ALL GOVERNMENT offices are required to codify all laws and regulations governing or relating to their operations. Memorandum Circular No. 636, issued by the President, requires all heads of departments, bureaus, offices, agencies and other instrumentalities of the Government to submit to his office within 30 days from May 28 the codified laws and regulations. In issuing the memorandum, the President said people find it difficult to understand simple government operations because relevant laws, rules and regulations, circulars, orders and other similar matters are not collated.

THE PHILIPPINE Government has signed an agreement for a \$1.8 million assistance from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) for the country's population education project. The Project will involve the integration of population education into the curricula of the elementary, secondary and teacher-training levels of the school system. It aims to reduce the size of the Filipino family, thus ensuring a more informed and responsible attitude on population matters. Di rector General Gerardo P. Sicat of the National Economic and Development Authority signed for the Philippines while Mr. William H. Harding signed for UNFPA.

SECRETARY of Information Francisco S. Tatad has launched the 1973 fund campaign of the Philippine Mental Health Association (Cebu Chapter) to underline the need for a nationwide awareness on the significance of mental health in nation-building. The secretary stressed that the campaign's eventual success to create public awareness on mental health—to the extent that each man, woman and child will care to know how he or she can help safeguard this great wealth of the nation—will ensure the country's progress.

DEPARTMENT of Local Governments and Community Development has clarified that farmers who had a standing credit obligation with the defunct ACCFA (now Agricultural Credit Administration) are not covered by the condonation proviso in Presidential Decree No. 175. Under this decree, the DLGCD is empowered to condone the principal and/or accumulated interest on past due on production and/or farm improvement loans extended by the ACCFA and the ACA to farmer members of agricultural cooperatives. DLGCD Secretary Jose Roño made this clarification following a report from the ACA that farmers have altogether stopped paying for the loans they have obtained from the Government financing arm.

BUREAU of Internal Revenue issued the following deadlines for tax payments for June: 1) June 11—for employers who withheld taxes of P200 or more from wages during the month of May, 1973, to deposit their collections with the BIR; for government offices to submit BIR form 7 50 to remit internal revenue taxes withheld in May. 2) June 15—for filing of the final return by corporations whose taxable year ended on February 28, and for payment of the corresponding tax; and for payment of the second installment of income tax by corporations whose preceding taxable year ended on November 30, 1972. 3) June 29—for filing and payment of the quarterly corporate income tax

return for the third quarter by corporations whose taxable year ends on July 31; for filing and payment of the quarterly corporate income tax return for the second quarter by corporations whose taxable year ends on October 31, 1973; and for filing and payment of the: quarterly corporate income tax return for the third quarter by corporations whose taxable year ended on May 31, 1973.

June 2—

THE PRESIDENT has declared the development of a nationwide net work of locally controlled waterworks and sewerage systems as a Government policy of high priority to spur economic growth and ensure public health protection, especially in rural areas. The Chief Executive has promulgated Presidential Decree No. 198—referred to as the Provincial Water Utilities Act of 1973—providing for the formulation and operation of “independent, locally controlled public water districts.” The Decree also provides two statutes, the Local Water District Law and the Local Water Utilities Administration Law.

THE LOCAL Water District Law, embodied in Presidential Decree No 198, provides the authority and power for the legislative body of a city municipality or province to form local water districts. Districts may lie formed to acquire, install, improve, maintain and operate water supply and distribution systems for domestic, industrial, municipal and agricultural uses for residents and lands within boundaries of such districts ; provide, maintain and operate waste-water collection, treatment and disposal of facilities; and conduct other functions and operations incidental water source development, utilization and disposal. The district will be managed by a five-member board which will also name the district’s general manager.

THE LOCAL Water Utilities Administration—which will be attached to the National Economic, and Development Authority—is the national agency that will supervise and integrate the various districts’ waterworks and sewerage projects. The agency will assume the following functions: 1, Establish minimum standards and regulations to assure acceptable standards of construction materials and supplies, maintenance, operation, personnel, training, accounting and fiscal practices for local utilities. 2) Furnish technical assistance and personnel training programs for local water utilities. 3) Monitor and evaluate local water standards. 4) Effect system integration, joint investment and operations, district annexation and de-annexation. 4) Provide a specialized lending institution with expertise in the financing of local water utilities. The board of trustees of the administration shall be composed of five members, all Filipino citizens to be appointed by the President to serve five-year terms.

THE GOVERNMENT has issued land transfer certificates to 550 tenant-tillers of the 3,400-hectare Hawkins Estate in Cagayan and ended a 46-year-old land dispute between the estate’s heirs and Ilocano settlers. The beneficiaries received their certificates together with 1,807 other Cagayan farmers from the nearby towns of Enrile, Amulung, Solana and Faire. Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado F. Estrella said that the entire Hawkins Estate is now under the Government’s land transfer program.

THE PRESIDENT moved to stimulate the expansion and improvement of the country’s shipping industry by ordering the reimbursement of a 17 per cent tax on imported vessels to local firms. He also announced he will soon create an independent Maritime Development Commission. The two moves are aimed to revitalize the nations shipping industry to make it more competitive in the worldwide maritime trade. The President stressed that an improved water transportation will promote tourism development and serve the growing requirements of the country’s coastwise commerce.

M A N I L A I N T E R N A T I O N A L Airport customshouse collected P8, 570.416.24 in revenue last May, which was more than double that of the same month last year. Airport Collector Cesar Dario attributed the increased collection, which started after the imposition of Martial Law, to the new morality now obtaining in the Bureau of Customs, and to the military presence at the airport. Last April, the collection of the airport customshouse hit the P8 million mark for the first time. Before that, customs collection at the airport averaged only from P3 million to P2 million monthly.

DEPARTMENT of Trade assured the public that the Government has taken steps to soften the impact on the local scene of the continuing drop in the production of fishmeal abroad and the heavy purchases of wheat by the Republic

of China. Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. said appropriate agencies of the Government have already been advised to meet the repercussions in the domestic scene of this worldwide development.

June 3—

THE PRESIDENT promulgated a presidential decree amending the law on geodetic engineering to enable undergraduates to qualify as land reform surveyors in the massive land reform program. In issuing the decree, the President said he was anticipating the need for thousands of surveyors with land reform going full blast and *Masagana 99* rice production program underway in 600,000 pilot hectares. Under Republic Act 4374, a five-year course is prescribed for students interested in the broad field of geodetic engineering. However, since the enactment of the law in 1965, the number of those pursuing the study of geodetic engineering has dwindled.

THE PRESIDENT issued Special Decree No. 196 converting the Nueva Vizcaya Agricultural College in Bayombong into the Nueva Vizcaya State Institute of Technology. The new decree also expands the school's curricular programs in technology pursuant to a provision in the new Constitution that all educational institutions shall aim to develop scientific, technological and vocational efficiency. The institute shall primarily provide higher vocational, professional and technical instructions and trainings in agricultural and industrial fields. It shall also promote research, advanced studies and progressive leadership in the fields of agriculture, including agricultural education and home technology, fishery, forestry and industrial education.

MARTIAL LAW has not changed the country's foreign policy which stress the strengthening of ties with Southeast Asian countries and the broadening of relations with Socialist countries and Western Europe. Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo made the statement in an interview during "The DPI Report", a multi-network television program. Taking a look at the future course of the Philippine foreign policy of the New Society, Secretary Romulo said "the general relaxation of tensions, with particular reference to Asia, is likely to present us with new problems." Our duty is to anticipate developments and make the inevitable adjustments in the light of our perceived interests and in accordance with the interests of the region," he stressed. In this connection, the foreign affairs chief said the country is in the process of establishing new bases for a more balanced relationship with the United States.

INFORMATION Secretary Francisco S. Tatad equated the future of the country with the vision and dedication of its scientists, and saw for these "gifted men, who often have to contend with neglect and indifference," the dawn of a brighter day. "The light that shows in the hand of progress will have to be that of science always," Secretary Tatad told the Mathematical Society of the Philippines at its meeting at the Columbian Club. "The scientist's laboratory is after all, where one builds the roads to the unknown, and there, the politics of men and nations is reduced to insignificance." He assured, however, that "beginnings are being made" in the Philippines to upgrade its regard for the scientist. "It will require a sustained effort for such beginnings to grow into a program that will ensure maximum support and protection to our men of science, but so long as good sense guides the policies of government the growth of such a program will be assured."

INSURANCE Commission has tagged the Integrated Motor Vehicle Owners, Inc. as an illegal insurance firm. Due to the mounting complaints received by the IC and the Department of Justice, the Department of Finance warned the public against the illegal activities of the Quezon City-based firm. According to a report submitted by Insurance Commissioner Gregoria Cruz Arnaldo to Finance Secretary Cesar E. A. Virata, the company issues certificates of membership to operators of public utility vehicles. Commissioner Arnaldo said that the certificates are issued through the firm's managing agent or attorney-in-fact under which a certificate of financial assistance is extended in the form of payment of claims of third parties against the member-operators in return for monthly fees.

June 4—

THE PRESIDENT during an interview with former Secretary of Education Onofre D. Corpus on "Freedom of Self-determination" at the television program. "The DPI Report" remarked that the hallmarks of world approval of the Philippines' concept of self-determination are everywhere This affirmation of the Philippine New Society by other people is indicated by the pouring of investments—the best evidence of a foreign country's confidence on the

stability of another nation "This to me indicates that we have brought pervasive acceptance of our concert of self-determination which is not jingoistic," the President said.

SECRETARY of Labor Blas F. Ople informed the President that the country's labor reforms and policies under the New Society will be presented before the International Labor Conference which will be held in Geneva, Switzerland. The President was appraised of this by the members of the Philippine delegation who made a courtesy call in Malacañang for last-minute instructions. The month-long conference of the International Labor Organization will be attended by representatives of labor and management from 130 nations to discuss labor situation in their respective regions.

PRICE CONTROL Council readjusted the wholesale, producer and retail prices of edible oil, infant dietetics and canned mackerel in a move to arrest the spiralling prices of these commodities. Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. stressed that the price body took this step in order to allow producers and importers of these commodities to break even and, make minimum mark ups on other items.

DEPARTMENT of Local Governments and Community Development urged the creation in every city or municipality of a development committee to hasten the generation of community development projects out of the Barrio Development Fund (BDF). The development committee, according to DLGCD Secretary Jose Roño, should be composed of the city/municipal mayor or his duly authorized representative as chairman; the city/municipal treasurer, the Association of Barrio Captains, president of the city/municipality, one city/municipal councilor chosen by a council/board, and the city/municipal development officer, as members.

THE PRESIDENT directed Highways Commissioner Baltazar Aquino to take over construction work on portions of unfinished work whenever the private contractor is found lagging behind schedule. This directive was issued by the President to make sure that all highways projects in the country will be completed on time. The President's directive was contained in Letter of Instructions No. 86. The Chief Executive gave the public highways commissioner discretion to have the projects "done by qualified and responsible contractors, through renegotiated contract, at the original contract price."

DEVELOPMENT Bank of the Philippines has formulated guidelines to synchronize the bank's new fisheries financing program. Initially, this loan program will grant loans only to small deepsea fishing operations in the Mindanao-Sulu-Palawan region. The guidelines are 1) The borrower must be an individual, a partnership, a cooperative, an association or a private corporation engaged in marine fishing. 2) The amount of loan will be based on the actual needs of project costs but all borrowers are required to contribute at least 20 per cent of the investment project. 3) The loans must be used in the following: construction of fully equipped fishing vessel hulls; acquisition of secondhand fish carriers; construction of ice making, ice storage and chilling facilities and shipways to support fishing operations; and procurement of vessels and fisheries equipment. 4) On the security of the loan, the guidelines provide that all durable assets in the project shall be chatted in favor of DBP. In addition, 20 per cent of the loan shall be covered by real estate collateral. 5) Terms of payment shall be based on payment ability of the borrower and estimated cash flow of the project financed.

SECRETARY of Health Clemente S. Gatmaitan stated that doctors desiring to go abroad for further training or specialization under the exchange visitors program are required one year practice after having qualified or passed the medical board exam. This requirement is in accordance with the implementing details of Letter of Instructions No. 76 formulating new guidelines and regulations governing the travel of Filipino citizens under various categories to other countries. Secretary Gatmaitan stated that his requirement which, in fact, is the original requirement adopted heretofore stays until further notice and does not bind doctors who have existing contracts abroad.

UNDER the new Constitution, children of a Filipino and an alien are assured of being not only Filipino citizens but as natural-born Filipinos. Solicitor General Estelito P. Mendoza made this interpretation of a proviso in the new Constitution in a speech before the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce. He stressed the significance of Article III of the new Charter which provides that those born of alien fathers but of Filipina mothers are considered citizens of the Philippines and that a Filipina who marries an alien does not lose her citizenship

unless she renounces it. He clarified that under the new fundamental law, assimilation should be enhanced and the children of a Filipino and an alien are assure that they shall not only be Filipino citizens but natural-born Filipinos.

THE PHILIPPINES has been selected by the World Federation of Public Health Association (WFPHA) and the American Public Health Association (APHA) as the site of special two-year project to demonstrate how volunteer public association can be strengthened and developed to serve as useful ally of government institutions. Implementing the project is the Philippine Public Health Association (PPHA), a volunteer health group which counts more than 2,000 members composed of doctors, nurses, midwives, dentists, and sanitary inspectors as well as 16 affiliate organizations.

June 5—

THE GOVERNMENT'S efforts to develop Manila as another trade hub of international firms in Southeast Asia are being complemented by findings of United States and United Kingdom newspapers showing it as one of the least expensive places in the region. The President, encouraged by these developments, had set the Government machinery in motion to develop Manila into an Asian regional headquarters for foreign business and industrial conglomerates. The move was particularly directed at business companies with main offices in Hongkong, which he said have been affected by Inflation and the devaluation of the American dollar.

THE PRESIDENT assured a high-level delegation of Muslim leaders that the Philippines is exhausting all means to integrate the Filipino Muslim population into the country's political and economic mainstream. The Chief Executive appealed to the delegation—which was composed of officials of the Muslim World League from Mecca—to cooperate in effecting this social assimilation. The members of the delegation made a courtesy call on the President prior to conducting a fact-finding trip in the south. They specifically asked the President what they can do to strengthen relations between Christians and Muslims in the country.

THE PRESIDENT approved 10-day no-visa visits for Hongkong businessmen and tourists in line with the relaxation of travel requirements for visitors from the Crown Colony. The Chief Executive announced the new travel incentives during a courtesy call of officers and members of the Hongkong Association of Travel Agents (HATA) in Malacañang. The President also directed Immigration Commissioner Edmundo Reyes to extend from 72 hours to 10 days the stay of Hongkong investors and stockbrokers without visa.

THE PHILIPPINES is going to tie up its tourism development programs with those of other Asian countries in order to boost local promotion plans. The Government's new approach to local tourism development which will be mutually advantageous to the Philippines and her Asian neighbors, was announced by Secretary of Tourism Jose D. Aspiras as he welcomed members of the Hongkong Association of Travel Agents who are in Manila for their second annual convention at the Manila Hilton. The head of the newly formed tourism department said that by working closely with the successful promotional schemes of its Asian neighbors, the Philippines will be able to accelerate the growth of its tourism industry.

THE PRESIDENT stressed that the preservation of the environment is now one of the major concerns of the Government. The Chief Executive issued Proclamation No. 1149 declaring June 5 of every year a World Environment Day. Underlining the importance of the occasion, the President called on all Filipinos, especially government officials and employees, to observe the day with activities reaffirming their concern for the preservation, improvement and beautification of the environment.

PHILIPPINE Medical Care Commission has prepared new medicare application forms intended to lessen requirements for documentation and to facilitate processing. Dr. Pacifico E. Marcos, PMCC chairman, said that starting July 1 all claims for medicare benefits and payments should be made on the new forms. This is the second time that the medicare claim forms were revised since the Medicare Program was implemented in April, 1972. The forms can be obtained by hospitals, medicare members and employers from the medicare department of the Government Service Insurance System, the Social Security System, and the PMCC.

DEPARTMENT of Agriculture and Natural Resources has announced that importations of gamebirds or fighting cocks are now totally banned while those of race horses will be phased out within four years. Acting Agriculture Secretary Jose D. Drilon said the ban will take effect on July 1, based on the recommendation submitted by Director Pedro G. Refuerzo of the Bureau of Animal Industry. Director Refuerzo said that the average importation of gamebirds totalled 3,980 heads per year for the last 12 years, causing a heavy drain on the foreign exchange reserves. The average importation of horses in the last 12 years totalled 149 heads a year, the director said. The phase-out will limit importation to 100 for the first year, to be gradually decreased by 25 heads every year.

THE GOVERNMENT has collected a total of P3.4 billion in revenue for the first 10 months of Fiscal Year 1972-73. This increase in the revenue collection is 41.44 per cent more than that of the same period in FY 1971-72. Commissioner Misael P. Vera said that the P3, 448,543,725 collection do not include collections through customs during the first 10 months from July, 1972 to April 1973. The net amount that went to the national government for the 10-month period under review totalled P2, 458,137,177, or an increase of 52.98 per cent over the same period during FY 1971-72. Mr. Vera attributed the continuing increase in collection to extensive collection and tax information campaign launched by the Government with emphasis on the tax amnesty decrees and the filing of income tax returns.

THE PRESIDENT has formed a special committee to coordinate and integrate a systematic development of the Export Processing Zone in Mariveles, Bataan. The Chief Executive said the integration of the projects would provide better planning in laying out an industrial complex based on the various firms relevance and utility. Circular No. 635, which created the special committee, notes that development projects undertaken by both the Government and the private sector around the zone have been programmed independently of each other. The Secretary of the Department of Public Works, Transportation and Communications will act as committee chairman, with the secretary of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources as vice chairman.

DEPARTMENT of Tourism will adopt a seven-point program envisioned to develop the country's potential tourists spots, to intensify promotions of both domestic and foreign tourism and to liberalize entry equipments for foreign tourists. Tourism Secretary Jose D. Aspiras outlined the guideline during the radio-television broadcast of "Pulong-pulong sa Kaunlaran." It includes: 1) The physical development aspects of tourism with a view to preparing the country to receive more tourists. 2) The participation of private enterprise in the development program with the assistance and encouragement of the tourism department. 3) A sustained and massive foreign promotion program through more information offices abroad. 4) Professionalism in the rank and file of the tourism department. 5) Technical and financial assistance for the private sector, including in the field of investments and the drafting of rigid standards to ensure high quality service and ethical business practices. 6) The promotion of domestic tourism simultaneously with foreign tourism. 7) The further liberalization of entry requirements for tourists.

THE GOVERNMENT is endorsing a month-long fair depicting the country's economic, political and social progress. The fair will be sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines in conjunction with the trade chamber's 70th anniversary celebration this year. The proposed industrial and commercial fair will be held in December at the Quirino Grandstand (Luneta) and will involve various government agencies headed by the Department of Trade. Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. endorsed the project because it will accentuate the partnership between the Government and private sector for national progress.

THE PHILIPPINES is extending \$5,000 relief assistance to six African countries now facing famine. The President, expressing concern over the emergency situation, instructed Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo to wire the Philippine Mission in the United Nations to pledge the cash assistance for the African countries. The six African countries threatened with famine are Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Upper Volta—all located in the Sudano-Sahelian region of Africa. The Philippine donation was made in response to the urgent appeal of the secretary-general of the United Nations.

SHARES of stocks sold outside the Philippines need not be registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The SEC issued this ruling in connection with the sale of \$15 million worth of 328,005 shares of stocks by the Marinduque Mining and Industrial Corporation (MMIC), a Philippine firm, to the International Financing Corporation, an affiliate of the World Bank. The question of the issuance and sale of notes by the MMIC to the IFC was referred to the SEC by the Bancom Development Corporation. From facts gathered from the SEC, it

appears that the MMIC has entered into an investment agreement with the IFC in Washington D.C., on December 16, 1971. One of the conditions imposed by the IFC under the investment plan was that MMIC will have to file with the SEC in Manila MMIC's registration statement under the Philippine Securities Act. Under the SEC ruling, no registration statement is required to be filed with the SEC and that the IFC may dispose of any or all the debentures or warrant shares provided the sale is done outside the Philippines.

THE COUNTRY'S *Masagana 99* rice production program received an allocation of P77.5 million from US Agency for International Development (AID) for the financing of farmers' fertilizers, seeds and pesticides. The agreement was signed by Director General Gerardo P. Sicat of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and Mr. Thomas C. Niblock, director general of USAID in the Philippines. Farmers involved in the *Masagana 99* program in 43 provinces may use the fund to finance requirements for fertilizers, seeds, pesticides and other agricultural inputs. The amount of P40 million was authorized to be released immediately.

June 7—

DEPARTMENT of Finance need not review a local tax ordinance which, due to its oppressive or confiscatory nature, has been declared invalid by a provincial board. Justice Secretary Vicente Abad Santos issued the ruling in answer to a legal query posed by the Finance Department Secretary Abad Santos said the secretary of finance may no longer review the ordinance to suspend it in whole or in part if the tax rates imposed are found to be "unjust, excessive, oppressive, confiscatory or contrary to national economic policy." The authority to review such oppressive tax ordinances was given to the secretary of finance through Presidential Decree No. 143.

REPRESENTATIVES of the French-German industrialist called on the President at Malacañang to report their participation in the Philippines' economic development which is the setting up of a P27 million hydrogen peroxide plant in Valenzuela, Bulacan. The consortium representatives said that the plant, which started operations last May 25, has already received an order for 100 tons of hydrogen peroxide from Taiwan. Claimed to be the most modern and the first of its kind in Southeast Asia, the hydrogen peroxide plant will mean savings of \$1 million annually in terms of hydrogen peroxide importation. Local production of hydrogen peroxide is considered a boom to local industries, particularly the textile and pulp paper industries, which use this product.

THE GOVERNMENT has collected a total of P8, 623, 023, 91 in the form of deficiency taxes on contraband items last month. This was reported by Gen. Pelagio A. Cruz, chairman of the Anti-Smuggling Action Center (ASAC) to Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata. Topping last month's collection covered forest charges, fines and other fees in the illegal traffic of logs amounting to P6, 711,914.47. Confiscated blue seal cigarettes totalling 6,428 cartons amounted to P64, 287. Other items apprehended included dried marijuana and crude opium valued at P9, 700. Gen. Cruz reported that the accomplishments for May had exceeded that of April which was P3, 108,332.80. The ASAC chief attributed the increased collections to the hiked informers' rewards given by the Government.

THE GOVERNMENT launched a nation-wide campaign against mislabelling of consumer items and violations of the Price Tag Law. Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon, Jr. mobilized the Fair Trade Board, Price Control Council, Bureau of Commerce and Constabulary troopers detailed with the trade department in the two-pronged drive. In this connection, the Fair Trade Board gave six business establishments found dealing in fake Gold Toe socks five days to show cause why they should not be held for violation of the law on mislabelling. Secretary Quiazon also ordered the apprehension of rice and corn retailers who do not attach price tags on their cereals and those who sell beyond the price fixed by the Price Control Board.

BUREAU of Public Highways has started construction work on the second phase of the Manila-Cavite coastal road aspect of the massive Manila Bay reclamation project. The President was informed by BPH Commissioner Baltazar Aquino that the Construction and Development Corporation of the Philippines, which submitted the lowest bid during the recent bidding for this phase, has begun ground work some 300 meters away from the Cultural Center. The President, in Letter of Instructions No. 85, stressed that paramount importance must be given to this project that "even existing contracts that might be affected must give way" to its realization. The Manila Bay project calls for the extension of the southern terminus of Roxas boulevard up to Cavite City and its northern end up to Orani, Bataan. It also involves the reclamation of the foreshore and submerged land about 1, 000 meters wide to be

developed into residential, commercial and industrial areas with tourist and recreation centers. The President said the project will solve the urgent transportation need of the Manila Bay region and promote the dispersal of population and activities from Metropolitan Manila.

SEVERAL importers and businessmen from Honolulu, Hawaii, are interested in buying a wide range of Philippine products. The new list of trade opportunities from Hawaii was transmitted recently to the Department of Trade by Hawaiian Philippine trade representatives. Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. who released the names of the Hawaiian business firms, said Hawaiian importers were interested in buying a wide range of Philippine products. These products include building materials, *kapi* shells, woodcarvings, wood furniture, handicrafts, handbags, custom jewelry, painting exports, lumber products, shoes, slippers, rubber shoes, and chemical products. Secretary Quiazon said that interested parties may get the list of trade opportunities from the Department of Trade.

SOME 2,600 farm management technicians in 36 provinces have been retained on modern rice technology by four mobile teams of the National Food and Agriculture Council. The farm management technicians underwent two-day seminars on *Masagana 99* rice program which include the 16 steps on *Masagana 99* rice culture. These included land preparation; seedbed preparation, plowing and harrowing; control of leaf hoppers; fertilizer management; weed control; and pesticide application. The teams are expected to cover 43 pilot provinces involved in the *Masagana 99* intensified rice program by the end of this month.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: June 8-14, 1973

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

June 8—

THE PRESIDENT said the country's development efforts are geared toward evolving a balanced agro-industrial economic system wherein each citizen must harness his full productive potentials for national welfare. In a speech keynoting the opening of the trisectoral symposium on the "Dynamics of Development", sponsored by the Department of Public Information, at Malacañang's Maharlika Hall, the Chief Executive equated national development to a social system where agriculture and industries share the primary task of shaping the nation's economic well-being. The President, however, emphasized that development could only be effected where there is stability and security, especially for developing countries like the Philippines. Under an era of stability, each man, woman and child must harness his or her own productive capacities for this is the New Filipino's role in the New Society, the President stresses.

THE GOVERNMENT'S localized socio-economic projects will be further bolstered when local governments receive their internal revenue allotments for fiscal year 1973-74. According to Secretary of Finance Cesar E.A. Virata, the provinces, cities and municipalities will start receiving their monthly BIR allotments through the Treasury field cashiers without any deficiency regardless of whether or not there will be sufficient collections in their respective provinces to cover fully said allotments. Pre-determined allotments for the incoming fiscal year amounted to P482,911,314.72. Aside from this the President has announced the release of P120,752,828.68 as financial aid to local governments for projects pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 144. The decree enjoins the local governments to appropriate in their general fund budget not less than 20 per cent of the annual allotment for development projects.

THE PRESIDENT extended anew the deadline for the filing of amnesty applications and ordered that all proceedings before military tribunals and civil courts against amnesty applicants be held in abeyance pending his final action on their applications. The President signed Presidential Decree No. 206, extending to July 15, 1973, the deadline for the filing of amnesty applications. It was the third time the Chief Executive extended the deadline for amnesty applicants. The original deadline was on February 28, 1973, but this was extended to March 15, 1973.

BOARD OF COMMUNICATIONS issued a five-point policy intended to integrate the Philippines' telecommunications facilities and systems. Gen. Ceferino S. Carreon, BOC chairman, said the five-point policy is expected to hasten the development of the National Telecommunications Network. The five-point policy follows: 1) Domestic common carrier service (telephone and telegraph) should be made 100 per cent or wholly Filipino-owned corporations. 2) Telegraph and telephone firms should voluntarily enter into merger, consolidation or amalgamation in order to prevent wasteful duplication of service and unnecessary competition. 3) Plans for expansion of facilities and services by domestic common carrier firms should be referred to the Board for approval. 4) Telephone and telegraph companies are encouraged to go into voluntary interconnection (common use) of facilities. 5) Any proposed interconnecting agreement between a domestic common carrier and an international common carrier should secure prior approval of the BOC before its finalization.

THE GOVERNMENT'S program to rehabilitate and develop Mindanao has already gained ground in the fields of electrification, irrigation, road building and other infrastructure projects. This was the gist of a departmental-military briefing given to a high level delegation of Muslim diplomats in Malacañang. The Muslim resident envoys in the country were particularly apprised of ongoing rehabilitation and development projects in predominantly-Muslim areas in Mindanao and Sulu inasmuch as they had been earlier assured that the peace and order condition in the areas had already stabilized. The briefing will enable the envoys to draw measures their states could initiate to contribute in the Government's rehabilitation efforts.

LESSORS of personal properties, not the lessees, should pay the three per cent contractor's tax imposed by the National Internal Revenue Code. Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos issued this opinion in reply to a query of the Director of the Bureau of Census and Statistics. The secretary stressed that the law explicitly declares that the tax

is imposed on the lessors of personal properties and not on the lessees or any other persons. He added that the taxes imposed in Sec. 191 of the Tax Code are denominated contractor's tax imposed on so-called independent contractors whose activities consist essentially of the sale of all kinds of services for a fee.

BUREAU of Plant Industry reported that crop exports of the country have been steadily rising during the last few years. During the first months of this year alone, some 8,819,169 kilos of mangoes, ginger, coffee beans, onions and melons worth \$850,346 have been exported to Hongkong, Singapore, the United States and other countries. Crop exports in the first four months of this year were broken down as follows: fresh mangoes, 6,366,422 kilos worth \$545,031; ginger, 235,889 kilos worth \$127,445; coffee beans, 1,129,538 kilos worth \$166,066; onions, 51,000 kilos worth \$9,240; and melons, 36,320 kilos worth \$2,564.

DEPARTMENT of Trade has initiated a trade promotion which will systematize and categorize exportable Philippine products, whose trade potentials could be generated and expanded in the foreign market. Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon, Jr. said the move is in line with the intensive foreign trade promotion drive of the New Society not only in the traditional markets of Philippine products but in new international outlets, including the socialist and communist countries. The trade secretary announced the trade promotion activity in letters to manufacturing firms producing various products having great potentials for export like rattan and other wooden furniture, food items, textiles and shoes.

THE GOVERNMENT chalked up P176.1 million in customs collections last May. The May collections were P62.2 million higher (or 54.56 per cent more) than the collections for May last year which totalled only P113.9 million. Collections for the last two days of May, 1973 showed a remarkable vigor: P7.6 million was collected on May 30 while P9.7 million was collected on May 31. For the first half of fiscal year 1972-73 the gross general fund collection of the customs bureau amounted to P914,523,457, exceeding that of the same period during the previous fiscal year by P78,435,676, or 9.38 per cent. Customs Commissioner Rolando Geotina attributed the increase in customs collections to the imposition of Martial Law which maximize standards of efficiency and the renewed spirit of dedication and honesty in customs personnel."

June 9—

THE PRESIDENT issued Presidential Decree No. 207 ratifying the United Nations 1968 conventions in Vienna on road traffic and road signs and signals. The Chief Executive stressed that the adoption of these international rules is in line with the Government's intensified campaign in road safety. He added this move is necessary in view of the increasing number of foreigners and tourists that are now operating motor vehicles on Philippine roads.

THE FIRST LADY tapped a P20 million loan from the Government Service Insurance System to solve the chronic dormitory and housing shortage at the University of the Philippines. After conducting an inspection tour of the site of the Philippine Medical Center in UP's Diliman campus, the First Lady asked GSIS General Manager Roman Cruz Jr. to grant the loan to alleviate the acute housing shortage in the state university. Part of the loan will be utilized to build additional dormitories to lodge students coming from the provinces.

ACTING SECRETARY of Labor Amado C. Inciong announced that jobless engineers and new engineering graduates whose services are not needed locally are not covered by the travel ban on engineers and highly technical personnel. He made the announcement as he released the guidelines for overseas travel of engineers and technical personnel for employment or immigration. The following categories of engineers and scientists may be allowed to leave abroad: new graduates without any work experience; those who are jobless; those who are joining wife and husband who are immigrants of a foreign country; those already hired by foreign governments and international consultants; those who were considered resigned from their posts before May 22, 1973; recruits of foreign governments approved by the labor department; those hired by Philippine companies or firms with joint ventures in Indonesia and other foreign countries; those intending to work in special projects in foreign countries; those whose present jobs in the Philippines are not related to their professions; female engineers; and those whose applications may be considered meritorious by the Department of Labor and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA).

PHILIPPINE National Red Cross has received a merit award for public welfare services. The award is given by the Civic Assembly of Women of the Philippines in connection with CAWP's 27th anniversary and the 75th anniversary of Philippine Independence. The PNRC was cited "for being the enduring symbol of humanitarian service carried on with integrity and the steadfast devotion, and for serving as the nation's conscience through which many have given deeds of wonders, lifting the moral of the unfortunate and downtrodden."

ADMINISTRATOR Jesus Tanchanco of the National Grains Authority announced that the ceiling price for all varieties of rice is still P1.25 per kilo. He made the announcement as he urged rice retailers to strictly observe the price ceiling in the wake of reported violations of NGA rules and regulations. Mr. Tanchanco said that overpricing is punishable by imprisonment of not less than one year nor more than two years and by a fine of not less than P4,000 to P6,000. The NGA administrator assured the public of enough rice buffer stock in various NGA warehouses.

MASAGANA 99 radio broadcasters have been designated members of their respective Provincial Action Committees to boost radio information support for the crash rice production program. The PACs headed by provincial governors, are the nerve centers for *Masagana 99* operations. Acting Secretary of Agriculture Jose D. Drilon Jr. said the designation of the broadcasters, contained in a special order was designed to strengthen the communications aspects of the campaign.

THE ABACA and Other Fibers Development Board has been abolished and its functions transferred to other government agencies. Acting Secretary of Agriculture Jose D. Drilon Jr. said the board's abolition was made pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 1 which directed the implementation of the Integrated Reorganization Plan in the DANR. Following are the board's functions and the government agencies to which they have been transferred: 1) Research, to the Bureau of Plant Industry; 2) Agricultural extension, to the Bureau of Agricultural Extension; and 3) Foreign trade promotion, to the Bureau of Foreign Trade, Department of Trade.

June 10—

THE GOVERNMENT has initiated a crackdown on hoarders of grains and price manipulators as the President directed the confiscation and seizure of stocks of industrial establishments keeping grains in excess of their normal raw material requirements. The President also directed the secretary of defense, the constabulary chief and the administrator of the National Grains Authority to activate themselves into coordinating body to oversee the Government's drive against hoarding of cereals. The Chief Executive issued Letter of Instructions No. 88 setting additional guidelines to firm up administration efforts to apprehend price manipulators, profiteers and hoarders of prime commodities.

INFORMATION Secretary Francisco S. Tatad exhorted the Mabuhay ang Pilipino Movement to sustain its initial gains and move on toward greater momentum. Addressing the first national conference of the Movement at San Sebastian College, the secretary said the Movement must organize and increase in membership. The secretary told the conference that "we are not planting the proverbial tree alone, under which shade we shall not sit, but under which our children shall find shelter, and perhaps read poetry, dream, visualize the future and create music." He said that although the nation is working toward the transformation of values so that the future will be good and bright, "we make no offering to the future at the cost of the present." Secretary Tatad said that public support of the Movement went far beyond the leadership's expectation. The Mabuhay national campaign on discipline, he said, has taken root even in the remotest areas where the word discipline is unlikely to mean anything at all.

THE PRESIDENT has declared the period from July 1 to 7 of every year as National Culture Consciousness Week. The Chief Executive signed Proclamation 1148, urging all citizens and organizations to celebrate National Culture Consciousness Week appropriately "in connection with the need to make Filipinos constantly aware of their proud cultural heritage." The proclamation was inspired by Article XV of the new Constitution which provides that "Filipino culture shall be preserve and developed for national identity."

THE PRESIDENT has set the registration of barangay members from June 19 to July 4. The fixing of the registration period for members of 35,000 barangays was held significant in view of the President's pledge to convene the assemblies before the end of the year to sound them out on vital issues. It reminds all qualified citizens,

irrespective of age to register so that their voices can be heard on vital issues affecting the country. The rules for the registration will be drafted by the newly constituted Commission on Elections.

DEPARTMENT of Trade announced details of an offer by the People's Republic of China to include Manila in the regular shipping routes of Chinese commercial vessels. Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. said details of the Chinese proposal were made through the Philippine Trade Mission which went to China last month. The Chinese officials were willing to make Manila as a regular route of Chinese vessels which maintain regular routes to Singapore and Malaysia (Port Swettenham). The Chinese representatives agreed initially to provide a vessel for Philippine shippers on a direct point-to-point shipment provided there are at least 300 tons of cargo to be shipped. They further offered the Philippines that if clearance is given for their vessels to enter Manila and there is the required volume of cargo, they are ready to start sending to Manila cargo ship direct from Shanghai beginning this month.

THE PRESIDENT has declared the period for the BSP fund raising campaign in line with the Government's support to youth development. The annual fund campaign for the Boy Scouts of the Philippines will be held from July 1 to December 31 this year. Presidential Proclamation No. 1140 calls upon all citizens and residents of the Philippines to assist in the campaign "in order that the BSP may be able to continue with its youth citizenship training program."

June 11—

MUSLIM WORLD League delegation which has just returned to Manila from a fact-finding mission in Mindanao said they were very much impressed by the progress in the island's development. The visiting Muslim leaders told the President they were convinced of the Government's sincerity in its efforts to uplift the lot of Muslim Filipinos. The President received the members of the delegation in Malacañang following their three-day-tour of Marawi City, Lanao and Cotabato where they talked with government officials, Filipino Muslim leaders and returning refugees. Datu Syed Ibrahim Alsagof, head of the delegation, said he and the members of his party witnessed actual proof of the rapid pace of development as they toured the Muslim areas. He added that local Muslim leaders they had talked with spoke highly of the President's concern for their welfare and expressed favor for the continuation of Martial Law. The President, on the other hand, assured the delegation that the Government will continue with its program of development in Mindanao.

THE GOVERNMENT has expanded its campaign against business mal-practices to include erring gasoline service stations and dealers of petroleum products. Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. directed agents of the Fair Trade Board to carry out the campaign against erring service station operators and dealers of oil products, particularly liquefied petroleum products. In another move, the trade department ordered provincial commercial and regional supervising commercial agents to coordinate in the apprehension of rice and corn dealers and outlets who do not attach price tags on the cereals. The Trade department also directed authorized Price Control Council agents to coordinate in the apprehension of distributors, retailers, and outlets of rice and corn who fail to indicate the prices as pegged by the PCC.

THE GOVERNMENT has launched a nationwide information drive to keep consumers posted everyday on the actual market prices of basic commodities. The drive was launched jointly by the Bureau of Commerce and the Philippine Constabulary. Commerce Director Epifanio B. Castillejos and Brig. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, PC chief, signed a memorandum agreement which would facilitate a daily compilation of data on market prices and supply of selected commodities throughout the country. The information drive was in response to the clamor of the consuming public for a more up-to-date and accurate information on the actual market price of commodities in all cities, provincial capitals and key areas of the Philippines.

LAGUNA LAKE Development Authority's water-quality laboratory—a P1 million project built to help harness the water resources of the Laguna de Bay is now in operation. Located in Pasig, Rizal, the LLDA's water-quality laboratory will help determine whether the lake could provide the Greater Manila Area with potable water supply. The laboratory will also be used in determining the feasibility of constructing a system of hydraulic control to be installed at the Marikina tributary of the Pasig River to prevent pollution of the lake by salt water from Manila Bay.

and the polluted Pasig River. The LLDA laboratory is a joint project of the Philippine Government, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and the World Health Organization (WHO).

THE GOVERNMENT has finally solved the country's cement glut (excess production) through export promotions. This was announced by the Cement Industry Authority, an agency created recently by Presidential Decree No. 94. The problem of excess production of cement was solved following export offers from Okinawa, Japan, Indonesia, Singapore, Hongkong, Australia, Bangladesh, Libya, Nigeria, Persian Gulf countries, Africa, West Germany, the United States and the Trust Territories (Guam, Marianas Islands, Saipan, Micronesia and others). With a yearly total exportation of some two million metric tons of cement to these countries, the Philippines expects to earn some \$40 million annually in foreign exchange. These export commitments abroad would solve the local cement over-production problem of some 2.5 million tons annually.

THE GOVERNMENT has adopted a mailed-fist policy in the drive against the drug menace in view of the seriousness of the problem. But while the Government is uncompromising against drug traffickers, it is forgiving and helpful to unfortunate victims of drug addiction. The Government program against drug abuse was spelled out by Health Secretary Clemente S. Gatmaitan during the turnover of narcotics equipment to the Philippines by the USAID. Secretary Gatmaitan said that unfortunate victims are receiving rehabilitation treatment jointly from the Government and private sectors.

THE GOVERNMENT has already funneled some P567,815, in the massive road construction projects in Sulu to hasten the socio-economic growth in the predominantly Muslim area. Only recently, Bureau of Public Highways Commissioner Baltazar Aquino released a total of P67,815 to the provincial district highway engineer for the development and beautification of the five-kilometer Jolo-Gandasuli-Caonayan road; Jolo-Bud Daho; Jolo-Taglibi; Jolo-Airport road; Marina Street-Scott road and Loay street. According to the plan drawn up by Commissioner Aquino, box culverts along the sidewalks of these roads will be put up. The sidewalks will be cemented in order to protect the box culverts from breaking. The latest Government beautification projects are expected to be completed at the end of the month.

June 12—

THE PRESIDENT articulated the true meaning of independence as the triumph of the Filipino people over injustice, oppression and corruption after centuries of frustration and despair. Highlighting the 75th anniversary celebration of Freedom Day at the Luneta the President, in a 10-minute speech, traced the travails of the nation which said, has pushed away with one swift and single blow "the dark of night." Speaking extemporaneously in English and Tagalog, the President said "there was rebellion in our country every other year during that long, long period, but there was no freedom, there was just nope and dreams." The country seemed doomed to sufferings and suppressions—freedom was like an elusive bird that slipped from our hand, the President said. "We had an independent Republic but that Republic was neither democratic nor strong. It seemed we could not rise from failures. We didn't have the courage to change ourselves" he said. The people had overcome all of these this year, he said. "This is our true independence." (See pp. 5592-J to 5592-L for full text of the President's Independence Day address.)

THE PRESIDENT said that the army has developed not only into an army of warriors but also into a legion of builders and has emerged as an agent of reforms. The President voiced these sentiments in a speech during the induction of the new officers of the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association aboard the presidential yacht *Ang Pangulo*. He attributed part of the reforms in the New Society to the dedication and wide-ranging capabilities of the army, in the execution of the reform program, and in stabilizing society in general.

DEPARTMENT of Public Information Secretary Francisco S. Tatad deplored the bitter irony in the fact that the very reason for which media were help up by the West as a shining example of press freedom and independence, was also a major factor in the continued imprisonment of the people in conditions that negated and restricted our independence. He made this statement during the third and last day of the symposium, "Dynamics of Development" which was sponsored by the Department of Public Information. He stressed that the organs of communications must not only be engaged, they must at the same time be professionally prepared, which is particularly true of the new

media of communications that are highly technical, such as radio, television and film. As for the print media, Mr. Tatad urged that the media must adopt for themselves a system of professional training, not unlike the training that lawyers and doctors have to go through. He said the training must be both technical and cultural; technical insofar as media skills must be learned, cultural in the sense that the media practitioner must be acculturated to the ways of the new.

BUREAU of Plant Industry researchers have developed a new highyielding peanut variety suitable for processing into quality products. Named BPI P-9, the new peanut variety is well-suited for the manufacture of peanut butter. The bean yielding of BPI P-9 ranged from 1.99 to 2.33 metric tons per hectare with an average of 1.52 m.t. per hectare. It consistently outyielded EG bunch and CES 101, both approved by the Philippine Seed Board, by an average of 320 kg. per hectare and 150 kg. per hectare, respectively. The variety is a cross between EG Red and Fante No. 7. It has an upright growth habit (bunchy) with central stems usually reaching an average height of 63 cm. when growth under conditions favorable to planting peanuts. It matures in 100 to 110 days.

June 13—

THE PRESIDENT issued a general order prescribing staggered schedules of office hours for industries, factories, plants, public and private offices and commercial establishments and schools in the Metropolitan Manila area. The revised schedule of working hours will be enforced starting June 18 except on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. It will remain in force in Manila, Pasay City, Quezon City and Caloocan City and in the towns of Las Pinas, Marikina, Malabon, Parañaque, Makati, San Juan, Mandaluyong, Pasig, Navotas and Valenzuela. Under General Order No. 31, the staggered schedules would mean the full utilization of constricted highways facilities within 24-hour day period, thereby eliminating the buildup of traffic congestion. Until otherwise ordered by the President, the revised schedule will continue for the duration of the national emergency.

SECRETARY of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. announced that corporations and establishments whose shares of stocks are sold or offered for sale to the public will have to conform with the new rules and regulations covering in the form and content of financial statements starting July 1, 1973. The new rules were drafted by the Securities and Exchange Commission in line with the changes and development taking place in the New Society to spur economic growth. The rules were finalized after several public hearings conducted by the SEC. Affected by the regulations are issuers of securities traded in securities exchanges or over-the-counter markets, as well as corporations with 20 or more stockholders.

DEPARTMENT of Labor issued a warning against the employment of young laborers in hazardous occupations. Acting Secretary of Labor Amado G. Inciong issued this order in connection with Presidential Decree No. 148, which provides that any person between 14 and 18 years old may be employed without discrimination on account of age but in non-hazardous occupations. The department issued a list of hazardous occupations: 1) farming, fishing, hunting, logging and related occupations; 2) Mining, quarrying and related works; 3) transport, communication and navigational occupations; 4) service, sports, and related work; 5) Professional, technical and related work; 6) All occupations in the processing and preparation of drugs and chemical products involving exposure to dangerous chemicals; 7) All occupations in the manufacturing, handling and transporting of explosives, toxic, corrosive, poisonous and noxious components and flammable liquids in bulk; 8) All activities in any workroom, building, premises or any place where medium is stored, kept or processed or used in the manufacture of self-luminous or other radioactive substances.

THE PRESIDENT paid tribute to seven national artists “who are in the vanguard of the nation’s march toward the fulfillment of its destiny and the establishment of its true identity through their vision and integrity.” The President delivered his remarks after the First Lady had presented the awards to the widows of Mr. Carlos V. Francisco and Mr. Amado V. Hernandez and to the other national artists: Mrs. Francisca Reyes Aquino, Mr. Antonio J. Molina, Mr. Juan F. Nakpil, Mr. Guillermo Tolentino and Mr. Jose Garcia Villa.

INFORMATION SECRETARY Francisco S. Tatad said that the fulfillment of the country’s destiny “lies in the attainment of the humanist future in which, the wealth of the nation is equivalent in all its aspects to the wealth of the people.” Speaking before the Philippine Executive Academy at the Sulu Hotel in Quezon City, Secretary Tatad

said that this humanist future was one “in which the Gross National Product is not increased at the expense of the per capita income, neither one in which individual progress will have been made totally incompatible with national progress.” In pursuit of the modernization of the economy, the secretary urged the following: 1) Total commitment of Government to planning economic development, to centralize planning in the National Economic and Development Authority. 2) Formulation of a program that would interest foreign capital to operate in the economy. 3) Direction of private enterprise and foreign investments to areas that yield high production and exploit to the maximum the country’s hidden mineral wealth.

DEPARTMENT of Justice issued a ruling in effect making it easier for the Bureau of Census and Statistics to gather data from government and private persons or entities, Justice Secretary Vicente Abad that the census bureau can secure data from persons or entities by addressing them merely by their designations or position and not by their true name or surname. But if a criminal action is brought against a person or entity for refusing to accomplish the questionnaire or form sent by the Bureau, the complaint or information sheet must state the true name or surname of the person or entity. The Secretary of Justice issued this opinion in reply to a question from Director Tito Mijares of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.

THE PRESIDENT conveyed the nation’s gratitude to other nations of the world for their sympathetic understanding of “our aspirations as a people.” He made the statement during the traditional exchange of toast with members of the diplomatic corps at the Cultural Center of the Philippines in connection with the observance of the Philippine Independence. “On this day, the 75th anniversary of our nation, we stand proud to be able to deal with your countries as an independent and free nation,” he said in response to a toast offered by the chiefs of diplomatic missions.

DEPARTMENT of Trade has banned the exportation of narra logs and palasan poles (rattan) to prevent the depletion of the vital raw materials. Acting on the complaints of furniture-makers and exporters, Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. directed the National Cottage Industries Development Authority to take the necessary steps to ban the export of the products until the domestic requirements are first fully supplied.

June 14—

THE PRESIDENT issued a decree intended to prevent the further destruction of the Ambuldao and Binga watersheds and to implement a massive tree-planting program in the area. Through Presidential Decree No. 209, the Chief Executive authorized the Bureau of Forest Development and the four provincial governments to undertake reforestation and to prevent the further destruction of the watersheds of the Ambuklao and Binga Hydro-Electric dams by unscrupulous loggers and vegetable gardeners.

THE PRESIDENT paid tribute to his comrades-in-arms who fell at the historic Battle of Bessang Pass exactly 28 years ago. With the national colors flying at half mast, the President laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Libingan ng mga Bayani at Fort Bonifacio. In memory of those who fell at the Pass, the Chief Executive directed that all the names of officers and men of the United States Armed Forces in the Philippines-Northern Luzon (the President’s own wartime unit), who died in the battle be listed in a tablet at the memorial marking the historic battle.

THE CENTRAL BANK will start mopping up excess money in urban centers for eventual dispersal to rural areas. The CB will mop up excess liquidity in urban areas by offering to the public P200 million worth of Central Bank Certificates of Indebtedness (CBCIs). The excess money from the urban centers will be pumped by the Government into rural areas, specifically for infrastructure and other economic development projects.

DEPARTMENT of Trade directed the Securities and Exchange Commission to look into the reported manipulation of stocks being traded in the stock exchanges. Secretary Quiazon said that although the SEC has been faithfully exercising its powers within the limits of law, there still appears a need for more effective measures to forestall the nefarious activities of these dealers. The trade secretary asked the SEC to assign agents in stock exchanges to be on the alert for any abnormal activity involving a particular issue. Among the materials ordered checked by Secretary

Quiazon are publications, brochures, circulars, memoranda, and other informative materials about the affairs of a corporation whose securities are licensed by the SEC.

SECRETARY of Finance Cesar E.A. Virata revealed that a total of 110 motor vehicles face seizure from their owners who have failed to pay taxes and duties under the tax amnesty. In this connection, he ordered the seizure of motor vehicles after he was informed by Customs Commissioner Rolando Geotina that the second installment on the tax payment of the vehicles have not been paid. The aggregate amount of taxes and duties due from the motor vehicles is P700,000.

SMALL farmers have received over P471.649 million loans without collaterals from the Government as of December 31, 1972. Through the Agricultural Credit Administration (ACA) the Government loaned out over P471 million to 786,000 small farmers and their cooperative associations from September, 1952 up to December 31, 1972. Of the P471,649 million loaned out by ACA during a period of 20 years, over P250.469 million or more than one-half, were released during the present administration. From January 1, 1968 up to Dec. 31, 1972 (a period of seven years) the Government released over P250.469 million, compared with P221.172 million representing the cumulative loans that ACA had extended during the entire 13 years and six months of previous administrations.

THE PRESIDENT gave the assurance that the Philippines has enough fertilizers to meet all the needs of the country's farmers. As of May 27, the President reported, there was an inventory of 78,182 metric tons of fertilizers, composed of 10,277 tons of urea, 19,589 tons of ammosul (ammonium sulfate), and 48,170 tons of others. The President was informed that these figures do not include the stocks already in the hands of dealers or distributors, and the total available supply should, therefor, be higher. Despite this optimistic picture, the President warned against over-confidence because of unforeseen problems that may still crop up.

PHILIPPINE Medical Care Commission asked the Department of Health to look into reports that some government hospital doctors are deviating medicare patients to private hospitals where such physicians have their private practice. Dr. Pacifico E. Marcos, PMCC chairman, informed Dr. Pedro Mayuga, Director of the Bureau of Health and Medical Services that the PMCC discovered the unethical practice from patients who sought advice from the PMCC on how they can avail themselves of the medicare benefits without extra expense to themselves.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: June 15-21, 1973

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

June 15—

THE PRESIDENT issued a proclamation declaring that the Victory of Bessang Pass Day, traditionally celebrated every June 14, should be observed on the first Saturday after this date. The President moved the date of observance to enable the nation to celebrate it without much loss of work hours. In issuing this proclamation, the President noted that Bessang Pass has become a monument to the courage and patriotism of the Filipino soldiers and the Filipino people during World War II. The Chief Executive called upon public officials and the citizens of the country to celebrate the day by holding appropriate programs in honor of the gallant Filipinos who fought in the battle of Bessang Pass.

SECRETARY of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. announced that a joint venture proposal was made by a Danish firm, Nilsen and Sons, during a call on the office of the Philippine trade representative in Copenhagen. Nilsen and Sons is interested in a tie-up with a Philippine firm under which the former will provide the technical knowhow as well as the plant facilities while the local partner will provide the labor and raw materials. The firm wants to fabricate in the Philippines major components of office, school, hotel and factory buildings, including walls, roofs, beams, rafters, floors, and others.

BOARD of Investments announced it is closely evaluating a P40.1 million expansion project of the Philippine Wallboard Corporation under the Investment Incentives Act. The project will give additional employment to 305 persons. The expansion program is also expected to boost by P1.9 million the firm's annual P4.6 million it is earning annually. The proposed plant is scheduled to start operation by the middle of 1976 at 40 per cent capacity. It will be gradually increased to 83 per cent in 1978 and finally to 100 per cent in 1979. Should the BOI establish the firm's financial, marketing and technical viability, it will be given additional incentives provided by the Investment Incentives Act, among which are: the accelerated depreciation, tax-free importation of capital equipment, net operating loss carry-over and stocks credit on domestic capital equipment.

ACTING SECRETARY of Agriculture Jose D. Drilon Jr. stated that the scientific community and the mass media should bridge the communication gap between them to facilitate the flow of scientific information for agricultural development. He made the statement in a speech before the information workshop of the Philippine Council for Agricultural Research in Baguio City. In this connection, he suggested that scientists should "get down from the ivory tower" and explain to media what they are doing. Media, he explained, should reciprocate by reporting not only sensational scientific stories but also newsworthy highly technical works." He also recommended that media should employ people with scientific background or offer them the privilege to build up knowledge of and facility with scientific information.

PANAMIN Foundation Inc. fund campaign for national minorities has been extended up to December 31, 1973. The President, through Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, issued Proclamation No. 1145 further extending the national educational fund campaign of the Panamin until December 31, 1973. The extension of the fund drive is expected to help raise funds needed to carry out various Panamin humanitarian projects for the minorities who comprise 12 per cent of the national population.

BUREAU of Plant Industry will conduct every month a 10-day course on the culture of mushroom starting in July. BPI Director Eliseo G. Carandang said the course is being offered in response to requests of the growing number of mushroom growers. He emphasized that the course will help mushroom growers develop a potent and viable industry. Aside from mushroom culture, the course will also include the preparation of media for spawn-growing and mushroom preservation by canning, bottling and air-drying. The course is offered free and is open to all interested parties. Classes will be held at the BPI mushroom laboratory and at the bureau's laboratory services division. Prospective trainees may apply for admission at either office on San Andres st., Malate, Manila.

June 16—

THE PRESIDENT, stressing the need for vigilance, urged new graduates of the Philippine Air Force to stand vigilant and ready to discharge their missions. "The new peace should not blind us, not even lull us to the clear danger that negligence and apathy could bring," the Chief Executive said in a speech read for him by Gen. Romeo Espino, Armed Forces chief of staff, at the commencement exercises of the PAF Flying School Class '73 in Fernando Air Base, Lipa City. He urged the new graduates to be ready to discharge their responsibilities because "in the New Society all of us are committed to share part of the burden of nation-building and defense." In the same vein, the President challenged the whole people to do heroic deeds—not in the making of war—but in more quiet and substantial ways to build a new life and a New Society.

PHILIPPINE National Bank has released rice production loans totalling P6,610,000 to 7,982 small farmers since the launching of Masagana 99 last month. The loan recipients were members of 1,488 seldas or farmer cooperatives from the six regions of the country. These regions are Northern, Central, and Southern Luzon, Eastern and Western Visayas, and Mindanao. Topping the list of borrowers were Southern Luzon farmers numbering 2,311, who received a total of P1,104,415. Second in the list were 2,132 farmers from Central Luzon who received P2,584,056. These loans are a part of the bank's financing scheme to support the country's intensified rice production drive.

THE PRESIDENT has set aside a \$1-million allotment from the Reparations for the Bureau of Customs' computer center. The reparations allotment will be used by the customs bureau for the purchase of its own electronic machines in line with the Government's program to have a customs computer center. Customs Commissioner Rolando Geotina announced this when he addressed 30 graduates of the Bureau of Customs Systems Design and Analysis and Key Punching Operator courses at the customs training room.

BUREAU of Customs will implement soon a system of "instant payment" of claims due from drawbacks upon the filing of the claim with the proper office in the bureau. Customs Commissioner Rolando G. Geotina who convened and presided over the meeting of the eight-man Special Committee on Drawbacks, said that all provisions of the new Tariff and Customs Code favorable to the claimant should be made retroactive and applicable to claims filed before the effectivity of the new TCC. The committee will take sole responsibility in the processing of the claims until they are ready for payment.

DEPARTMENT of Trade laid the ground works for the formal investigation of various anomalies relating to the sale of real property. Following up the drive on all forms of business malpractices, including the deception and fraud employed in the sale of subdivision lots, Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. created a committee to hear complaints against erring persons, firms or entities. The committee, composed of representatives of the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Bureau of Commerce and the Fair Trade Board, was directed to start its inquiry immediately. The committee will receive and hear complaints regarding abuses, acts of misrepresentation, deceit, fraud and other unfair acts attributed to some real estate owners, brokers, salesmen, appraisers, subdivision and condominium owners, developers and managers.

June 17—

THE PRESIDENT granted amnesty to persons who had failed to file income tax returns. The President issued Presidential Decree No. 213 which noted that the number of income tax filers for the calendar year 1972 should be about four million but that Bureau of Internal Revenue records showed only about one and a half million had filed returns. The decree further noted that the disparity was attributable to the lack of information on the requirement to file an income tax return, specially as regards those cases where it is mandatory to file a return even if no gross income was realized in the preceding year. In granting the amnesty to delinquent citizens, the President said that in line with the Government's declared policy of giving tax payers a chance to reform and be a part of the New Society, he has decreed the condonation, subject to certain conditions.

THE PRESIDENT declared that the policy of the Government on social welfare is not limited to extending immediate relief to the needy its greater goals is to rehabilitate and transform them into productive and self-reliant citizens. "Your duty is to seek and help the most helpless and the most underprivileged," the President said in a speech delivered in ceremonies commemorating the fifth anniversary of the Department of Social Welfare. During the ceremonies held at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang, representatives of different welfare-agencies presented

the President with a sculpture piece as an expression of their appreciation in pushing through social welfare hand-in-hand with national development. The President also received another award of recognition in behalf of the First Lady, who was unable to attend the rites.

RETURNING evacuees in Zamboanga and the two Lanao provinces have been extended an additional P400,000 in production loans by the Agricultural Credit Administration. So far, the ACA has already granted a total of P1.5 million in production loans to returning evacuees covered by the Special Program of Assistance for Returned Evacuees (SPARE). Other forms of aid, such as food and temporary shelter, medical treatment and technical production know-how, have also been extended to the returning evacuees. In addition, the government has also made available to these people farm inputs like fertilizers, pesticides and certified seeds, at cost either in cash or credit.

AUSTRALIA'S Minister for Immigration arrived to discuss with Philippine officials a new global migration policy to promote travel between his country and its neighbors in Southeast Asia and the Pacific region. The visiting minister, Mr. Albert J. Grassby, said that there should be the fullest opportunity for Australians and their neighbors to come and go without excessive red tape and bureaucratic hindrance. In his talks with the welcoming government officials headed by Immigration Commissioner Edumundo Reyes, Mr. Grassby said that his country's new initiative in seeking to remove difficulties that impeded the interchange of people in the Southeast Asian and Pacific region had been speedily and warmly understood by the Philippines. "Australia wishes to greet visitors as friends and not discourage them with paper barriers," Mr. Grassby added.

June 18—

THE PHILIPPINE Government is offering attractive incentives, including tax exemption privileges, to multinational companies who will set up their regional or area headquarters in the country. The incentives were contained in Presidential Decree No. 218 issued by the President. In issuing the decree, the President stressed that the establishment in the country of headquarters of multi-national companies would hasten economic and social development of the country.

THE PRESIDENT called on all radio and television journalists to continue their role as full partners with the Government in the establishment of the New Society. Addressing the Philippine Association of Broadcast Journalists following the induction of its officers in Malacañang, the President expressed the hope that "such partnership shall move forward stronger than ever towards the attainment of our common dreams" Emphasizing "the critical and sensitive position of broadcast journalism in the modern world," the President said that reporting by broadcast journalists of natural disasters and such occurrences as the Vietnam war have brought about an alteration and change in the habits of modern man.

PHILIPPINE Constabulary-National Grains Authority Coordinating Committee issued a stern warning to the public that it will take drastic action against any household owner found storing more than one sack of NGA-imported rice for home consumption. The committee, which was created pursuant to a letter of instructions of the President, issued the warning to forestall an artificial grain shortage and to maintain steady supply of the cereals in the market, particularly during the lean months. The NGA is empowered by Presidential Decree No. 4 to order the seizure of cereals declared as hoarded. The same decree imposes stiff penalties on violators.

THE PRESIDENT enjoined all regional directors and assistant regional directors of the Bureau of Public Works to assume greater initiative in pursuing the objectives of the Government reorganization. Addressing the 11 regional directors and 11 assistant regional directors who took their oath of office before him at Malacañang, the President pointed out that the reason why the regional offices were created was to avoid red tape and to obviate the need for people to travel to Manila all the way from such distant places as Sulu and Batanes. The President warned, "as you assume your duties as regional directors and assistant regional directors, I look forward to new initiatives, new ideas, new projects and new planning." The President emphasized that under the reorganization plan, each regional director is practically the director of public works and representative of the President.

TOURISM Secretary Jose D. Aspiras extended the invitation to businessmen from Taiwan to invest in tourism-oriented projects in the Philippines in joint venture with Filipino entrepreneurs. Secretary Aspiras extended the invitation during a courtesy call on him by a 37-man mission led by Mr. Richard C. Y. Wang, executive-director and secretary-general of the National Association of Industry and Commerce of Taiwan. He assured the trade mission that the Philippines is an attractive place for investment because conditions have become stable and many incentives are being extended by the government for overseas investments.

Dr. PACIFICO E. Marcos, Chairman of the Philippine Medical Care Commission announced that effective July 1, mentally and physically disabled children above 20 years old including legally adopted ones of Medicare members will be covered by the expanded scope of the Medicare Act. Dr. Marcos said that the inclusion of congenitally defective children who are already above 20 years old is based on the fact that they are permanently incapable of supporting themselves. He added that legally adopted children acquire the status and rights of legitimate and legitimated children and logically, they should be legal dependents of their adopting parents who are Medicare beneficiaries.

NATIONAL Grain Authority set July 16, 1973, as the last day for those engaged in the grains industry to register and secure their business licenses. NGA Administrator Jess Tanchanco said that under Presidential Decree No. 4 and Letter of Instructions No. 88, the following are covered by the NGA's registration and licensing requirements: 1) Wholesalers/retailers of wheat, flour, corn starch and animal feeds which utilize any such grains and their by-products; 2) Millers/ manufacturers/processors of wheat, flour, corn starch and animal feeds which utilize their by-products; 3) Transporters/operators of transporting facilities which carry, handle or transport any such grains and animal feeds; 4) Brokers, indentors of wheat, flour, corn starch and animal feeds as traders/wholesalers ;5) Importers/exporters of any such grains and animal feeds; 6) Bakeries, pastry shops, bake shops, biscuits factories; and 7) Storage of wheat, flour, corn starch and corn grains.

DEPARTMENT of Trade started its crackdown on untrue, deceptive and misleading advertisements and other forms of sales promotion gimmicks as part of its continuing "business cleanup" drive. Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr., issued the directive to the Fair Trade Board on the heels of another order to the FTB enforcement staff to expedite inquiry into the complaint of the Association of Sporting Goods Manufacturers, Inc., on the sales of alleged imitated brand of basketballs. Defining the scope of inquiries on advertisements shall include the publication, dissemination, circulation or making it available to the public any information regarding goods, securities, services or anything offered for sale thru the newspaper or any form of publication or in the form of a book, notice, handbill, poster, bill circular, pamphlet letter, billboard or thru the radio, television and other media of information.

THE COUNTRY achieved substantial economic growth on its non-traditional exports during the first quarter of 1973 with a record \$18.9 million foreign exchange earning, the Board of Investments announced. The amount, which was earned by the top 12 export products enjoying BOI incentives, represents a 71.8 per cent increase over that of the same period of 1972 which totalled only \$11 million or a gain of \$7.9 million. During the period under review, the country earned a total of \$18,926,000, 54,026,000 of which was accounted from the export of garments. On the first quarter of 1972, garments export earned only \$2,112,000. The BOI attributed the substantial increase in growth of the economy to the exports of non-traditional products such as electronic components, textile yarns, fabrics and handicrafts.

June 19—

THE PRESIDENT urged the country's war veterans to form themselves into working units to undertake development projects, specially on rural level. The Chief Executive, in a speech read for him by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Romeo Espino during the national convention of the Veteran's Federation of the Philippines in Fort Bonifacio, stressed that the Filipinos are now waging what he termed as "the battle of development." He suggested that the VFP and its members must form themselves into working units to assist in cooperative development, community and agricultural development, the promotion of small business ventures and other social and economic activities. He informed the veterans that he has authorized the Philippine Veterans Bank to funnel P5 million from the earnings of the \$31 million veterans trust fund to initially fund the veterans investment and development corporation, a novel project to provide socio-economic assistance to veterans, especially the indigent ones.

THE PRESIDENT issued two decrees aimed at strengthening the country's shipping industry. Presidential Decree Nos. 214 and 215 are intended to make the local shipping industry more competitive in the worldwide maritime trade and to serve the increasing needs of Philippine overseas commerce. The Presidential decrees also grant to Filipino corporations who intend to engage in overseas shipping the privilege to constitute a mortgage (or any other lien or incumbrance) on such vessels with any bank and any foreign or domestic financial institutions. Presidential Decree No. 215 enforces an earlier announcement that the Government is withdrawing a 17 per cent levy on imported vessels. Presidential Decree No. 214, on the other hand, eliminates provisions in the "Philippine Overseas Shipping Act of 1955" which had deterred the procurement of additional vessels for the country.

GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System (GSIS) has started to distribute mid-year dividend checks amounting to P25 million to its policy holders. This is the first dividend declaration of the GSIS this year. The second would be this coming December to bring Christmas cheers to GSIS members. GSIS General Manager Roman Cruz Jr. said that to forestall fraudulent encashment of these dividend checks through tampering, the GSIS limits the value of each dividend check to a maximum of P300. Any dividend over this amount will be contained in a separate check so that members with dividends of Over P300 will receive two or more checks to cover the entire amount of their dividends.

CUSTOMS COMMISSIONER Rolando Geotina and Commodore Romulo Espaldon, chief of military supervisory group in the customs zone appealed to the public doing business with the Bureau of Customs to help preserve the gains in the reform drive achieved in this major revenue-collecting arm of the Government. The appeal was made during a dialogue with customs brokers, stevedores, brokers, arrastre workers, labor leaders and officials of E. Razon, Inc. The public, doing business with the customs bureau should be the last persons who should attempt to block reforms in the zone because all these changes directly benefit these people, Commodore Espaldon said. On the other hand, Commissioner Geotina said that his office is ready to receive any complaint against any customs-man and take drastic action against anyone who has not "mend his ways. He warned that any person caught taunting with customs regulations will be barred from transacting business and entering customs premises.

BOARD of Transportation has given all operators of public vehicles until August 31, 1973 to register all of their units authorized under their certificate of public convenience. The BT, however, said that those who can avail themselves of the grace period are the operators whose failure to register does not exceed one year from August 31 1972. The BT's memorandum further stated that failure of the operators to register all their units within the grace period and failure of all other operators to register their units longer than one year from August 31, 1972 shall be a cause for the cancelation of the certificate.

BUREAU of Plant Industry Director Eliseo C. Carandang said the loses due to sprouts and mold growth on potatoes and onions can be minimized by exposing the crop to a maximum of 15,000 rands of gamma rays from Cobalt 60. Director Carandang said that this finding was made by Mrs. Jovita Z. de Jesus, a BPI plant pathologist. She reported that irradiation extends a month or two the shelf life or storage life of potato and onion because of the prevention of growth of molds and sprouts. The Food and Drug Administration has temporarily approved the irradiation of dose treatment on potatoes as it found "no evidence of harmfulness."

June 20—

THE PRESIDENT called on the country's boy and girl scouts to help in the "salvaging operation" of some five million out-of-school youths. The President said these two youth organizations can accomplish much in improving the lots of the young men and women who are out of school. Addressing the nation from Maharlika Hall at Malacañang, the President also appealed to all Filipinos to extend all possible support to the scouting movement. The Chief Executive made the appeal on the occasion of the golden jubilee celebration of Philippine scouting, which coincides with the anniversary of the birth of Dr. Jose Rizal.

INCREASING demands for Philippine products have resulted in a \$83 million trade surplus last May, the Central Bank announced. The May 1973, trade surplus is \$51 million higher than the surplus registered in May 1972. As a result of this favorable foreign exchange transactions, the country's international reserve climbed by \$83 million to \$601 million last May as compared to the increase of \$47 million a year ago. The Central Bank attributed the

significant improvement in receipts to the Government's aggressive exports promotion campaign, the sharp increase in world prices for most of the Philippines' products, and the rising demand for Philippine exports from the country's trading partner.

THE PRESIDENT urged rural bankers to extend credit to farmers in the most expeditious way to help the Government in its intensified rice production program. Speaking at the induction of officers of the Rural Bankers Association at the Malacañang reception hall, the President said rural bankers have a pivotal role in the supervision of credit for various Government programs such as Masagana 99. In view of this, he said the Government will fail in its agricultural development efforts unless rural bankers helped the country's farmers with more loans. He said he was happy to hear that rural bankers so far have already extended some P45 million in loans to Masagana 99 farmers. He later assured the rural bankers that, the Government is ready to extend all necessary assistance to ensure the success of their undertakings.

GOVERNMENT agencies involved in land reform have integrated their efforts to insure faster implementation of the program. This resulted from a conference of representatives of these agencies hosted by the Philippine Constabulary at Camp Crame. To hasten implementation of the program, the conferees agreed on the following: 1) No new ejectment cases will be accepted by the courts of agrarian relations on lands within the purview of Presidential Decree No. 27. This decree directs that no tenant-farmer should be ejected from his landholdings; 2) All pending cases in courts between tenant-farmers and landowners shall lie held in abeyance upon petition of any party litigant; 3) With regard to rentals to be paid by tenant-farmers and landowners, the Department of Agrarian Relations regional directors shall still determine and fix the provisions of Section 34 of R.A. 3844 as amended pertinent presidential decrees, letters of instructions and directives.

AMOUNT of P29 million in Philippine National Bank funds has been earmarked as initial capital for rehabilitation and reconstruction work of 11 flood-damaged Luzon provinces. PNB President P. O. Domingo announced that the PNB has authorized the release of the amount for the reconstruction of roads, bridges and irrigation systems in the provinces heavily devastated by last year's floods. The loans, which carry 11 per cent annual interest, will form the non-revolving credit lines by provincial governments for their initial capitalization in the reconstruction of damaged infrastructure projects estimated at P200 million. The PNB program is part of the government's Project "Disaster Recovery", an agreement signed last year by USAID and the National Economic and Development Authority.

THE GOVERNMENT'S campaign against business irregularities has been expanded to cover repair shops following numerous complaints on defective repairs, poor workmanship and cannibalizing of spare parts of several of these establishments. Department of Trade Secretary Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. placed priority on the investigation of these complaints which also included those against known and erstwhile reputable automotive and appliance repair shops. Mr. Quiazon ordered a study on the feasibility of requiring management and owners of these repair shops to issue guarantee slips for every job, work or repair undertaken and to require them to list their service fees (at least on major repair works) and have them posted for ready reference. The trade secretary directed agents of the customs bureau and the Fair Trade Board to look into the licenses of automotive and appliance repair shops done by understudies.

SECRETARY of Information Francisco S. Tatad advocated the democratization of the mass media and revealed that the Department of Public Information has launched a community newspaper network project. Under this plan, residents of particular region or province will be organized into cooperatives which will produce community newspapers. The information secretary said he is advocating the democratization of the mass media in order that no media information will merely serve a certain sector without serving all the other sectors in the society. Secretary Tatad revealed his plan in a speech at the seminar of the Knights of Rizal at the National Library Auditorium.

DEPARTMENT of Trade directed the Securities and Exchange Commission to draft the implementing guidelines for the setting up of regional headquarters of multi-nation companies in the Philippines. Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. said that any foreign business entity wishing to establish regional or area headquarters in the Philippines has to secure a license from the SEC. In order to avail of the incentives provided for under the decree, the multi-national company will, within 30 days from receipt of the SEC certificate of registration, submit to the SEC a certificate of inward remittance from a local bank. The inward remittance will show that the applying firm has remitted to the Philippines at least \$30,000 or its equivalent in other countries and converted the same to

Philippine currency. Annually, the firm will submit proof to the SEC of inward remittance amounting to at least \$50,000 or its equivalent in other foreign currencies during the past year.

COMMISSION on Elections clarified an announcement that there will be two lists in the registration of barangay members. Comelec Chairman Leonardo Perez made the clarification during the TV program Pulong pulong sa Kaunlaran. The Comelec chairman said that there will be only one list to be accomplished in Comelec Barangay Form No 2 but there will be two groupings. These groupings are 1) Those who are 15 years old or over but less than 18 years old and 2) Those who are 18 years old or over. When the barrio captains or barangay heads prepare the list of barangay members registered during the period June 19 to July 4, the segregation of the two groupings will be made.

June 21—

THE PRESIDENT assured that there is no real emergency in the country's peace and order condition to warrant the mobilization of military reservists for combat duty. The Chief Executive made this assessment to dispel doubts that reservists now being called to register will be utilized to put down any insurrection or rebellion in pockets of troubled areas in the country. The President made the clarification during a courtesy call of the first batch of reserve officers called to a 30-day active duty in consonance with the civil emergency plan of the Government. He told the 38 officers that the registration of reservists will update government listings. These will cover ROTC graduates, those who underwent military training as 20-year-olds, recognized guerillas, veterans, retired military personnel and those who were honorably discharged from the armed forces.

CENTRAL BANK has deputized all banking institutions and some government agencies to effect the surrender and exchange of old currency notes from July 1 to December 31 this year. The CB discussed the mechanics for the exchange of notes for newer ones bearing the legend of "Bagong Lipunan" with representatives of banking institutions and government agencies involved in the implementation of the demonetization of the old currency. The guidelines are intended to facilitate the withdrawal of the old currency and the distribution of the Bagong Lipunan-marked notes. The CB and the representatives agreed that all banking institutions within the Greater Manila area will surrender the old notes to the CB either by depositing or exchanging these currencies.

THE PRESIDENT exempted retired and retiring government and private employees from paying income taxes derived from their social security benefits, retirement gratuities, pensions and similar benefits. The President's move is embodied in Presidential Decree No. 202. The decree, which is in line with the Government's efforts to promote the welfare of the working masses' embraces within its scope not only those benefits earned in the Philippines but also those received from foreign government agencies, both public and private. PD 202 has repealed or modified provisions of existing laws, decrees and other statutes inconsistent with it.

JUSTICE Secretary Vicente Abad Santos issued the opinion that a city or municipal councilor may serve as an officer, legal counsel or consultant of private bank since he is not considered a fulltime elective official covered by Presidential Decree No. 71 amending the General Banking Act. Mr. Abad Santos said the Act provides that no full-time appointive or elective public officer shall at the same time serve as officer, director, legal counsel or consultant of any private bank except where such service involves government's financial assistance to the bank. City and municipal councilors who are bar members are impliedly allowed to practice their profession subject to certain restrictions, Secretary Abad Santos said.

JUSTICE SECRETARY Vicente Abad Santos, in a speech before the sixth charter anniversary celebrations of Benguet Province, said that local governments have now been elevated to the vanguard of development efforts occupying a more pivotal position that it ever had in the history of national administration. The Government has now fully realized that its real infrastructure is located at the local areas, the secretary said. "It is here that we find the sovereign Filipino people through the preamble of the new Constitution. It is here where we find the people in whom the sovereignty resides and from whom all government authority emanates. It is here that we find the situs of power," Mr. Abad Santos declared.

THE GOVERNMENT has harnessed the services of 24 more rural banks to boost the Masagana 99 rice production program. This brought to 449 the total number of rural banks now extending financial support to farmers engaged in the project in 43 provinces throughout the country. A total of P11.5 million has been released to farmers since the start of the massive rice production program for initial loans. Of this amount, P1.4 million was released by the rural banks; P6.6 million by the Philippine National Bank; and P3.4 million by the Agricultural Credit Administration.

BUREAU of Customs has devised a plan aimed at reducing redtape in all drawback payments. Drawbacks are payment claims of export and manufacturing corporations, principally from excess levy collected from these firms. Customs Commissioner Rolando Geotina said that beginning June 25 all claims must be filed with the Special Drawback Committee located at Room 305 of the Manila customs house. Under the new procedure, the claimants will deal with no other office except the committee which has been empowered to gather all documents necessary to support the claims available within the bureau. Commissioner Geotina said the claimants must file an application for the drawback stating the basis of their claims such as the entry number and date of the export. The customs commissioner directed the Special Drawback Committee to submit a report of its activities every two weeks to enable him to keep track of its operation.

DEPARTMENT of Health reported there is no increase in gastrointestinal and other diseases that usually come with the rainy season. This was announced by Health Secretary Clemente Gatmaitan even as he cautioned the public to take precautionary measures against the seasonal diseases such as gastro-enteritis, cholera and dysentery. Secretary Gatmaitan based his announcement from reports of the various health offices and the San Lazaro Hospital.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: June 22-28, 1973

President's Week in Review: June 29 - July 5, 1973

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

June 29—

THE PRESIDENT ordered that appropriate "severe measures" be taken against all rural banks found to be imperilling the success of *Masagana 99*. The Chief Executive gave the directive to Agriculture Secretary Arturo Tanco on receiving reports that "the rural banks have not kept pace with the Philippine National Bank in the release of farm loans." Secretary Tanco said that the management committee of *Masagana 99* was monitoring loan operations and is pinpointing all loan bottlenecks needing "corrective" measures. The President is keeping close watch on *Masagana 99* which he had dubbed the "nation's program of survival."

THE GOVERNMENT'S policy to hire government employees displaced by the reorganization plan and the ratification of the new Constitution will not cover those personnel separated without civil service eligibilities and whose services had been terminated under letters of instructions on courtesy resignation. Malacañang clarified this even as it emphasized that this system of rehiring preference will not apply in the filling of positions in the non-competitive service, and contractual, promotional and transfer appointments. The preference, Malacañang said, will be subject to the condition that the civil service eligibilities, experience and other qualifications of the separated personnel are consistent with the job requirements of the position vacancies. Special attention will focus on the special and technical qualifications needed in such positions as doctors, engineers, economists and the like, the clarification further stated.

DEPARTMENT of Tourism acted to stop the tampering and destruction of the country's natural beauty and relics. Secretary of Tourism Jose D. Aspiras said old churches, old forts and landmarks in some towns and cities are being, torn down or altered without proper planning and supervision. He called on the nation's planners and builders to prevent the destruction of the country's natural beauty and the relics of its past heritage in their efforts to build new tourism plants and facilities. To ensure proper planning of new tourism establishments, the tourism department has adopted the following policies: 1) no tourism-oriented project will be approved for financial and technical assistance by the department unless it conforms to certain standards of function and beauty to be determined by a panel of experts; 2) no hotel taller than a coconut tree will be allowed to be built in the provinces. He also urged that new physical facilities for tourism be designed to project a distinct Filipino image.

SECRETARY of Information Francisco S. Tatad said that the recognition being given today to a kind of technocracy in government which gives real promise of success in the government's reorganization efforts may well be the hallmark of current efforts to transform the bureaucracy. The secretary spoke on the "Transformation of the Bureaucracy: Problems and Prospects" after inducting the officers of the Bureau Directors Association Inc., at the Hotel Intercontinental in Makati, Rizal. Secretary Tatad stressed that this recognition of technocracy in government is perceptible in the general recognition given by the Presidency to management techniques that make government work. He said that it is also evident in fact that the government today requires what it can learn from the operation of corporate organization and the infusions of these new ideas into the lifeblood of the government.

THE COUNTRY'S public and private lending institutions met to fashion out ways to facilitate the granting of loans for small scale industries. The meeting held at the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines building under the auspices of the Small Business Assistance Bureau of the CCP, made the observation that although there are sufficient funds to be loaned out to small business entrepreneurs, there are only few takers. The private sector has unlimited funds to finance these small scale industries while on the government side, the Social Security System has allocated P10 million for the same purpose. But only P1.3 million of this SSS fund had been borrowed by the small businessmen. The reasons why small businessmen do not avail themselves of the financing scheme were pointed out during the discussions. The greatest obstacle why businessmen do not borrow money from this lending institution is the complicated forms to be filled up by the borrowers.

INFORMATION Secretary Francisco S. Tatad said that the measures taken by the New Society to cure the affliction in the press have succeeded in giving the country for the first time a more accurate and favorable image in the

foreign press. In a situation report on the local press, the secretary told diplomatic officials gathered in a seminar on Philippine affairs at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, that “the initial success we might claim in information might perhaps be credited to the recognition that information today is development.” However, he said, what has so far grown out of the effort to reform the press is not yet the model that is expected of print media. “Our ideal,” he said, “is a press that will be an effective instrument in the transformation of the society.”

NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority and the United States Assistance for International Development (USAID) signed a P32.2 million allocation for the rehabilitation of Philippine irrigation systems. The fund grant is expected to help boost the country’s rice production program since many national gravity irrigation and communal irrigation system destroyed by last year’s floods would be rehabilitated. The P32.2 million allocation is part of the \$50-million US assistance grant for the rehabilitation of damages suffered by the Philippines in last year’s floods.

FOUR COUNTRIES participating in the Taxation and Customs Co operation Conference currently held in Manila reaffirmed their pledge to cooperate in stopping customs frauds and smuggling. The four—the Republic of Korea, China, Vietnam and the Philippines—pledged to bind themselves in suppressing customs frauds and smuggling through a ready exchange of correct information on import valuation and tariff matters. In this connection, the four countries agreed to set up a central secretariat to facilitate the free flow of tax and tariff information among the four states. The Philippines was chosen the site of the secretariat, with the National Tax Research Center coordinating the program.

June 30—

THE PRESIDENT initiated a government policy to harness household savings for capital formation in line with the country’s development efforts, and created a National Commission on Savings for this purpose. The Chief Executive stressed the need to mobilize savings in the banks for developmental uses and to flush out hidden, idle or hoarded cash, during the launching of the nationwide “savings for progress campaign at Malacañang Maharlika Hall. He said that the two constraints on local capital formation are the low level of savings and the drain of existing savings into unproductive uses. The President, thus, emphasized the necessity to inculcate thrift into the citizen’s awareness, expressing hope that this will be effected as successfully as the inculcation of discipline and cleanliness among the people.

THE PRESIDENT issued a decree prescribing the rates of duty on the country’s principal export products. Under Presidential Decree No. 230, the new export tax on the principal export products—which takes effect immediately—will be made a permanent feature of the Tariff and Customs Code. The decree repeals Rep. Act 6125 which was enacted as a revenue raising measure and as a stabilization device to withdraw excessive money supply generated by windful gains in the export sector due to the change in the exchange rate of the peso vis-a-vis the American dollar. The Presidential decree amends the Tariff and Customs Code by Creating Title III in Book I titled “Export Tariff”. This section provides for the assessment and collection of duties on the country’s principal export products.

BUREAU of Customs set the guidelines for the implementation of Presidential Decree No. 230 which prescribes the rates of duty on export products. Customs Commissioner Rolando G. Geotina said the new export tax will be implemented effective on July 1. Here are the guidelines: 1) Immediately upon completion of the loading of the export shipment, the Export Coordinating Department of the Bureau of Customs, or the Collector of Customs, or their authorized agent bank shall collect the export duty due thereon within 30 days from date of shipment. This duty shall constitute a lien on the peso proceeds of the shipment. 2) Export duty collections shall be remitted to the Central Bank within seven days from collection. 3) Report of collections of export duty shall be transmitted to the Bureau of Customs daily by the Central Bank as in the case of import duty. 4) This shall take effect July 1, 1973. All exports departing from the Philippine territorial jurisdiction after midnight of June 30, 1973 shall be subject to the provisions of Presidential Decree No. 230 and the implementing regulations.

DEPARTMENT of Local Government and Community Development (DLGCD) has completed a total of 27,836 community development projects in the Ilocos, Central Luzon and Cagayan Valley. The projects which cost some P7.7 million, were turned over to the barrio people in these provinces. Other DLGCD accomplishments in the areas include: 1) Funding of 1,129 projects through the calamity fund worth P7 4 million; 2) Organization of a total of 132

municipal cooperatives development committees and 294 cooperative action teams; 3) Organization of more than 600 barrio associations or *Samahang Nayan* in the provinces of Isabela and Nueva Ecija; 4) Conducting a series of family planning training activities.

GOVERNMENT scientist have found a way of converting muddy floodwater into clear and pleasant-smelling drinking water. The method, considered to be more effective than boiling method, would be handy in case disastrous floods occur again. Scientists from the National Science Development Board said the method is capable of supplying purified floodwaters to about 50 to 100 families in relocation centers.

The NSDB scientists said the method requires the following: three drums of 55-gallon capacity, four grams of “tawas” (aluminum sulfate), a bag of sand, 57 grams of Biogent 236 or chlorine and 200 mili-liters of Chemfloc or coagulant.

July 1—

MEMBERS of the citizens assemblies will cast their votes in secret balloting to ensure that the results of the July 27 referendum are truly reflective of the popular will. In a presidential decree issued by the President, the Chief Executive outlined a procedure of voting and canvassing in the citizens assemblies that will accurately ascertain the barangay members’ collective views on national and local issues. Presidential Decree No. 229 provides that the ballots to be used in the referendum shall contain, aside from the questions to be asked the voters, a note stating that the ballot should be filled “secretly inside the booth.” As an additional safeguard voters are also enjoined “not to put any distinctive marks in any part” of their ballots.

THE PRESIDENT issued Presidential Decree No. 231 enacting a tax code for local governments in order to make them effective instruments for national development and progress. The tax code, which takes effect now will apply to the provinces, cities, municipalities and barrios for a more efficient system of local tax administration benefitting both the Government and the taxpayer.

RURAL BANKERS Association of the Philippines (REAP) said that a total of 16,833,836 has been released by rural banks to 16,692 farmers participating in the Government’s *Masagana 99* rice production program. The RBAP said the participation of rural banks is one of the cornerstones of the crash rice production program now going on all over the country. The amount was released by 225 out of the 446 rural banks qualified to participate in the program. The recipient farmers are tilling 36,995 hectares of irrigated and rain-fed ricefield. The remaining rural banks are still waiting for the planting season to begin in their respective areas before releasing the funds for *Masagana 99*, the association said.

NATIONAL GRAINS Authority has authorized the shipment of rice to Sulu through floating retail stores. The floating stores, NGA Assistant Administrator Manuel Ledesma said, will carry a load of 200 bags per trip. The floating rice stores will be under the supervision and control of the military.

July 2—

THE PRESIDENT inaugurated the 2.16-kilometer San Juanico Bridge linking Samar and Leyte which he called a symbol of the Filipinos’ vision and firm resolve to unite themselves under the New Society. In inaugurating the longest bridge in Southeast Asia, the Chief Executive said the engineering marvel which constitutes the central segment of the Pan Philippine Highway is a clear proof of the people’s determination to obliterate obstacles to unity and progress. The opening of the S-shaped bridge marked a giant stride toward the realization of the plan to link the archipelago’s three main regions—Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao—through the Pan Philippine Highway.

THE PRESIDENT has created the Professional Regulation Commission to coordinate and supervise the operations of various government boards of examiners and upgrade professionalism in the country. The Chief Executive has promulgated Presidential Decree No. 223 empowering the PRC—to be composed of one full-time commissioner and two full-time associate commissioners—to enforce laws regulating the different professions.

HEALTH personnel who will receive assignment in “difficult” or remote areas of the country will be granted 25 per cent additional incentives pay to solve the dearth of doctors, nurses and midwives in the rural areas. This was revealed by Health Secretary Clemente Gatmaitan who has already requested the Budget Commission for release of the necessary funds for this purpose. Under the plan, doctors receiving a P600 monthly salary will get an additional P150 a month and nurses with a P350 monthly salary will receive P450 monthly. The incentives will be chargeable to savings from allotments incurred by the corresponding offices concerned where certain areas are declared difficult or remote, Secretary Gatmaitan stated.

DEPARTMENT of Health has authorized the setting up of all rural mini-hospitals with a capacity of six to 10 beds each. Health Secretary Clemente Gatmaitan said that the “mini-hospitals” shall be established and made available to residents of “depressed communities” and remote areas throughout the country. The setting up of these health facilities has been approved subject to the following conditions: 1) That health bed facilities are not available, either government or private, within a radius of 30 kilometers from the nearest existing hospital; 2) That the number of inhabitants within its service area shall not be less than 2,000 persons; 3) That the services to be provided by the facilities shall be for simple diagnostic and therapeutic equipment and procedures of which are within the capacity of a general practitioner; 4) That these six to 10 beds facilities are established to meet the primary health care of the community, and in the event that the patient’s condition will require the services of a regular hospital, the cases shall be referred accordingly, applying first aid treatment and resuscitating procedure to allow safe transfer to the hospital; 5) That these facilities shall conform with the prescribed requirements of the Bureau of Health and Medical Services.

GRASSLANDS which are unproductive or unsuitable for crop growing may be converted into productive uses, the National Institute of Science and Technology has reported. NIST Commissioner Jose R. Velasco, in a lecture on “Grasses and Grasslands in the Philippines” before the Philippine Botanical Society, said that the cheapest way to minimize soil erosion in terms of manpower and time is to bring unproductive land back under forest cover. The NIST commissioner pointed out that open grasslands constitute some 11.59 per cent of the total land resources in the country. Observing the logged-over areas gradually degenerate to grasslands which are not suitable for growing crop, Dr. Velasco urged the botanists to improve their know-how in managing the Philippine grassland resources.

FARMER-APPLICANTS can now apply for pumps with provincial or regional office of the National Irrigation Administration under a new scheme of irrigation pump distribution. All they have to do is to comply with the following procedures: 1) Make the required down payment (10 per cent of the cost unit) and hand or put up guarantee to secure payment of the yearly amortization as determined by the NIA; 2) Execute or sign a contract for the purchase of the unit and provide the necessary labor and initial capital to finance the construction and installation of the equipment; 3) Pick up the pump and engine set from the NIA warehouse and construct the system within a reasonable time determined by the NIA and undertake the installation of the pump unit within 15 days after it was released; 4) Maintain and operate a system, including such items as fuel, oil, salaries of mechanics, water tenders and other workers; 5) Allow or permit the NIA administrator or oil representatives to inspect the irrigation system at all times. Applicants in group must form an association and oblige, bind and engage themselves jointly and severally to pay direct to the NIA the annual amortization due on the cost of the irrigation equipment.

July 3—

DEPARTMENT of labor has drafted new wage rates increasing the approved minimum pay of the country’s more than 150,000 sugar workers. Secretary of Labor Blas F. Ople said the realistic wage rates are intended to solve “once and for all” the wage problems causing constant irritants between sugar planters and workers. The wage rate will be presented during a three-day tripartite (sugar planters, sugar workers, and government representatives) • conference from July 6 to 8 at the Bascon Hotel in Bacolod City. Secretary Ople said the realistic rates, which are way above the approved minimum wage for sugar workers, will be presented for approval by the conference delegates.

FIRST SHIPMENT of 20- and 50-peso “Bagong Lipunan” (New Society) currency notes arrived at the Central Bank from Thomas de la Rue and Co., Ltd., currency engravers and printers in London. Mr. Siervo Dizon, acting director of the CB cash department, said that government and commercial banks all over the country will start replacing currency in circulation with the 20- and 50-peso notes. No one-peso bills will be issued by the CB. All the peso notes will eventually be replaced by the peso coins which have been in circulation since late last year. The CB

expects to replace 3.6 billion pesos by December 31, 1973 the deadline fixed by Presidential Decree No. 168 for all Philippine notes in circulation to be exchanged for the Bagong Lipunan money at par value.

REGISTRATION of reservists has been extended to July 31. Col. Ismael Albano, Chief of the Office for Manpower Reserve Affairs, said the Department of Foreign Affairs and various local government officials had requested for the extension of the deadline, originally set for May 31. The May 31 deadline was extended to June 30 also on request of various government officials who said that there were many reservists who failed to meet the deadline. Meanwhile, Col. Albano said that although retired military personnel are not included in the general classification of reservists, they are nevertheless requested to accomplish the required forms for computerization purposes.

SOME 200,000 taxpayers who made overpayments of income tax for 1972 will receive their refund amounting to P20 million by July 15. This was announced by Internal Revenue Commissioner Misael P. Vera who emphasized that personal follow-up for the expeditious release of the refund check is no longer necessary. He said that 65,000 refund checks have been mailed so far and the rest are being processed for delivery. The BIR has 90 days within which to make the refund or pay an interest of six per cent per annum on delayed refund starting from the end of the 90-day period.

DEPARTMENT of Health announced that only duly accredited practitioners of plastic and reconstructive surgery may use the facilities of government hospitals, clinics and health centers in performing these specialized procedures. This is in consonance with a resolution passed by the Philippine Association of Plastic Surgeons, Inc., and the Philippine Board of Plastic Surgery Inc. Health Secretary Clemente S. Gatmaitan directed all chiefs of hospitals, upon recommendation of the medical staff, to exclude from membership in the organized staff or to disqualify any practitioner who, not being so accredited, shall perform or attempt to perform the specialty procedure of plastic and reconstructive surgery.

NATIONAL Science Development Board has called on the nation's engineers and technologists to work closer with the NSDB to promote the country's development. NDSB Florencio Medina issued the appeal as he offered the Council of Technologists and Allied Sciences of the Philippines (COTASP) a 1, 000 meter lot in the sprawling NSDB complex in Bicutan, Taguig, Rizal, to house a proposed science center. The proposed science center, which will cost P2 million, is a special project of the NSDB and COTASP, a federation of 20 engineering and technological organizations with a total membership of 25, 000.

MORE RICE and yellow corn shipments have arrived in the different ports of the country to supplement the cereal supply of the Government. Two shipments, consisting of 4, 3000 metric tons of rice and 4, 248 metric tons yellow corn, respectively, docked in various ports of the country on board the *Ledesco Tres* and the *MV/Sea Progress*. Grains Administrator Jess Tanchanco said that the imported cereals will be unloaded in places where they are mostly needed.

July 4—

THE PRESIDENT pledged that in the New Society, all regions of the country will have an equal share in progress. The Chief Executive made this assurance at the official opening of the P45 million Mandaue-Opon Bridge, the second span linking Visayan islands to be inaugurated in three days. The President told an audience of some 20,000 people led by Cebu officials, that Cebu, the Visayas and the Mindanao "will receive funds from the national government and the rewards of progress." He stressed that the unjust practice of the old society to funnel government funds only for the development of cities in Luzon will not be countenanced in the new order. "So long I am President, Cebu, Visayas and Mindanao will progress as will any other part of the nation," the President stated.

SECRETARY of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo declared that prospects of Philippine-American relations have become brighter as a result of Martial Law and the establishment of the New Society. Interviewed on the occasion of Philippine-American Friendship Day, Secretary Romulo said the Philippines is now able to deal and negotiate with the Americans and American agencies on the basis of equality and reciprocity. This new Philippine posture vis-a-vis the US is brought about by two factors: 1) The general trend for Philippine world trade which no longer necessitates

preferences or special treatment by the US; and 2) A more systematic way of investing foreign (US or other foreign developed countries) assistance.

THE PRESIDENT has created the Philippine Coconut Authority to take over the functions of the government agencies formerly entrusted with the development of the coconut industry. The Chief Executive has promulgated Presidential Decree No. 232 abolishing the Philippine Coconut Administration (Philcoa), the Philippine Coconut Research Institute (Philcorin) and the Coconut Coordinating Council (CCC). The officers and employees of the abolished agencies, however, will continue discharging their duties pending assumption into office of the PCAs 11 board members. The decree aims to integrate governmental efforts to develop the coconut industry which is one of the country's top export earners.

BUREAU of Customs has registered a total collection of P2.008 billion for Fiscal Yew 1972-73. This, however, is still a tentative figure and does not include receipts from the outports for June and other unaccounted collections since the fiscal year started. The customs take, according to Commissioner Rolando G. Geotina, exceeded its P2 billion goal. From July, 1972 to May, 1973, the total customs receipts amounted to P 1,839,316,208.92. For the month of June the Port of Manila reported a total of P179, 166,675.86

BLUE-GREEN algae isolated from plants commonly found in Ilocos Norte rice fields have proved to be effective substitutes for rice fertilizers. Scientists of the National Science Development Board reported findings showing that the algae, called Bg-25 (meaning blue-green algae from flask number 25), contain more than twice the nitrogen content of plants grown in sand minus the algae. The NSDB experts discovered that rice fertilizers with Bg-25 have healthier growth and longer leaves. This is attributed to the Bg-25's high nitrogen content, one of the essential foods needed by rice for growth and grain production.

July 5—

THE PRESIDENT expressed confidence the July 27 referendum will give the administration a fresh mandate to continue its policy of reforms to enable the country to move forward and achieve the goals of change and modernization. He expressed this belief before members of the Hongkong Overseas Trade Mission who called on him at Malacañang. Two members of the mission, Mr. Liao Yu Chun and Mr. Dan Chin Chih Yun, informed the President they were planning to invest in the country's national development program. The trade mission, which arrived in Manila last June 30, is the second to arrive here in less than three weeks. "We are very much impressed by the vast change which is very hard to believe," the members of the mission told the President, referring to the improved condition in the country since the imposition of Martial Law.

THE PRESIDENT constituted a committee to review and propose amendments to the Price Control Law to protect consumers against illegal practices in connection with the supply, distribution and sale of prime commodities. Named members of the committee were the Secretaries of Trade, Agriculture, and Health, the Director General of the National Economic and Development Authority, the Chairman of the Board of Investments, and the Governor of the Central Bank. Through a letter of instructions, the President charged the committee with the task of making the Price Control Law "more effective" and at the same time encouraging more production of basic or prime commodities.

DEPARTMENT of Trade has initiated moves to establish uniform rates and time limits for various automotive repair works to protect the public from unscrupulous motor shop owners. In a meeting with representatives of the country's major car assemblers, Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr., announced he will require the Bureau of Domestic Trade (formerly Bureau of Commerce) to issue only provisional licenses to motor repair shops which may be cancelled if the shop is found not provided with the necessary equipment and competent mechanics. Mr. Quiazon said this move, together with the establishment of standard time limit for major repair works, will guarantee motor shop efficiency.

THE GOVERNMENT has adopted a new technique which would raise the level of exports particularly in manufactured items. The main thrust of the method, called the "micro" or "pinpoint" approach, centered primarily on the selection of particular firms and products for development whose export potential is very promising.

Pioneered by the Institute of Export Development of the Board of Investments, the project is expected to prop up the country's level of exports. Basically, the "micro" approach technique involves the picking out of certain products and firms who will be given government assistance and closer support if found to have real export potential. In short, the main stress of the scheme is to lead the exporters to the right buyers in promising international markets.

BUREAU of Customs took steps intended to maximize the use by the Government of capital invested in abandoned importations. Customs Commissioner Rolando G Geotina said the measures would insure of speedy disposition of all abandoned cargoes to accelerate full utilization of capital invested in such importations. To speed up disposition of abandoned importations the customs bureau chief: 1) Directed all port collectors to apply strictly the provisions of the law on implied abandonment and to declare as abandoned all cargoes that have not been claimed by importers; 2) Directed that all cargoes impliedly abandoned will be formally declared abandoned by the port collector of customs; 3, Ordered that importations may be sold at public auction and the proceeds will be formally declared abandoned by the port collector of customs; 4) Orderd that importations may be sold at public auction and the proceeds will go to the Government; 5) Directed the fast and systematic application m the sale of perishable cargoes so that the Government can obtain a better price from would-be buyers; and 6) Said that importers .can still reclaim the articles within three months after their importations have been declared abandoned after paying the corresponding taxes and duties and other charges.

THE PHILIPPINES, inspite of the droughts and disastrous floods that hit the country last year, has registered a total shipment of 946,593.22 short tons (commercial weights) of sugar for the first five months of 1973 to fill up its quota with the United States. The Sugar Quota Administration said the figures represents roughly 69 per cent of the 1,371,595.61 short tons (C.W.) export quota requirements of the country. The shipment with an FOB (freight on board) value of \$153,689,684.94 is roughly 55 per cent more than the shipment for the first five months (January to May) last year which amounted to \$99,123,697.19. Sugar Quota Administrator Jose A. Unson said that he expects to meet the country's 1973 sugar allocations from the US totalling 1,371,595.61 short tons, commercial weight or an equivalent of 1,407,972 short tons raw value much earlier than last year.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: July 6-12, 1973

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

July 6—

THE PRESIDENT has validated in Presidential Decree No. 227 the permanent list of voters in the 1971 elections and the list of Barangay members who participated in the January 1973 referendum to enable these voters and Barangay members to participate in the July 27 referendum. The new decree amends Section 14 of Presidential Decree No. 210 which provides for a system of registration for members of the Barangays (citizen's assemblies).

BUREAU of Internal Revenue reported to the President "unprecedented collections from internal revenue taxes totalling P4, 089,833,725 during fiscal year 1972-1973 ending last June 30, 1973. The amount represents an increase of 46.42 per cent over the P2, 793,042,015 collected during the previous fiscal year 1971-72. Bureau of Internal Revenue Commissioner Misael P. Vera attributed the big increase in tax collections to the general effects of Martial Law and the increasing support of taxpayers in the Government. Noteworthy were gains in specific tax, P70, 767,321; license, business and occupation taxes, P15, 500,667, and franchise tax, P15, 165,340.

THE PRESIDENT has personally distributed land transfer certificates to some 3,532 tenant-farmers in 14 towns of Leyte. He made the distribution, the first in the Eastern Visayan region, shortly after the inauguration of the San Juanico Bridge. Held at the NIDC compound in Tanauan, Leyte, the awarding of the land transfer certificates was the second the President has distributed: to the tenants emancipated by Presidential Decree No. 27. Assisting the First Couple in the awarding ceremonies were Department of Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado Estrella, DAR Undersecretary Ernesto Valdez and Assistant Secretary Benjamin Labayen.

SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has announced that a total of 249 corporations with a paid up capital of P1.3 billion retained an undivided profit amounting to P2, 669,708,171. The release of this latest listing is in compliance with a Presidential directive requiring the Securities and Exchange Commission to determine which corporations have been retaining their undivided corporate profits equivalent to more than 100 per cent of their paid up capital. The directive is designed to stop tax evasion by these big corporations and to insure the buyers of stocks of these corporations a fair return from their investments in the form of dividend payments. However, the directive allows these corporations to retain undivided profits equivalent to more than 100 per cent of their paid up capital if such corporations could give justifiable reasons" for the retention of the undivided profits.

GOVERNMENT loan agencies and rural banks have stepped up financial assistance to farmers involved in the *Masagana 99*; rice production program In its latest report, the Agricultural Credit Administration said P6, 100, 426 have been released as of June 28 to some 7,726 farmers In Ilocos Norte, the Philippine National Bank branch and four rural banks loaned out a total of P1, 398,186 to 2,943 *Masagana 99* farmers. The PNB office in Laoag City released some P1, 127,390 to 2,376 farmers cultivating some 1,623.58 hectares.

July 7—

THE PRESIDENT intensified government efforts to prevent hoarding of rice and corn by deputizing provincial governors and city mayors in an all-out drive to check the movements of commercial stocks of the cereals. In a complementary move, the Chief Executive authorized the imposition of price ceilings for rice, to prevent unwarranted increases on the price of the staple commodity. These twin measures are embodied in Letter of Instructions No. 97 issued by the Chief Executive. LOI No. 97 modifies LOI Nos. 79 and 88 which set the guidelines for the trading of rice, corn and other basic commodities. LOI No. 97 also authorizes the NGA to establish price ceilings for rice, whether locally produced or imported, provided that the retail price ceiling for any variety shall not exceed P3.50 per ganta or P1.45 per kilo. The NGA may establish price ceilings in all the different regions of the country.

ACTING EXECUTIVE Secretary Roberto V. Reyes said that the government, as an instrument of the people's welfare and well-being, must assume sole responsibility for the quality, dependability and competence of

professionals in order to safeguard and protect the public interest. Secretary Reyes was guest speaker at the get-together of the Philippine Association of Government Board Examiners, held at the Romulus Restaurant on Roxas Boulevard. In his remarks, Secretary Reyes delved on the two salient provisions of Presidential Decree No. 223, which created the Professional Regulation Commission. Mr. Reyes emphasized that this Commission was purposely created to supervise, conduct and manage the conduct of professional rating systems, and delineate policies and guidelines in the conduct of state examinations.

DANGEROUS DRUGS Board has set guidelines for accreditation of preventive centers for drug addiction. In a meeting, the board decided that preventive centers be accredited according to the type of programs it will undertake. The center may conduct one or two programs or a combination of several types such as crises intervention, guidelines and counselling, public information and mass media production. The board agreed to require applicants for accreditation to submit in writing a clear definition of purpose and functions. Such definition shall include goal and specific objectives, geographical area or target group or groups to served by the program. The center should also meet the drug education or prevention needs of the area where it would be located.

ISABELO de los Reyes, father of labor unionism is remembered' now on his 109th birth anniversary. De los Reyes was also a patriot-historian, senator, journalist, nationalist and co-founder of the Philippine Independent Church. He was born in 1864 in the historic town of Vigan, Ilocos Sur, to Elias de los Reyes and Leona Florentino, the first Filipina poetess. Finishing law at the age of 22, he shifted to journalism and wrote articles for various periodicals. Being a nationalist, he criticized the Spanish maladministration in the Philippines in a leading newspapers in Spain. For having been too vocal against Spanish authorities, he was deported to Barcelona in Spain. He became popular as the "Father of Philippine Unionism" when he established the first labor union in the country and became its first president. He died October 10, 1938.

July 8—

THE PRESIDENT has issued Presidential Decree No. 212 amending Paragraph One of Section 1659 of the Revised Administrative Code, as amended, providing for more flexibility and discretion in the choice of a substitute to perform the duties of the solicitor general in the event of a vacancy in the office of the solicitor general. Section 1659 of the Revised Administrative Code, as amended, provides for a first assistant solicitor general to temporarily perform the functions of the office and in the event of the absence of the first assistant solicitor general, the acting solicitor general is designated from among nine assistant solicitors general on the sole basis of seniority.

COMMISSION on Elections has formulated and unanimously approved a single "capsulized" question for the July 27 referendum. It centers on President Marcos' tenure and the reforms undertaken during his Martial Law administration. The sole question which some 21 million Barangay members throughout the country will be asked to resolve on July 27 is: Under the present Constitution, the President, if he so desires, can continue in office beyond 1973. Do you want President Marcos to continue beyond 1973 and finish the reforms he has initiated under Martial Law?" Comelec Chairman Leonardo B. Perez explained that this question "capsulizes" all the proposed issues and questions submitted to the poll body during its consultations with all sectors of the nation, both public and private.

THE GOVERNMENT reported significant gain—notably in education and agrarian reform—in its multi-pronged approach to national development. After averting the "school crisis" which had perennially plagued the educational system, the government prosecuted vigorously projects aimed at getting more benefits from the educational system. In the field of agrarian reform, the touch-stone of the government's social program, the distribution of land titles to tenant farmers was accelerated. Assured of fundings mainly from the P150 million real estate tax collections, the government took the following steps to prevent the recurring educational problem: (1) Opened some 4,000 new teaching positions in public schools to complement the reorganized two-shift school plan and the pupil accommodation plan; 2) Completed the construction and repairs of 9,494 classrooms damaged by last year's typhoon; 3) Increased the number of classrooms throughout the country to 204,234; and 4) Allocated P1 billion to cover the salaries of 350,000 school teachers and other workers assigned in the schools.

DEFENSE Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile has directed the chief of staff to institute strict measures against abusive officers and enlisted men of the Armed Forces of the Philippines as he took note of complaints and reports on

alleged abuses by military personnel against civilians. In a memorandum to the AFP's chief of staff, Enrile stressed the need to ensure the proper conduct of military personnel, particularly at this time, in order to strengthen unity and cooperation with the people. The secretary asked the chief of staff to issue the implementing directive in dealing with prescribed acts of military personnel which include but are not limited to the following: 1) Manhandling of civilians; 2) Fabrication of evidence against civilians; 3) Threatening civilians to prevent them from filing a complaint against any military personnel or the latter's relatives; 4) Extorting from civilians anything of value whether in cash or in kind; 5) Unjustifiable failure of the military superior concerned to discharge his duties as such superior upon a case being reported to him involving the commission of any of the above offenses by his subordinates.

THE PRESIDENT through Proclamation No. 1156, has declared the period July 8 to 14 this year as Chemical Engineering Week to recognition of the role Played by chemical engineers to further scientific and technological advancement for national economic development. As signed by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor Jr. by authority of the President, the proclamation stresses, that it is only fitting that public attention be focused on the role of chemical engineers toward attaining the objectives of the government under the New Society.

EXPORTS for the first half of 1973 reached \$895,540,546, some \$310 million better than the \$585.5 million in the same period in 1972. This was reported to Customs Commissioner Rolando Geotina by the export coordination department which is headed by Eligia F. Romero. In the month of June alone, export earnings hit \$172 million, a big gain over the \$103.8 million of the previous June. Based on his statistics for the first half of 1973, the commissioner reported that the top ten exports were: 1) Logs, \$37,814,593; 2) Sugar, \$32,897,152; 3) Copper concentrate; \$31,449,878; 4) Coconut oil, \$11,481,001; 5) Copra, \$10,230,859; 6) Plywood, \$5,284,171; 7) Lumber, \$3,793,056; 8) Bananas, \$3,165,057; 9) Copra pellets, \$2,991,089; 10) Native crafts, \$2,693,772.

July 9—

THE PRESIDENT issued two presidential decrees granting tax exemptions to domestic scheduled airlines as well as to new mines and old mines which resume operations, in order to further rehabilitate the Philippine civil aviation industry and accelerate the development and exploitation of our mineral resources. Presidential Decree No. 237, amends Section 190 of the National Internal Revenue Code, as amended, to exempt certain importations of domestic scheduled airlines and of new mines and old mines which resume operations from payment of the compensating tax. The other decree, Presidential Decree No. 238, further amends Section 105 of the Tariff and Customs Code, as amended, exempting certain importations of domestic scheduled airlines and of new mines and old mines which resume operations from customs duty.

THE PRESIDENT prescribed a rule to enable any of the 10 assistant solicitors general to act as temporary solicitor general in the latter's absence. The idea as embodied under Presidential Decree No. 212, to ensure discretion and more; flexibility to realize the following objectives: 1) Superior handling of litigation for the state; 2) Efficient administration of the function of the solicitor general's office; and 3) Greater interest of the public service. The same decree stipulated that the salary of the solicitor general shall be as much as that of a justice of the Court of Appeals. The solicitor general, it was also provided shall be assisted by 10 assistant solicitors general who shall have the same pay scale as that of a judge of the Court of First Instance. When the solicitor general is unable to perform his duties, or in case of vacancy, one of the 10 may be assigned as temporary solicitor general.

July 10—

THE PRESIDENT issued Letter of Implementation No. 23 governing the organization, administration and supervision of *samahang nayon* (barrio associations) and *kilusang bayan* (cooperatives) pursuant to the provisions of Section 11 of Presidential Decree No. 175, dated April 14, 1973 entitled "Strengthening the Cooperative Movement." The President approved the LOI submitted by Secretary Jose A. Roño of the Department of Local Government and Community Development who had consulted with organizations of both the government and private sector. The secretary stated that these rules and regulations will accelerate the implementation of the Cooperative Development Program not only as a structural base for a strong cooperative system in the country. The

Chief Executive, however, stressed that the implementing rules are subject to changes which may be issued from time to time.

THE PRESIDENT conferred the ancient order of Sikatuna, rank of datu, on Msgr. Carmine Rocco, papal nuncio to the Philippines, in recognition of "his services in the spiritual and social fields." Msgr. Rocco, who is titular archbishop of Justiniapolis in Galatea, and dean of the diplomatic corps in the Philippines, is being assigned to Brazil after completing a five year stint in the Philippines, during which he had endeavored to strengthen the friendly ties and promote greater understanding between the Philippines and the Vatican through mutually beneficial undertakings.

PHILIPPINE trade with the People's Republic of China has been boosted anew with the approval of the exportation of close to P8 million worth of bulk coconut oil to that country. Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. approved the bulk exportation which in effect tilted the balance of trade heavily in favor of the Philippines by \$4,390,319.92. According to Quiazon, the proposed exportation would bring to \$23, 892, 050 the total, Philippine exports to Red China since May 19, 1972. Imports, on the other hand, reached a total of P19,501,730.08 during the same period. According to Secretary Quiazon, trade with socialist and communist countries has picked up considerably since the promulgation by the President of Executive Order No. 384 providing policy guidelines for trade with red bloc countries.

GREATER Manila Terminal Food Market has chalked up a record business of P36.2 million from various suppliers, including farm cooperatives, since the advent of Martial Law. Jose D. Drilon Jr., GMTFM president and concurrently undersecretary of agriculture, reported to the President that the business generated from producers/farmers, as well as from cereal trading, had an aggregate value of P36.2 million for the seven-month period from November 1, 1972 to May 31, 1973, in addition to P29.3 million for the preceding period of "interim operations."

PHILIPPINE delegation to the first session of the governing council of the United Nations Environment Program made a bid for a share of financial and technical aid for local environmental management activities. Warning that unless the developing countries are aided by the more advanced ones in controlling noxious effects of development, Ambassador Narciso G. Reyes, head of the Philippine group at the meeting held in Geneva, said that "man will continue to be an endangered species." Reyes reported to the council that "there is now an enhanced, worldwide consciousness of the need for all nations, individually and by joint action, to come to grips with the problems and perils arising from environmental deterioration." At the same time, Ambassador Reyes suggested that the initial activities of the council should lie in the field of assessment, research and monitoring.

July 11—

THE PRESIDENT called upon the people, from 15 years old up, to speak freely and courageously through the Barangays in the July 27 referendum. In issuing his call, the Chief Executive asked the people to engage in serious and careful soul-searching before coming to the polls, so that they may have a full grasp of the issue presented to them. Speaking at the sixth anniversary celebration of the Philippine Constabulary Command (Metrocom) at Camp Crame, the President said that under the law it is compulsory on the part of all the qualified citizenry not only to register but also to vote. Underscoring the importance of the July 27 referendum, the President said: "We approach the crossroads come July 27, and we shall pause to ask ourselves whether we shall speed forward with mighty steps or whether we shall return to where we came from."

SECRETARY of Information Francisco S. Tatad said there is need for a stronger communication effort in the rural areas even as he pointed out that there is no media censorship in the country. Speaking before the Philippine Federation of Catholic Broadcasters at the Xavier House, Herran Street, Manila, the secretary pointed out that if the reform measures under the New Society are going to have any meaning at all, the small man in the village must participate in the process of reformation. He said the only way to do this is to make the national public aware of what is happening to the small people in the rural areas. This cannot be achieved by enforcing a blackout on local news, according to the secretary. Secretary Tatad further assured that he will look into the problems encountered by

rural broadcasters on the translation of local news into the local dialect, the lack of local news materials, and technical difficulties the broadcasters usually encounter.

PHILIPPINE Medical Care Commission (PMCC) added two more benefits to the present package of benefits for Medicare members and their legal dependents. Dr. Pacifico E. Marcos, PMCC chairman, said that in compliance with a directive of President Marcos to study the feasibility of helping further Medicare patients, the PMCC decided to include services for anesthesia and use of the operating room as among the compensable services under the Medicare program. The new benefits are: 1) Anesthesiologist's fee: P25 for a minor operation, P50 for a medium operation, and P100 for a major operation; and 2) Operating room fee: P20 for a minor operation, P40 for a medium operation, and P60 for a major operation. These are to take effect on or after July 1, 1973. Dr. Marcos said that the directive of the President was prompted by requests brought to him for the coverage by the government health insurance funds of the other expenses attendant to surgical operations.

MEDICARE Chairman Pacifico E. Marcos allayed fears that the graduate nursing course would be phased out in favor of a four-year bachelor of science in nursing course and a two-year nursing assistant program. Dr. Marcos spoke at the induction of officers of the Association of Colleges and Schools of Nursing, Inc., at Hotel Intercontinental in Makati, Rizal. Dr. Marcos emphasized that if there has to be a change in nursing education, it should not involve a "phasing out" move but rather, an integration of ideas and systems that will improve both BSN and GN courses.

NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority authorized the government to incur loans totalling \$29,300,000 from the Asian Development Bank. NEDA Director-General Gerardo P. Sicat said the loans will be utilized to finance specific projects for development. To be secured from the ADB is a \$9.6 million loan for the Angat-Magat Integrated Development project in Bulacan. The project calls for the further development of the Angat water reservoir for consumption and irrigation purposes.

July 12—

THE PRESIDENT promulgated Presidential Decree No. 239 withdrawing the authority of the Land Registration Commission to approve original survey plans of lands, to prevent wasteful overlapping or duplication of functions and the deterioration of surveying standards and confusion in land survey records. The decree repeals paragraph 3, Sec. 34-A of Republic Act No. 3844, as inserted by Sec. 6 of Republic Act No. 6389, giving authority to the Land Registration Commission, concurrently with the Bureau of Lands, to approve survey plans of lands intended for original registration purposes. The President stated that the grant of authority to the LRC to approve original survey plans was to facilitate expropriation by the government of big landed estates intended for distribution and resale at cost to tenant-farmers under the Agricultural Land Reform Code.

THE PRESIDENT said that the Philippines is in a hurry to establish an integrated steel mill as a means of hastening the industrial development of the country. In his talk with members of a seven-man survey mission from Nippon Steel Corporation now the world's largest steel manufacturer, the President said that the Philippines has an abundant supply of raw materials for steel production. He recalled that a survey conducted by a United Nations agency had marked the Cordillera mountain ranges in Northern Luzon as rich in iron ore deposits. The Nippon Steel Corporation had dispatched a survey mission to look into prospects of installing an integrated steel mill here.

BOY SCOUTS of the Philippines and the Philippine Constabulary have joined arms to arrest pseudo scouts and unauthorized makers and sellers of BSP items and articles. The move came in the wake of reports that certain persons have been posing as members of the BSP and manufacturing and selling items and articles in violation of Commonwealth Act 111 and the Patent Law. Violators of the provisions of the Act shall be punished by imprisonment not exceeding six months or a fine not exceeding P500, or both, in the discretion of the court.

DEPARTMENT of Labor paved the way for the implementation of the recently approved "paklao" (contract) rates of payment per piece work by sugar workers. This was announced by Labor Secretary Blas F. Ople as he directed a department study committee to draft rules and regulations in implementing the new rates. The new rates, covering 37 major phases of agricultural work in the sugar industry, were approved by representatives of both planters and

workers during a three-day tripartite conference in Bacolod City. Under the approved rates, a worker is guaranteed a P0.50 bonus for finishing a piece of work intended for eight hours and bigger bonus for finishing it earlier. The new rates, according to the secretary, will promote development and employment. Under normal conditions, he said, sugar workers will be able to earn better wages while the sugar planters will derive a fair enterprise.

SOCIAL SECURITY System's Medicare department announced that effective immediately, hospitals are no longer required to notify the SSS of a Medicare patient's hospitalization within seven working days from date of admission. The SSS said hospitals may submit the notification together with the claim itself. The procedure simplifies the filing of claims and expedites the processing of Medicare benefits. The hospitals need not submit the two forms separately. The SSS said hospitals that have already submitted Form No. 1 to the SSS need not wait for their return copy before submitting Form No. 2.

DEPARTMENT of Finance reminded all real property owners or administrators to file sworn statements on the true value of their properties on or before September 30. Finance Secretary Cesar E. A. Virata stressed that the value reflected in the statements would not be the basis of assessment for taxation purposes. He said that the assessment value would be based on the schedule prepared by the provincial and city assessor and approved by the finance department. The sworn statements may be filed with the provincial or city assessor or the municipal treasurer where the property is located and must be sworn to before the same officials free of charge. The finance chief enjoined all concerned to file their statements before the deadline to avoid penalties imposed by law.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: July 13-19, 1973

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

July 13—

THE PRESIDENT has issued Decree No. 221 abolishing the various United Nations national committees individually acting as liaison between the UN agencies and the Philippine government, and transferring their functions together with “applicable appropriations, records, equipment property, and such qualified personnel as may be necessary to the Office of the United Nations Affairs and International Organizations of the Department of Foreign Affairs. The UNESCO National Commission has been ordered attached to the DFA but its administrative staff and functions, together with applicable appropriations, records, equipment, property and such qualified personnel as may be necessary, shall remain “in their present status with the said Commission.” The foreign affairs secretary shall be the chairman of the commission.

THE PRESIDENT called for the intensification of the industrial development effort under the New Society in order to solve the serious problems confronting the country. Addressing the closing session of the 20th National Convention of Philippine Manufacturers and Producers, under the auspices of the Philippine Chamber of Industries, at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang, the President reiterated the country's goal of establishing a balanced agro-industrial economy and pledge full protection to industry and investments.

THE PRESIDENT has issued Letter of Instructions No. 101 creating a committee of four members which will oversee the proper implementation of the prohibition on the destruction of or squatting on the watershed of the Ambuklao and Binga hydro-electric dams by vegetable gardeners on the pretext that they are authorized to do so under Executive Order No. 87, series of 1967. The prohibition is embodied in Presidential Decree No. 209 issued by the President. The Chief Executive has likewise activated the regional evaluation board created by virtue of said decree, which is charged with the task of reviewing all tax declarations and other pertinent papers relative to areas occupied by virtue of Executive Order No. 87. With the director of forest development as chairman, the four-man committee will have the governor of Ifugao, a representative of the Commission on Audit designated by the chairman, and the chairman of the defunct Mountain Province Development Authority (MPDA) as members.

FOREIGN tourist arrivals last June totalled 18,534, a record increase of 23.29 per cent compared with June of last year. Statistics released by the office of Tourism Secretary Jose D. Aspiras disclosed that Japanese tourists registered the highest percentage increase, from 1,627 in June 1972 to 3,228 in June 1973 or a rise of 99 per cent. Filipino residents abroad registered the second highest increase from 1,593 arrivals in June 1972 to 2,160 in June 1973 or a rise of 35.5 per cent. Australian arrivals chalked up a record 20 per cent increase from 1,153 in June, 1972 to 1,383 last month. British arrivals increased from 956 to 1,103 or an increase of 15.3 per cent. The increase in visitor arrivals last month was considered highly significant since June is the start of the off-season for foreign arrivals.

DEPARTMENT of Labor released the “pakiao” rates for sugar workers as ratified by representatives of planters and workers during the tripartite sugar conference in Bacolod City. Labor Secretary Bias Ople said that under the approved rates, sugar agricultural workers are assured of income not lower than the statutory minimum daily wage of P8 for workers in Sarabia, Talisay, and Silay City in Negros Occidental, P7 for those working elsewhere in the province, P6 for those in Panay. The rates vary depending on the kind of work. But in all cases, a worker gets a bonus of P0.50 for a piece of work completed in eight hours. If the worker finishes a job earlier, he will be entitled to a higher bonus.

TOTAL of P130 million was authorized in a project agreement between the National Economic and Development Authority and the USAID Mission to expedite the construction of rural electric cooperative systems in the country. The amount was earmarked from the proceeds of PL 480 Agreements. The sum of P13.4 million, as per agreement, will be made immediately available out of the earmarked P130 million, with the balance to be released at the rate of P24 million every quarter. The agency implementing the electrification program is the National Electrification

Administration. The nationwide electrification program, one of the President's high priority projects, envisions initially the setting up of 36 rural electric cooperatives throughout the country.

PEOPLE'S Republic of China is sending a trade mission to the Philippines sometime this year, according to a report submitted to the President by Dr. Wigberto Claveilla, president of the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines and head of the 15-man CCP Trade Mission that visited Peking from April 15 to May 26. The acceptance of the CCP mission's invitation was made by Chinese Premier Chou En Lai who received the Filipino group in an hour-long audience. Premier Chou said the Chinese mission would come to the Philippines "mainly to find out what we need and can buy from you." The Premier also proposed that the Philippines and the People's Republic of China send trade missions to each other yearly, the report said.

DEPARTMENT of Education and Culture has launched the "*Magtanim Upang Mabuhay*" program, a nation-wide campaign for self-sufficiency in food. The program, which is in line with the Green Revolution project of the First Lady, was launched through the National Youth Volunteer Coordinating Center for National Development (NYVCCND) with special participation of the Veterans Memorial Hospital. Specifically, this new project seeks to intensify the production of root crops as possible substitutes for rice and other cereals.

NATIONAL Food and Agriculture Council announced further reduction by five per cent in the prices of agricultural pesticides and weed-killers sold nation-wide for the "*Masagana 99*" drive by Nine-member companies of the Agricultural Pesticide Institute of the Philippines (APIP). The price reductions are being made even while costs of imported ingredients of these farm chemicals are going up. Price reductions ranged from P1.10 as in a case of 1 quart bottle of Azodrin insecticide (Shell) to P3.55 per quart bottle of Hostathion (Hoechst Phil.).

July 14—

THE PRESIDENT has promulgated Presidential Decree No. 240 authorizing the Postmaster General to supervise, regulate and control the operations of private express or messenger delivery service firms to systematize control over the carriage and dissemination of mailable matter for the good of the public and in the interest of national security. The decree likewise empowers the postmaster general to issue, grant, extend, suspend, or cancel franchises or permits of these private or express messenger delivery service enterprises.

THE PRESIDENT said that proof of the validity of the New Society's program and policies may be gathered from the high wave of investments the country is now enjoying. The president pointed out that of the investments from various sources, some have been infused into the economy while others are on the way to being transplanted to the land. Addressing the convention of manufacturers and producers, the President said that since September 21, the Board of Investments has registered 123 firms under the various Investment Laws, including seven under the Investment Incentives Act, 50 under the Foreign Business Regulation Act. And 50 under the Export Incentives Act. Many more applications are under study, he said, and may soon be in the economic picture in the coming years. He added that tourism earned \$120 million, or 11 per cent of the total foreign exchange receipts in 1972.

DEPARTMENT of Trade released the rules and regulations governing the operations of investment houses. Prepared by the Securities and Exchange Commission, the basic rules and regulations will implement the provisions of Presidential Decree No. 129, otherwise known as the "Investment Houses Law." Under the rules, investment houses shall be organized in the form of stock corporations in accordance with the provisions of the Corporation Law, subject to certain requirements. Ownership is vested on citizens of the Philippines to the extent of at least a majority of the voting stock of the corporation. Majority of the members of the board must also be citizens of the Philippines.

DEPARTMENT of Health underscored the importance of effective nutrition campaign particularly among the poor. Health Secretary Clemente S. Gatmaitan told the country's nutritionists during the induction ceremonies of the newly-elected officers of the Philippine Association of Nutrition, that nutrition work, to be effective and successful, must get down to the lowest level of socio-economic structure because they are the ones usually associated with nutrition work. Nutrition surveys have shown that the children, particularly the very young in the rural areas have the poorest nutrition when compared to other groups, Secretary Gatmaitan said. He said that nutrition programs

involve almost always inter-agency and multi-disciplinary activities and that cooperation among participating agencies is essential.

THE PHILIPPINES continued; to forge ahead in its trade with the People's Republic of China with the shipment of 20,000 cubic meters of logs valued at close to P5 million. The shipment was approved by Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr., on recommendation of Mr. Jovito A Rivera, general manager of the National Trading Corporation. The log exports were the first approved by Secretary Quiazon for the People's Republic of China. Previous shipments consisted of Portland cement plywood and veneer, crude coconut oil in bulk, desiccated coconut, copra, woodenware and woodencraft. Trade with socialist and communist countries has been picking up since the promulgate by the President of Executive Order No. 384 providing for the policy guidelines governing trade with the Red block countries.

BUREAU of Customs adopted; measures to check the commission of fraud against the Government through misrepresentation or falsification in customs transactions involving locally purchased motor vehicles. Customs Commissioner Rolando G. Geotina said in memorandum that Informal Import Declaration and Entry (Form 177) is an accountable form only to be issued to principal examiners or their assistants. The new system which takes effect immediately was promulgated with the view of pinpointing individual responsibilities over transactions of this nature.

July 15—

DISPUTES among government offices arising out of varying interpretations of laws and contracts will now be settled administratively to avoid lengthy and tedious court proceedings. This new ruling is contained in Presidential Decree No. 242, issued by the President, prescribing the procedures to be followed in the administrative settlement of the inter-governmental controversies. The decree provides that provisions of law to the contrary notwithstanding, all disputes, claims and controversies solely between or among the departments, bureaus, offices, agencies and instrumentalities of the National Government, including government-owned or controlled corporations but excluding constitutional offices or agencies, arising from the interpretation and application of statutes, contracts or agreement henceforth are to be administratively settled or adjudicated. Not affected by the decree are cases already pending in court.

GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System, through its Property Insurance Fund, may now engage in full-scale domestic and international reinsurance operations apart from its usual underwriting functions. This was made possible through the issuance by the President of Presidential Decree No. 245, amending Republic Act 656, which created the Property Insurance Fund of the GSIS. The decree names the Property Insurance Fund as the General Insurance Fund and empowers it to reinsure with, as well as to accept reinsurance from, insurance and reinsurance companies both in the Philippines and abroad.

THE COUNTRY'S, economy hit its biggest stride with the international reserves registering an unprecedented peak of \$655 million and dollar deposits now aggregating \$363 million. On the basis of these figures, Central Bank Governor Gregorio S. Licaros reported to the President that the country had accumulated total reserves of \$1.019 billion which would be more than sufficient to meet its current requirements. The assessment of the economic and financial developments covered the first six months of 1973. It underlined the continued recovery of the country's economy since October, 1972, soon after the declaration of Martial Law.

SECRETARY of Labor Bias Ople made the observation that a new middle class, equipped with basic skills in agriculture and industry, is gradually taking its proper place in the New Society. The secretary said the new class of men and women would assume positions in various sectors of the economy not on the strength of privilege but on the strength of their credentials of training, talent and creativity. According to the labor secretary, at the rate the government had been stepping up its manpower development programs and considering the redirection in the educational system, which put emphasis on manpower development, the nation would soon have a large pool of skilled labor that could be tapped for industrial development.

July 16—

THE PRESIDENT has ordered that upon the dissolution of the Philippine Postal Savings Bank within three years from January 29, 1973, a certain portion of its assets shall be turned over to the Bureau of Posts to be used for postal improvement. Among the assets which shall be transferred to the Bureau of Posts are the following: 1) The buildings, lands, furniture, supplies and equipment now accruing to the PPSB; 2) Fifty percent of the net accumulated surplus of the bank as may be determined at the time of dissolution; 3) Any unexpected amount covering the estimated prewar liabilities of the bank subject to the approval of the President. The assets and liabilities of the PPSB had been earmarked exclusively for "the Philippine National Bank or any other appropriate existing government bank" by virtue of Presidential Decree No. 121, dated January 29, 1973.

DEPARTMENT of trade lined up for prosecution several subdivision owners, developers and realty dealers for various irregularities perpetrated against house and lot buyers. Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr., said corresponding actions are being readied against those who could not comply with their contractual obligations and those who would not settle their cases with the complainants. Irregularities unearthed during the initial three-week inquiries ranged from non-development of subdivisions, non-delivery of titles to the buyers after full payment and undue cancellation of contracts by subdividers for non-payment of installment resulting in the forfeiture of all installment payments.

BARANGAY voters were asked to purge their thoughts of the trivial happenings that have not been relevant to the welfare of the country when they vote in the July 27 national referendum. Chairman Leonardo B. Perez of the Commission on Elections instead asked the barangay members to focus their attention on basic matters that have influenced the nation since the declaration of Martial Law. The Comelec chairman said that the voters should weigh the situation dispassionately.

DEPARTMENT of Agrarian Reform advised, legitimate occupants of public lands in Manila and suburbs to transact business directly with the DAR to prevent unscrupulous individuals from taking advantage of the situation. DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella said the Government is expediting the issuance of orders of awards to legitimate occupants of the Tondo foreshore reclaimed areas and other public lands in the Manila area.

TOTAL of 61,515 community development projects worth over P40.5 million were completed by rural folks throughout the country since the proclamation of Martial Law. This was contained in a report submitted to the President by the Department of Local Government and Community Development. Of these, 1,398 were financed under the grants-in-aid program costing over P13.2 million. The rest were purely self-undertakings financed jointly by the barrio people and their municipal and provincial governments. The total number of purely self-help undertakings reached 60,117 worth over P27.2 million.

GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System has proposed more incentives for doctors and paramedic personnel who serve in the rural areas. GSIS Director Jose F. Caedo Jr. proposed the hiring of contractual doctors and training of paramedics or first aiders to work among the barrio folk. The incentives include: 1) The building of more well-designed operative health centers to make these centers conducive to the practice of good medicine; 2) Provision of adequate transportation means for the use of health personnel and their patients; 3) Sponsorship of periodic seminars not only in cities but also in provincial towns for the professional advancement of doctors and other medical personnel; and 4) Provision of medical or scientific publications by the communities they work in for their professional growth and knowledge.

PHILIPPINE Tobacco Administration has revised the guidelines in the purchase of cigar-leaf tobacco. Under the new guidelines, cigar-leaf tobacco must be purchased directly from growers and not from middlemen of licensed dealers. Each grower is required to keep, within the ceiling of 400, kilos except where he actually produced tobacco in his own farm. Growers are also required not to accept any consignment beyond PTA approved allocations. PTA Chairman and General Manager Demetrio Tabije has called on the agency's field officers, tobacco warehousemen and farmers to follow the new guidelines strictly.

THE PRESIDENT created the Philippine Veterans Assistance Commission to provide the veterans and their dependents with employment, medical care, education and related services. The commission provided for in Presidential Decree No. 244 shall be provided with an initial P500,000 fund by the Government, and thereafter shall actively solicit contributions of money or other valuable properties from private or government sources, to be invested in interest-bearing securities, the income from which shall finance services for veterans and dependents.

THE PHILIPPINES has been allotted a quota of \$6 million for importation of various commodities by Neckermann Versand Ltd., the largest mail order house in West Germany and one of the world's biggest outfits of its kind. Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. said the \$6 million allocation for the Philippines this year would be for the importation of garments, shoes, handbags, household items, wood products, decorative items, electronics and electricals, leather, tires and travel goods and beach items including motor boats (speedboats made of fiber glasses).

BUREAU of Customs announced that all its resources will be harnessed to reach the P3-billion collections target this year. Customs Commissioner Rolando G. Geotina said the collection machinery including the needed manpower have been lined-up for the project. He however warned that anyone who cannot prove equal to the task ahead will have to be laid aside in favor of willing and able-bodied men. The customs chief made the statement before participants of the 4th seminar on the new Tariff and Customs Code where he appealed for maximum effort and greater dedication among customs men. He pointed out that Bureau of Customs under Martial Law was one of the main targets of the reform movement in the government service.

JOINT-VENTURE agreement between a South American company's subsidiary and New Frontier Mines, Inc., for the exportation and development of the Philippine firm's nickel properties in Isabela was announced. The agreement was described as a major breakthrough in the Government's policy of attracting foreign investments. An estimated \$80 million in new capital is expected to enter the country as a result of the agreement. Mr. Andres Raczynski, mining managing director of the Hochschild Group Incorporated in Panama with headquarters in Buenos Aires, joined New Frontier officials in a meeting with the President recently. Mr. David P. Cruz, president, led the New Frontier officials. In the meeting, the President reiterated his support to such projects as the nickel development of New Frontier since this will, he said, support the administration's thrust towards speedy and full economic development for the country.

NATIONAL Science Development Board announced that coconut trunks which show promise as a substitute for electric and transmission poles are also excellent materials for the manufacture of particleboards. This was reported by Commissioner Francisco Tamolang of the Forest Products Research and Industries Development, an agency of the NSDB, in connection with the search for raw materials, other than wood, for the production of particleboards. The utilization of coconut trunks would give the coconut planter additional income and would alleviate the problem of lack of supply of wood-based panels for construction purposes.

July 18—

THE PRESIDENT welcomed the plan to establish "holiday inns" to boost tourism, as he received Mr. Kemmons Wilson, founder and board chairman of the Holiday Inns Inc., world's largest chain of hotel, motels and lodgings. Accompanied by his wife Dorothy, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Humphreys of Hunko Products, and Mr. Rudi Koppends, Holiday Inns vice presidents for Asia, Mr. Wilson expressed his eagerness to include the Philippines in his operations during his courtesy call at Malacañang. Mr. Wilson has already picked out a possible site right in the heart Manila, but will be scouting around for other sites before he leaves for the US.

THE PRESIDENT has completed the appointments of the top three officials of the Bureau of Public Highways who will assist Commissioner Aquino in running the implementing agency in the Government's massive roadbuilding program. Mr. Aber Canlas took his oath of office as assistant chief highway engineer of the BPH before Commissioner Aquino. Mr. Bernardo Apostol was earlier sworn in as deputy commissioner for operations, together with Mr. Leoncio Limjoco, deputy commissioner for administration. With the new setup, Commissioner Aquino said he expects the highway bureau to become more efficient and productive.

THE PRESIDENT has promulgated Presidential Decree No. 243 creating a Philippine Veterans Investment Development Co. (PVIDC) to promote the full and continued utilization of the country's manpower and to develop investment potentials from the veterans sector. The issuance of the decree is in consonance with the government policy of effecting desired changes and reforms in all sectors of society. The PVIDC will serve as a special agency that shall direct and look after the productive and investment possibilities coming, from this sector of society. It shall be directed, controlled and managed by a board of directors which shall be composed of the Secretary of National Defense, the Executive Secretary, and five other persons who shall be designated by the President from a list of qualified veterans and retirees.

THE PRESIDENT promulgated Presidential Decree No. 247 prohibiting and penalizing the mutilation, defacement, tearing, burning or destruction of Central Bank notes and coins. The decree points out that CB notes and coins are issued for circulation as a medium of exchange and to utilize them for other purposes does not speak well of the due respect and dignity, befitting our currency. The decree provides that any person who willfully defaces, mutilates, tears, burns or destroys, in any manner whatsoever, currency notes and coins issued by the Central Bank of the Philippines shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than P20,000 and imprisonment of not more than five years.

THE COUNTRY'S export earnings from fresh bananas during the first half of the current year totalled P77.4 million and exceeded by some P20 million the total earnings for the same period last year. This was reported to Agriculture Secretary Arturo Tanco Jr. by Plant Industry Director Eliseo Carandang. The report showed that from January to June this year, the country exported 177,775,259 kilos of fresh bananas in Tanan worth P77,428,073 and overshot last year's first six months record of P56,468,743 by some P20,959,331. Mr. Carandang said that the peak months of the fruit are yet to come and "barring unforeseen circumstances, the country should be able to attain its target of doubling last year's record."

PRICE CONTROL Council enjoined milk manufacturers, producers and wholesalers to comply with the schedule of maximum prices of milk products particularly with the ceiling for freight and handling charges for transporting the commodities for various regions of the country. Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr., issued the memorandum circular following reports that milk products were being sold in some parts of the country at prices higher than the maximum levels prescribed by the Price Control Council. Any imposition of additional costs of transportation and handling to areas other than those enumerated in the order shall constitute a violation of the Price Control Law, he said.

July 19—

THE PRESIDENT called for more frequent visits and exchanges of information among the countries belonging to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in view of the critical situation in Indo-china. The President sounded the call following the conferment of the Ancient Order of Sikatuna, rank of datu, on Deputy Foreign Minister Chatichai Choonkavan of Thailand, who is an official guest of the Philippine government. The President presented the award in recognition of the visiting dignitary's services in the field of international relations, his constant endeavor to strengthen friendly relations and to promote greater understanding through mutually beneficial undertakings, between Thailand and the Philippines. The ASEAN countries, the President said, being very close to each other, with parallel policies and common objectives, their foreign ministers should make more frequent visits and exchange the most current and latest impressions and information affecting the region.

THE FIRST LADY Launched "*Palayan ng Bayan*" a joint project of Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos with the provincial governors, aimed at contributing some eight million cavans to annual palay production. The project is an extension of the First Lady's Green Revolution project, and will bring into cultivation thousands of hectares of virgin lands throughout the country. Under the scheme, the provincial governors will identify the areas to be placed under cultivation. A provincial team composed of representatives of the Bureaus of Forest Development, Soil, Plant Industry and Agricultural Extension will then evaluate the land as to suitability to rice or other crops. The Bureau of Lands and the Department of Agrarian Reform will formalize land identification, after which authorization for the use of the land will be obtained from appropriate authorities.

GENERAL Auditing Office has authorized all municipal treasurers to serve as retailers of the National Grains Authority to facilitate the distribution of low-cost rice to the barrio people. Auditor General Ismael Mathay Sr. directed the treasurers in a memorandum to act as rice retailers if there are no NGA distributors in their respective localities during the lean months, subject to the following conditions: 1) That the municipality has no cash overdraft; 2) That appropriation for the purpose is duly provided by the municipal council; 3) That the municipality has adequate storage facilities to avoid loss and deterioration of the rice; 4) That the sale shall be strictly on cash basis; 5) That a separate book of accounts shall be kept wherein all transactions shall be entered daily, and monthly reports shall be submitted to the provincial auditor concerned; and 6) The profit, if any, shall accrue to the general fund of the municipality.

BUREAU of Standards was directed immediately to establish standard specifications for brake fluids used in motor vehicles. Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr., who issued the directive, furnished the bureau with a list of brands which reportedly have been found by the National Institute of Science and Technology as either within or below standard specifications. Secretary Quiazon, however, emphasized that the investigation into the reported sale of unsafe brake fluids is going on with the assistance of other competent government and private agencies. The order requires that all products sold should be properly labelled, including information as to specifications as well as the name of manufacturer and country of origin.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: July 20-26, 1973

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

July 20—

“THE PRESIDENT announced that Japanese stragglers are welcome to remain in this country as Filipino citizens with all the rights and privileges of Philippine citizenship. He made the announcement during a call at Malacañang of a delegation from the Japan World Golf Corporation which brought to the Philippines some 70 Japanese golfers and media men to see for themselves the operation of the Philippine brand of Martial Law. The President stated that Japanese soldiers who have been here for many years can stay permanently if they wish, after going through all formalities required by Philippine laws.

THE PHILIPPINES widened its trade lead over West Germany last year by wrapping up a surplus of \$55.3 million in exports proceeds, or 55 per cent more than what it imported from that country during the year. Trade figures gathered from the West German Federal Statistical Office by the Philippine commercial attache in Bonn-Bad Godesberg, Germany, showed that the Philippines exported a total of \$101.5 million in various goods as against imports from Germany in the amount of P56.2 million, or a surplus of \$55.3 million.

AN ADVISORY committee for the Hospital Dietitians and Nutritionists Association of the Philippines has been created in the Department of Health. The advisory committee, created through Department Circular No. 261, series of 1973, has for its goal the improvement of patient-care through systematic, efficient and economical dietary management in the hospitals. The newly-created committee is composed of the director of the Bureau of Health and Medical Services as chairman, the chief of the Office of Health Education and Personnel Training as vice-chairman, and 11 regional health directors as members. Health Secretary Clemente S. Gatmaitan said that proper management of the hospital diet is very important in the speedy treatment and convalescence of patients in the hospital.

July 21—

THE PRESIDENT announced his approval and the adoption of the Four-Year Development Plan for Fiscal Years 1974-77 as prepared by the National Economic and Development Authority. The announcement was embodied in Proclamation No. 1157 issued by the Chief Executive who enjoined all government officers to align their plans and projects with the objectives and policies embodied in the Plan, including the changes that may be made therein. He also called upon the private sector to take full cognizance of the plan and to cooperate fully in the attainment of its goals and objectives. The development plan seeks to attain a more equitable distribution of, wealth, expand employment opportunities, promote social development, stabilize prices at reasonable levels, accelerate economic growth, and promote regional development and industrialization.

THE PRESIDENT promulgated Presidential Decree No. 248 extending the period for the registration of reservists to August 31. The President extended the deadline to enable all reservists in the country, as well as those who are abroad, to register in accordance with Presidential Decree No. 183, dated May 6. The Chief Executive warned there would be no further extension after August 31. He said all those who fail to register will be prosecuted and penalized accordingly.

THE PRESIDENT has declared July 24 as a special registration day to enable many qualified citizens throughout the country, including detainees, to register for the forthcoming referendum on July 27. The President noted in Proclamation No. 1166 that many who have been unable to register should be given all the opportunity to exercise their right as citizens in the July 27 referendum which will decide certain issues vital to the country and people.

THE PRESIDENT issued Presidential Decree No. 249, authorizing government officials, employees and military personnel who may have been registered as barangay members elsewhere to vote in barangay referendum centers nearest their residences or places of assignment. The new decree also provides for the postponement of the referendum in places where there is a calamity, flood, or other *force majeure*, violence, terrorism, loss or destruction of referendum paraphernalia or records, and other, similar causes which may make the holding of a referendum in

said places impossible. The decree amends Presidential Decree No. 229, which provides for the manner of voting and canvass in barangays.

DEPARTMENT of Trade issued pointers for house and lot buyers to keep them from falling into the hands of certain unscrupulous subdivision owners and dealers. Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. said the public will do well to consider the pointers seriously to protect their own interest and avoid unnecessary litigations. On buying lots in subdivision, the Department of Trade chief said it is necessary to: 1) Check on the reliability of owners, developers; management or sales agents; study their accomplishments and other previous performances; 2) Check veracity of brochures, advertisements and other sales gimmicks; 3) Study carefully the contract to sell or land purchase agreement; 4) Do not buy lot if fees, charges and other obligations are unreasonable; 5) If lot is mortgaged, check if amortization is regularly paid and mortgage is willing to cancel mortgage if purchase price on lot is fully paid; and 6) Seek legal advice.

THE PRESIDENT conferred the Presidential Merit Medal on Dr. Carl P. Schaffner and Dr. Hans Kaunitz for their lasting contributions enhancing the coconut industry in the Philippines. In a citation read by Secretary Francisco S. Tatad of the Department of Public Information, Dr. Schaffner was credited with undertaking research and scientific investigations aimed at preventing the growth of salmonella and other bacteria in processed or dessicated coconut. In the citation for Dr. Kaunitz, which was likewise read at the award ceremonies by Secretary Tatad, the professor emeritus on physiology at Columbia University was also credited with undertaking research and scientific investigations to determine the nutritional properties of coconut oil.

BUREAU of Plant Industry is urging the public to plant sweet potato (camote) as it provides essential vitamins and minerals and additional income. The BPI has reported that 134,620 hectares have been planted to sweet potato in the Philippines in 1970. The total yield of 431,893,900 kilos of tubers was valued at P215, 822,900. Sweet potato is propagated by planting tubers, slips, vine cuttings or terminal cuttings. BPI's food technologists estimated that two tubers of sweet potato contains food energy equivalent to a cup of rice. It is said to be rich in vitamins and minerals essential in the human diet.

July 22—

MALACANANG issued guidelines to be followed on the placement of personnel affected by the implementation of the Integrated Reorganization Plan. The guidelines, contained in Memorandum Circular No. 650 set the priorities for placement of personnel in the following order: 1) Permanent employees presently occupying positions with the same or comparable titles and duties and responsibilities as those in the approved staffing patterns, provided that in cases where the number of positions exceed those in the staffing pattern, the incumbents shall be compared in terms of relative fitness and the most qualified shall be preferred; 2) Permanent employees presently occupying higher level of positions in the same occupational group as those in the approved staffing pattern who have not yet been placed; 3) Permanent employees who are presently occupying allied or functionally related positions at higher or comparable levels with those positions in the staffing pattern provided such employees meet all the requirements for appointment.

ONE of the biggest mail order houses in West Germany is buying \$6-million worth of exportable products from the Philippines for distribution in its network of 50 department stores. To supply the huge requirements. Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. convened a meeting between the country's leading manufacturers, producers and exporters and representatives of the German firm Neckermann Versand Ltd. of Frankfurt. Secretary Quiazon said the \$6-million allocation for the Philippines this year will be for the purchase of garments, shoes, household items, wood products, decorative items, electronic and electricals, leather tires and travel goods and beach items (including speedboats made of fiber glasses). The initial purchase allocations, according to the secretary, will be increased at the rate of 12 per cent per annum.

THE NATION observed the 109th birth anniversary of Apolinario Mabini, the "brain of the Philippine revolution," with floral offerings in three places in Manila and Tanauan, Batangas. Chairman Esteban de Ocampo of the National Historical Commission said the wreath-laying rites will be held at the Mabini shrine in Barrio Talaga, Tanauan, Batangas, the Mabini shrine in Pandacan, Manila and the national library compound in T. M. Kalaw st. Apolinario Mabini was born in 1864 in Barrio Talaga, Tanauan, Batangas, to Inocencio Mabini and Dionisia Maranan. Mabini

played a significant role during the second phase of the Philippine revolution. He served first as adviser to Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo and was responsible for laying down the first Philippine Republic. He wrote several decrees, including one which created the revolutionary government on June 23, 1898.

July 23—

THE PRESIDENT issued general orders encouraging the people to discuss and debate freely the question to be resolved in the July 27 referendum and lifting the curfew before and during the national referendum. The President also issued a proclamation declaring July 24 as a special public holiday. In General Order No. 32, the President expressed his desire that the people be afforded the fullest opportunity to discuss and debate freely and publicly the question to be resolved in the July 27 referendum. General Order No. 33 lifts the curfew from 12 midnight of July 23 to 4 a.m. of July 28. The President said that the people should be able to move about freely in order that they can have the fullest opportunity to discuss freely and publicly the questions to be resolved in the referendum.

DEPARTMENT of Labor has created a committee on domestic helpers and hotel workers to study current recruitment practices, policies and procedures in hiring workers for overseas employment. Labor Secretary Blas F. Ople said the committee will also look into the employment contracts of overseas workers in order to give them the protection they need. The creation of the committee was prompted by reports on rampant cases of exploitation of Filipino workers employed abroad and the widespread illegal hiring practices by agents and recruiters for overseas employment, Secretary Ople said.

DEPARTMENT of Justice ruled that the death of a public officer will terminate an investigation or bar an impending investigation of unexplained wealth charges against him. Justice Secretary Vicente Abad Santos issued this opinion in reply to a request from the Complaints and Investigation Division in the Office of the President. He explained that accordingly, the provisions of the Revised Penal Code are supplementary to said law in the absence of any provision to the contrary. "And under Article 89 of the Revised Penal Code, criminal liability is totally extinguished by the death of the convict, as to the personal penalties, and as to the pecuniary liabilities, when the death of the offender occurs before final judgment," the justice chief ruled.

DIETETICS Association of the Philippines should expand its role out to the low-income communities and the remote barrios where malnourished children need most their service. Social Welfare Secretary Estefania Aldaba-Lim stressed this point before the association's convention recently and said that dietetics must not be confined to hospitals, cafeterias, clinics, nursing schools or industrial concerns. It must expand itself as an organized public service, integrated into all levels of health care as well as social welfare. The DSW secretary also noted that the problem of malnutrition arises from the problem of population explosion in the country. Thus applies the simple mathematical proportion, that more births mean more mouths to feed and therefore lesser food.

PHILIPPINE National Bank and other lending institutions have released some P191.5 million in crop loans to farmers under the *Masagana 99* rice production drive as of July 19. This was announced by Agriculture Secretary Arturo Tanco, Jr. who said that an analysis of credit support in connection with *Masagana 99* revealed a mounting nation wide acceptance by farmers of the program. *Masagana 99* was launched by the President only two months ago. Loaning activities are expected to accelerate further this month and August because it is during this period when rice planting is at its peak.

July 24—

PHILIPPINE Veterans Bank shall more effectively contribute through the veterans sector to the social, economic, and political structure of the society under changes effected by Presidential Decree No. 236 in Republic Act No. 3518, the PVB charter. These reforms which include, among others, the manner for the election of the PVB board of directors, the distribution of stocks among veterans, their widows, orphans or compulsory heirs, and the sale of preferred shares exclusively to veterans, reflect urgent measures that were pending before Congress prior to the declaration of Martial Law.

SECRETARY of Information Francisco S. Tatad called upon government officers to integrate their efforts toward the attainment of the common objectives of the New Society. Addressing a luncheon meeting of government PRO's, the DPI secretary stressed that more than acting as information officers of their respective departments or agencies they owe it to the government and people to get involved in the actual solution of problems of the country. He said that while government public information officers may not have the opportunity to lead or to make decisions for their people, they have the opportunity to provide an insight into policy-making. Petty jealousies, the secretary stressed, should be put aside and instead government PRO's should "work together and in concert add a new dimension to the work of public information."

THE GOVERNMENT is encouraging the reinvestment of P3 billion in accumulated surplus profits of 500 corporations in productive industries and enterprises. This was disclosed by Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr., as he explained the rationale for requiring these SEC-registered corporations, particularly those having 100 stockholders or more, to declare and distribute their surplus profits as dividends to their stockholders. Addressing members of the Association of CPAs in a developing economy lies in the most efficient allocation and utilization of the country's resources."

MILD "exodus" into the country by well-equipped foreign business firms, which have been attracted by the Government's incentive offers, has started. Latest to join the list of willing takers of the country's improved business climate is the Basic Resources and International Group of Comalco Ltd., a multi-billion dollar Australian-based industrial complex. Mr. Leo Rogers, divisional manager of the company said that the industrial complex is moving into the country due to the very favorable investment climate. He said his group is willing and ready to offer assistance including on-the-job training of technicians, mine and industrial engineers, as well as to management.

July 25—

THE PRESIDENT has issued Presidential Decree No. 224 modifying the service area pattern authorized for departments and agencies setting up regional offices under the Integrated Reorganization Plan. Article I, Chapter 3, Part II of the IRP divides the country into 11 regions, with each region having a designated regional center and a specified area of jurisdiction. The amendatory decree places the province of Pangasinan and the cities of Dagupan and San Carlos under the jurisdiction of Region I (Ilocos Region), with the regional center at San Fernando, La Union. The reorganization plan had placed these territories under the jurisdiction of Region 3 (Central Luzon Region) with regional center at San Fernando/Pampanga. With this change, Region I is now composed of the provinces of Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Abra, La Union, Benguet, Mt. Province and Pangasinan, and the cities of Baguio, Laoag, Dagupan and San Carlos. The areas remaining under Region 3 are the provinces of Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Zam-bales, Bulacan and Bataan, and the cities of Angeles, Cabanatuan, Olongapo, Palayan and San Jose (in Nueva Ecija).

THE PRESIDENT has promulgated Presidential Decree No. 253 which prohibits the sale, offer or the taking of intoxicating liquors and the holding of cockfights, boxing, horse races, jai-alai or similar sports on the day of the referendum, July 27. The decree which took effect last July 23, amends Sec. 17 of Presidential Decree No. 229 which provides for the manner of voting and canvassing of votes in barangays (citizens assemblies).

DEPARTMENT of Health underlines the need to upgrade the professional status of X-Ray technologists to improve the standards of the growing number of radiation workers in the field of medicine, research and industry. In a speech before the members of the Philippine Association of Radiologic Technologists, Health Secretary Clemente S. Gatmaitan said that a committee has been formed to study and solve the problems of radiation workers. The upgrading of the X-Ray technologists' lot has started with a crash training program last July 2 participated in by doctors and technicians from the different health regions. The health secretary said that the training of the technologists would eventually raise their salaries as well as their professional standards.

July 26—

THE PRESIDENT presented the ancient Order of Sikatuna with the Rank of Datu to the outgoing ambassadors of two countries to the Philippines. The Order of Sikatuna was conferred by the President on Ambassador Adel Abdel

Hamid Fadel of the Arab Republic of Egypt and Ambassador Luigi Martelli of the Republic of Italy. The President presented the awards in recognition of the services of the two ambassadors in the field of international relations and for their constant endeavors to foster close relations between their respective countries and the Philippines, and closer understanding through mutually beneficial means between their peoples and the Filipino people.

THE PRESIDENT has issued Presidential Decree No. 235 adding two more branches to the lone branch of the city court of Dagupan to ease the congestion of cases in the area. The decree, which amends Republic Act No. 170, otherwise known as the Charter of the City of Dagupan, notes that there are some 3,500 cases pending at present at the Dagupan City Court. In case of absence, incapacity or incapability of the regular city judges, the auxiliary city judge, or if for some reasons two or more regular judges could not perform their duties, the Supreme Court shall designate the judge of any of the municipalities adjoining Dagupan City to preside over the branch, of the city court of the absent or incapacitated judge. This designated judge shall hold office temporarily until the regular incumbent or the auxiliary judge shall have resumed office or until another judge shall have been appointed. The municipal judge so designated shall receive his salary as municipal judge plus 70 per cent of the salary of the municipal judge whose office he has temporarily assumed.

THE PRESIDENT has acted to ensure the availability in the domestic market of highly-exportable products which have gained wide acceptance in the international market, particularly copra, cement and plywood. In a directive to Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr., the President sought strict compliance of the 10 per cent retention of export products to meet the domestic requirements. The President likewise directed the trade secretary to determine the volume of the products being exported, among them food items, copra and lumber with a view to formulating a policy that would ensure an adequate domestic supply of these products to avoid shortage in domestic requirements.

INVESTMENTS in the country reached P5.2 billion during the 1972-73 Fiscal Year, topping the previous year's total by P400 million. Commerce Director Epifanio Castillejos in his report to Secretary Troadio T. Quiazon Jr., attributed the rise in investments to the confidence of business on the present leadership. In his report, Director Castillejos said the Bureau of Commerce registered: 1) 19,942 new business with a total investment of P2.8 billion compared to 12,119—P2.4 billion; 2) 5,011 business name renewals involving P2.3 billion compared to 3,591—P2.28 billion; 3) 135 private merchants with capital worth P5.3 million compared to 65—P700,000; 4) 359 bulk sales instruments valued at P14.7 million compared to 202—P14.2 million; 5) 1,264 Filipino retailers who registered under Republic Act 1292, with a total capital of P11.1 million; compared to 801—P6.6 million.

BUREAU of Customs released the guidelines in the imposition of surcharge on importations that had been undervalued, misdescribed, misclassified or misdeclared as defined by Section 2503 of the new Tariff and Customs Code. Customs Commissioner Rolando G. Geotina said that the guideline will take effect August 1, 1973 and is being issued to ensure an effective and uniform application of the penalties imposed by law in such cases. The Commissioner however pointed out that the customs guideline does not apply in cases where the misdeclaration, undervaluation, misdescription or misclassification was intentionally done nor will good faith on the part of the importer/broker be a valid defense.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: July 27 - August 2, 1973

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

July 27—

THE PRESIDENT issued General Order No. 34 calling upon all residential and commercial lot owners to utilize their idle, undeveloped lots; by cultivating them for the production of rootcrops and vegetables in line with the Government's program to increase food production. The owners of such lands have been given until July 30 within which to cultivate their properties. Failure to do so would entitle adjoining residents or individuals to utilize the empty lots with the express consent of the owners, if they are in the area, or their implied consent, if they cannot be located.

THE PRESIDENT issued Presidential Decree No. 256 allowing any barangay member who, on Referendum Day (July 27-28), in spite of diligent efforts and through no fault of his own could not locate his Barangay Center, to vote in the Barangay Center nearest his residence. The same decree allows any registered barangay member who, on Referendum Day, is staying for any reason in a city, municipality, or municipal district outside of the province where he is registered, to cast his vote in the Barangay Center nearest the place where he is temporarily staying.

THE PRESIDENT extended the period of voting in the referendum to Saturday, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., "to give the people the fullest opportunity to express their views on the issues to be presented to them in the referendum." The President in Presidential Decree No. 254 also extended the period of canvass of votes "until such time as the Commission on Elections may deem it necessary to complete the same." In this connection, the President issued General Order No. 35 extending the suspension of the curfew up to 4 a.m. Sunday (July 29). The President in Proclamation No. 1169 also declared Saturday (July 28) a special public holiday.

SOME 396 rural banks have released a total of P84.7 million for the Masagana 99 rice production program. The amount was loaned out to 90,772 farmers tilling an area of 155,180 hectares under the Government's rice production program. This was the report received by Central Bank Governor Gregorio S. Licaros from the CB department of rural banks and savings and loan associations. An additional P4.1 million in similar loans has been approved but still pending release to borrowers. Total loans released so far represent about 70 per cent of the funds made available to the rural banks by the Central Bank for the Masagana program, the report said. Of the P84.7 million total, 56 per cent was reportedly released to Central Luzon farmers; 13 per cent to Western Visayas; and 11 per cent to Southern Luzon; or a total of 80 per cent for the three regions.

BUREAU of Customs informed the President that customs collections for Fiscal Year 1972-73 registered a record high of P2,101,930,949.89, surpassing the P2 billion target by almost P102 million. In a report to the President, Commissioner Rolando G. Geotina said the target for the current Fiscal Year (1973-74) is P3 billion of which P2.5 billion will come from duties and taxes and P.5 billion from the export tax.

DEPARTMENT of Trade set a 50-50 per cent export and domestic control of rattan (palasan) poles. Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr., took this move after ascertaining the maximum domestic requirements of the manufacturing sector. This means that 50 per cent of the rattan's total production will be for export while another 50 per cent will be for domestic consumption. Local users and exporters of rattan poles will be required to submit to the Department their requirements according to grades and measurements as embodied in Standards Administrative Order No. 103 and the corresponding export application form. Furthermore, exporters and domestic end-users will be required to submit authenticated export contracts and purchase orders, respectively, to determine the approximate volume of rattan poles necessary to fulfill their obligations in the export market and the local manufacturing sector.

DEPARTMENT of Health has launched a family planning program among hansenites in various leprosaria to curb leprosy incidence among them. One aspect of the program is the holding of refresher course workshops that involves authorities of leprosy and the patients. Health Secretary Clemente S. Gatmaitan said in the closing ceremonies of the workshop that family planning is, one of the department's major programs and that it is a humane approach to the country's excessive population growth particularly among hansenites. The health secretary stressed that the family

planning project among lepers in the different leprosaria is intended to reduce birth among those afflicted with the disease and thus reduce leprosy incidence.

July 28—

THE GOVERNMENT has harnessed the assistance of various trade and industrial associations in strengthening the country's export promotion campaign. The Department of Trade required various trade and manufacturing chambers to update the list of members in order to strengthen the overall export promotion drive. Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr., said that aside from strengthening the country's export promotion drive, the compilation will serve as ready reference and guidance of the department and its corps of commercial attaches.

COORDINATING Committee for Manpower Development (COCOMAND) has been created to assist in the setting up of national trade standards and establish closer dialogue between the public and private training institutions. The COCOMAND, which is composed of different government and private agencies involved in manpower development is headed by National ^Manpower and Youth Council Director General Rony Diaz. The agency also intends to initiate and maintain an inventory of training facilities and a directory of instructors and training institution in the country.

PACKAGING industry has been urged to adopt modern techniques and processes of packaging products to make them more competitive in the world market. Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr., made the appeal before a meeting of the Packaging Institute of the Philippines in Makati. Emphasizing the need for adopting more modern techniques and processes in the packaging industry, Mr. Quiazon said the demands of competition both here and abroad dictate that this particular sector cannot afford to lose out in the market simply because of poor packaging. For this reason the secretary said the packing function now must be approached in the growth sense, that is, it must develop just as rapidly as new products are developed.

THE PRESIDENT has called on the owners of undeveloped or idle lots throughout the country these lots pursuant to the Government's food sufficiency program. In line with this, the Bureau of Plant Industry has been issuing pointers on the proper methods of vegetable and root crop planting. According to the BPL among the locally grown tubers, ubi is one of the most important crops in the country. Ubi has 21 per cent starch content and has been found to be a good source of Vitamins B and C. It can be planted any time of the year. However, planting during the wet season gives a more uniform growth and lessens the cost of weeding. Ubi thrives at low to medium altitudes.

July 29—

THE PRESIDENT has issued Presidential Decree No. 251 which amends Republic Act No. 3844, otherwise known as the "Code of Agrarian Reform in the Philippines," by making the Land Bank, established under the Code an effective and adequate financial institution in the immediate implementation of agrarian reforms envisioned under Presidential Decree Nos. 27 and 85 dated October 21, 1972 and December 25, 1972, respectively.

THE PRESIDENT was informed by another group of travel officials of their readiness to develop tourist sports and to open travel offices here in view of the tremendous tourism potentials enhanced by the improved social and economic development in the country. The group, headed by Gilbert Trigano, president of Club Mediterranee, told the President that its members will be very happy to come to the Philippines "where we can imagine plans that could compete with Hongkong and all the surrounding places for tourists." The President advised the group to submit its proposals, and directed Secretary of Tourism Jose D. Aspiras, who accompanied the group to Malacañang, to look into them.

SECRETARY of Information Francisco S. Tatad welcomed in behalf of the President the educational ship M/V Logos now docked at Pier 15 on its second visit to the Philippines. Speaking to the crew and guests at the ship's dining hall, the secretary said that in the Philippines "we agree with the concept of this gathering of people from various parts of the world who live a life of friendship, love and brotherhood." Secretary Tatad said he is happy the Logos is now making its second visit to the country "so that you could make a part of your experience what is happening here under the New Society."

July 30—

THE PRESIDENT conferred the Philippine Legion of Honor, degree of commander, on General Lai Ming-tang, for meritorious and valuable services rendered to the Republic of the Philippines. General Lai, who was an official guest of the Philippine government, is the chief of the general staff, Ministry of National Defense, Republic of China. The President pointed out that because of General Lai's contributions to Philippine security, the general has not only endeared himself to the Filipino people but also helped strengthen the existing bonds of friendship and cooperation between his country and the Philippines. In accepting the award, General Lai pledged to continue helping strengthen the cooperation between his country's armed forces and the AFP.

THE PRESIDENT reasserted his policy of concentrating the limited resources of the government on priority projects that would contribute directly to the economic development of the country. The occasion was the send-off luncheon given by the President and the First Lady at Malacañang, honoring members of the Comprehensive Employment Strategy Mission of the International Labor Organization, which spent two months here reviewing and reassessing the Philippine economy from the standpoint of employment and development. In behalf of the Filipino people, the President thanked the mission for helping pinpoint "where our orientation was wrong, where our efforts had failed," and to assist the country, "build a strong, viable and independent society."

HEALTH authorities announced that 27 government physicians with various specialties like pediatrics, traumatology, radiology, and surgery are now training at different hospitals in Manila and the Southern Islands Hospital in Cebu City. Secretary of Health Clemente S. Gatmaitan said that this scheduled training is part of the continuing program for training of the different categories and specialties of health department personnel. The hospital training centers are the Dr. Jose R. Reyes Memorial Hospital, National Children's Hospital, National Orthopedic Hospital, Rizal Provincial Hospital, and Southern Islands Hospital.

THE PHILIPPINES has been selected as the official base of operations of the Tasking group of companies, one of Hongkong's biggest industrial aggrupations. Among the latest international corporations moving their headquarters from the Crown Colony to the Philippines, the group will go into other investment projects aside from the manufacture of golf clubs, hardware tools, padlocks, bicycles and parts and strollers for children. The transfer was announced by Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr., following an official report from a Filipino businessman, who will go on a joint partnership with the Hongkong multinational.

July 31—

THE PRESIDENT approved for implementation the second study of the United Nations Development Programme and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the establishment of the first nuclear-powered plant in the Philippines. The study envisions a 600 megawatt nuclear plant which will cost about \$250 million to construct over a nine-year period. The President directed the government officials concerned to get together with the secretary of finance in order to look for funding, and also to conduct further feasibility studies in comparison with hydroelectric or geothermal powered plants of similar size.

THE PRESIDENT issued a decree creating the PEFTOK Investment and Development Corp. and allocating the P2.2 million appropriated by past Congresses for the Philippine Expeditionary Force to Korea but which remained intact in the national treasury. In creating the PEFTOK firm and authorizing it to use the fund for economic activity, the President defined the government policy of extending to the veterans not only promises or ribbons and medals but also means to improve their condition in life. In organizing the PEFTOK Investment and Development Corp., the PEFTOK Board of Directors hopes to embark on various projects with emphasis on housing.

THE PRESIDENT received Mohammed Isnaeni, deputy speaker of the Indonesian Parliament, who made a courtesy call at Malacañang shortly before leaving for Jakarta. Mr. Isnaeni congratulated the President for his efforts to push through the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, of which Indonesia and the Philippines are members, together with Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore. Mr. Isnaeni said that he was very much impressed by the changes in the Philippines in contrast to what he observed in Hongkong. The President said Indonesia and the Philippines are moving forward but that Indonesia is still the base and anchor of Southeast Asia.

August 1—

THE PRESIDENT has empowered military commissions and provost courts with jurisdiction to try military personnel for military offenses in violation of the Articles of War. The President noted in Decree 255 that the rules governing the creation, composition, jurisdiction, procedure and other matters relevant to military tribunals promulgated pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 39 dated November 7, 1972, did not confer on military commissions and provost courts the jurisdiction to try military personnel for strictly military offenses in violation of Articles of War. To expedite the disposition of such offenses, the Chief Executive directed in Presidential Decree No. 255 that the military commissions and provost courts referred to in Presidential Decree No. 39 be conferred the jurisdiction to try and dispose of these offenses.

THE PRESIDENT appealed to fugitives to return to their homes and live a life of peace to help build a New Society. The President made the appeal through four Higaon-on datus and their followers who had earlier surrendered to the authorities and called at Malacañang to pledge their loyalty and their help in maintaining peace and order. The President assured them that “we will give them some sources of livelihood and protect their rights against the encroachment of rapacious people who will only utilize or exploit them.”

THE PRESIDENT directed all Cabinet members and heads of government agencies directly under his office to submit in the forth-coming Cabinet meeting fresh ideas on how to meet “our new responsibilities to the people.” The President issued the directive during his one-hour meeting with his fiscal and economic advisers, in anticipation of the results of the referendum which indicate a new mandate for the present administration.

DEPARTMENT of Labor and National Manpower Youth Council officials were directed to redesign their policies and programs to dovetail into the President’s priority program for the maximum development of small-scale industries. Labor Secretary Blas F. Ople, who issued the directive said these programs mean the systematic training of small entrepreneurs, more adaptive vocational training support for small firms, particularly those in the rural areas, and a strong public employment service to facilitate the matching of men and jobs.

CAMP CRAME extended up to September 21, 1973 the deadline for the renewal of all firearms licenses, certificates of registration and special permits. Col. Alfonso Trance, firearms and explosive unit chief, said the grace period was approved by the PC chief to those firearms holders who failed to beat the previous deadline.

PHILIPPINE Medical Care Commission has directed the health department to adopt a more effective information drive on the guidelines involving the charging of excessive professional fees from medicare patients by government hospitals and physicians. The PMCC’s move came following reports that certain government doctors have continued billing their medicare patients exorbitant rates. Dr. Pacifico E. Marcos, PMCC chairman, said that government physicians are prohibited from engaging in private practice as they are full time government employees.

DEPARTMENT of Trade assured full assistance to the development of the clothing industry to generate more employment and maximize its foreign exchange earnings capability. Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr., said government agencies entrusted with the development of the economy are coordinating their policies and activities to promote the garment industry. He made the statement during an induction dinner of the Philippine Association of Embroidery and Apparel Exporters Inc. Secretary Quiazon said the Department of Trade has recommended several measures, among which is the grant of preferential interest rates on loans with which to procure local or imported raw materials used in the processing of exportable products. He also urged S for capital investments, including machinery and equipment for new or expanded export products and the relaxation of the surety requirements in the sense that they should be based on export performance and not on every shipment.

BUREAU of Plant Industry reported that ginger (luya), a spice used not only for flavoring food but also in the preparation of confectionary, beverage, perfume, and also in medicine, has been found to be a dollar-earning industry. From a mere \$4,190.00 export earnings from 19,007 kg. shipped to Hongkong and Canada in 1970, the figure soared to 1,111,500 kg. valued at \$109,006.00 in 1972. In local markets, a kilo of ginger costs as much as P4.50.

August 2—

THE PRESIDENT issued a presidential decree reconstituting the Presidential Committee on Wood, Industries Development, which had been abolished under the reorganization plan, into a planning, evaluation and consultative body. As reconstituted, the PCWID is composed of the secretary of agriculture and natural resources as chairman, a representative of the private sector as vice chairman, and the following as members: the secretary of finance, the secretary of public works, transportation and communications, the chairman of the Board of Investments, the director general of the National Economic and Development Authority, the director of forest management, the commissioner of Forest Products Research and Development, the president of the Chamber of Wood Industries, the president of Philippine Lumber and Plywood Manufacturers Association, the president of the Society of Foresters, the president of the Association of Permanent Foresters, and the dean of the University of the Philippines College of Forestry.

THE PRESIDENT has issued Presidential Decree No. 258 creating the Philippine Center in San Francisco, California, along with a Philippine Center Management Board, under which will be consolidated, integrated, and coordinated the activities of all Philippine government offices and agencies which are at present dispersed in that American City, a situation entailing unnecessary expense and duplication of functions, according to the decree. The Philippine Center will have its own fund to accrue from the sale of all real properties in San Francisco owned by the Philippine government.

PHILIPPINE National Bank scored a breakthrough in the international money with the placement of \$30 million in certificates of deposits in London. PNB President P. O. Domingo signed the agreement for the issuance of the certificates subscribed by 21 financial institutions: seven North American, seven European, and seven from Asia and the Pacific. Interest on the certificates of deposit is payable at a rate based on the London inter-bank offering rate for Eurodollar deposits.

DEPARTMENT of Health has tied up its nation-wide cancer detection program on women with its family planning project in a bid to arrest or minimize cancer incidence among the female population, Health authorities took the move following reports from abroad that the use of intrauterine device (IUD) in women increases the incidence of cancer of the cervix. In order to give more impetus to the program, the health department through the Cancer Detection Center, has set up cancer clinic and tumor boards in the different designated medical centers under the department.

CAMP CRAME announced the organization of the Office for Muslim Affairs at the PC headquarters. The new office, which will be made part of the special staff of the PC chief, will assist the chief of Constabulary in promoting and maintaining rapport between the PC command and the Muslim population to enhance Government efforts in implementing socio-economic programs for the development of southern Philippines PC Chief Brig. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos named Col. Mangacop Bangcola, the highest ranking PC Muslim officer in the active service as head of the new office. Col. Bangcola is in his own right the Sultan of Butig, Lanao del Sur.

BUREAU of Customs collected P203,331,413.71 in revenue last month compared with last year's July total of P83,365,158.24. Manila Port Collector Augusco T. Africa, in a report to Customs Commissioner Rolando G. Geotina, said that the July take exceeds previous collection by P118,966,255.47 Commissioner Geotina who has set a customs collection goal of P3.3 billion this fiscal year said that should this collection performance continue, there is a possibility that the bureau might overshoot the target.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: August 3-9, 1973

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

August 3—

COMMISSION on Elections announced that the resounding “yes” answered by the voters in their ballots during the July 27-28 referendum gave the President a “persuasive fresh mandate.” Comelec Chairman Leonardo Perez made the remark at the proclamation of the official results of the national referendum at the poll body’s session hall in Intramuros. Mr. Perez said the affirmative votes prevailed overwhelmingly over the no-votes with a win percentage of 90.67 per cent.

THE PRESIDENT ordered the establishment of a Philippine Center in San Francisco to promote the culture, products and image of the country. The establishment will house various products and cultural arts in the display rooms that will be available for lease to Philippine exporters and businessmen. Aside from propagating culture, the Philippine Center will also encourage foreign tourists to visit the Philippines, broaden the image for Philippine exports and provide a coordinated and efficient public service to enhance the Philippine image.

THE PRESIDENT was informed by two officials of the A. T. Hutchinson Ltd., one of the biggest investment firms in Hongkong and London, that their company has decided to increase its investments in the country. The two officials, Messrs. Robert Boyd, managing director, and Peter J. Pearson, who has been looking after the firm’s substantial investments in the Philippines, took occasion to congratulate the President for the people’s reiteration at the referendum of their faith and confidence in his leadership. The business executives told the President that their company has already substantial long-term investments through the stock exchanges, but that after observing the changed atmosphere and the favorable investments climate, they have decided to pour in more investments.

FUNCTION of assessment and the collection of “S” licenses (Opium License) may be continued by the Narcotics Drug Division even after said division has been transferred from the Bureau of Internal Revenue to the Food and Drug Administration of the Department of Health. Implementation of the Integrated Reorganization Plan caused the abolition of the division in the BIR and its transfer, together with its applicable appropriations, records, equipment and personnel, to the Food and Drug Administration of the health department. The opinion on the division’s still welding the power to collect “S” licenses was issued by Justice Secretary Vicente Abad Santos in reply to a query from the secretary of health.

DEPARTMENT of Trade spelled out five directions which advertising practitioners are expected to take in line with the revolutionary transformation of Philippine Society. Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. noted that “while before, the *raison d’etre* for advertising was mainly the profit motive, this has now been complemented by the social motive, that advertising should promote the ideals of the New Society.” He made the statement before the regular membership meeting of the Philippine Association of National Advertisers held at the PAL Skyclub in Makati, Rizal. The secretary stressed that advertising should strive to find a healthy balance between sales expectations and social interest.

PRIVATE sector must share the Government’s efforts to promote and ensure optimum health for our people, especially in the field of heart diseases. Health Secretary Clemente S. Gatmaitan made this assessment during the recent induction of new officers of the Philippine Heart Association. The secretary said that the basis for the partnership of the Government and the private sector is enshrined in the new Constitution stating “the State shall establish, maintain and ensure adequate social services in the field of education, health, housing, employment welfare and social security to guarantee the enjoyment by the people of a decent standard of living.”

THE PRESIDENT vowed to pursue in an atmosphere of unity and urgency, New Society reforms which the people in effect overwhelmingly endorsed in the July 27-28 referendum. In his first nationwide address to the nation after the historic referendum, the Chief Executive enumerated a series of initial moves to improve government service and arrest the reported backsliding of military and civilian government personnel to the pernicious habits of the old

society. He said that the primary task of the nation today concerns the betterment of the lot of the people who have expressed confidence and faith on the administration through the referendum.

SWINDLING and other acts of deceit as defined and penalized under Article 315 and 316 of the Revised Penal Code, will also be tried by military tribunals. This was announced by Brig. Gen. Tagumpay A. Nanadiego, AFP Judge Advocate General. He said that this expanded jurisdiction of military courts is decreed in General Order No. 37 which the President issued.

THE PRESIDENT created the Philippine Amanah Bank to promote and accelerate socio-economic development of Cotabato, Lanao del Sur, Lanao del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte and Sulu provinces including Basilan and Palawan. Through Presidential Decree No. 264, Marawi City was designated as the location of the Bank. It will be capitalized at P100 million with the shares to be subscribed by government instrumentalities, Filipino citizens or their corporations. Allotted for subscription by foreign nationals or their corporations were 200,000 common shares.

DR. PACIFICO E. MARCOS, Chairman of the Philippine Medical Care Commission, told hospital authorities and physicians to charge only the authorized medicare rates to medicare patients. Speaking as guest lecturer at a scientific meeting at the University of Sto. Tomas, the PMCC chairman deplored some hospitals and physicians who, he said, are making the implementation of the medicare program "a little difficult." Dr. Marcos said the medicare law has made medical care a legally controlled commodity that is essential to the national economy.

August 5—

THE NATIONAL government has made available P1 5 million to the Agricultural Credit Administration (ACA) to beef up the agency's credit-financing program for agrarian reform farmers. A balance of P25 million, it was gathered, is scheduled for release to the ACA by the national treasury some time next month. The timely release of fund to the ACA was ordered by the President upon the urgent request of Secretary Conrado F. Estrella of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to which the ACA is attached as its credit arm.

CENTRAL BANK relaxed further the rules on the remittance of foreign investments by allowing the repatriation of foreign investments made in any domestic commercial banks, including the profits and dividends earned. The CB move is calculated to encourage the inflow of foreign equity to the commercial banking system in line with the CB objective of increasing the aggregate paid-in capital of the domestic banking system to P3 billion in a period of five years.

COCONUT water, taken from unhusked nine-month-old nuts, has been found to be a good substitute for dextrose during emergencies. The National Institute of Science and Technology, an agency of the National Science Development Board, said that coconut water could be administered to persons stricken with diarrhea or cholera. A report by the medical research center said intravenous injection of coconut water did not produce fever, nor break red blood cells. Coconut water is said to be sterile and free from bacteria and fungi, if it is removed from the nut with care.

August 6—

THE PRESIDENT issued Presidential Decree No. 252 authorizing the creation of a Philippine International Trading Corporation "to provide a formal institutional framework for the promotion of foreign trade and the development of domestic industries." The body, sought in the decree, can take advantage of economies derived from bulk purchases, wide-scale shipping marketing, centralized financing and assistance and other export promotions services in the world market.

THE PRESIDENT has promulgated Presidential Decree No. 263 upholding the promotion of policemen who have been in the service for 20 years but whose educational qualifications fall short under the Police Act of 1966. The Chief Executive noted that a number of police officers who were already in the service when the Police Act of 1966 took effect were subsequently promoted, although these policemen did not have the educational qualifications

prescribed under the law at the time they were promoted. The President stressed that considerations of justice and equity, as well as the interest of the police service, require that appropriate consideration be given to police experience acquired by length of service, as well as special police training, for purposes of determining qualifications for promotion of those who were already in the service at the time of the approval of the Police Act of 1966.

THE PRESIDENT declared a national policy-objective to provide electricity all over the country on an area-coverage service fee basis. The President announced this policy-objective during the call of the presidents and general managers of some 43 rural electric cooperatives throughout the country. To carry out the policy-objective, the President issued a decree converting the National Electrification Administration into a corporation to give it flexibility, ample leeway in movement, funding, and the exercise of discretion.

THE PRESIDENT said that existing problems between the Philippines and the United States will be solved in the mutual spirit of understanding, goodwill and friendship. The Chief Executive made the statement following the presentation of credentials of US Ambassador William H. Sullivan at Malacañang. In accepting the credentials of the new American envoy, the President had attached significance to the United States' act of sending to the Philippines "a veteran with a varied diplomatic background" in the person of Mr. Sullivan. Mr. Sullivan replaced Ambassador Henry Byroade, who has signified his intention to retire from the service.

THE PRESIDENT has reasserted his proposal for the establishment of an Asian Forum for the peaceful settlement of disputes among Asian countries and defusing potentially dangerous issues. Speaking at the launching of the Philippine International Friendship Organization (PIFO) Forum in Asia at the Malacañang Heroes' Hall, the President said the fundamental character of the concept of an Asian Forum is for Asian to solve their problems through their own efforts in the spirit of peace, "because in the last analysis, no one will solve our problems for us, for a solution imposed from outside is not a solution.

PHILIPPINE Medical Care Commission (PMCC) decided to give hospitals involved in the Medicare program non-interest cash advance equivalent to the sum of the paid claims for four consecutive months. Dr. Pacifico E. Marcos, PMCC Chairman said that the enlarged cash advance aims to completely eliminate the practice of some hospitals to demand from some Medicare patients advance payments for medical services. This is an expanded version of the present cash advance scheme of the PMCC which gives to a participating hospital 60 per cent of each Medicare claim immediately for the preceding month.

August 7—

PERIOD from September, 1973 to February, 1974, is "Homecoming Season" for overseas Filipinos. The President issued Letter of Instructions No. 105 designating the six-month period as homecoming season for more than 700,000 overseas Filipinos. The Department of Tourism has been designated to coordinate the campaign which will be directed mainly at the United States and Europe. In this connection, a National Hospitality Committee, headed by the First Lady, will coordinate, organize and supervise a nationwide hospitality and reception program for the returning Filipinos.

SOME 77,574 farmers have joined some 1,504 barrio associations (samahangnayon) last July alone in the priority provinces chosen to implement the new cooperatives development program. This was reported to the President by Secretary Jose A. Roño of the Department of Local Governments and Community Development (DLGCD). This brings to 13,960 the total number of barrio associations organized during the past seven months. The total number of farmer-members now is 545,731. The six provinces with the most number of SamahangNayon as of July 1973 were: Iloilo-418; Nueva Ecija-262; Camarines Sur-254; Isabela-226; Albay-166; and Laguna-187.

THE PRESIDENT called on member-states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to maintain their internal strengths and stability before talking of cooperation or dealing with other regional groupings. The ASEAN is composed of the Philippines, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. The President made this observation before the delegates to the two-day Ministers' Conference held in Manila, when they paid their respects to him in Malacañang. He said that it was for this reason that his administration made it a prime concern to see that

the government accurately speaks and reflects the sentiments of the people so that it can become an asset and not a liability to the ASEAN.

BUREAU of Customs circularized all brokerage firms doing business in the country to submit to the bureau copies of all bills issued to their customers in the exercise of the brokerage profession. The circular implements the new bureau policy of requiring weekly itemized and detailed statement of accounts being sent to importers," including those made for tourists, transients, visitors, returning residents and persons coming in to settle down, in connection with the clearance and release of their respective importations or shipment of personal effects, as the case may be. Customs Commissioner Rolando G. Geotina, who signed the circular, warned brokerage firms that any charge against their clients on expenses classified as "invisibles" could result in the suspension of their operations and eventual cancellation of their brokerage licenses.

August 8—

THE PRESIDENT authorized the secretary of finance to issue cereal bonds up to P200 million for purchase by the Government and other imam wig institutions. The order was contained in Presidential Decree No 262. The proceeds from the sale of the bonds shall be deposited with the Philippine National Bank for the account of the office of the President and shall be used: 1) To fund the development and operation of virgin public lands approved for use under the *Palayan ng Bayan* project by a National Advisory Council, also created under Letter of Instructions No. 106; 2) To fund awards for *Palayan ng Bayan* provincial projects in order to provide incentives for outstanding performances in such projects, provided such awards shall not exceed P250,000 for each crop season; and 3) To support the staff that will help manage the *Palayan ng Bayan* projects.

THE PRESIDENT created the *Palayan ng Bayan*, National Advisory Council to provide operational, financial and technical advice to provincial governors in the identification and management of their respective *Palayan* projects. In Letter of Instructions No. 106, the President has designated the First Lady as honorary chairman and the secretary of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources as honorary vice chairman. The formation of the council was in pursuant to PD. No. 262 which authorizes the planting of virgin public lands to rice and other crops in connection with the Government's campaign to attain self-sufficiency in foodstuff.

THE PRESIDENT ordered the secretary of national defense to take over control of all prime commodities, including rice and corn to prevent hoarding and profiteering as well as the disappearance of these commodities from the market. In another directive, the President stopped the National Grains Authority from selling pure rice and to start selling mixed rice and corn instead to tide the people over the lean months up to October. The President issued the directives in an address during the 72nd anniversary celebration of the Constabulary at Camp Crame in Quezon City.

GREATER achievement of the New Society revolves on the restoration of the people's faith in national leadership, and the restoration of peace and order, the improvement in the economy and the purging of the bureaucracy are merely the elementary tests of an effective government. Director Lorenzo J. Cruz of the Bureau of National and Foreign Information made this observation as he summed up the first 10 months of the New Society. Speaking before the Rotary Club of Dagupan City, Director Cruz explained that this popular restoration of faith in the Administration can best be perceived in the way that the people now respond to the social demands of citizenship. Describing last months' referendum as participatory Filipino at its best, Director Cruz said the Filipino people, in expressing their confidence in the Administration, proved that they could see beyond the formal structure of government to its essence.

ALL available resources of the Government were mobilized behind the administration's program to encourage the establishment and the growth of small and medium-scale industries in the rural areas to serve as the backbone of the national economy. At a Cabinet meeting held at Malacañang, the President said that although the proliferation of industries is the prime concern of the Board of Investments and the projected new Department of Industry, he has decided to make it into an inter-agency undertaking with all departments in the government pitching in. The Chief Executive directed BOI Chairman Vicente T. Paterno to prepare a program for the establishment of priorities in the extension of incentives and government assistance.

HEALTH authorities released rules and regulations on hospitals and professional fees for services rendered to Medicare patients in hospitals under the Department of Health. In an administrative order issued to doctors in the different hospitals under the Department of Health, Secretary of Health Clemente S. Gatmaitan directed that the following rules and regulations are prescribed in connection with the services rendered to Medicare patients in government hospitals under the Department of Health: 1) When a Medicare patient occupies a Medicare service bed, the hospital and professional fees shall not be more than the rates prescribed in Republic Act No. 6111; 2) When a Medicare patient occupies by choice a bed more expensive than a Medicare service bed, the hospital and professional fee shall conform with the rates prescribed by the hospital under the provisions of Administrative Order No. 41, dated July 19, 1967. The difference in cost will be shouldered by the patient; and 3) When a Medicare patient occupying a Medicare service bed has exhausted all Medicare benefits, additional services as may be necessary to complete his treatment shall be given free if the patient cannot afford to pay for such additional services.

DEPARTMENT of Justice has ruled that the rules and regulations governing the examination for admission to the practice of massage and operation of massage clinics, offices or establishments is still enforceable even after the enactment of the Philippine Physical and Occupational Therapy Law, creating the board of examiners for physical and occupational therapists. Justice Secretary Vicente Abad Santos issued this ruling in reply to a request from the chairman of the board of examiners for physical and occupational therapists. Mr. Abad Santos ruled, "after carefully considering the respective spheres of physical therapy and massage, I am convinced that the two are not identical, physical therapy being broader in scope than massage, as the latter is only one of the means employed in the practice of the former."

August 9—

THE PRESIDENT has promulgated Decree No. 226 setting forth the mechanics of the registration of ownership or title to lands under Presidential Decree No. 27, which declares the entire country a land reform area. Presidential Decree No. 266 states that the present laws do not adequately provide a method of: registering the ownership of tenant-farmers covered by Decree No. 27 and "there is urgent need of registering such rights to prevent confusion in land titles." The new decree provides, among others "all land transfer certificates issued pursuant to Decree No. 27 shall be filed by the Department of Agrarian Reform and recorded with the Land Registration Commission and forthwith the latter shall transmit a copy thereof to the register of deeds of the province or city where the land lies."

FOREIGN Secretary Carlos P. Romulo has directed all Philippine diplomatic and consular establishments abroad to facilitate the return travel of more than 700,000 overseas Filipinos who may avail themselves of President's decreed "Homecoming Season" for them, the Department of Foreign Affairs announced. The secretary has instructed all Philippine foreign service establishments "to facilitate, with top priority over other consular matters, the issuance of pertinent papers necessary for the return travel to the Philippines of overseas Filipinos applying under their respective jurisdictions."

THE PRESIDENT has appointed Mayor Reuben Canoy of Cagayan de Oro City as undersecretary of the Department of Public Information, DPI Secretary Francisco S. Tatad announced. The President swore in Mr. Canoy in the presence of Secretary Tatad and Director Lorenzo Cruz of the Bureau of National and Foreign Information

BOY SCOUTS of the Philippines and the Gerakan Pramuka of Indonesia are the only scout associations in the Asia-Pacific region that have conservation committees implementing community development programs like reforestation and food production projects in coordination with government campaign. This was learned during the recently-concluded seminar on community development among scout associations in the Asia-Pacific region in Jogjakarta, Indonesia. Assistant National Scout Executive Jovito Angcaco who represented the BSP in the workshop-seminar said members of the ASPAC region were impressed on the present programs of the BSP, including the plan to extend scouting programs in rural areas and the recruitment of out-of-school non-scouts into its fold.

SOME 58,000 hectares of vacant farmlots in landed estates and settlement projects under the Department of Agrarian Reform are being inventoried for the massive *Palayan ng Bayan* project of the First Lady. In a series of directives, Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado F. Estrella mobilized his department's 11 regional offices

throughout the country to commit themselves to the food production campaign. In urging them to support the project, Mr. Estrella called for the planting of all available areas in the barrios with root crops and other food crops. The DAR chief also ordered the inventory and utilization of the department's landed estates and settlement projects totalling 58,000 hectares for the campaign. In addition, Secretary Estrella enjoined the government personnel to make available to the farmers facilities like tractors, irrigation pumps and other equipment necessary for the success of the drive.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: August 10-16, 1973

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

August 10—

THE PRESIDENT took steps to improve postal service notably in Manila, surrounding cities and nearby provinces where exchanges of dispatch and receipt of all kinds of foreign mail and parcels are being heavily handled. President's move was contained in Presidential Decree No. 268, which split Region 4 into two—4 and 4-A. Region 4 now comprises the provinces of, Bulacan, Rizal, Cavite, Romblon and Palawan and cities of Manila, Caloocan, Pasay, Quezon, Tagaytay, Trece Martires and Puerto Princesa, with the regional center in Manila. Region 4-A is now made up of the provinces of Laguna, Batangas, Quezon, Aurora (sub-province), Marinduque, Oriental Mindoro, Occidental Mindoro and the cities of San Pablo, Batangas, Lipa and Lucena, with the regional center in San Pablo City.

THE PRESIDENT has directed four government agencies to devise ways and means to avert a shortage in *acacia trees*, one of the most used raw materials for the woodcraft industries. In Letter of Instructions No. 110, the President ordered the National Cottage Industries Development Authority, the Bureau of Forest Development, the Bureau of Plant Industry, and the Forest Products Research and Industry Development Commission to replenish gradually the thinning stock of the valuable wood over the next ten years. The President likewise directed the four agencies to conduct comprehensive studies on how to ensure the steady and continued operation of the woodcraft industries, and to prevent the shortage of *acacia* wood.

GOVERNMENT scientists at the Philippine Atomic Research Center have discovered that *kapis* shell can be a good radiation detector. The Philippine Atomic Energy Commission reported that PARC scientists have proven that *kapis* shells can detect stronger radiations from 1,000 up to 10,000 roentgen (a roentgen is a unit of radioactive dose) and can still be reused. Nuclear laboratories are at present using film badges to detect and measure any radiation their personnel may absorb. These badges, which contain sensitive films, can only detect radiation of the ranges of 30 milli-roentgen to 10 roentgen. These films are thrown away after a period of exposure.

BOARD of Censors for Motion Pictures announced the banning of all forms of commercial advertisement in movie houses in major cities and provincial capitals throughout the country. The ban, contained in a memorandum signed by Chairman Guillermo C. de Vega, will take effect starting September 10. Mr. de Vega said the banning of commercial ads was decided upon as a result of continuing criticism that these have practically consumed too much of the moviegoers' time. Violators of the ban will be dealt with accordingly, Mr. de Vega said.

August 11—

THE PRESIDENT has promulgated Presidential Decree No. 261 prescribing assessment levels for special classes of real property such as educational cultural, scientific, recreational and other kinds which by their nature and use do not fall squarely under any of the classifications specified in PD No. 76. PD No. 261 amends PD No. 76, which classifies real property for purposes of the real property tax into commercial, industrial, mineral, agricultural and residential property.

SECRETARY of Information Francisco S. Tatad announced the establishment of a Muslim Information Center to Maintain effective and close communications between Muslim communities in the South and the rest of the country. The center will also provide assistance to the national government in the conduct of relations with the Muslim world. Secretary Tatad said the Department of Education and Culture, the Commission on National Integration, and the Mindanao State University have agreed to assist the Department of Public Information in establishing the center at the soonest time possible.

THE PRESIDENT has directed Central Bank Governor Gregorio S. Licaros to approve the importation of 10,000 tires by tire manufacturers, to arrive before December 31. Under Letter of Instructions No. 111, the importation may be made in behalf of the National Grains Authority, the Bureau of Public Highways, or the Department of National

Defense, “whichever is most appropriate.” The President issued the LOI to alleviate the critical tire shortage which has hampered the accelerated flow of grains and held up vital government projects.

DEPARTMENT of Health mobilized its personnel, throughout the country in preparation for the coming visit to the country of Filipinos living abroad. Secretary of Health Clemente S. Gatmaitan took this move following the designation by the Government of a period covering September 1, 1973 to February 28, 1974 as a homecoming season for Filipinos living abroad. The health secretary also appealed to different medical and allied societies for their cooperation along the measures proposed by the President in connection with the expected visit of overseas Filipinos.

EMPLOYERS who fail to report for coverage all employees subject to compulsory coverage under the Social Security Law and to remit the monthly contributions or loan amortizations deducted from wages are liable for prosecution. Even if the business firm has already ceased operations, its liability remains Outstanding if it failed to comply with provisions of the SSS law, or rules and regulations of the Social Security Commission. According to SSS Administrator Gilberto Teodoro, the SSS may go after any head, managing partner or board member of such firm for failure to report for coverage all employees subject to SSS coverage.

August 12—

THE PRESIDENT created the Iron and Steel Authority in a move aimed at ensuring an adequate supply of iron and steel products in the country at reasonable prices and: to explore the integration of the Philippines’ steel industry. As envisioned by Presidential Decree No. 272, the ISA would correct the current imbalance between demand and supply of iron and steel Products. On the matter of integrating the steel industry, the President said this was made necessary by the recurrent shortage of steel products and; their spiralling costs in international markets, as well as the excessive dependence by the Philippines on imports for its steel supplies.

THE PRESIDENT expressed the nation’s appreciation for the assistance and sympathy the Philippines has been receiving from the American government and people. The occasion was the call at Malacañang of 10 United States congressmen in the course of a fact-finding tour of Asian countries. The President said he hoped the visiting solons would see the changes going on in this country and “our efforts to mould our own destiny with our own hands.”

THE PRESIDENT has acted to prevent the unnecessary destruction of roads by careless users, arising from non-observance of the load capacities of public roads and bridges. He issued Letter of Instructions No. 112 directing the secretary of national defense to detain freight trucks and other vehicles as well as their operators carrying logs and other cargoes in excess of the permissible weights as authorized in the Land Transportation and Traffic Code.

August 13—

THE PRESIDENT has created an executive committee to promote and ensure the more rapid and efficient flow of rice, corn and other prime consumer commodities, like sugar and coconut oil from the point of production up to the point of immediate distribution to the final consumer. The executive committee is empowered under a Letter of Instructions to take “over the control and coordination of government agencies in order to carry out, monitor and if necessary, control the distribution of these prime consumer commodities. The committee is headed by the secretary of national defense as chairman with the executive secretary as vice chairman. Members of the committee are the secretaries of agriculture and natural resources, trade, local governments and community development and public information, chief of the Philippine Constabulary and the administrator of the National Grains Authority.

ALL corporations with surplus profits in excess of necessary, requirements for capital expansion and reserves are required under Presidential Decree No. 270 to declare and distribute such excess profits as dividends to stockholders. The decree also notes that many corporations, which have surplus profits even in excess of 100 per cent of the paid-up capital stock do not declare the same as dividends to stockholders. And it is pointed out that this failure to declare dividends when corporations are able to do so, stultifies investors’ interest, in channeling their investible funds in equities even of productive industries and enterprises, thereby retarding the economic growth and development of the country.

SECRETARY of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata said that P191, 916,574.04 was collected last fiscal year in real property taxes by 61 provinces and 66 cities as against P132, 829,579.69 in 1971 or an increase of P59, 086,994.85 or 44.48 per cent. The provinces registered a higher percentage of increase in the collection of real property taxes amounting to P92, 401, 575.23 in 1972 as against P55, 447,157.05 in 1971 or an increase of P36, 954,418.18 or 66.65 per cent: In 1972, the cities collected P99,514,-998.81 in real property taxes as against P77, 382,421.64 in 1971 or an increase of P22, 132,577.17 or 28.60 per cent. Secretary Virata attributed the increased collection in 1972 to the increased dedication of the provincial and city treasurers and assessors and municipal treasurers. Modern methods of assessment and collection procedures now being implemented have also greatly affected the hiked collections.

ROLE of the Bureau of Agricultural Extension (BAE) in the agricultural development of the country has been explained during the nationwide broadcast, "Pulong-Pulong sa Kaunlaran." BAE Deputy Commissioner Francisco Rentutar said that the BAE is the educational arm of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources in disseminating to the farmers new technology in agriculture from research institutions like the College of Agriculture, Internal Rice Research Institute Bureau of Plant Industry, and other agencies doing research. This function is handled all over the country by fieldmen composed of 3,176 farm management technicians, 975 home management technicians, and 500 rural youth officers.

August 14—

THE PRESIDENT vowed to utilize all the powers under Martial Law to speed up the development of Mindanao and bring the Muslim communities to the same level as the most developed part of the Philippines. The President made this statement as he asked a Muslim delegation from Sulu, Cotabato, the Lanao provinces, Zamboanga and Basilan to now assume a more positive role in helping bring about Mindanao's socio economic development. The President discussed with the delegation ongoing infrastructure projects, industry and trade, including the development of fisheries, and plans to establish an amanah (trust) bank.

THE PRESIDENT exhorted all government officials to join hands in propagating the use of Pilipino to assure the success of the government's reform program in the New Society. Calling on public officials, from Cabinet members down to barangay leaders, the Chief Executive stressed the need for a more widespread use of Pilipino, especially in the discussion of public issues, in order "to give the language a new vitality and strength". In a speech read for him by Secretary Blas F. Ople during the opening ceremonies at the Manuel L. Quezon University ushering in Pilipino Week, the President also said that he has already ordered the translation into Pilipino of educational materials, both for print and for broadcast, "so that government information may achieve maximum effectiveness."

THE PHILIPPINES is using the metric system to keep pace with the advances of international trade. The reminder was issued by Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr., so that manufacturers and packagers may start adjusting their packaging, processes and procedures on measurements based on the metric system. The metric system or what is now known as the International System of Units (SI) is the international language of measurements and, lately, more and more countries are adopting this system of measurements. The DT secretary said the proposed international change-over will give industrialists the opportunity of standardising and effecting uniformity in container sizes. This would also eliminate uneconomical packaging.

BUREAU of Posts reminded the public to use Anti-TJB postage stamps on their mails beginning August 19 up to September 30, which is the annual implementation of the Anti-TB Stamp Law. Acting Postmaster General Filizardo Tanabe issued the reminder in order to avoid the non delivery of mail matters without the Anti-TB semi-postage stamps mailed during this period. Exempted from this requirement are periodicals or publications received for mailing under any class of mail, including newspapers or magazines admitted as second-class mail; and government offices, agencies and instrumentalities performing governmental and proprietary functions, including provincial, city and municipal corporations as well as government offices and officials enjoying the franking privilege under existing laws.

PUBLIC Assistance Office of the Department of Justice has been created to receive complaints from citizens against any instance of dishonesty, incompetence, laziness, or discourtesy on the part of any government employee in the

justice department or any bureau or office under it. The new office will also give free legal advice to indigent or low-income citizens, Acting Justice Secretary Catalino Macaraig announced. The office was set up pursuant to the directive of the President that each department should organize an assistance office which should be a microcosm of the entire departments and should extend immediate aid to the needy.

NATIONAL government has realized a net operating surplus of P516, 026,339.45 in the General Fund in July, 1973, which is the beginning of Fiscal Year 1973-74. This was reported by Secretary of Finance Cesar E.A. Virata who said that the net operating surplus was realized when government income far exceeded government expenditures in the General Fund. Secretary Virata also said that the cash balance of the national government as of July 31, 1973 was P2, 102, 961, 666.96

SECRETARY of Health Clemente S. Gatmaitan underlined the importance of the need for anesthesiology and its ever-widening applicability in the rapidly expanding health and medical care programs. There is increasing need for this specialty with the vast changing progress and development of our times, the health secretary said. Speaking before the participants of the anesthesiology in service training of the Department of Health during their commencement exercises held at the Sulu Hotel in Quezon City, Secretary Gatmaitan said that no major surgery is possible without anesthesia and that its important use can be traced to the biblical times.

August 15—

THE PRESIDENT has amended Presidential Decree No. 232 which creates the Philippine Coconut Authority in order to strengthen further the coconut industry. Through PD No. 271, the Chief Executive amended Sections 4 and 5 of PD 232 which pertains to the composition of the governing board and management, respectively, of the Philippine Coconut Authority. As amended, these sections provide that the PCA shall be governed by a nine-member Board which shall meet as often as necessary and the direction shall be in the hands of an administrator. The Board chairman and the administrator, who is also vice-chairman of the Board are both appointed by the President.

THE PRESIDENT has authorized Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor Jr. to create the Research Staff for the Codification of Philippine Muslim Laws and a Monitoring and Operations Center under the Presidential Task Force for the Reconstruction and Development of Mindanao. The task force was previously created under Executive Order No. 411, series of 1973. Secretary Melchor is chairman of the newly-formed agencies. The Research Staff shall be based in Manila, while the Monitoring and Operations Center shall be located in the Mindanao State University in Marawi City.

DANGEROUS Drugs Board released the guidelines stipulating the cause for the suspension or revocation of permit or license issued by the Food and Drug Administration to operate a drug establishment. Secretary of Health Clemente S. Gatmaitan, chairman of the Dangerous Drugs Board said that with the guidelines, "our campaign against drug addiction has been further bolstered by dealing on violation pertaining to the sale and traffic of dangerous drugs." The guidelines are: 1) Republic Act No. 3720, otherwise known as Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act states, among other things, that "the policy of the state is to regulate the manufacture, sale and traffic of drugs to protect the health of the people." The policy especially with respect to dangerous drugs, is now in effect, 2) The secretary of health will suspend or revoke the license or permit to operate of any person, drugstore or drug firm that violates the dangerous drugs board regulations pertaining to the sale and traffic of dangerous drugs.

ACTING Justice Secretary Catalino Macaraig Jr. ruled that the usual rate charged for the publication of legal notices in the *Official Gazette* is not considered a government fee within the meaning of the Philippine Non Agricultural Cooperative Act. The acting secretary issued his opinion in reply to a request from the Editor of the *Official Gazette*, Department of Public Information. Secretary Macaraig explained that the rates charged for the publication of legal notices in the *Official Gazette* are collected not for regulation and inspection purposes, but rather to pay for the cost of printing and publication. "Even the Government itself is not exempted from paying for the cost of work done by the Bureau of Printing," he concluded.

August 16—

THE PRESIDENT said the Muslim conflict in the South is but a part of the overall national problem stemming from injustices brought about by a sick society which the administration is now seeking to restructure. In welcome remarks to members of the mission sent here by the Ministers Conference of the Muslim World who called at Malacañang, the President said the armed conflicts are not confined among the Muslims in Mindanao and Sulu but perhaps more true among the Christians in Luzon and other localities, because of discontent and injustices brought about by a feudalistic society. The members of the mission were accompanied by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo. The mission is headed by Foreign Minister Abdul Ati Al Abedi of Libya; Mustafa Cisse, Senegal Ambassador to Egypt; Foreign Minister Ommar Sakhaf of Saudi Arabia, and Foreign Minister Omar Atef Ghalib of Somali Republic.

THE GOVERNMENT has extended all the support feasible to the sugar producers to increase their yield to meet the increasing worldwide sugar shortage and help the industry usher to a more prosperous footing. In his speech before the convention of the Association of Philippine Sugar Technologists, Finance Secretary Cesar E. A. Virata said the Government has given the sugar planters technical assistance, aside from liberalized financing through the rural banking system to enable them to acquire the needed farm equipment. The World Bank is financing the expansion of sugar development in three new areas as its share in helping patch up the impending shortages.

THE PRESIDENT referred to his financial and fiscal advisers the proposals of two American investors to finance an integrated rice production program, shipping and transportation development. The proposal was made by Messrs. Norman H. Liebman, president of Schwartz-Liebman Textile Company of New York and Philip F. Liebman, financial consultant of the Madestone Group of New York, which specializes in financial shipping and transportation, oil refinery, rice production and milling. The two investors, who have been observing the investment climate here for almost a week, said they are ready to pour substantial investment into the country.

HEALTH authorities disclosed that malaria, one of the major public health problems in the country, has decreased considerably in terms of morbidity and mortality over the last two decades. The major factor contributing to the present malaria situation is the impact of anti-malaria control measures instituted: which succeeded in bringing down to a very low level the transmission of the disease in the previously malarious areas. Health Secretary Clemente S. Gatmaitan said that the government's malaria eradication program is one big beneficiary of Martial Law. He explained that since the promulgation of PD 70, there has been no case on record of refusal of a house owner to have his house sprayed with DDT.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: August 17-23, 1973

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

August 17—

THE PRESIDENT urged that the anti-tuberculosis campaign should be spread throughout the country, down to the barrio level, including the Muslims in the South, in order to eradicate once and for all this dreaded disease which continues to take a heavy toll among Filipinos. In a speech at the kick-off ceremonies of the 1973 Anti-TB Educational and Fund Campaign held at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang, the President called upon all Filipinos to involve themselves in the fight against tuberculosis which, he said, is a symbol of degeneracy in society.

BUREAU of Internal Revenue has suspended tax clearance requirements of overseas Filipinos travelling to and from the Philippines during the "Homecoming Season" from September 1, 1973 to February 28, 1974. The move of the BIR was in line with the President's letter of instructions giving a temporary "tax holiday" for overseas Filipinos visiting the country during this period. The tax holiday is one of the incentives being offered under the current drive, spearheaded by the Department of Tourism, to bring home an estimated 700,000 Filipinos residing abroad during the coming Christmas season through 1974. Another incentive is a drastic reduction of the air fares from the United States to Manila.

THE PRESIDENT has authorized the initial release of 95- million to start off the Pasig River Development Project designed to cleanse and beautify the historic river and its tributaries and to turn them into one of the major tourist attractions of the country. An expansion of the beautification and cleanliness drive of the First Lady, the project calls for the dredging and removal of all derelicts, the building of roads, parks, lagoons and promenades in certain areas, the installation of ornamental lights and railings, and the planting of trees along both sides.

THE PRESIDENT called for a more lasting unity between the Philippines and the Muslim countries as a means of assuring the dignity of "our respective peoples in their respective regions." In brief remarks delivered during a dinner tendered in honor of the Islamic mission members, the Chief Executive emphasized that though the Philippines and the Muslim countries are "bound by the double tie of common origin and common destiny," this unity has been broken in the past because of long years of colonization. In response, the mission members, through Foreign Minister Ommar Sakhaf of Saudi Arabia, said that they came to the Philippines with "open minds and open hearts," ready to help the Philippine government in whatever way they can for the benefit of Muslim Filipinos.

THE PHILIPPINES' application for provisional accession to the General Agreements on Tariffs and Trade has been unanimously approved by the GATT Council. In effect, the Philippines can now enjoy all the rights and privileges of a member of the GATT, except the right to vote. Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. said that with the Philippines' membership in GATT, the country will now enjoy the MFN (most favored nation) tariff rates among GATT members of which more than 80 per cent of Philippine trade is conducted. The membership will also open additional foreign markets for Philippine products in addition to her traditional markets.

POSTMASTER General Felizardo R. Tanabe exhorted the role of postal employes in the reform-oriented New Society during the closing rites of a two-day seminar on postal matters at the Postal Training Institute. In his speech, the postmaster general emphasized the importance of devotion to one's responsibilities in order to achieve the maximum objective that the Government has conceived for the public. He further stressed the need for self-discipline and diligence in work performance to attain a highly efficient postal service. Mr. Tanabe also announced that the Bureau of Posts has outlined a program of information dissemination which includes the holding of a series of seminars for both postal officials and employees and making use of the newspapers, radio and television.

DEPARTMENT of Finance has adopted a new system in the remittance of national collections to minimize or eliminate malversation of government funds by collecting or disbursing officers. Finance Secretary Cesar E.A. Virata said that the new system involves the remittance of national collections through direct deposit to the Philippine National Bank or its branches by the revenue collecting officers concerned. The revised remittance

system applies to all government departments, agencies, corporations and others concerned in depositing national collections in all PNB offices and agencies for credit to the account of the national treasurer.

August 18—

NEWLY-created Philippine International Trading Corporation (PITC) will engage in all aspects of trade—from procurement, marketing, trading, shipping and warehousing to distribution, insurance, financing, and investment promotions—on a scale never before attempted in the Philippines. Disclosing the concept behind the formation of the PITC, Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. said the setup will enable the private business and industry sectors to effect economies of scale in their operations and, at the same time, generate additional revenues for the Government. The PITC was created by the President under Presidential Decree No. 252 issued on July 21, 1973, to secure a more competitive position for the Philippines in international trade.

BUREAU of Customs ordered the transfer of all idle vessels moored alongside the Pasig River to other anchorage areas to clear the way for the beautification and development project of the First Lady. Customs Commissioner Rolando G. Geotina likewise directed the head of the three-man Customs group to make a survey of the to check on the number of sunken vessels still to be salvaged and to have them removed not later than September 15. The commissioner vowed full implementation of the anti-pollution regulation and directed the prosecution of any person dumping refuse and other waste material, into the river, particularly crewmember of commercial boats navigating the Pasig River who are under the Customs jurisdiction.

SECRETARY of Information Francisco S. Tatad emphasized the role of Pilipino in uniting the Filipino people and in assuring the success of the Government's efforts to build a New Society. Speaking at the National Teachers College in connection with the nationwide observance of Pilipino Week, the Secretary stressed that in the New Society, the Government is placing heavy emphasis on the development of a national language to strengthen the bond that unites Filipinos. Mr. Tatad enumerated what the administration has done to propagate the national language. This includes the decision of the Board of National Education to use Pilipino as a medium of instruction from the primary level up. The board has also made Pilipino a required course in schools.

FINANCE Secretary Cesar E. A. Virata announced that a total of P114,592,535.40 in special education tax was collected in 1972 by 67 provinces and 61 cities. He said that the amount was appropriated in accordance with the law, for adjustment and payment of salaries of school teachers, repair of school buildings and accessories, barrio high schools, scholarships, textbook and education research. The special education tax is an annual additional tax of one per cent on the assessed value of real property in addition to the real property tax regularly levied under existing laws and is collected by provincial and city treasurers pursuant to Republic Act No. 5447.

August 19—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the immediate implementation of the Pasig River Development Program, which was launched by the First Lady as a joint undertaking of the government and the private sector "within a minimum period of three years." Presidential Decree No. 274 provides for the funding of the program for the preservation, beautification, improvement and gainful utilization of the Pasig River, and at the same time lays down measures to encourage pollution control or to penalize violations of anti-pollution rules. The decree creates a Trust Fund Account to finance the Pasig River Development Program and other river works projects of the national government.

THE PRESIDENT conferred the Ancient Order of Sultan Kudarat on the heads of the mission that was sent here by the Ministers Conference of the Islamic World to offer the assistance of the organization in finding solutions to the so-called Muslim problem in this country. Awarded were Foreign Minister Abdul Ali Al Obidi of Libya, Foreign Minister Omar Arteh Ghalib of Somalia and Senegal Ambassador to Egypt Moustapha Cisse. The Order of Sultan Kudarat is a new decoration. The special award is named after the Sultan of Maguindanao who, after beginning to lose the battle against the Spanish colonizers, inspired the Maranaws to carry on the struggle by his patriotic candor and sincerity.

THE PRESIDENT said that, with the advent of the New Society, Filipinos are now in a position to honor the country's heroes not only with ritual and ceremony but also with the supreme tribute of being able to stand "strong, dynamic and free" as a nation. In a speech read for him by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor during the observance of the 95th birth anniversary of the late President Manuel L. Quezon at the Quezon City grandstand, the Chief Executive stressed that the sacrifices of heroes are never redeemed by ceremonies and rituals alone. He added that they find fulfillment only "in the kind of nation and the quality of men that live after them."

HEADS of mission of four Muslim countries said they believe in the sincerity of the President and his program of development and expressed their desire to help their Muslim brothers in the Philippines as well as the non-Muslims in other parts of the country. The foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Somalia and Libya and the ambassador of Senegal expressed their views when they called on the President at Malacañang after ending their two-day on-the-spot survey of Muslim Mindanao and Sulu, upon invitation of the President. They urged the Muslims to study themselves and know what the government is doing for their welfare, and how they can help the government help them.

August 20—

THE PRESIDENT conferred the Ancient Order of Sikatuna, rank of datu on Ambassador Bob Josef Lebacqz, outgoing ambassador of Belgium to the Philippines. The President conferred the award in recognition of the Belgian ambassador's service in the field of international relations and his constant endeavor to strengthen the friendly ties between his country and the Philippines. The President said that the outgoing ambassador, who has served in the Philippines for over four years, has been instrumental in promoting greater understanding between his people and the Filipinos through mutually beneficial undertakings. In accepting the award, Ambassador Lebacqz expressed gratitude to the President and, through him, to the Filipino people for their friendliness, hospitality and helpfulness.

THE PRESIDENT received the first copy of the Investment Information Folio prepared by the Philippine Commercial and Industrial Bank for foreign investors. It presents in-depth studies and factual accounts of the country's macro-economic profile, economic policies, investment incentives, taxation, financial systems, trade opportunities, government economic agencies, people and resources. These are supported with graphs and color photos. After poring through the volume, the President congratulated the PCIB officials for their pioneering work, saying, "this is exactly what we need."

THE PRESIDENT has provided another productive incentive for Muslim areas by broadening the coverage of the Agricultural Guarantee Fund in six provinces and one city in the South. Under Presidential Decree No. 275, the President has ordered that the Fund shall cover losses on production loans not only in rice and corn, as originally prescribed in R.A. No. 6390, which creates the Fund, but also in such other essential agricultural projects' as livestock, poultry, fishing, and others. Beneficiaries of the decree are the provinces of Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Cotabato, South Cotabato and Basilan City. The decree points out that it is the policy of the government to speed up the development of these areas by encouraging their residents to raise their level of production to attain self-sufficiency immediately.

THE PRESIDENT underscored the many challenges and dangers that the country must face and overcome, even as he hailed as "most courageous, public-spirited and therefore reassuring" the people's initial performance, in the face of the rice shortage. In a speech read for him by chairman Vicente T. Paterno of the Board of Investments at the inauguration of the Peroxide Philippines Corp. plant at Maysan, Valenzuela, Bulacan, the Chief Executive said that the greatest of the challenges is that of transformation not only of decrepit institutions but of the people themselves, as a national and as individuals, while the greatest of the dangers "is that which arises from within ourselves." The Chief Executive lauded the people for their patience and fortitude in facing the rice shortage.

August 21—

THE PRESIDENT received the credentials of former Charge-de-Affairs Frank Borden Clark of the Canadian embassy as the first Canadian ambassador to the Philippines. In presenting his credentials to the President, Ambassador Clark said Canadian financiers, industrialists and government officials are coming to the Philippines to

see for themselves the much-improved investment climate in the Philippines, and to participate in the country's economic development. The President assured the Canadian ambassador that the Government will continue with the policy that made possible the improvement which Canadian financiers, industrialists and government officials have noted, particularly in the improved investment climate.

DEPARTMENT of Finance released the rules and regulations implementing the tax amnesty granted to individuals who are required by law to file income tax returns but failed to do so, pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 213. The deadline for the availment of this tax amnesty is on October 31, 1973. The following conditions must be complied with by those availing and are qualified to avail of the amnesty: a) Those who are not liable to pay income tax but required by law to file an income tax return and failed to do so must voluntarily file a return for each year that no return was filed and must pay P10 for each year of non-filing; b) Those liable to pay income tax but failed to file the corresponding income tax return and pay the tax due thereon must file voluntarily a return for each year that no return was filed and pay P10 for each year of non-filing and an amount equal to 20 per cent of the tax due on the return or returns filed; and 3) The return or returns shall be filed and the amounts representing the amnesty tax shall be paid in full upon filing of the return or returns on or before October 31, 1973.

PRIVATE or commercial firms maintaining a security force of their own must secure a license from the Philippine Constabulary. Camp Crame authorities said that employees of these private and commercial firms being made to perform duties as watchmen or security guards should secure their permits to exercise their profession from the PC. Government-owned or controlled corporations are exempted from this requirement. However, their employees performing such guard duties are required to secure their permits to exercise their profession.

August 22—

THE PRESIDENT has created the Coconut Consumers Stabilization Fund to subsidize the sale of coconut-based products at prices set by the Price Control Council, under rules and regulations to be promulgated by the Philippine Consumers Stabilization Committee. The subsidy is intended to last for one year or less. Establishment of the stabilization fund is embodied under Presidential Decree No. 276 issued by the President authorizing the Philippine Coconut Authority to impose a levy, initially, of P15 per 100 kilograms of copra resacada or its equivalent in other coconut products, on every first sale, in accordance with the mechanics established under Republic Act No. 6260.

THE PHILIPPINE Government obtained a \$4.2 million concessional loan from the United States government for the early development of the Tiwi Geothermal Energy Resources in Tiwi, Albay, for electric power. The loan agreement was signed in Malacañang by the President on behalf of the Philippines, and Ambassador William H. Sullivan on behalf of the US, and witnessed by General Manager Ramon Ravanzo of the National Power Corporation and Director Thomas Niblock of the USAID. The loan is payable over a 40-year period, including a 10-year grace period during which the interest will only be two per cent. TEN INSURANCE companies made a total investment of P24,328,645.00 in socio-economic projects for the month of July, 1973. This was announced by Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata following receipt of a report submitted to him by Insurance Commissioner Gregoria Cruz Arnaldo. The insurance industries had made a total investment of P237,091,562.08 for Fiscal Year 1972-73 for the various socioeconomic projects of the Government. The insurance industry is one of the major sources of investment funds and Secretary Virata has appealed to the insurance companies to help in the economic development by investing part of their funds and earnings in developmental projects.

THE PRESIDENT conferred the Philippine Legion of Honor, rank of commander, on Minister William C. Hamilton, former charge d'affaires of the United States Embassy in Manila. Minister Hamilton served as deputy to former Ambassador Henry Byroade from July 1971 until the latter was relieved. He then acted as charge d'affaires ad interim until the arrival of Ambassador William H. Sullivan. The President cited Minister Hamilton for serving with distinction in promoting goodwill and enhancing closer Filipino-American relations, and showing a deep insight into the Filipino way of life. In accepting the award, Minister Hamilton said that although he served only for two years, those years were "full of vibrant memories."

DANGEROUS Drugs Board announced it has approved four claims for reward of informers in connection with the apprehension of pushers of prohibited and dangerous drugs. The individual claims or rewards amounted to three per

cent of the value of drugs confiscated from various places by apprehending teams composed of the PC, ASAC, CANU and others. Secretary of Health Clemente S. Gatmaitan expressed elation on the approval of the awards by the DDB, saying that rewarding informants in connection with the apprehension of drug pushers would certainly facilitate putting a stop to the nefarious activities of these wilful enemies of the New Society. These rewards would certainly bolster our campaign for the control of drug addiction or dependence in the country, the health secretary said.

August 23—

THE PRESIDENT has directed a number of government officials to formulate measures to avert a shortage of cooking oil and coconut by-products. Through Letter of Instructions No. 115, the Chief Executive ordered the Administrator of the Philippine Coconut Administration and the secretaries of national defense, trade, and agriculture and natural resources to: 1) Implement a systematic and efficient method of distributing cooking oil and essential coconut by-products to relieve the pressure of demand for these commodities; 2) Require the cooking oil industry to speed up delivery of cooking oil outlets in order to normalize supply and demand; 3) Restore order in the coconut industry which is wracked with internal conflicts between the producers and planters on one hand, and the refiners and the copra and coconut oil exporters, on the other hand; and 4) Introduce other reasonable measures essential to the successful prosecution of government and private sectors efforts to contain, solve and end the crisis in the coconut, industry.

THE PRESIDENT called on radio and television broadcasters to continue helping in the attainment of the objectives of the New Society even as he congratulated them for their contribution in effecting needed reforms for the country. The President told the officers of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas following their induction into office, that the present reform movement means a change in the heart, attitudes and purposes of the people and requires passionate adherence to the basic objectives of the New Society. The President said that although ideas and ideologies may be easily discarded by men busy at earning; a living, the repetition of such ideas through interesting and attractive forms will ensure that they will not be easily discarded by the people through lack of time or attention.

DEPARTMENT of Justice set the retirements for registration of a voluntary deed or instrument purporting to be an encumbrance or a conveyance of private agricultural land or any portion of the land. The new circular supersedes Circular No. 17 dated May 29, 1973. It also applies to land within the cities. Acting Justice Secretary Catalino Macaraig Jr. said that under the new justice department circular, the registrant must present an affidavit that the land involved is not tenanted, or if tenanted, the same is not primarily devoted to the production of rice and/or corn as of October 21, 1972 and on or about the date of registration. The circular further provides that if only a portion of the land is primarily devoted to the production of rice and/or corn and such area so devoted is tenanted, no such deed or instrument shall be registered unless accompanied by an affidavit stating the area (size) of the portion which is tenanted and primarily devoted to rice and/or corn.

THE PRESIDENT issued Decree 273 authorizing the Philippine Medical Care Commission to increase the extent and scope of benefits of medicare beneficiaries, provided that actuarial studies show that the resources of the medical care plan permit such additional benefits, without need for additional contributions from employees and employers. The new decree also provides for two additional benefits, covering anesthesiologist's and operating room fees.

DEFENSE Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile ordered the lifting of Constabulary control over the police forces of six more towns following the return of normalcy in those localities. The defense chief's order followed a recommendation from Brig. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, PC chief, who in his inspection trip to these. provinces have found the peace and order condition to have greatly improved since the imposition of Martial Law. The towns are Jose Panganiban, Camarines Norte; Nueva Valencia, Iloilo; Leyte, Leyte; San Francisco and Bantayan, Cebu; and Calapan, Mindoro Oriental.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: August 24-30, 1973

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

August 24—

THE PRESIDENT urged all overseas Filipinos to visit the Philippines and see the “miraculous transformation” going on, assuring them of their safe return, whether they are for or against the present program of reforms. The President renewed his invitation before the first batch of overseas Filipinos, consisting of 33 journalists and travel agents from the United States and Canada, who took advantage of “Operation Homecoming” recently launched by the President. The President warned that “if there be anyone who dares to touch any special guest of the President, I shall see to it that the full rigor of Martial Law will be inflicted upon him.”

THE PRESIDENT ordered the acceleration in the construction of the projects under the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), in a memorandum issued to Rizal Governor Isidro Rodriguez. The President expects these projects to be started before the end of the year. The projects are: Mabitac-Sta. Maria (Laguna) irrigation project; Pagsanjan River Delta irrigation system; Teresa (Rizal) groundwater irrigation project; Bay fish nursery project; and hydraulic control structure. The President's order was prompted by reports that the studies for the projects had already been completed.

THE PRESIDENT pledged to implement in complete detail the government plans for the improvement of the condition of the Muslim cultural communities throughout the country with the newly-created province of Sultan Kudarat as symbol and model. In administering the oath of office to Simeon Datumanong as acting governor of the new province in Malacañang, the President said, “Let the province be the symbol and model of the efforts of the Government, and the sincerity of its leaders, to bring about a better life for the Muslims who have many valid grievances for fighting!” The President had created the new province, together with the new province of Magindanao, in order to make it easier to resolve the conflicting political, social and economic questions which had been the cause of trouble in the province of Cotabato proper.

DEPARTMENT of Finance issued guidelines on how local governments can avail themselves of the P133 million Local Government Fund for socio-economic development projects. The Local Government Fund, which was created by the President through Presidential Decree No. 144, is different from the regular Bureau of Internal Revenue allotments shared by local governments from BIR collections. The guidelines follow: 1) Local governments whose annual internal revenue allotment for Fiscal Year 1974-75 will be reduced to 30 per cent or more when compared to the total internal revenue allotment actually received in Fiscal Year 1970-71, may apply for budgetary aid from the Local Government Fund; 2) Aid granted from the Local Government Fund will not be used for the creation of new positions or increases and adjustments of salaries; 3) Financial aid from the fund will be used to defray the cost of on-going or new local development projects; 4) Request for financial assistance for new projects which are financed partly from the 20 per cent development fund shall be accompanied by a development plan or work program duly approved by the secretary of the Department of Local Government and Community Development; 5) All request for budgetary aid or financial assistance shall be made through the board or council; (6) Request for aid must be accompanied by a certificate of the provincial or city treasurer concerned, stating that the total estimated income of the local unit will not be sufficient to cover urgent public services; and 7) All requests for budgetary aid shall be submitted to the President through the secretary of finance who shall determine the reasonableness, financial condition or capacity of the applicant and the economic feasibility of proposed local development projects.

BUREAU of Customs announced that the interisland shipowners and operators have agreed to shoulder the cost of the arrastre charges on coconut edible oil being collected presently by arrastre contractors at the Manila North Harbor. In a report to Customs Commissioner Rolando Geotina, Deputy Commissioner Pedro Mendoza Jr. said that the conference of Inter-island Shipowners and Operators Association have agreed to assume the cost of the handling of the oil products in the spirit of cooperation with the Government to bring down the prices of prime commodities and to make cooking oil readily available to the consumers. He said the agreement brings to six the number – of prime commodities whose arrastre charges are being borne by the shipping companies. They are rice, corn, flour, sugar, milk, and now coconut edible oil.

HEAT emitted from gas produced by the burning of coconut shell has been found to be more efficient than diesel oil in the drying of copra. Copra, dried mechanically with heat from burned coconut shell, is white and clean while that dried mechanically from heat produced by diesel fuel, was brown and dirty-looking. This was the report of the first phase of a NSDB project which seeks to develop a copra-drier using coconut shell as fuel for the production of high quality copra. The director of the project is Dr. Ibarra Cruz of the college of engineering, University of the Philippines.

August 25—

THE PRESIDENT directed the director of mines to institute immediate remedial measures against professional claim jumpers and table locators who have unduly delayed and obstructed the exploration and exploitation of the country's mineral resources. The director was likewise instructed to submit without delay a proposed budget which shall enable the bureau to participate more aggressively in the exploitation of mineral deposits, including oil and gas, both in existing mineral claims and in government reservations. The Director was ordered to implement the instructions notwithstanding the contrary provisions of any existing law, rules or regulations as well as the Rules of Court.

INFORMATION Secretary Francisco S. Tatad has urged a visiting group of Filipino-American newspaper editors and travel agents to tell the Filipino communities abroad that the changes taking place in the Philippines today have given the Filipino people "a new sense of pride, honor and dignity such as they have never known before." In a speech delivered at the Vigan House at Nayong Pilipino, Secretary Tatad asked the visiting group "to talk to the common folk, simple man and woman in the streets and ask them what their experience has been and what they feel and think of the new way of life." The Secretary asked the group not to be intimidated by a few skeptics who would deliver speeches or write to the newspapers abroad, because "they do not have the benefit of your experience, and have not seen the changes in the Philippines."

"SERVICE from the heart," is the brand of service the Department of Social Welfare must give to the less-privileged who seek its aid. This was the gist of a reminder issued by the DSW Secretary Estefania Aldaba-Lim to the DSW rank and file as a follow up to the President's warning against "back-sliding" government personnel. The DSW head reminded her staff that every client who approaches a social worker must be attended to immediately and treated with utmost courtesy, understanding and competence. She also warned employees against dishonest practices particularly in the handling of relief supplies, adding that any indiscretion along this line will be dealt with accordingly. At the senior staff meeting the secretary also directed the strengthening of the DSW Pag-asa unit, a 24-hour service unit, which attends to indigents in need of help, those suddenly taken ill at night with no money to buy medicine, stranded people with no place to sleep, runaways, abandoned children, and many others.

SHOULD barrio captains be given fixed salaries for their varied duties and responsibilities? Secretary Jose A. Roño of the Department of Local Government and Community Development said that the Government is not in a position to pay barrio captains regular or fixed salaries. He added that government funds have been concentrated in the rehabilitation of flood-devasted infrastructures and for new development projects. He pointed out however, that under the new Local Government Code being drafted, barrio captains will collect per diems when they travel on official business. There are some 33,895 barrio captains and 203,280 barrio councilmen in as many barrios throughout the country, Secretary Roño said.

COLLECTION of specific taxes has a good start this fiscal year as an overall increase of 25 per cent was registered with the collection in July, 1973, amounting to P58,354,133.60 as against the collection in July, 1972, of P46,693,288.74 or an increase of P11,660,844.86. This was revealed by Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata following receipt of a report from Internal Revenue Commissioner Misael P. Vera. Specific taxes are collected from domestic cigarettes, alcohol products, gasoline and other oil products, cinematographic films and matches.

August 26—

THE PRESIDENT has promulgated Presidential Decree No. 277 in order to attain a more realistic allocation of funds for specified irrigation projects and a greater flexibility in the allocation of funds for unlisted yet urgent

irrigation projects. PD 277 amends Sec. 1, Annex 1-D of PD No. 3, which appropriates funds for public works involving rehabilitation and capital development, synchronizing the same with previous public work appropriations. PD 277 notes that the amount of P75,700,000 distributed among the various irrigation projects or systems does not realistically jibe with the actual fund requirements of such projects or systems.

THE PRESIDENT has ordered the institution of a National Reference Card System for Filipino citizens and foreign nationals, a system essential to insuring national security and affording convenience in the transaction of official business with government and private offices and agencies. The setting up of the National Reference Card System and the creation of the National Registration Coordinating Committee to implement the project are embodied in Presidential Decree No. 278.

THE GOVERNMENT has added another incentive for exports by creating the Philippine Design Center which will see to it that Philippine products meet the needs and tastes of foreign markets. As envisioned, the Center will develop and maintain a creative research program on the design and adaptability of Philippine-made products. The bulk of the Center's work will focus on the produce of cottage and small-and medium-scale industries which now have high market potentials.

August 27—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the immediate increase in the authorized capital-of the National Housing Corporation to enable the government firm to manufacture low-cost housing components and construct low-cost housing units for the ordinary wage-earners. In Letter of Instructions No. 118, the President stated that the increase of capital from P100 million to P250 million of common shares of stocks will enable the NHC to pay its foreign loan obligations which it incurred in acquiring capital assets such as plants and equipment. The President directed the Development Bank of the Philippines, the Philippine National Bank, National Investment and Development Corporation, the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System to subscribe and pay for such additional shares of the NHC common stocks to enable the housing firm to meet its existing foreign loan obligations.

DEPARTMENT of Justice has ruled that under the Civil Engineering Law, a corporation could not be organized and registered for the purpose of practicing civil engineering. Acting Secretary Catalino Macaraig Jr. issued this opinion in reply to a query from the chairman of the Board of Examiners for Civil Engineers of the Civil Service Commission. Secretary Macaraig cited Sec. 24 of R.A. 544, as amended by R.A. 1582, and otherwise known as the Civil Engineering Law which read in part: "The practice of Civil Engineering is a professional service, admission to which must be determined upon individual, personal- qualifications. Hence, no firm, partnership, corporation, or association may be Registered or licensed as such for the practice of civil engineering." The justice chief said that the language of the above-quoted provision gives no room for doubt that no juridical person may now practice civil engineering.

CONTINUED surge in the Philippines' external performance increased by P21 million the country's money supply for a total of P7,121 million at the end of July, 1973. Central Bank statistics showed that supply at the end of July 1973 went up contraseasonally by P21 million or 0.3 per cent. The external sector increased money supply by P207 million as foreign transactions realized a surplus of P27 million in July 1973. One factor given by CB monetary experts for the upward movement of money supply was the continued improvement in the performance of the external sector. Also contributing to the increase in money supply was the private sector which pumped in P194 million to the total money stock, principally due to the increase in credits to the private sector which rose by P335 million.

BUREAU of Customs and the Embroidery Apparel Control Inspection Board signed a memorandum of agreement defining the jurisdiction and area of responsibility of the two government agencies in relation to the operation of the multi-million peso embroidery export industry of the country. Undersecretary of Finance and concurrently EACIB Secretary Alfredo Pio de Roda Jr. and Customs Commissar Rolando Geotina inked the agreement during simple ceremonies held at the conference hall of the bureau. The two officials stressed that with the delineation of the areas of responsibilities and jurisdiction, there will be a more effective supervision over some 40 embroidery factories.

August 28—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the creation of a panel of investigators composed of three lawyers, to be appointed by him, upon the recommendation of the director of mines, to investigate and make reports and recommendations concerning conflicting or adverse claims, protest and others involving mining claims, rights, leases or permits. In Letter of Instructions No. 119, the President directed that the hearing of these conflicts shall be conducted within one week after the issues are joined. The investigation shall be summary in nature, to be finished, if possible, in one sitting. The director is ordered to call for all adverse claims to be filed (even in cases now pending) so that the conflict can be decided with binding effect for all.

THE GOVERNMENT'S tax collection drive in foreign countries where Filipinos are residing has garnered some P31.2 million for Fiscal Year 1972-73. Reports reaching the Bureau of Internal Revenue show that the international tax information campaign of the Department of Foreign Affairs explaining to overseas Filipinos the compelling reasons behind the promulgation of Martial Law and the establishment of the New Society has elicited overwhelming response, according to reports from different Philippine consular missions abroad. The reports stated that thousands of Filipinos enthusiastically paid their income tax returns and other taxes to the BIR through the various consulates and embassies within their respective areas.

THE PRESIDENT has issued Presidential Decree No. 280, authorizing the Food and Drug Administrator to order the closure, or suspend or revoke the license, or any drug firm found administratively to have violated laws and regulations governing the sale or dispensation of prohibited drugs and other substances. Presidential Decree No. 280 observes that while the "state wages a relentless campaign against drug addiction," this effort of the Government has met with "frustration" because prohibited drugs, medicines and other substances are still being sold and dispensed with by some drug establishments in violation of Republic Acts Nos. 3720 and 6425, otherwise known as the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act and the Dangerous Drugs Act of 1972. Owners of erring firms shall be given opportunity to be heard in the summary administrative investigation.

THE PRESIDENT has given the Philippine Medical Association and its sister organization, the Philippine Medical Women's Association authorizations to conduct fund drives for the continuance of their respective medical projects. Issuing two separate proclamations Nos. 1171 and 1176, the PMA was allotted one year (from September 1, 1973 to August 31, 1974) campaign period, while the PMWA was granted seven months (from September 1, 1973 to March 31, 1974). The President has enjoined all government officials, military personnel, private and public school authorities and students as well as citizens to support the projects.

ANTI-Smuggling Action Center, in coordination with other law enforcement agencies, seized P136,934,572.93 worth of contraband items in Fiscal Year 1972-73. This was reported to Secretary of Finance Cesar E.A. Virata by General Pelagio A. Cruz, Anti-Smuggling Action Center (ASAC) chairman. Topping the list of apprehensions which resulted in the additional assessment of P72,364,946.22 was technical smuggling. Second was the apprehension in the illegal export of logs which amounted to P39,548,200.75.

THE PHILIPPINES' export earnings from fresh bananas during the first seven months of the current year totalled P87.2 million and exceeded by some P22.1 million the total earnings for the same period last, year.

In a report submitted to Agriculture Secretary Arturo R. Tanco Jr., Plant Industry Director Eliseo C. Carandang said that from January to July this year, the bureau exported 201,675,710 kilos of fresh bananas to Japan worth P87,255,146 and overshot by P22,119,531 the P65,136,615 registered from the same period in 1972. This year's seven-month figure also exceeded the one-half mark of last year's total earnings which was P127,786,489.

August 29—

THE PRESIDENT issued Letter of Instructions No. 120 directing government officials and employees going on official trips abroad to secure, whenever possible, accommodations on Philippine-owned or operated carriers. Main objective behind the directive is to effect savings in foreign exchange and further improve the country's foreign

exchange reserves. The Department of Tourism, headed by Secretary Jose D. Aspiras shall, in collaboration with the Central Bank, prescribe the guidelines to carry into effect the purposes and spirit of LOI No. 120.

SECRETARY of Information Francisco S. Tatad said that the ultimate aim of the New Society's reform program is the fostering of the impulse to create, which seeks to enhance their capacities and bring to the world goods which, strictly speaking, cannot be possessed by anyone. In a speech delivered before the Rotary Club of Makati at the Sulu Restaurant, the secretary stressed that any system founded on the need of men to acquire and possess is always doomed to perpetual tension and precariousness. Emphasizing that such a system merely posits the need of men to compete with one another, the secretary pointed out that the country needs something "larger and more constructive as a political ideal."

THE COUNTRY'S foreign exchange transactions for the first seven months of 1973 (January to July) registered an overall surplus of \$453 million as compared with only \$3 million during the same period in 1972. The Central Bank, which reviewed the country's foreign exchange transactions during the first seven months of 1973, attributed this unprecedented improvement to the strong performance in exports and earnings from foreign tourists. During the first seven months of 1973, export receipts totalled \$962 million, 54 per cent or \$337 million more than in the comparable period a year ago. This improvement is mainly due to improved world prices for the country's major exports. Import payments were only 1.1 per cent or \$7 million higher than the previous year's, despite the 24 per cent increase in L/Cs opened.

CUSTOMS Commissioner Rolando G. Geotina appealed for sustained public support and cooperation in the bureau's war against graft and corruption. He said that the stage has been set in the Bureau of Customs for the public to participate actively and decisively in the fight against irregularities in the Government. Commissioner Geotina made the appeal before officers and members of the Finance Executive Institute of the Philippines during its general meeting held at the Hotel Intercontinental in Makati where he was guest of honor and principal speaker. He pointed out that the Bureau's leadership in a short span of 10 months under Martial Law was able to introduce meaningful and substantial changes that had transformed customs into a worthy organization in

SOME 20 million more Filipinos will be benefitted with the expansion of the country's medicare program. Medicare Chairman Pacifico E. Marcos explained in an interview in Tacloban City that the medicare program would be expanded to include those who are not members of the Government Service Insurance System and the Social Security System.

Dr. Marcos said the President has expressed the necessity of presenting the expansion of medicare to the people in a referendum "as this will involve a greater portion of the masses who will be contributing members of the medicare program." Dr. Marcos further explained that under this expansion plan, both contributor and his dependents will avail of the same privileges. The dependents will divide among themselves the 45 hospitalization days allotted for one contributor.

August 30—

THE PRESIDENT created the Pasig River Development Council to oversee the implementation of the Pasig River Development Program, providing the council with the power to administer the Pasig River Development Program Trust Account. Through Presidential Decree No. 281, the executive secretary was designated overall coordinator of the council. He was personally entrusted with the duty to integrate and oversee the functions and activities of both the Government, as represented by the council, and the private sector who shall form a similar counterpart council.

LABOR Secretary Blas F. Ople called on the government bureaucrats to spearhead the peaceful and democratic revolution initiated by the President under Martial Law. Speaking at a seminar of high level executives of the Department of Health, the labor chief said: "It is you on whom the President has relied for assistance in carrying out the democratic revolution that has caught the attention of the world because of its ability to produce results." Secretary Ople pointed out that under Martial Law, the President could have established a new bureaucracy to carry out the goals of the New Society. Instead, he said, the President decided to trust the old bureaucracy, believing it was not beyond reform and that, given proper motivation, it can improve its mediocre performance in the past. The

improvement and changes under Martial Law, according to tire labor secretary, have brought about the reformed bureaucracy.

THE PHILIPPINES is moving towards its scheduled change-over from the English and other systems of weights and measures to the almost universally-accepted metric system. To beat the deadline set forth by the President, the Metric System Board headed by Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. took steps to expedite and program the work of adopting the metric system in all sectors of the economy. The Secretary set the deadline on September 21, 1973, for the full submission of definitions of basic and complementary units like the meter, kilogram, ampere, second, kelvin, candela, mole and degree. The deadline for the submission of derived units is December 31, 1973.

KULITIS, also known as Philippine spinach, is a wild-growing vegetable crop rich in vitamins A and C, potash and phosphorous. According to food technologists of the Bureau of Plant Industry, *kuliti* makes an excellent dietary item that promotes good health and vitality. The shoots and leaves of the crop can be eaten as salad, either green or blended with other vegetables. "They taste just as delectable as other vegetable crops," the BPI food technologists said.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: August 31 - September 6, 1973

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

August 31—

TIHC PRESIDENT has directed the Securities and Exchange Commission to look into the reported practice of corporate officials of asking their stockholders for blanket authority to run the corporation as they wish, a system which sometimes works against the interests of the investors. In a directive to SEC Commissioner Arcadio Yabyabin, the President said that studies should be made for the imposition of ironclad regulations to prevent the investing public from becoming mere rubber stamp of corporate officers. He stressed that he was not for stifling corporate expansion, particularly of mining and other firms but merely impelled by his desire to protect the investing public.

THE PRESIDENT exhorted all barrio captains to continue performing their dual role as “new representatives of the people” as he declared September 21 of every year as “National Thanksgiving Day”—the day he declared Martial Law. The occasion was the induction of the officers of the National Federation of Associations of Barrio Councils during which the members presented a plaque of appreciation to the President for his timely declaration of Martial Law. Acknowledging the pledge of support and loyalty given him by the barrio captains, the President stressed his joint role with them, saying: “We must see to it that the people have an opportunity to express whatever they have, to express, and you are the ones who should tell me exactly what the people say and feel, about how things are being done, about excesses of government officials, if any.”

TOURISM Secretary Jose D. Aspiras issued the clarification that the temporary tax holiday being granted by the Government to overseas Filipinos coming during the Christmas season applies not only to those residing in North America but also those residing in other countries, such as Europe, Japan and Australia. The secretary issued this clarification in response to numerous queries reaching his office as to the extent of the incentive given by the President to participants in “Operation Homecoming.”

PRICE Control Council, acting to ensure adequate supply of lumber and other construction materials in the Manila area, lifted the maximum price ceilings on lumber and adjusted the price for GI sheets. The council, at the same time, issued implementing circular on the new prices of corn grits as promulgated by the President in Letter of Instructions No. 117. The new prices of corn grits as fixed are P0.83 per kilogram bag FOB, Davao City, Dadiangas, Cotabato City and Cagayan de Oro City and P0.91 per kilogram bag FOB, Cebu City. It was also promulgated that white corn grits shall not be used for purposes other than direct human consumption.

THE PRESIDENT has issued Proclamation No. 1173, declaring the period from November 26 to December 2 as National Music Week for Young Artists. The objective is to encourage young artists to excel in music composition and performance and to make Filipino music part of the cultural life of the people. He called on all citizens and associations to join in celebrating the week to instill among the people a greater appreciation of local music.

September 1—

THE PRESIDENT promulgated Presidential Decree No. 282 authorizing stock transactions by members of an operating- stock exchange through members of any other operating stock exchange, when necessary, to execute customers' orders. The transaction, according to the decree, should be pursuant to such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed upon between the executing brokers, provided that the customer shall not pay more than the authorized commission, and an appropriate report on the matter is submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission. The SEC is authorized to promulgate such rules as may be necessary to implement the decree, and to impose fines, suspension or revocation of licenses of the guilty party for any violation thereof, as provided under existing laws.

DEPARTMENT of Trade moved to ensure further protection to investors in domestic corporations registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, particularly those with foreign connections. Following up a directive of

the President, Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. directed SEC Commissioner Arcadio Yabyabin to prepare a list of domestic firms with foreign connections or tie-ups engaged in the securities and investment business. He likewise directed the commission to look into the activities of these firms in the local securities and investment market, particularly with respect to the use of company funds.

THE GOVERNMENT will effect a tight control on alien retailers in the country starting January next year with the promulgation of guidelines governing the implementation of the Retail Trade Nationalization Law. The guidelines are contained in an administrative order signed by Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr., and concurred in by Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata. The order provides that before an alien retailer or manufacturer can be issued internal revenue and municipal licenses, the alien must first present an alien retail clearance certificate (ARCC), or a processor's certificate of authority (PCA), as the case may be. The certificates are to be issued annually by the Secretary of Trade. Applications for the year 1974 may now be filed with the Department of Trade up to September 30, 1973.

VIRUS particles which may be the cause of *cadang-cadang* disease have been successfully photographed for the first time in the tissues of diseased coconut palms. This was revealed by Bureau of Plant Industry Director Eliseo C. Carandang, who said that the new finding was a result of a long-term research work by the BPI scientists and experts from the United Nations Development Program's Coconut Research and Development Project. Photographs made through electron microscopes at magnifications up to 200,000 times showed rod-shaped viruses in the sap and some of the cells of palms affected with *cadang-cadang*. Significantly, these same viruses could not be found in healthy materials. The virus rods are similar in shape to those found in a disease of pine trees in Europe, the virologist said.

September 2—

THE PRESIDENT directed the opening for exploration of some 1.2 million hectares of strategic mineral lands. This region is located near the scene of an oil strike in the vicinity of Borneo. The development of the area was assured after the President approved a \$15.5 million service contract with a consortium of American-Canadian financiers. The signing of the contract was held in Malacañang. Robert Mosbacher of Mosbacher Philippines Corporation led the group of foreign capitalists who will operate through a joint venture agreement with local firms.

SECRETARY of Information Francisco S. Tatad urged the country's laurels to extend their expertise and services to the less privileged who need decent homes instead of allowing the realty profession to degenerate into a mere pursuit for profits.

In a speech before the Pasay City Realtors Board Inc. at the Hotel Intercontinental, the secretary said that the realtors' attitude should be centered on their fellowmen, defined by an awareness "that they must also share in the opportunities for a full and richer life." Mr. Tatad likewise challenged the realtors to institute the necessary reforms against irregularities imputed against unscrupulous members of the real estate profession.

GREEN Revolution secretariat committee has reported that P145, 098,288.57 worth of GR produce from schools all over the country was sold and consumed by pupils and students for school year 1972-73. Andres B. Fernandez, chairman of the secretariat committee, said the amount represented the total production from the GR projects of 8,957,433 students. GR projects undertaken in schools were classified into leafy and fruit vegetable production, field crops, fruit production, poultry, swine and livestock and fish production.

September 3—

THE PRESIDENT authorized the release of P5 million for the importation of critical raw materials for the use of cottage industries whose products recently have made significant gains by occupying sixth place among the commodity exports of the country. In his Letter of Instructions, the Chief Executive instructed Secretary of Labor Blas F. Ople, chairman of the Cottage Industries Development Council; Budget Commissioner Faustino Sychangco and Administrator Mario Reyes, executive director, Cottage Industries Development Enterprise, to devise ways and means to ensure a steady supply of critical raw materials and minimize the difficulties often encountered in their procurement.

THE PRESIDENT received officials of the First Pennsylvania Banking and Trust, who congratulated him for the success of the reform program, particularly in the monetary system. The President told the bank officials that the changes “you are now witnessing have been brought about by forces beyond our control. Martial Law was imposed as a necessity, an act of survival.” The President said the Government is vent on building the New Society with sweeping changes in the economic and social structure, which had become so corrupted it had become impossible to attain the common goals of society. Mr. James Bodine, FPBT president, was also informed about an intensive food production drive, including cattle ranching, which is attracting big foreign ranchers.

DEPARTMENT of Justice issued a ruling that “no additional fee may be collected for fees rendered for purely administrative or ministerial acts not involving the performance of judicial functions of the court.” The opinion, rendered by Acting Secretary of Justice Catalino Macaraig Jr. was in reply to a query relating to the collection by registers of deeds of an additional fee of one per cent of registration fees for the UP Law Center. Mr. Macaraig Jr., on his part, requested the Commissioner of Land Registration to give appropriate instructions to registers of deeds that additional fees for the Center should be collected only whenever filing fees, as such, are imposed by law or regulation.

DEPARTMENT of Health has created a committee to study the harmful and hazardous effects of smoking on the health of the people. The group was named “Committee on the III Effects of Smoking.” It is composed of well known medical practitioners and specialists in different fields from both the Government and private sectors. The committee, which is instructed to submit its initial report shortly, shall undertake the following functions: 1) To study and compile data on the ill effects of cigarette smoking on human beings; and 2) To recommend measures on how the Department of Health can effectively combat these hazards of cigarette smoking.

September 4—

THE PRESIDENT reiterated his proposal for the establishment of an Asian Forum where the heads of Asian countries, regardless of ideologies, may sit down and discuss their common problems. The President renewed his proposal during the visit of Senator Takuji Kuribayashi of the Democratic Socialist Party of Japan, who is in Manila on the last leg of an observation tour of Southeast Asian countries. The President said the Asian countries have taken a common stand on such issues as rubber production, sugar, the GATT meetings and security matters. He said the African states have a forum, so do the American states and the Europeans, while Asia has only the ASEAN, the Asia and Pacific Council, and the ECAFE.

THE PRESIDENT has observed that Filipinos are beginning to “discover” their own country and are competing with foreigners in the scramble for hotel accommodations and other tourist facilities all over the Philippines. The President made this observation during the call of another group of Japanese business executives who are here to survey investments possibilities. Dr. Kiyotsura Yoshida, president of Nihon Kaihatsu Co. Ltd. of Tokyo, predicted that more and more Japanese tourists would be flocking to the Philippines because of its fine beaches and tropical climate, and its proximity to Japan.

THE FIRST LADY was conferred the degree of Doctor of Humanities (L.H.D.) *honoris causa*, by the Philippine Normal College for her “rare gift of leadership.” The conferment ceremonies were held at the College Auditorium before dignitaries and members of the diplomatic corps, heads of foundations, professional and cultural organizations and president of colleges and universities.

DEPARTMENT of Justice has ruled that the provincial or city fiscal, not the provincial attorney or city legal officer, should represent the register of deeds in court cases where he is a party. Acting Justice Secretary Catalino Macaraig Jr. issued this opinion in reply, to a request from the register of deeds of Butuan City which was forwarded by the Land Registration Commissioner. Secretary Macaraig pointed out that under Sec. 19 of the Decentralization Act, the functions previously per formed by the provincial or city fiscals were transferred to the provincial attorney and city legal officer, respectively. He explained that registers of “deeds are national officials under the direct supervision and control of the Land Registration Commission and consequently they are not in the service of the cities, provinces and municipalities. He added that hence, it cannot be said that the duty to represent the register of deeds in

such cases is among those transferred from the provincial or city fiscal to the provincial attorney or city legal officer pursuant to Sec. 19 of the Decentralization Act.

DEPARTMENT of Health took further steps to get directly involved in the implementation of the Medical Care Act of 1969. Secretary of Health Clemente S. Gatmaitan ordered the 11 regional health directors to direct the personnel of rural health units in the difficult and depressed areas to undertake the immediate operation of community hospitals and health centers already established in their respective areas. The operation of community hospitals and health centers by personnel of rural health units in these areas is only on a temporary basis until the appointment of physicians and other necessary personnel by the Medical Care Commission to regularly operate them, health authorities said. The health secretary said that the establishment of community hospitals and health centers in the difficult and depressed areas is a joint project of the Philippine Medical Care Commission and the Department of Health.

DEPARTMENT of Trade ordered all tanneries to submit their monthly production statistics and the shoe manufacturers their monthly leather requirements. Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. required the submission of these reports to determine the actual requirements of the local shoe industry so as to allow the exportation of the excess production. At the same time, Mr. Quiazon requested the Central Bank to prohibit the exportation of rawhide and leather without the necessary clearance from the DT. Mr. Quiazon banned the exportation of these items following a meeting with representatives of the local tannery association, rawhide, skin and leather exporters, the shoe manufacturers and the Marikina Shoe Commission.

September 5—

THE PRESIDENT authorized the compulsory licensing or reprinting of educational, scientific or cultural books and other reading materials as an emergency measure whenever the prices of these materials become so exorbitant as to be detrimental to the national interest. The Chief Executive, in Presidential Decree No. 285, noted that the rising prices of these reading materials have reached serious proportions, hence the necessity of the licensing authority as a matter of national interest and to make them available at cheaper cost. To immediately implement the decree, the President created a committee to determine whether the sale prices of these reading materials are so exorbitant to warrant their reproduction. The committee is composed of the secretary of education and culture, the director general of the National Economic and Development Authority and the chairman of the Media Advisory Council.

EFFECTIVE September 1, overseas Filipinos returning to the Philippines under "Operations Homecoming" will not be asked by the Bureau of Internal Revenue if they had complied with their tax obligations such as the filing of income tax returns. Revenue Commissioner Misael P. Vera has directed all revenue officers in the Philippines and revenue attaches abroad that returning Filipinos should not: 1) Be required to file income tax returns during the Homecoming period up to February 28, 1973; and 2) Be investigated for any tax liability during the period. Under the tax holiday granted by the Government, any Filipino may leave the Philippines without the necessity of any tax clearance from the BIR.

SECRETARY of Information Francisco S. Tatad asked the government personnel within the bureaucracy to transform themselves into a big moral force to lead all other sectors of the community in pushing the reforms of the New Society. The secretary echoed recent observations made by the President on some backsliding to the practices of the old society both in the public and private sectors. Secretary Tatad, speaking at the symposium on the "Role of the Government Employees in the New Society," before officials and employees of the Central Bank, said that signs of corruption have begun to reappear in certain areas of society "It is a reversion to the same old sickness that made our society so corrupt . . . and the discipline must be strengthened to combat this reversion to the old vices," the secretary said. However, he stressed that his discipline must be supported by a re-orientation, a re-education in the lower ranks of the bureaucracy and among the population so that "they do not seek for themselves favors and special treatment meant only for a few." The secretary concluded that the nation is founded on the strength of its people and .a people can only be strong if their values are intact and free from the sickness that made Martial Law a necessity.

LAND Transportation Commission reported a record collection of P137.7 million for Fiscal Year 1972-73, the highest since 1912 when the office or its equivalent was created. LTC Commissioner Romeo Edu said the 1972-73

collection also topped the collection in the previous fiscal year by P16.5 million. He attributed the increase in collections to the: 1) Increased number of motor vehicles; 2) Payment of registration fees of some 20,000 motor vehicles privately owned by US military personnel in the country; 3) The imposition of Martial Law by the President, prompting owners of hot cars to pay the corresponding taxes due; 4) Mechanization of the cashiers operations which has prevented the tampering and manipulation of receipts; and 5) Installation in 1969 by the LTC of its own plate-making plant, saving the Government some P600,000 every year.

September 6—

THE PRESIDENT warned that the problem of rapid population growth looms large on the country's horizon and unless all sectors of society respond this time to curb this trend, the result will be a deterioration in the equality of human life arising from the failure of the country's socio-political institutions to provide enough essentials of life. In a speech read for him by Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Romulo at the 8th Biennial Conference of UNESCO at the Philamlife Auditorium, the President said that if the population continues to grow at the present rate, there will be "89 million Filipinos crowding the Philippines by the turn of century." The President said that the first major move of the government toward the solution of the population problem was the creation of the Commission on Population in 1969. The Commission has since conducted studies and provided initiatives and guidance in establishment of policies or program that would curb high population growth, according to the President.

THE PRESIDENT has authorized the purchase of petroleum drilling and other mining equipment for utilization by small legitimate mining firms that cannot afford the prohibitive cost of such equipment. The President's move will hasten the exploitation and development of the country's mineral resources at a cost of P3 million. Only the mining companies, with confirmed mineral reserves of commercial values and are able to operate such reserves financially, can avail of these equipment through the Bureau of Mines.

THE PRESIDENT told the group from the National Defense College of India that the changes and reforms since the imposition of Martial Law almost a year ago have already brought about salutary affects in the country. The President said that in accordance with the reform program, the Philippines seeks to remove the roots of discontent and grievances which had caused rebellion. "We are engaged in revolutionary change which will alter the entire structure of society, economic, social and political," the President told the visiting group. The President said that the foreign policy of the country has not changed, although it has to be re-examined in order to conform to the revolutionary changes being made.

THE PRESIDENT exhorted the Government's more than 3,000 rice production technicians to make sure that rice farmers who availed of Masagana 99 production loans settled their obligations come harvest time. He issued the appeal after being briefed by Agriculture Secretary Arturo R. Tanco Jr. that some 500,000 hectares of rice land—only 100,000 short of the government' target—has been planted to rice as of August 31, with two months remaining in the planning calendar. The President said it's up now to the technicians to watch the harvest and see to it that the farmers do not renege on their financial commitments to the Government.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

Official Week in Review: September 7 – September 13, 1973

September 7—

THE PRESIDENT increased the membership of the Court of Appeals to one presiding justice and 35 associate justices. The President's move was contained in Presidential Decree No. 289, amending Section 24 of the Judiciary Act. Before amendment of the Act, the appellate tribunal consisted of one presiding justice and 18 associate justices. They were all appointed by the President. Under the decree, the presiding justice, who shall be so designated in his commission and the associate justices shall have precedence according to the dates of their respective commissions, and when the commissions of two or more of them shall bear the same date, their precedence shall be according to the order in which their commissions have been issued by the President. The Court of Appeals shall, as a body seat *en banc* but it may seat in 12 divisions of three justices each. The 12 divisions may seat at the same time.

THE GOVERNMENT took another move to woo foreign tourists into the country by considering the feasibility of reducing by half amusement tax rates for tourist-oriented establishments. In a directive, the President ordered Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata to look into the feasibility of reducing the amusement tax from 20 per cent to its old rate of 10 per cent for all these establishments duly approved and licensed by the Department of Tourism. At the same time, he ordered the Central Bank to re-examine all policies that have restricted and impeded growth of the hotel and restaurant industry. In a speech read for him by Tourism Secretary Jose D. Aspiras at the opening of the 4th national convention of the Hotel and Restaurant Association of the Philippines, the President signified his intention "to remove all barriers that hinder our country's tourism development, in recognition of its tremendous contribution to the economy."

THE PRESIDENT provided P20 million for the Department of Agrarian Reform to finance the immediate acquisition of 3,000 hand tractors to hasten the pace of *Masagana 99* projects and the *Palayan ng Bayan* through extensive farm mechanization. The P20 million is part of a six-year mechanized program for increased agricultural production. As authorized by Presidential Decree No. 287, a total outlay of P140 million was appropriated to meet the annual purchase of 5,000 hand tractors for six years.

BUREAU of Customs made a record collection of over P564 million for first two months of Fiscal Year 1973-74, indicating that the P3 billion target for the year will be surpassed. This was the report made to the President by Customs Commissioner Rolando Geotina, who said that the two months collection exceeded the estimated P423,766,000 by P140,254,426 or 33.09 per cent. Commissioner Geotina attributed the increased collection to much-improved procedures, the high morale and new spirit of discipline, integrity and dedication of customs-men under the New Society.

NEW CONSTITUTION lowering the voting age to 18 has not impliedly lowered from 21 to 18 the age at which a person may have the legal capacity to engage in business pursuant to Article 4 of the Code of Commerce. Teachers whose appointments are under consideration and whose oaths of office have been administered by the school administrative officials are entitled to their salaries. Acting Justice Secretary Catalino Macaraeg Jr. penned these resolving opinions in answer to queries from the Director of Commerce and the Secretary of Education and Culture. In case of age question, Secretary Macaraeg said that the constitutional provision refers to the exercise of the right of suffrage, a political right, by citizens 18 years of age or over. Whereas the Code of Commerce enumerates the qualifications in order that a person may have the legal capacity to habitually engage in commerce, among them, that of having reached the age of 21, he said. "As the two rights are totally distinct from each other, I fail to see how the lowering of the age for the exercise of one could effect the age limit fixed by law for the exercise of the other" Secretary Macaraeg explained.

September 8—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the integration of the country's over 1,500 police forces into one single organization, the National Police Force, as provided by the Constitution. In his address on the occasion of Police Day and the 7th anniversary of the National Police Commission in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Rizal, the President said the integration, of the country's police forces into a single organization is necessary in order to rectify the weaknesses of the present

police system. The President directed the chairman of the National Police Commission, the chief of the Philippine Constabulary and the director of the National Bureau of Investigation to prepare and submit plans for the police integration so that it can be implemented within one year.

THE GOVERNMENT ensured mobility for Filipino businessmen, who moved in and out of the country, by installing a multiple, visa and tax clearance system. The President directed that such visas and tax clearances for exit and entry would be good for six months or even a year. This concession, intended to spur investments, would favor two sets of businessmen, namely: 1) Filipino nationals working with multi-national companies operating in the Philippines; 2) Filipino businessmen whose activities make it necessary to move in and out of the country. However to prevent abuse of the privilege, those applying for multiple visas and tax clearances, are required to present appropriate certifications. This should show that the nature of their business make it necessary for them to travel in and out of the country. The Presidential directive was addressed to the secretaries of national defense, foreign affairs, and finance and the commissioner of immigration.

THE PRESIDENT created the "Tobacco Industry Promotion and Market Stabilization Fund," to revitalize the native tobacco industry through the Philippine Tobacco Administration. The President signed Presidential Decree No. 288, which allocates a special fund from the proceeds of special taxes collected on tobacco products manufactured out of cigar filler and wrapper leaf tobacco. The decree also provides that this special fund shall be made available as follows: Fifteen million pesos for fiscal year 1973-74, and thereafter, an annual appropriation of P15 million for a period of five years up to June 30, 1978. Thereafter, the amount of P6 million is appropriated annually to carry out the purposes indicated until otherwise provided for by law.

September 9—

THE PRESIDENT has promulgated Presidential Decree No. 283 authorizing the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office to hold a lottery draw on March 11, 1974, and every year thereafter, exclusively to finance the domiciliary service of the Philippine Tuberculosis Society Inc. The decree notes that the great efforts being undertaken to control tuberculosis through the medium of institutional care have not reached the majority of infectious tuberculosis cases scattered throughout the country. To overcome these shortcomings, the PTS has intensified its domiciliary service which brings free medical, social and educational services to the homes of bed-ridden indigent patients including BCG vaccinations and tuberculin testing of contacts, especially the children, as a preventive measure. Presidential Decree No. 283 amends Republic Act No. 1169 entitled "An Act Providing for Charity Sweepstakes Horse Races and Lotteries."

THE PRESIDENT has issued Presidential Decree No. 111-A, which details an organization that shall most effectively and economically carry out the powers and functions of the Commission on Audit. PD 111-A supplements PD 111, dated January 26, 1973. This earlier decree declares that the three-man Commission on Audit created in the new Constitution is now in existence, and authorizes the General Auditing Office to serve as its nucleus. The organization of the Commission on Audit, as described in PD 111-A, follows: The Commission on Audit shall consist of the Commission Proper to be constituted pursuant to Sec. 1, Article XII-D, of the new Constitution; and Administrative Service; a Legal Service; and Accountancy Service; a Systems and Training Service; a Program Audit Service; three National Government Audit Offices; a Local Government Audit Office, and a Corporate Audit Office.

ANNUAL observance of Education Week begins today. The theme of this year's celebration is "The Filipino in the New Society." Secretary of Education and Culture Juan L. Manuel has issued a memorandum directing school heads to hold activities and give lessons which would "seek to clarify the new role of the Filipino citizen" in the present society and emphasize the privileges and social benefits he now enjoys.

September 10—

THE PRESIDENT called for fresh dedication to the goals of the New Society and warned anew against complacency and backsliding which could wash out the gains achieved since last year. He sounded the call on the eve of his birthday, during the testimonial parade given in his honor by the Armed Forces of the Philippines at Camp

Aguinaldo, Quezon City. The traditional parade is given by the Armed Forces to the President as their Commander-in-Chief in connection with the celebration of his birthday. Speaking for the military, General Romeo Espino, AFP chief of staff, pledged to the President "our fullest measure of dedication and loyalty, our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor." The President in return thanked the AFP for its manifestation of loyalty to the Republic.

RUSSIAN trade and oil exploration mission signified keen interests in assisting the Philippine oil exploration program and expanding the current trade relations between the two countries. N. P. Shirjaev, head of the eight-man economic mission, said in a conference with Director-General Gerardo P. Sicat of the National Economic and Development Authority that the aim of the mission in the country is to foster closer economic cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Philippines, "based on the principle of reciprocity and mutual benefit for the two nations." The Russian Mission is divided into an oil exploration and trade team, composed of oil exploration experts and officials of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Trade.

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady led the people in paying their last respects to Rufino J. Cardinal Santos who was interred at the Manila Cathedral crypt in Intramuros at high noon.

The First Couple participated at the funeral rites requiem Mass officiated at the main altar by Julio Cardinal Rosales of Cebu, the only remaining Filipino prince of the Catholic Church and concelebrated by other ranking members of the Catholic hierarchy. The body lowered into its final resting place at 12 noon amid the sounding of taps and the booming of an 11-gun salute.

DEPARTMENT of Health has dispatched a team of 14 health officials and employees to Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro, to render medical and health services to a cultural community group of 8,000 Mangyans. Secretary of Health Clemente S. Gatmaitan said that the health mission to the hinterlands of Mansalay in Oriental Mindoro was the result of representations made by the president of the Philippine Public Health Association and director of the Bureau of Quarantine of the Department of Health. The Mangyans who are the object of the health mission live far from the health facilities provided in Mansalay and therefore their health needs have to be attended to at least in a special way, the health secretary said.

September 11—

THE PRESIDENT directed Foreign Secretary Carlos P. Romulo to finalize negotiations for the opening of diplomatic relations with four communist countries in Eastern Europe—Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Poland and Hungary. Secretary Romulo was also told by the President to ask Philippine chiefs of missions in African and Middle East countries to act in concurrent capacities in nearby countries where the Philippines has no diplomatic mission.

THE PRESIDENT announced the creation of the Department of Industry primarily to push through the development of small and medium-sized industries. The head of the new department is Chairman Vicente Paterno of the Board of Investments.

SOME 600 infrastructure projects and other undertakings have either been started or inaugurated in different cities, municipalities and barrios throughout the country as gift to the President. The projects included emergency hospitals, multi-purpose and feeding centers, irrigation system and assorted public works projects. The project costs ranged from as high as P3 million to as low as P2,000. Among the biggest undertakings is P3-million manpower training center at Iligan City. The other places which have the most number of projects and undertakings inaugurated were in Nalbagan, Negros Occidental—29, Cotabato—17, Capiz—15, Baguio City—14, Dagupan City—13, Pangasinan—13, Cabanatuan City—12 and Legaspi City—11. Most of the projects were self-help undertakings which were completed as joint efforts between the people and the government.

THE PRESIDENT announced that the Philippines is ready to set up a two-million-ton integrated iron and steel plant, a key step that will place the country in the rank of industrialized nations. The plant is estimated to cost \$800 million. The project was revealed in a speech of the President read for him by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor Jr. before the eight-nation Southeast Asia Iron and Steel Institute at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The President

invited member countries of the institute to share the facility should they be needing semi finished steel until the appropriate time that they can set up their own steel-producing facilities. He said that countries outside of the region are welcome to invest in the venture.

GOVERNMENT'S agrarian reform and agricultural production programs got a big boost with the signing of a P50-million Belgian franc (\$1.5 million) loan agreement between the Philippines and Belgium. The loan agreement was signed by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo and Belgian Ambassador J. L. Lebacqz at the Department of Foreign Affairs. Although the agreement did not specify the purpose of the loan, the recipient Philippine government intends to utilize the proceeds of the loan in the implementation of various development programs in the New Society, particularly in the fields of agrarian reform and agricultural production.

September 12—

THE PRESIDENT has appropriated the total amount of P406.88 million for the rehabilitation and development of Mindanao tagged as one of the more urgent and priority goals of the government. The amount, appropriated under Presidential Decree No. 290, include the following; Rehabilitation, P25,071,000; institutional building of local government, P1,007,000; food production, P3,096,000; health, P22,063,000; education and manpower, P33,052,000; and infrastructure, P320 million. The Chief Executive stressed that the policy of the Government to promote and accelerate growth and development of Mindanao is one of the more urgent and priority goals.

THE PRESIDENT lauded the country's colleges and universities for their services in the education of the youth. Addressing the heads of public and private colleges and universities, the President said that the Philippines has the second highest percentage of college students in relation to its population. This was due, he said, to the joint efforts of the private and public sectors, with the former assuming the greater bulk of educating the youth. The President was presented with a bronze bust by President Salvador P. Lopez of the University of the Philippines as the State University's "most outstanding and distinguished son."

PHILIPPINE Medical Care Commission advised Medicare members who are away from home to provide their families with the necessary papers for hospital admission as Medicare beneficiaries. Dr. Pacifico E. Marcos, PMCC chairman said that there are reports that Medicare legal dependents who do not have the necessary documentations are encountering difficulties in seeking hospital admissions as Medicare patients. Dr. Marcos said that the Medicare member whose legal dependents do not live with him should always provide the latter with the following: 1) A duly accomplished Employer's Medicare Contribution Certification and Member's Authorization which are Parts I and II of PMCC Form No. 1; 2) A duly validated information for Medicare membership if the employee is a GSIS member or SSS Form E-1 if the employee is an SSS member; 3) A duly accomplished affidavit that the wife or husband is not an employee or annuitant and therefore a legal dependent; and 4) A duly accomplished affidavit that the parent is wholly dependent for support from the Medicare member who may be a son or a daughter and that the parents' other children are not supporting him.

THE PRESIDENT called upon all boy scouts and scouters to carry on in the highest tradition of good scouting, the current efforts of the Filipino to build a progressive and prosperous New Society. In a speech read for him by Secretary of Defense Juan Ponce Enrile during the cornerstone-laying ceremonies for the million-peso annex building of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines in Ermita, Manila, the Chief Executive noted that the BSP has participated in many development programs of the Government, including food production, tree-planting and reforestation, community beautification and sanitation campaigns, and anti-narcotics drive.

DEPARTMENT of Tourism announced that the foreign tourist arrivals for the month of August totaled 19,793 representing an increase of 59 per cent compared with August of last year. Japanese arrivals increased by a record-breaking 118.8 per cent from 2,455 in August last year to 5,299 last month. British arrivals registered an increase of 89.5 per cent. Australian tourists were up by 36.8 per cent from 837 in August 1972 to 1,145 last August. Americans increased by 23 per cent from 4,067 to 5,033. Tourism Secretary Jose D. Aspiras said these increases have broken all records during the last 15 years and are indicative of a coming boom in tourism.

THE PRESIDENT created a special committee on rice procurement to monitor and control effectively pricing and procurement activities of government entities and the private sector for the coming *Masagana 99* produce and other future crops. In a letter of instructions, the Chief Executive designated the secretary of agriculture and natural resources as chairman of the special committee, with the undersecretary of national defense, the commissioner of customs, the administrator of the National Grains Authority and the president of the Philippine National Bank, as members.

September 13—

THE PRESIDENT has formed a special committee to conduct a study on how to cut down the use of electric power in all public buildings and public entities. The Presidential committee is composed of the secretaries of national defense, public works, transportation and communications and of local government and community development. The committee was directed by the Chief Executive to study how public buildings and government agencies could cut down on their power consumption particularly for lighting purposes by at least 10 per cent.

THE GOVERNMENT gave official recognition to Muslim holidays when the President decreed that such holidays shall be officially observed in all Muslim areas. Under Presidential Decree No. 291 the following shall henceforth be recognized as Muslim holidays: 1) Sid-Ul-Adha (Hariraya/Hadji) which falls on the tenth, day of the 12th lunar month of Sull-haj; 2) Muharram (ashura) which falls on the 10th day of the first lunar month Muharam; 3) Hid-Ul-Fitr which falls on the first day of the 10th lunar month of Showwnl; and 4) Maulod-En-Nadi (prophet's birthday) which falls on the 12th day of the third lunar month of Rabbi-Awwal. The action of the President, the latest in a series of official decrees promulgated to rehabilitate and develop the Muslims regions and accelerate Muslim integration into the streams of national life would enable Muslim Filipinos to observe their holidays which is equally observed by Muslims all over the world.

FOREIGN Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Romulo called on all Asian nations to join the Asian Forum which, in the words of the President, "will put back into Asian hands the future of Asia and lessen the danger that we shall again be a plaything of the gods." Secretary Romulo made the appeal in a luncheon meeting given in his honor by H. E. Gough Whitlam, Prime Minister of Australia at the Parliament House. Addressing the top Australian state officials, Secretary Romulo said: "Now that we and other countries of Southeast Asia and the Southwestern Pacific face an uncertain future, there is every reason why we must get together in our planning rooms to build a new structure of relationship to symbolize, and translate into action, our common aspirations for the prosperity and the peace of our region."

THE PRESIDENT ordered the release of P3.75 million for prawn and shrimp development project in Iloilo, which promises not only to provide the country with its biggest dollar earner but will also make it the center of prawn and shrimp production in Asia. Upon the President's instruction, Agriculture Secretary Arturo Tanco Jr. turned over the amount, representing initial contributions of the Philippines and Japan, to the Mindanao State University, which is supervising the project. The contributions represented P1.7 million from the National Grains Authority, as proceeds of the Japanese-donated rice; P1.5 million from the MSU; P500,000 from the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources; and P50,000 from the Bureau of Fisheries.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1973). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 69(38), cdxv-cdxli.

President's Week in Review: September 14-20, 1973

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

September 14—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the Special Committee on Rice Procurement to increase the price support from P30 per cavan of 50 kilos to P35 in anticipation of the *Masagana 99* harvest. In issuing the directive, contained in Letter of Instructions No. 129 addressed to the secretary of agriculture and natural resources, the administrator of the National Grains Authority and the secretary of national defense, the President took into account the impending *Masagana 99* harvest and the need to support farm prices at a level that will enable farmers to make profit. The President authorized the committee to call for the full cooperation of all government agencies concerned, all sectors of the grain industry, shipping and transportation companies, and all other government and private entities which could lend assistance to the rice procurement program.

SECRETARY of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr., exhorted the business sector to channel some of its resources in the search for alternatives that will bring down the cost of manufactured products. Speaking before members of the Makati Rotary Club, the trade secretary stressed the importance of research and development in industry in relation to price stabilization. Stressing that the task of price stabilization of basic commodities should not be of the Government alone, Secretary Quiazon said the industrial and trade sectors should involve themselves, in the effort “not just a gesture of cooperation with the Government but as an effort at self-interests.”

THE PRESIDENT moved to formalize trade relations at the earliest possible time with the Union Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR), particularly in view of the current oil crisis. In accelerating the formalization of the RP-USSR trade relations, the President ordered a study of all possible obstacles in the forthcoming relations and their possible remedies. The President issued the directive to Executive Secretary-Alejandro Melchor Jr. during the courtesy call made by the combined-Russian trade and oil exploration missions headed by V. N. Yakubenck, representing the USSR state committee for external economic relations and N. P. Shirjaev, head of the department of trade with Asian countries. In receiving the Russian mission, the President said, “I am certain this is the beginning of close relations that should exist between our two countries on matters of trade and mutual help.”

AGGRIEVED taxpayers may now file formal protests against local tax ordinances. Acting Secretary of Finance Alfredo Pio de Roda Jr. said this new government policy is one of the main features of the Local Tax Code promulgated into law by Presidential Decree No. 231. In all cases, a formal protest may be filed within 120 days after the approval of the tax ordinance of any local government or after the date of its initial implementation. The secretary of finance shall have 60 days after receipt of the protest to decide the case. The formal protest supported by a certified copy of the ordinance being questioned shall be forwarded by the provincial or city treasurer as the case may be to the secretary of finance 15 days from the date of his receipt thereof together with the action he or the provincial or city fiscal may have taken thereon.

TOURISM Secretary Jose D. Aspiras told leaders of the travel industry in Asia that the Philippines has become one of the strongest assets of tourism in the Pacific area. Mr. Aspiras keynoted the opening in Hongkong of a meeting of the Asian regional chapters of the Pacific Area Travel Association (PATA), a promotional instrumentality of countries in the Pacific basin. Mr. Aspiras told the convention that 12 months after the imposition of Martial Law, the Philippines has become one of the most attractive destinations in the Pacific and improved its capability of involvement in regional and international tourism. What used to be one of the weakest links in the Pacific chain of travel destinations has become one of the strongest contributors to the growth of tourism in the area, the tourism secretary said referring to the Philippines. The meeting was attended by heads of tourism offices in Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Hongkong, Macao, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia.

September 15—

THE PRESIDENT has exempted the Aquaculture Department of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), located in Iloilo province from the payment of gift, franchise, specific, percentage, real property and

all other taxes, duties and fees provided under existing laws, decrees and ordinances. According to Presidential Decree No. 292, this exemption shall extend to goods imported and owned by the Aquaculture Department and to goods brought in or imported for the personal use of foreign personnel whose services are paid by the Aquaculture Department.

DEPARTMENT of Trade is embarking on an intensified export promotion program designed to project the country's new export products and maintain the foothold of traditional exports in the international market. In accordance with this new program, Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. directed all commercial attaches to submit a list of Philippine experts which have the most potential in their areas of assignment.

DEPARTMENT of Trade approved the application for the exportation of 30,000 kilos of *buri* fiber to Hongkong. This brings the country's total export of the commodity of 33,000 kilos since the promulgation of Presidential Decree No. 180 which relaxes the ban on the exportation of *buri* fibers provided under Republic Act No. 4666 and authorizes the trade secretary as the duly authorized representative of the President "to grant prior authorization to export *buntal* fibers." In approving the export application, Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. stressed that applications for exportation will be approved provided the guidelines are followed.

DEPARTMENT of Local Government and Community Development Is launching a pre-service training program for the recruitment of field workers who will serve in the barrios. The recruitment of more field-men will fill the agency's urgent needs as it goes full blast in implementing the three-pronged program of the department in cooperative development, community development and local government, according to Secretary Jose Roño. The training of field workers before hiring them makes the department's recruitment system unique and more professional-like.

September 16—

THE PRESIDENT issued guidelines aimed at ensuring uniformity in the tax treatment of consultants contracted by the Philippine Government, its agencies, entities and instrumentalities in connection with projects financed with foreign loans. The guidelines are in addition to those already observed in the review and approval of projects proposed for foreign financing. The President ordered the secretary of finance and the director general of the National Economic and Development Authority to observe the guidelines he had set in Letter of Instructions No. 128.

DEFENSE Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile warned anew that he will not hesitate to recommend to the President the immediate replacement of municipal officials who are found to be sliding back to the malpractices of public servants in the old society. He said that the military's drive against these erring and abusive officials will be conducted without letup and that proper disciplinary measures will be instituted to the extent that they are not performing their jobs and are harassing their constituents. Secretary Enrile said that the Government is interested in preserving the permanence and durability of the reforms so far achieved under the New Society and it will be harsh with those who would seek to undermine these gains.

DEPARTMENT of Public Works, Transportation and Communications has done more to push infrastructure projects in 10 months of Martial Law than the two years before the New Society. In a report to the President, the department said that 25.6 per cent of its infrastructure project was accomplished during the first 10 months under review. According to the department report, the declaration of Martial Law accelerated the progress of the infrastructure program because politicking, bureaucratic red tape and incompetent field workers were removed. Other projects which made considerable progress during the period under review were: highways, by 14.7 per cent; power, 5.7 per cent; and irrigation, 2.9 per cent.

September 17—

THE PRESIDENT urged local historians to spearhead a nationwide effort to trace the ancient origin of the Filipino race as he deplored the lack of historical writing on the subject. Meeting the members of the National Historical Commission headed by Esteban de Ocampo, the President asked the historians to concentrate on researches and

studies on the earlier migrations before the three-waves that came from Malaya. He also asked them to trace the origin of the Filipino alphabet. The President challenged the younger generation of historians to write long and sustained observations of historical events.

THE PRESIDENT has directed the postmaster general to issue a stamp in honor of the great Filipino hero, Sultan Mohammad Dipatuan Kudarat. The President's Letter of Instructions No. 126 directs that the stamp, which shall bear the facsimile of the medallion of the ancient Order of Sultan Kudarat, shall be made available within Fiscal Year 1973-74. The stamp is in recognition of the Muslims' contributions to Philippine nationhood, particularly to the struggles, in which Sultan Kudarat featured during his lifetime, against foreign domination for 400 years.

TOTAL of P22, 391,889.00 in loans have been extended to farmers participating in the *Masagana 99* rice program in Cotabato. Some 33, 260 hectares have been covered by the rice program with some 25,318 rice farmers benefitting. The breakdown of the loans extended is: Cotabato: P11, 259,759 covering 15,871 hectares benefitting 11,510 farmers; South Cotabato: P5, 074, 682 covering 7, 926 hectares benefitting 1, 663 farmers; Davao oriental: P338, 781 covering 673 hectares benefitting 522 farmers; Surigao del Sur: P870, 381 covering 1,676 hectares benefitting 1,625 farmers; Agusan del Norte: P848,038 covering 1,148 hectares benefitting 25,518 farmers.

BUREAU of Forest Development underscored the urgent need for the conservation of the remaining forest cover to maintain better quality environment. Forestry Director Jose Viado explained that forest can tribute much to the production of oxygen which makes the people feel comfortable and at the same time, consume much carbon dioxide found in the air that is harmful to human existence. The forestry official also said about 10 per cent of the solar energy reaching the planet earth is necessary to vaporize water from the surface of plants.

September 18—

THE PRESIDENT issued a decree converting the National Social Action Council (NASAC) into a corporation and providing government assistance to the organization to enable it to participate more effectively in nation-building. The President signed Presidential Decree No. 294 in the presence of NASAC delegation who called at Malacañang headed by Bishop Mariano Gaviola, NASAC chairman. The President said that in pursuit of their respective developmental program, the Government, ecumenical faith and the private sector realize the need of collaboration and cooperation.

PERFORMANCE—as much as seniority—will be a basis for advancement in the new civil service. Secretary of Labor Blas F. Ople emphasized this as he reiterated the Government policy that the new civil service will not shield nor protect incompetent and corrupt government personnel. Addressing the Civil Service Commissions's convocation that capped the 1973 Civil Service Week, Secretary Ople warned that a second “purge” of government personnel may be necessary to carry out the President's directive to arrest backsliding in the public service. Secretary Ople said the main thrust of the civil service reforms is to bring about a rapid and thorough-going professionalization of the public service.

THE PRESIDENT issued Proclamation No. 1185 declaring September 21 a special public holiday. The day, which is the first anniversary of the declaration of Martial Law, had been proclaimed earlier by the Chief Executive as National Thanksgiving Day. . The proclamation notes that Martial Law declared under the authority of the Constitution to restore peace and order in the country has provided the opportunity as well as the means among the people the will to build the New Society which would reflect their greatest aspirations.

THE GOVERNMENT is intensifying the campaign to establish a more efficient dental health service because of the “terrible attrition that diseases of the tooth are wreaking on the health and vitality of the people.” This was revealed by Secretary of Information Francisco S. Tatad as he expounded on the Government's efforts to improve the country's dental services before the Manila Dental Association. Secretary Tatad explained that the heart of the Government's intensified campaign includes dental public health, the science of preventing and controlling dental diseases; preventive services, consisting of measures that are initiated before any clinical signs of symptoms of dental diseases appear; and health promotion, the application of measures that contribute to the protection of the community's total health.

September 19—

THE PRESIDENT has authorized the Foundation for Youth Development in the Philippines, Inc., to conduct its first national education and fund campaign from September 8 to December 31, 1973. He signed Proclamation No. 1182 which calls upon "all government officials, military personnel, public and private school authorities and students, and those citizens and residents of the Philippines, regardless of nationality or creed," to give generously to the foundation so as to raise the youth's productive power and enhance their usefulness as citizens and community members.

STERILIZATION of both sexes by tubal ligation and vasectomy are acceptable methods of contraception as long as the subject's consent is given intelligently. As such, sterilization cannot be considered as mutilation within the contemplation of Art. 262 of the Revised Penal Code. This was the opinion by Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos in reply to a query submitted by the executive director of the Commission on Population. He further pointed out that the purpose of surgical sterilization is not transplantation but family planning and population control, motives which are not contrary to law or public policy.

THE FIRST LADY gave the go signal to put up a \$60-million medical center complex that will provide services to some five million persons in Metropolitan Manila. To be named the Philippine Medical Center, UP, the building complex will rise on a 50-hectare site in Diliman and will be affiliated with the University of the Philippines. The medical center will house the Philippine Health Sciences complex which is dedicated to improving health conditions in the country.

DR. PACIFICO E. Marcos, chairman of the Philippine Medical Care Commission said that improvements on health and medical care delivery call for more doctors and nurses in the rural areas. He appealed to members of these professions to voluntarily heed the demand for their services. He said they should not wait for impositions by the people for their needed services. Dr. Marcos was the keynote speaker at the 10th anniversary of the Academy of Nursing of the Philippines held at the Philamlife open pavilion. The anniversary theme was "Delivery of Health Care Services in the New Society." Dr. Marcos said that doctors and nurses should no longer fear of "remaining in the mire for life when they are assigned in rural areas. A system of promotion for government doctors and nurses is being evolved so that a physician and a nurse would be assured of chances for better assignment and professional advancement, he explained.

PHILIPPINE exports to the United Kingdom performed creditably during the past fiscal year, reducing the trade gap that has characterized trade with the country over the years. At the close of Fiscal Year 1972-73, according to Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr., Philippine exports to the UK showed a growth of about 15 per cent over the figures for the previous fiscal year. In terms of values, Philippine exports went up from FOB \$3,360,140 to \$15,457,230.

September 20—

THE PRESIDENT promulgated Presidential Decree No. 299, making the barrio captain and the *barangay* chairman persons in authority, and the barrio councilmen, barrio policemen and *barangay* leader and any person who come to the aid of persons in authority as an agent of a person in authority. The decree amends Article 152 of Act 3815 (Revised Penal Code) which defines those who are persons in authority and agents of a person in authority.

THE PRESIDENT expressed the hope that mankind shall at last attain its dream of brotherhood and lasting peace with the establishment of economic and cultural relations among countries of varied political ideologies. In brief remarks at a dinner given at Malacañang in honor of members of a combined Russian trade and oil exploration mission, the President observed that while men claim to be dominant and supreme in the animal kingdom, they are still slaves to age-old enemies: disease, impoverishment and war. He said that the mission is visiting at a time when the Philippines is seeking to re-structure its own society and eradicate the causes that had kept this nation from moving forward toward progress and modernization.

THE PRESIDENT has promulgated two general orders to give full protection to tourists and transients. Issued by the President were: 1) General Order No. 38 authorizing the arrest and detention of persons involved in crimes punishable under the Revised Penal Code and other special laws where the offended party is in the Philippines as a tourist or a transient. 2) General Order No. 39 giving military tribunals concurrent jurisdiction with the civil court over crimes committed against tourist and transients. General Order No. 39 amends General Order No. 12 dated September 30, 1972, vesting the military tribunals with exclusive jurisdiction to try and decide certain criminal cases to the exclusion of the civil court.

PHILIPPINE Atomic Energy Commission announced that licenses are required to manufacture, use, import or export radioactive materials. The PAEC made the announcement in view of the increasing use of nuclear energy in the country. To obtain a license, applicants are required to pay a filing fee of P5 for each initial, or renewal of application. A license fee shall be collected annually from each licensee based on the following schedule: 1) Less than one curie, P10; 2) One curie to less than 100 curies, P50; 3) 100 curies to less than 500 curies, P100; 4) 500 curies or more, P500.

THE PRESIDENT warned squatters occupying banks of rivers, creeks, esteros, drainage channels and similar outlets to move out or face the legal consequences. The structures constructed by squatters on these portions of the public domain have obstructed the continuous flow of the waterways causing recurrent floods, the President said. In issuing Presidential Decree No. 296, the Chief Executive prescribed the following penalties for its violation; a fine of not less than P5, 000 nor more than P10,000 or imprisonment of not less than two years nor more than 10 years or both such fine and imprisonment. Within 90 days from the promulgation of PD 296; on September 18, 1973, the squatters are obliged to demolish such illegal constructions at their expense.

TOTAL of P4.9 billion taxes has been collected by the Bureau of Internal Revenue since the imposition of Martial Law. The amount represented a 46 per cent increase over the same 12-month period before Proclamation No. 1081. The announcement came on the heels of "Operations Non-Filer" pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 213 giving tax amnesty to persons who had failed to file their income tax returns.

THE PHILIPPINES export earnings from fresh bananas during the first eight months of this year have already overshoot the P100-million mark. In a report submitted to Agriculture Secretary Arturo Tanco Jr., Plant Industry Director Eliseo C. Carandang said that the country exported last month 34, 244,041 kilos of fresh bananas to Japan worth P14, 884, 404 which brought to 235,919,751 kilos worth P102,089, 550 the country's total exports of the tropical fruit for this year. The eight-month record also exceeded by P26, 451, 131 the total earnings for the same period last year which amounted only to P75, 638, 419.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: September 21-27, 1973

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

September 21—

THE PRESIDENT reported that the reform program under Martial Law has established a pattern of social, political and economic stability, even as he urged Filipinos to aspire to new heights of national development. Speaking in a nationwide radio-tv broadcast on the occasion of the first anniversary of the signing of the declaration of Martial Law, the Chief Executive outlined the achievements effected under the New Society and called for hard work among the citizens to consolidate the gains earned so far. "Hard work awaits us," the President said, "but the future we face is bright, for national development is within our grasp."

THE PRESIDENT has ordered three government agencies and the private banking institutions to set up the machinery for the effective implementation of the Government's cereal procurement programs for *Masagana 99* rice harvests and future crops. To effect a smooth procurement program, NGA Administrator Jesus Tanchanco has outlined a series of conferences with the DANR, Philippine National Bank and a consortium of private banking institutions to prepare the most feasible buying scheme of grains.

DEPARTMENT of Foreign Affairs, to further encourage investments in the Philippines, adopted guidelines on the issuance of multiple exit permits to Filipino personnel of regional or area headquarters of multinational companies established in the Philippines. Acting Foreign Affairs Secretary Manuel Collantes said the guidelines were issued in implementation of the President's instructions to insure mobility of those engaged in business or industry.

LABOR Secretary Blas F. Ople said that 12 months of Martial Law had brought stability to employment and business in Greater Manila. Secretary Ople indicated that the much improved economic conditions had enabled manufacturers and service industries to cut down on lay-offs or hold on to their work force to keep up with the demands of customers. Based on an employment figure of 833,940 workers in Greater Manila, the Department of Labor's Bureau of Employment Service said an average of 10,000 workers were separated from their jobs in 1972 or 1.25 per cent, compared to only 4,158 monthly in the first six months of 1973 or 0.48 per cent. He saw the stable employment figure of workers as a sign that industries were maintaining their present forces with a tendency to increase them to cope with expansion.

THE PRESIDENT appointed former Education Secretary Onofre D. Corpuz as chairman of the newly-created Task Force on Human Settlement. Simultaneously, the President earmarked P0.5 million for the operations of the task force. The task force will prepare a study on the nature, policy issue, and strategies for an over-all framework plan for the country which would pinpoint priority areas for human settlement projects to serve as a general scheme for development.

September 22—

THE PHILIPPINES and the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) established formal diplomatic relations it was announced by the Department of Foreign Affairs. The Philippine-East German agreement is the first of four contemplated agreements with socialist countries of Eastern Europe which the President had specifically instructed Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo to negotiate. Negotiations are underway for similar accords with Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia.

PHILIPPINE MEDICAL Care Commission said that the wife can sign for her medicare member-husband the medicare benefit application papers for any or all of his legal dependents, including those for herself, who may be hospitalized during the absence of the husband. The wife, however, should indicate on the space for the signature of the husband which she is to sign the whereabouts of her husband. The application nevertheless should still be in the name of the member-husband. The medicare contribution certification should be accomplished by the husband's employer and the other papers required to be presented or submitted to the hospital should be in his name.

BUREAU of Public Highways has reported having completed no less than 411 bridges with a total length of 11,748.5 meters all over the country during the Martial Law period. Total amount spent for these bridges is P165,239,521. The highways bureau has also completed 548 kilometers of concrete roads, 2,167 kilometers of asphalt road, 2,936,897 kilometers of gravel road and 175 kilometers of feeder roads during the same period with a total cost of P265,346,350.

BUREAU of Internal Revenue has collected more than \$1.5 million from overseas Filipinos. This was the report submitted to Commissioner of Internal Revenue Misael P. Vera by a two-man team sent abroad by the Bureau to enlighten overseas Filipinos on the salient features of Presidential Decree Nos. 23 and 220 and the National Internal Revenue Code. The report stated that from January 1 to July 15, 1973, 16,526 Filipinos in the United States paid a total of 81,077,976 plus P12,054 in income taxes. Filipinos in neighboring Asian countries paid a total of \$482,398.36 in income taxes. Income tax returns and tax payments are being received by finance officers of the different consulate general offices.

September 23—

The President appointed 13 associate justices of the Court of Appeals after consultation with members of the Supreme Court and the Integrated Bar of the Philippines. Appointed were: 1) Crisolito Pascual; 2) Roseller T. Lim; 3) Godofredo P. Ramos; 4) Ameurfina M. Herrera; 5) Mariano Serrano; 6) Conrado Vasquez; 7) Mama Busran; 8) Ricardo Puno; 9) Pacifico de Castro; 10) Francisco Tantuico; 11) Francisco Ma. Chanco; 12) Ramon Pamatiau; and 13) Efren I. Plana. The President previously issued Presidential Decree No. 289 increasing the membership of the Court of Appeals from 24 to 36 owing to the enlarged jurisdiction of this appellate court. The President likewise pointed out that under the new Constitution, the Court of Appeals is required to decide cases within 12 months and that the backlog of pending cases in this court will mount unless its membership is increased.

CONSUMERS Union of the Philippines has been authorized to conduct a nationwide membership consumers protection and educational fund campaign during the period from October 1, 1973 to March 31, 1974 under Proclamation No. 1184 issued by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor Jr. on the order of the President. The proclamation points out that our concern for the protection and education of the consumers in the Philippines demands that more effort be devoted to support the objectives of a militant organization like the Consumers Union of the Philippines. The proclamation calls upon all citizens and residents of the Philippines, irrespective of nationality or creed, to assist in the laudable six-month campaign by giving generously of their means.

THE PRESIDENT has declared the commercial timber within the Surigao mineral reservation as available for disposition and utilization in connection with the government's program to tap all available natural resources in the economic and social development of Mindanao. Under Presidential Decree No. 295 which amends Sec. 12 of Commonwealth Act No. 137 (Mining Act) as amended, the disposition and utilization of these commercial timber within the reservation shall be subject to existing rights, if any there be, and to existing policies, laws, rules and regulations pertinent thereto. The secretary of agriculture and natural resources shall promulgate the guidelines or regulations for the effective implementation of PD 295;

September 24—

THE PRESIDENT called on the country's barangays to serve as nerve centers in a nationwide physical fitness program in a three-pronged approach to the promotion of public health. In an address to some 600 members of the medical profession to start National Medicine Week, the Chief Executive also made rural service a requisite for graduation of college students involved in human settlement and development, including doctors, lawyers and engineers. The President likewise announced he will initiate moves to amend the dietary deficiency of low-income groups through the equitable sharing of the benefits of modernization and development.

THE PHILIPPINES and the Polish People's Republic established diplomatic relations, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs. The formal letters of agreement were signed by Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Romulo and Polish Foreign Minister Stefan Olszowski at the Philippine Mission to the United Nations in New York. According to a report of the Foreign Office the newly established diplomatic relations, which will be at embassy level, will be

based on the principle of peaceful co-existence, mutual respect for each other's sovereignty, and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. Both sides expressed the desire to develop and strengthen friendly and mutually beneficial relations.

DEPARTMENT of Agriculture and Natural Resources warned the government's more than 3,000 farm production technicians against "overstating *Masagana 99* harvest as this might raise false hopes in the public mind." The warning was issued by the chairman of the *Masagana 99* management committee, to clamp down on overblown estimate of expected harvest. The *Masagana 99* harvest, based on early reports has yielded an average of 98.9 cavans per hectare in some 9,945 hectares already harvested.

September 25—

THE PRESIDENT directed the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation to take necessary measures to protect foreign nationals from harassment and unnecessary or unauthorized investigations. The President's order was contained in Letter of Instructions No. 133 which also directed the commissioner of immigration and deportation to conduct a general registration of foreign nationals in the country within three months. The registration is necessary because records on the number, status, location and other important information about foreign nationals here are either lacking, incomplete or not up to date, thereby making it difficult to collect statistics when the need arises.

OUR SYSTEM of justice has finally achieved the twin ideals of swiftness and fairness. Justice Secretary Vicente Abad Santos stressed this in a speech on the new conduct of justice in the country during the first day of seminar on national development sponsored by the Departments of Public Information and of Foreign Affairs at the Asian Institute of Management building in Makati. The justice chief said that in the to Society, all persons now have the constitutional right to a speedy disposition of their cases before all judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative bodies. "Such an acceleration in the tempo of appellate decisions is a great leap forward that is sure to lift the hearts of many long-suffering litigants," Secretary Abad Santos explained.

INFORMATION Secretary Francisco S. Tatad said that there must be conscious link between the manager who plans for the state. Speaking before the Association of Management and Industrial Engineers of the Philippines at the Hotel Intercontinental, the information secretary stressed it would be advisable for both the state manager and the business manager to be governed by the principle of oneness of purpose and interest. Secretary Tatad said the national push toward development is an enterprise in which the Government and private enterprises are the principal managers. He added that the Government will continue showing its concern for the growth of the society by sustaining its high regard for professionalism in business and industry.

COUNTRY'S foreign exchange reserve has reached a record high of \$751.22 million as of September 18, 1973. At the same time, the Overall income of the country for Fiscal Year 1972-1973 was P10.559 billion as against P7.63 billion the preceding fiscal year. This rosy picture of the public finance was drawn by acting Secretary of Finance Alfredo Pio de Roda Jr. during the second day of the discussion series on national development at the Asian Institute of Management building in Makati. The acting secretary said that at the end of FY 1972-1973 the Government had a cash balance for all funds in the national treasury of P2.44 billion as against P1.26 billion in FY 1971-72.

September 26—

THE PRESIDENT moved to hasten the Pasig River Development Project of the First Lady by ordering the immediate settlement of salvage claims and the disposition of salvaged derelicts. In Letter of Instructions No. 134, the Chief Executive directed the Commissioner of Customs to effect the early return of the investment of salvaging companies or groups of persons to replenish their operating capital.

THE GOVERNMENT has brought about a new economic climate defined by far-reaching reforms in taxation and investments, and a redirected and rational planning of the economy. With these economic achievements, the roles of Government, business and labor in the ultimate objective of dispersing the gains of progress and development to the broad masses of the people are more than ever clearly defined. Director Lorenzo Cruz of the Bureau of National and Foreign Information these observations in a speech before the San Juan Rotary Club. Mr. Cruz, in enumerating the

economic gains achieved in the last 12 months which had revitalized the country's economy, stressed that these gains are only the initial steps towards the building of a prosperous nation "where every man, woman and child will have the opportunity to lead a full and rewarding life."

THE GOVERNMENT and the United Nations Development Programme have allotted P2.8 million and \$597,900 respectively for the formulation and implementation of an integrated export promotion program for the Philippines. The National Economic and Development Authority announced that NEDA Director Gerardo P. Sicat and UNDP resident Representative William Harding have signed the project document for the promotion program. The project, which will be coordinated by the NEDA in coordination with the Board of Investments and the Department of Trade, aims to develop an integrated medium-term export promotion program through an effective government agency solely concerned with export matters.

THE PRESIDENT exempted overseas personnel of the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Reparations Commission reassigned to their home offices here from the payment of all duties and taxes on their personal and household effects. Presidential Decree No. 301 also granted the exemption on overseas DFA and Reparations Commission personnel who have died, resigned or retired from the service. The decree also required that personal effects must not exceed 30 per cent of the total amount received by such officer or employee in salaries and allowances during his latest assignment abroad but not to exceed four years. The decree provided further that these exemptions shall not be availed of more than once every four years and that the officer or employee concerned must have served abroad for not less than two years.

THE PRESIDENT has released P9.9 million for Highway Special Fund for the repair and construction of various roads and bridges in Luzon and Mindanao. Road repair works to be funded out of the amount ordered include: Sayre Highway in Bukidnon, P265,000; Janiuay-Lambunao-Calinog-Capiz road and Dasmariñas-Carmona road, Cavite, P300,000; Cotabato-Bukidnon road, Cotabato-Lanao road, Cotabato-Davao and Kidapawan-Allah Jct. road, P243,250; Baguio-Bontoc road, P160,000; Jaro-Manduriao road, P117,000; Apalit Macabebe-Masantol road, P266,000.

THE PRESIDENT proclaimed October 7 to 13, 1973, as "Hispanic Week" to accentuate the country's cultural heritage from Spain and reassert the Government's efforts to effect goodwill and understanding with the Spanish-speaking world. The Presidential proclamation said the forthcoming celebration must remind the people of the lasting contribution of Spain to the country's political and social development and growth as a nation, as well as to enhance the country's historical and cultural ties with the Spanish-speaking world.

COUNTRY'S external trade registered an overall surplus of \$79 million last August as compared with only \$7 million for August 1972. The Central Bank said that the marked increase surplus for August 1973 is mainly due to a merchandise trade surplus of \$32 million and an invisible surplus of \$47 million. Exports receipts for the period under review reached \$177 million while import payments were registered at \$145 million, or a merchandise trade surplus of \$32 million. Non-trade transactions, on the other hand, registered a surplus of \$47 million or \$28 million more than the surplus in August, 1972. Invisible receipts of \$149 million were 88 per cent or \$70 million higher largely due to loans of the private sector and services income. Invisible disbursements also rose by \$42 million to \$102 million due to increased payments of loans of the private sector, services rendered by non-residents and Philippine Government expenditures abroad. As a result of these developments in the country's foreign exchange transactions, the international reserve increased by \$68 million.

September 27—

THE PRESIDENT assured Filipino oldtimers in the United States who are willing to spend their here that they could acquire land under a Government policy which would grant them reacquired Philippine citizenship. The Chief Executive made the assurance in response to a proposal of an official of a US investment firm to establish a housing settlement here for Filipino oldtimers. The President said these old-timers-natural-born Filipinos who have acquired American citizenship—may avail themselves of the same rights as every Filipino in the acquisition and ownership of land once they reacquired Philippine citizenship.

DEPARTMENT of Finance authorized provincial and municipal governments to collect all amusement taxes starting October 1. The transfer to local governments of authority to collect amusement taxes is contained in Presidential Decree No. 231 or Local Tax Code. Amusement tax on admission is collected from proprietors, lessees or operators of theaters, cinematographs, concert halls, circuses and other places of amusement.

THE PRESIDENT has authorized the creation of a Philippine House at the world-famed Las Vegas Strip in Nevada to serve as the Center for the promotion of Philippine trade and tourism. The Nevada Philippine House will be the latest addition to the growing chain of Philippine Houses in important centers of the world. The House will be established by the Department of Trade in collaboration with the Filipino Trade Corporation, a 100 per cent Filipino firm. Earlier, the President had authorized the establishment of Philippine Houses in Singapore, Frankfurt, Tokyo, San Francisco, Sydney (Australia) and Toronto (Canada).

SOCIAL Security System announced that effective January 1974 it will require all employer to submit an annual register containing a complete list of employees, dates of their employment and effective dates of then-separation from employment. This is in accordance with Section 24-D of Presidential Decree No. 24 providing for the compulsory submission of an annual register by all employers in the private sector. The SSS said this requirement is distinct from the existing provision on the employment records and reports in Section 21-A of the Social Security Law which requires each employer to immediately report to the SSS the names, ages, civil status, occupation, salaries and dependents of all his employees.

BUREAU of Lands has launched a nationwide campaign to distribute land patents to settlers with Mindanao as one of the principal target areas. Acting Lands Director Ramon N. Casanova has been assured by regional land directors that district land officers are now capable of processing and issuing patents for areas not exceeding five hectares. The drive will benefit occupant settlers on public lands which have been declared disposable for agricultural purposes. Under the program, the settlers who have developed portions of public lands not then open for disposition, may legalize their possession and be granted the necessary titles.

DEPARTMENT of Health has broadened its family planning and nutrition programs to complement the Government's development efforts. Spelling out their urgent role in the building of the New Society, Health Secretary Clemente S. Gatmaitan said the department has decided to place priority on the family planning and nutrition programs since they are closely tied up with the Government's development program. Speaking during a symposium of the Philippine Public Health Association in Dagupan City, Secretary Gatmaitan said the family planning program is vital because of its inter-relationship with development efforts which could be hindered by the country's tremendous population growth. He said the health department is also giving priority to nutrition program because it is closely linked with national growth progress.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: September 28 - October 4, 1973

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

September 28—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the military and provincial officials of Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat to extend all possible assistance for the rehabilitation of Muslim evacuees and surrendered outlaws. The Chief Executive directed the Special Presidential Assistance for Returning Evacuees (SPARE) to expedite the granting of loans to evacuees and surrenderees in the form of farm input and shelter provisions. The President issued the order after he was informed by a group of surrendered outlaws led by Datu Abdullah Sangkil that Muslim outlaws are afraid to surrender because they have no assurance of protection and rehabilitation.

THE PRESIDENT has appropriated P500,000 as operation funds of the Task Force on Human Settlements which will conduct a study on the nature, policy issues and strategies related to a comprehensive and integrative human settlement program in the Philippines. Executive Order No. 419 which created the task force, pointed out that the benefits of national progress will be attained only if the accelerating growth of human settlements is directed and ordered towards meeting the requirements of national development in line with the objective of effecting social, economic and political reforms.

SECRETARY of Justice Vicente Abad Santos opined that the \$4.2 million loan agreement entered into by the Philippine government and the United States Agency for International Development to help finance the Tiwi geothermal project is valid and legal. Secretary Abad Santos rendered this opinion in compliance with a standard clause in the loan agreement requiring the borrower government's secretary of justice to first declare the loan contract valid and legal before the amount is released by the lender government. The justice chief said that the legal authority for the Philippine government to contract the loan and relend its proceeds to the National Power Corporation is provided for in Republic Act 4860, as amended by Presidential Decree Nos. 81 and 150. The loan will finance the foreign exchange costs of goods and services required for the NPC's Tiwi geothermal project.

DEPARTMENT of Local Government and Community Development has listed 17 first class-A cities out of the country's 61 chartered cities. The latest DLGCD statistics listed the following cities under the Class A bracket (cities whose incomes exceed those of other cities and are paying higher salaries to employees): Angeles, Bacolod, Baguio, Basilan, Batangas, Butuan, Cagayan de Oro, Caloocan, Cebu, Davao, Iligan, Iloilo, Olongapo, Pasay, Tacloban, Toledo and Zamboanga. Manila and Quezon City are exempted from the classification having incomes which far exceed those of the first class-A cities. Eight cities were placed under the category of first class cities (annual incomes exceeding P1.5 million). These are Cabanatuan, Cadiz, Cotabato, Dagupan, General Santos, Legazpi, San Carlos and San Pablo.

THE GOVERNMENT has set up 593 children's centers in rural areas throughout the country to provide child care and pre-school training to thousands of barrio children. The children's center not only nurture preschoolers for indigent rural families but also train countless mothers in bringing up children. At the helm of this project is the Bureau of Agricultural Extension, assisted by the rural health officer, the home management technician, rural health nurse and volunteer leaders.

September 29—

THE PRESIDENT has promulgated Presidential Decree No. 302 officially delineating the jurisdiction of the new province of Tawi-Tawi to cover seven former municipalities of Sulu. The new decree established the capital of Tawi-Tawi at Bato-Bato, Balimbing. Included under the jurisdiction of the new province are the municipalities of South Ubian, Tandubas, Simunul, Sitangkai, Balimbing, Bungao, Cagayan de Sulu and Turtle Islands. Tawi-Tawi was one of three Mindanao provinces recently created by the Chief Executive to uplift the socio-economic well-being of Muslim communities in the region.

SECRETARY of Information Francisco S. Tatad called on the medical sector to train young people and volunteers for rural health services. During the closing ceremonies of "Medicine Week", the secretary told the medical practitioners to tap the pool of young people and volunteer workers who can minister to the day-to-day public health needs of the barrios if they were properly trained. Young people must be trained to assist in rural health programs of the Government, he stressed.

DEPARTMENT of Trade announced that stock exchanges members may now transact customers' orders with other stock exchanges through the latter's members. Trade Secretary Troadio T. Quiazon, Jr. has approved the rules drafted by the Securities and Exchange Commission to implement Presidential Decree No. 282. Under the approved rules, brokers of two or more stock exchanges involved in a transaction shall file a formal written agreement with the stock exchanges concerned and the Commission. Pending appropriate study of the participating brokers' shares in commission, the matter shall be governed by the agreement. Once the transaction is finalized, the broker shall go directly to the transfer office of the listed company for the issuance of corresponding stock certificates in the name of the person specified in the transfer instruction. The person who will be issued the stock may issue a stock power corresponding to the total shares in his name, as guaranteed by the executing brokers and validated by the clearing houses of the exchanges. The uniform settlement date shall be four days from the execution of the transaction. Uniformity will also govern price fluctuations, and ex-dividend and ex-right dates of each particularly listed security.

September 30—

THE PHILIPPINES and Hungary established formal diplomatic relations, the third the Philippines has signed with Easter European socialist countries in 10 days. Foreign Secretary Carlos P. Romulo signed the formal accord with Hungarian Foreign Minister Janos Peter at the Philippine Mission offices in New York. Similar accords were previously signed with East Germany and Poland.

SECRETARY of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon, Jr., warned government personnel and lawmen detailed with the Department of Trade against dishonesty, abuse and inefficiency. Secretary Quiazon issued the warning, in Circular No. 3 (series of 1973) even as he disclosed that he had instituted measures to ferret out abusive and corrupt officials and employes of offices, bureaus and agencies under his department. He stressed that there is no room in the government service for those who abuse the powers of public office, who neglect their duties and who harass and intimidate the people they are sworn to serve.

MEMBER of the Government Service Insurance System who has retired or who has been separated from public service can apply for a renewal of his medicare membership even if he has not done so within the prescribed 60-day period for such renewal. The Philippine Medical Care Commission (PMCC) decided this recently in a resolution it passed relaxing a provision of the Medicare Law (Republic Act 6111) requiring a retired or separated GSIS member to apply for a renewal of his medicare membership within 60 days from termination of his service, otherwise he would not be covered anymore by the health insurance scheme.

ACTING Social Security Administrator Reynaldo Gregorio has issued a reminder to all SSS members regarding the importance of having only one SSS number. He emphasized that the crediting of all contributions made in behalf of an SSS member is processed through his or her number. Job applicants, therefore, who were already given an SSS card need not obtain another number if they are merely transferring jobs or getting reemployed. Having one SSS number facilitates the proper crediting of all contributions which are the basis for computation of the amount of benefits or service loans.

October 1—

THE PRESIDENT appointed the vice-governor and two provincial board members of the new province of Tawi-Tawi. Appointed upon the recommendation of Acting Tawi-Tawi Governor Romulo M. Espaldon were Hadji M. Amilhasan as vice-governor, and Alawangsa M. Amilbangsa and Yap Lipae as provincial board members. The new officials appointed by the President shall hold office until their successors shall have been elected in the election for

provincial and municipal officials following the issuance of Decree No. 302 and shall have qualified, unless sooner removed, at the pleasure of the Chief Executive.

OVERSTAYING Chinese who have behaved properly during the last 27 years may be given preference to stay in the Philippines, but those who have become undesirable will be unconditionally deported. Immigration Commissioner Edmundo M. Reyes explained the Government's position on the overstaying Chinese issue as he confirmed reports that the Philippines and Taipei are now finalizing an agreement to resolve the problem. Although he did not elaborate on the details of the agreement, Commissioner Reyes said the Philippines is awaiting minor details regarding the response of the Nationalist Chinese government.

THE PRESIDENT designated November 1, 1973 to November 30, 1974, as the period for the membership, educational and fund drive of the Safety Organization of the Philippines, Inc. (SOPI), a civic, non-profit, non-sectarian and non-political organization which has spearheaded the private sector's accident prevention movement. Proclamation No. 1183, issued by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. by order of the President, points out that safety and accident prevention have long been adopted as a policy. The proclamation declares the whole month of November 1974, as the World Safety and Accident Prevention Month in the country to extend their full support and assistance to these activities and projects of the SOPI.

PHILIPPINE exports to Malaysia for the first time overshot imports by US\$100,000 during the first semester of 1973, the Department of Trade reported. Philippine exports to Malaysia during the period amounted to US\$797,468 against its imports of US\$697,347 or a trade balance of US\$100,121 in its favor. This half-year performance was a sharp contrast to that of last year when the Philippines incurred a negative balance of US\$3,013,128 with Philippine exports totalling only a measly US\$865,614 against its imports of US\$3,898,742.

October 2—

THE PRESIDENT called on the youth to prepare themselves to assume the mantle of leadership in the continuing "revolution" for reforms in the New Society. Speaking at the opening of the five-day convention of the Philippines Jaycees at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang in connection with the organization's silver jubilee celebration, the President said the present revolution is a lifelong struggle and that he, as President, was a mere instrument in bringing it about. The President said the primary purpose of the revolution was to dismantle the leftist-rightist apparatus and the secessionist movements and at the same time to restructure society to uproot the valid sources of grievances. The President added that these long-range reforms are not intended for the present generation but for the younger generation. The youth must therefore prepare to take over the mantle of leadership in the field of reforms, he said.

THE PRESIDENT has released P10 million for the improvement and conversion of, temporary bridges in the country. Bureau of Public Highways Commissioner Baltazar Aquino reported that the P10 million fund release from the national revolving fund for national bridges will finance, among others, the conversion of the Mendiola bridge into a six-lane major thoroughfare. The new fund release will augment the P13 million earlier released by the President for the infrastructure activities of the highways bureau.

DEPARTMENT of Trade has ordered all commercial attaches to conduct a systematic and comprehensive study of various tariff and non-tariff barriers being imposed by other countries on the country's exports. Trade Secretary Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. said the study will provide the basis for the country's policies in connection with multilateral negotiations with, the view of protecting and promoting the country's trade interests. The commercial attaches were instructed to consult with official government agencies on such matters as discretionary licensing, health and sanitary regulations, packaging and labeling regulations, state trading, customs valuation procedure, government monopoly and import quotas.

October 3—

DEPARTMENT of Trade has authorized the establishment of Philippine Houses in Florida and Los Angeles, in the United States, and Vancouver, Canada, for the promotion of the country's exports and tourism. Trade Secretary

Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. has signed a memorandum agreement with Mr. Jack Skaff of Aimest Consulting Corporation, a Florida-based corporation, for the setting up of the Houses.

BUREAU of Customs collected P828 million in taxes and duties in the first three months of Fiscal Year 1973-74, which represented a 110 per cent increase over collections during the same period last year. Customs Commissioner Rolando G. Geotina revealed that P713.6 million was collected by the Port of Manila. With this collection, Commissioner Geotina expressed optimism that the customs bureau will be able to realize its collection target of P3 billion for this year.

SOME 280 units of irrigation pumps have been distributed to Muslim farmers in Mindanao, the National Irrigation Administration reported. NIA Administrative Alfredo L. Juinio said each pump can irrigate an average of 10 to 15 hectares. Recipients are required to pay a down-payment of 10 per cent of the total cost of the engine, with the balance payable within 10 to 13 years. At the same time, the NIA also reported that six national irrigation projects in Mindanao which could irrigate a total of 10,881 hectares have been completed.

BUREAU of Vocational Education reported that Government vocational schools have a present enrolment of more than 120,000 students. BVE Director Andres E. Asistin said latest data received by the bureau's central office showed that 121,390 students are now taking industrial, agricultural, fishery and vocational courses. This enrolment showed a 19,000-increase from the 102,264 figure during the schoolyear 1969-70. The increase in enrolment underscores the growing popularity of vocational-technical education in the country in view of the industrialization and developmental projects initiated by the Government.

October 4—

THE PRESIDENT received the letter of credence of Ambassador Milton Telles Ribeiro as the new ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Federative Republic of Brazil to the Philippines. In presenting his credentials to the President, Ambassador Ribeiro pledged to further strengthen the cordial ties existing between his country and the Philippines. The President expressed satisfaction and gratitude to the Brazilian government for its decision to send a man whose long service in Southeast Asia spans several years. The Ambassador is "attuned not only to our climate but also to our modes and our culture," the President said.

ARCHIPELAGIC doctrine of national territory engrained in the new Constitution of the Philippines has strengthened the country's position to push through its principle in the United Nation Seabed Committee. This was contained in a report of Ambassador-at-Large Arturo Tolentino on the meeting of the UNSC in Geneva last July and August. The report has been submitted to the President. The Philippine position on the archipelagic concept, which is supported by other nations including Indonesia, provides that a country will exercise full dominion and sovereign rights over waters and seas between islands comprising the archipelago.

DEPARTMENT of Tourism announced that overseas Filipinos visiting the Philippine under "Operations Homecoming" will enjoy discounts on hotel billeting, restaurant services, tour trips and store purchases. The Hotel and Restaurant Association of the Philippines (HRAP), the Association of Tour Operators of the Philippines (ATOP), and a group of department stores have volunteered to extend these benefits to the Balikbayan project. The tourism department said that the home-coming guests need only present their hospitality cards and passports to be entitled to the discounts.

DEPARTMENT of Trade assured foreign businessmen who will reside in Manila once their multinational companies regional headquarters are relocated here of adequate housing facilities. Trade Secretary Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. has ordered a study on housing rentals in the exclusive villages in Greater Manila where foreign nationals taking advantage of the country's business and investment climate—are expected to stay. Mr. Quiazon said the study is in line with the Government's program to attract foreign multinationals to establish their regional headquarters in the Philippines.

DEPARTMENT of Trade limited the exportation of plywood solely to registered producers and their authorized agents under the revised guidelines on plywood and lumber export issued recently. Under the revised guidelines,

registered plywood producers and their agents are required to submit under oath to the trade department a recapitulation of total monthly production and sales (domestic and foreign) within 30 days after the end of each month. Mr. Quiazon said a quota of 70 per cent of total production will be allowed for plywood exports allocated on a case to case basis determined by performance in production and export sales of different plywood firms in Fiscal Year 1972-73. The lumber industry is allowed to export a quota of 30 per cent of total production, as allocated to various lumber exporters.

BOARD of Transportation directed the foreign truck operator who have existing contracts with oil companies for transporting oil at rates lower than 30 centavos per ton to file for the prescribed rates within 30 days. The board issued the order following complaints from several truck operators that some truck owners have resorted to offering hauling services at rates lower than the prescribed rates as authorized by the BT. The BT said that henceforth, oil companies entering into hauling contracts with truck owners are enjoined to require the presentation by the contracting party of a certified true copy of its operating authority or certificates of public convenience.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: October 5-11, 1973

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

October 5—

THE PRESIDENT made available the Industrial Guarantee Loan Fund to cottage industries in a move to broaden the industries role in the expansion of the country's economic base. The IGLF will enable small cottage industry producers to borrow money without any collateral, under a supervised credit system similar to the *Masagana 99* loaning policy. The IGLF was only available to small and medium scale industries. The Chief Executive also sought the assistance of all sectors of the economy, including bankers, judiciary and executive department officials, to help formulate policies to promote cottage industries. These moves highlighted the keynote speech of the President before the First National Conference of Cottage Industry Producers and Exporters at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang. The President said the government is encouraging cottage industries because they not only encourage the dispersal of talents but help smoke out hidden wealth.

BUREAU of Internal Revenue Commissioner Misael P. Vera said overseas Filipinos who will visit the country under "Operations Homecoming" will not be required to present tax clearance certificates. Mr. Vera said the visiting Filipinos need not even present VIP or hospitality cards, which under a revenue order, serve as a tax clearance for their return trip abroad. The revenue commissioner added he has ordered travel agents and airline companies to indicate on the passenger manifests the passport number and date of arrival of non-resident Filipinos so that their failure to get their VIP or hospitality cards will not hinder their departure for abroad.

CIVIC organizations should involve the people benefiting from community projects in the formulation and implementation of such programs to foster bigger civilian participation. Information secretary Francisco S. Tatad made this statement in a speech at the Silver Jubilee celebration of the Philippine Jaycees in Angeles City. He explained that it is not enough that civic organizations involve their own members in their community projects. What is required, he pointed out, is the common involvement of all, including those who are expected to benefit from such projects. He added that the Government will continue to find concrete ways to involve the greatest number of the people. But civic organizations, he said, must now formulate new programs that will afford the people to involve themselves in community work.

NATIONAL Grains Authority has lifted the ban on the use of white corn for the manufacture of animal feeds in view of the recent bountiful harvest of corn in the country. The grains agency, however, said the corn support price of the Government of P1.30 per kilo must be observed in the cereal's purchase. The announcement was made during a meeting of NGA officials and officers of the Philippine Association of Feed Millers at the NGA's central office.

October 6—

THE PRESIDENT created the annual Panday Pira Award which will be conferred upon outstanding cottage industry producers and entrepreneurs actively involved in the national effort of promoting the country's fledgling cottage industry. Named after the eminent Filipino cannon-maker of early times who was known for his excellent indigenous craftsmanship, the Panday Pira Award was created to encourage cottage industry workers to continue with their productive endeavors.

THE PHILIPPINES and Czechoslovakia established diplomatic relations, the fourth agreement the Philippines has signed with Eastern European socialist countries in 16 days. The Department of Foreign Affairs was informed of this development through a cabled message from the Philippine Mission to the United Nations. The mission said Foreign Secretary Carlos P. Romulo signed the formal accords with Czechoslovakian Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek at the Philippine Mission offices in New York.

THE GOVERNMENT has collected a total of P214,986.77 from 17,910 non-filers of income tax returns in the provinces who have so far availed of the Government's tax amnesty offer. Commissioner Misael P. Vera said the "broad masses are demonstrating their involvement in the New Society as evidenced by their active participation in

the government through the payment of taxes.” What makes this more encouraging, he noted, is the fact that the response is more evident in the provinces and cities outside the Greater Manila area. Deadline for the filing of income tax returns under the amnesty offer is October 31.

DEPARTMENT of Trade reported that Philippine export products have won wide acceptance in Toronto, Canada, through the relentless sales promotion thrust being waged by the recently established Philippine House. Canadian export-import firms and Filipino store operators have come to accept the Philippine House as their service agency and supplier. Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr., disclosed that since the opening of the display house in April, this year, total spot sales alone amounted to more than \$30,000 consisting of garments, rum and beer, food items and cottage products.

October 7—

THE PRESIDENT released P6 million for the advance exploitation of Pantabangan Dam, which is being constructed to irrigate some 10,000 hectares of ricelands in the dam area. The amount will be used by the National Irrigation Administration for the closure of the dam’s diversion panel, so that water can be stored up and used for irrigation purposes even during construction work on the main dam. Agriculture Undersecretary Jose D. Drilon Jr. said in an announcement that the President’s move will mean an additional harvest for the country of at least 800,000 cavans of rice worth about P28 million. It will also give farmers extra income amounting to P18 million annually.

FOREIGN Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Romulo has sounded off a group of Asian foreign ministers on the immediate formation of a “continental organization to express the Asian point of view,” a re-emphasis on the President’s Asian Forum. The secretary discussed the establishment of a forum in a dinner he tendered for Asian foreign ministers and permanent representatives, at Waldorf Astoria Hotel. He expressed regrets that the most “populous continent on earth” had no organization similar to the association of American states or the federation of African unity. Secretary Romulo observed that the Asian gathering was a “harmony in brown” and reflected “a common denominator in culture and in aspirations, despite the diversity of Asian customs, languages and beliefs.”

EXPORT earnings from copra and coconut products surged by 38 per cent to \$242.6 million in the first 10 months of this year, compared to the same period last year. The 38 per cent rise in export receipts was posted despite a 12.78 per cent drop in volume exported, from 1.315 million long tons from January to September last year, compared to 1.147 million long tons during the same period this year. The increase in the value of coconut exports despite a decline in volume was due to a 54.82 per cent rise in the price per long ton of copra, 58.3 per cent in coconut oil, 67.63 per cent in copra meal and 54.43 per cent in desiccated coconut. These are gleaned from comparative reports on the value and volume of coco exports secured from the United Coconut Association of the Philippines.

October 8—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the conversion of the Major Ferdinand E. Marcos Hospital in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya, into a veterans regional hospital with a minimum capacity of 100 beds. The order contained in Presidential Decree No. 306, also provides for the establishment of field hospitals in places where units of the USAFIP NL (United States Armed Forces in the Philippines, Northern Luzon) were established. In converting the hospital into a veterans regional hospital, the President took into consideration the increasing need to extend greater assistance to the country’s war veterans, their offsprings, orphans, widows and other relatives, including the “bolo men.”

PHILIPPINE exports for the first nine months of 1973 earned \$1,337 billion, which accounted for 53.5 per cent more earnings for the same period last year. Customs Commissioner Rolando G. Geotina said the earnings from January to September this year posted an increase of \$465 million over last year’s January-September figure amounting to \$871.6 million. Export wharfage dues collected for the January September period totalled P17.236 million, up by 240 per cent for the same period last year. The top ten Philippine exports are: copper concentrates (\$23.3 million); logs (\$21.2 million); copra (\$13.7 million); gold (P18.6 million); plywood (\$6.01 million); coconut oil (\$5.79 million); desiccated coconut (\$3.6 million); lumber (\$3.1 million); handicrafts (\$2.9 million); and cement (\$2.6 million).

AGRICULTURE Secretary Arturo R. Tanco Jr. declared a 5,000-hectare area in Laguna de Bay a permanent fish sanctuary in line with the Government's efforts to conserve and develop the country's rich fishery resources. In an administrative order implementing Presidential Decree No. 43, the Bureau of Fisheries was directed to establish, maintain and supervise a fish sanctuary that would serve as a natural spawning ground for various commercial fish specie indigenous to the lake. The order in effect declared off limits to all fishermen a 5,000-hectare area in the middle of the 90,000-hectare lake. Anyone caught violating the sanctuary will be fined not more than P5,000 or imprisonment for not more than five years or both.

HANDICRAFT manufacturers in Albay have chalked up an impressive \$57,995.67 in exports of cottage industry products in a week's time last September. This was gleaned from a report of the Research and Standardization Bureau (RSB) branch office of the National Cottage Industry Development Authority in Legazpi City. The RSB branch office likewise reported the approval of 19 export applications amounting to US\$81,411 from September 17 to 21.

October 9—

THE PHILIPPINE Government adopted complete neutrality in the Middle East conflict which appeared to have escalated with the renewed fighting among the Israelis and the Egyptians and Syrians. The Philippine position was agreed upon in the Cabinet meeting presided by the President in Malacañang. The Cabinet also agreed that the Philippine Government will exert all efforts to support the quest for peace in the troubled Middle East.

THE PRESIDENT authorized all government librarians to attend the convention of the Philippine Library Association in Manila on October 25-29. The theme of the convention, in commemoration of the association's golden jubilee anniversary, is "Libraries and Infrastructure Development." Memorandum Circular No. 661, issued by Acting Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, by authority of the President, authorizes government librarians to attend the convention on official time.

NATIONAL Grains Authority warned rice and corn dealers that they will be dealt with severely if found using the ganta as a system of measurement and not the kilo as decreed by the President. The NGA warning followed a series of inspections of public markets in the Greater Manila area and the provinces which indicated that many rice and corn retailers were still using the ganta as a measuring device. Pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 4 otherwise known as the NGA Act, violators will be punished by an imprisonment of not less than one year and a fine of not less than P4,000.

DEPARTMENT of Public Information announced that the DPI launched in Vigan, Ilocos Sur, the first community newspaper on cooperative basis. Information Secretary Francisco S. Tatad said this was the initial step to blanket the country with community newspapers. Briefing students from the University of the Philippines College of Agriculture, Mr. Tatad explained that the launching of the community newspaper concept is part of the DPI's campaign to develop mass media in the rural areas. He deplored the fact that for many years, the emphasis of media development has been in the urban areas, leaving the rural areas to be serviced by small publications put out by enterprising young men or groups.

THE PHILIPPINES exported recently a total of 847,372 worth of potatoes, mangoes, onions, mongo and dried beans to Hongkong, Guam and Japan. This was reported to Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) Director Eliseo Carandang by the BPI plant quarantine office. Mr. Carandang, expressing elation over the growth of the country's fruit and vegetable export industries, said "this is a clear indication that the Philippines is now producing high-quality crops that can meet other countries' requirements."

BUREAU of Customs has limited to P350 the maximum amount of brokerage fee customs brokers could charge for services rendered in connection with the clearance of import and export products. Customs Commissioner Rolando G. Geotina said that the public availing of the services of customs brokers will no longer be bothered by the so-called "invisible" expenses. To stop this anomalous practice, Mr. Geotina said the bureau pegged the brokerage fee in line with the "prevailing sense of morality and value being advanced in the Government." In a memorandum, the

Customs official warned that brokers could no longer charge more than the maximum amount under pain of suspension of their business or cancellation of their license.

October 10—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the implementation of an energy plan which calls for the maximum conservation of fuel and the use of all available substitutes for oil. The President, at the same time, appealed to the people to support and organize efforts to save oil due to the worsening crisis in the Middle East brought about by the undeclared war between two Arab countries and Israel. In connection with this, the Government has set a plan for the conservation of oil. The plan calls for: fuel conservation and substitution for oil.

DEPARTMENT of Justice has ruled on the validity of the formation of a proposed non-profit, non-sectarian and non-political association by government employees. Justice Secretary Vicente Abad Santos, in an opinion, said he was not aware of any law, order, directive or regulation which would be contravened by the formation of the association, "so long as the purpose for which it is organized are lawful." However, Secretary Abad Santos said that each individual government employee, who is a prospective member of the association, shall comply with the requirements prescribed by the Revised Civil Service Rules if the same are applicable.

TOTAL of 19,708 foreign tourists visited the Philippines last September, breaking all previous records of tourist arrivals in a one-month period. The Department of Tourism said the number surpassed by 34.6 per cent the 10,675 foreign tourists who visited the country during the same month last year. For the second month in a row, Japanese tourists outnumbered the Americans. Japanese visitors last month numbered 5,875 as compared to last year's 1,434, or an increase of 309.6 per cent. A total of 4,541 American tourists visited the country last month, reflecting an increase of 33.3 per cent over the arrivals of 3,406 during the same period last year. Arrivals from Australia also rose by 62.2 per cent, from 813 in September 1972 to 1,360 last month. On the other hand, 1,324 British tourists visited the country last September, registering an increase of 72 per cent from arrivals of 769 during the same month in 1972. Coming second to the Japanese were Filipino residents abroad with 1,373. In September last year, only 731 Filipinos visited the country.

THE GOVERNMENT has collected a total of P11.4 million in income taxes from Filipinos abroad from January to September this year. Bureau of Internal Revenue Commissioner Misael P. Vera said the collection represented remittances made by Philippine foreign service establishments and revenue attaches in the United States, Europe and Asia. Mr. Vera also said that some 5543,739.14 are still collectible from 15 Philippine embassies and consulates. The BIR commissioner noted that the big collection of \$962,146 was made on income tax for the year 1972 from Filipinos in the United States after the effectivity of Presidential Decree No. 69 which amended the income tax law governing Filipinos abroad.

PRICE Control Council lifted the government price ceiling for common wire nails and reinforcing steel bars to counteract the shortage of steel products and other construction materials. Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr., concurrent chairman of the price body, signed the PCC circular allowing the prices of common wire nails and reinforcing steel bars (structural grade, plain and deformed) to float in the market.

NATIONAL Grains Authority announced that there is sufficient supply of starch to meet industrial and household requirements. The announcement was made after a meeting between NGA Administrator Jess Tanchanco and other NGA officials and starch manufacturers. During the meeting, NGA officials also announced that there will be no exportation of starch for at least this month and until domestic supply is assured of stability.

October 11—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the government's active participation in oil exploration through an integrated program that shall spell out the national policy and the guidelines. Secretary of Information Francisco S Tatad at a briefing, disclosed that the Chief Executive directed the inter-agency committee, headed by the National Economic and Development Authority, to prepare a decree that shall define the powers and responsibilities of the appropriate agency for the purpose. The President also instructed the committee composed of chiefs of government agencies

engaged in the energy development effort, headed by NEDA Director General Gerardo Sicat, to work out the details, proposals, changes and other matters concerning the energy development project.

THE PRESIDENT received the senior officers and officials of the Royal College of Defense Studies of London, who called to pay their respects to him following their arrival in Manila. The group, which is currently on an observation tour of the Far East, had been briefed about the local situation by officials of the Departments of Foreign Affairs and of National Defense. The Chief Executive told the group that the New Society is designed to remove and extirpate the root causes of rebellion through a series of reforms—land reform, labor reform, educational reform, political reform, increased social services, peace and order, and economic reform. However, the President said, until the various reform take root, the Philippines will not go back to any system which will allow the oligarchs or the rich to take over political leadership and corrupt the system all over again.

BUREAU of Internal Revenue ordered its agents to continue collecting amusement taxes on admission in places where the local governments have not yet passed appropriate ordinances imposing this tax. Acting Finance Secretary Pedro M. Almanzor said the amusement tax on admission is one of the three national taxes and fees transferred to the local governments as provided for by the Local Tax Code promulgated under Presidential Decree No. 231. Mr. Almanzor said that while the transfer of the amusement tax is supposed to take effect last October 1, the local governments cannot enforce collections of the same without the necessary ordinance enacted for the purpose. He added that in order not to disrupt tax collection functions, BIR collection agents shall continue collecting the amusement tax on admission until such time that all the local governments shall have passed the necessary ordinances.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Month in Review: October 12-18, 1973

President's Week in Review: October 19-25, 1973

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

October 19—

THE PRESIDENT proclaimed October 21 as Tenants' Emancipation Day to mark the historic date when tenants were freed from the bondage of landlords by the promulgation of Presidential Decree No. 27. The decree, promulgated by the President in his own handwriting on October 21 1972 extended the coverage of the land reform program to an lands devoted primarily to rice and corn and tilled by tenants. After signing the proclamation, the President directed the Department Agrarian Reform to attend to the appropriate observance every year of tenants Emancipation Day in cooperation with tenants or their organizations.

DEPARTMENT of Foreign Affairs announced that an agreement between the Philippines and Switzerland on the reciprocal abolition of visa requirements for diplomatic officials, special and service passports, was already signed. Acting Foreign Secretary Manuel Collantes signed for the Philippines while Swiss Ambassador Ferdinand M. Dufour signed for Switzerland. This agreement exempts Philippine and Swiss holders of diplomatic, official, special and service passports from the usual visa requirements. Bearers of regular passports, however, are not included in the waiver.

THE PHILIPPINES' fish production reached an all-time high of 1.1 million metric tons in 1972, registering an increase of 7.8 per cent from the production of 10 years ago, according to the Bureau of Fisheries. Fisheries Director Felix Gonzales said that the total fish production in 1962 was only 483,948 metric tons as compared to last year's 1,122,486 metric tons. At present, the Philippines' fisheries resources cover an area of 643,343 square miles with 126,000 hectares of freshwater and 367,000 mangrove swamp areas. In view of this, Director Gonzales said the fishing industry is expected to become a major dollar earner for the Philippines.

SECRETARY of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata announced that some 32,172 defective instruments of weights and measures were either confiscated or sealed in the nationwide campaign launched by the Department of Finance against the use of defective weighing instruments in public markets and other places. Secretary Virata made the announcement after going over reports from 27 provincial treasurers and 14 city treasurers. Section 289 of the National Internal Revenue Code penalizes any person who uses such defective instruments of weights and measures by a fine of not less than P200 nor more than P4,000 or by imprisonment for not less than three months nor more than two years or both.

October 20—

THE PRESIDENT appointed Justice Querube Makalintal as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, succeeding former Chief Justice Roberto Concepcion who has retired. A graduate of the College of Law of the University of the Philippines, Class of 1933, the new Chief Justice was a private practitioner for 13 years until he entered the government service as judge of the Court of First Instance, in Iloilo. In 1954, he was named solicitor general and in the same year, was named to the Court of Appeals. He rose to become presiding justice of that body in 1961. He was appointed associate justice of the Supreme Court in 1962 and was the senior ranking associate justice at the time the former chief justice retired.

SECRETARY OF Justice Vicente Abad Santos said the new Constitution has been in effect since January 17, replacing the old Constitution. He rendered this opinion in answer to a formal request from Information Secretary Francisco S. Tatad who said that in spite of the ratification and adoption of the new charter, queries from here and abroad persist as to whether it is not in fact the old Constitution that it still in force. He stated further that the President certified and proclaimed the new Constitution in effect in Presidential Proclamation No. 1102 after an overwhelming majority of the members of the barangays in the Philippines voted in favor of the adoption of the new charter.

DEPARTMENT of Labor has issued supplementary guidelines in the implementation of the President's order to stagger work hours in the Government as well as in private establishments. The guidelines, embodied in a circular signed by Labor Secretary Blas F. Ople, seek to relieve workers and employers of any inconveniences resulting from rigid implementation of the general order without deviating from its objectives.

NOT MORE than P500 in Philippine currency notes may be brought into the country by an incoming traveller for the duration of the demonetization period ending December 31, 1973, the Central Bank announced. This regulation is contained in Central Bank Circular No. 383 released as an amendment to CB Circular No. 265, which had earlier set the P500 limit that an incoming or outgoing traveller may bring in or out of the country. The amended circular is calculated to sterilize the reported large amounts of illegally hoarded pesos abroad, notably in Hongkong, which have contributed to the depreciation of the Philippine currency.

THE GOVERNMENT convened the country's rice millers, traders and warehousemen in a conference to spur an effective rice procurement program under the intensified *Masagana99* production drive. Agriculture Secretary Arturo R. Tanco Jr. and Grains Administrator Jesus Tanchanco spearheaded the conference at the auditorium of the Development Bank of the Philippines. During the conference, Secretary Tanco urged the rice millers, traders and warehousemen to shoulder the buying of some 131 million cavans of palay expected to be generated by *Masagana99*.

CENTRAL Bank Monetary Board announced the reorganization of the Land Bank of the Philippines with the appointment of a high-ranking official as its president. Chosen LB president by the bank's Monetary Board with the advice and consent of the President was Mr. Basilio Estanislao, a special assistant to CB Governor Gregorio S. Licaros in charge of the supervision and examination sector which has jurisdiction over all banking as well as non-bank financial institutions. The Land Bank was reorganized under Presidential Decree No. 251 to make it more of a financial institution, with development, commercial and merchant banking functions, in implementing the requirements of the land reform program.

October 21—

THE PRESIDENT has appointed three new associate justices to the Supreme Court, including the first woman member of the highest tribunal. Named to the high court are: 1) former Senator Estanislao Fernandez; 2) Associate Justice Cecilia Muñoz Palma of the Court of Appeals; and 3) Ramon Aquino, a well-known law practitioner and author of law books.

SECRETARY of Information Francisco S. Tatad told a peace and prosperity rally in Marawi City that nothing stand in the way of the full development of Mindanao and that the government is committed in seeing to it that there is an equal sharing of progress in the country. The peace, order and prosperity rally was organized by citizens of Marawi one year after the short-lived October 21 Marawi uprising. The secretary appealed for brotherhood among Christians and Muslims, saying that all of them have invested life and honor in the building of one Filipino nation.

BUREAU of Public Works has reported to the President that damages to infrastructure facilities throughout the country wrought by typhoons Luming and "Narsing" amounted to at least P16.7 million. Of this amount P5.8 million represent damaged flood control and drainage facilities while P5.2 million represent destroyed school buildings. The rest are for damages to government buildings, hospitals and sanitariums, waterworks, wells, springs, portworks, shore protection works and others. Of the P16.7 million total damage inflicted by the two typhoons, P14.59 million was caused by typhoon "Luming" while only P2.11 million was caused by typhoon "Narsing."

JULIO CARDINAL Rosales "enthusiastically endorsed" the idea of President Marcos to "return Christ to Christmas" with the revival of the traditional Church liturgy and rituals, as well as native customs which once made the Philippine Christmas celebrations unique, solemn and colorful. In a conference with Secretary of Tourism Jose D. Aspiras, the Cardinal and Mons. Mariano Gaviola, who was also present, pledged to endorse the project to the other members of the Church hierarchy. Describing the President's proposal as "wonderful," the Cardinal and Bishop Gaviola expressed confidence that the Church leaders will approve it "with enthusiasm."

October 22—

THE PRESIDENT renewed his appeal to the entire people to support the land reform which is basic to the government's development program. The President sounded the appeal before thousand of emancipated farmers who had come from as far north as Ilocos and Isabela to as far south as Sulu, Cotabato and Bukidnon, to join the celebration of the first anniversary of the proclamation of land reform at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. In addressing the huge assemblage, following a thanksgiving parade during which the farmers marched before the grandstand, bearing placards and streamers, and waving their hats, the President pledged that "there is no turning back, no withdrawing from the land reform program, and that the government will never hesitate in the implementation of the program."

SECRETARY of Information Francisco S. Tatad said the Muslim communities of the Philippines can look forward to a long period of sustained development and growth until the real conditions of these areas are transformed. The secretary made these remarks in colorful ceremonies at the Mindanao State University, where the youngest member of the President's Cabinet was installed Sultan A-Makalangkap (bearer of truth) by the prestigious 32-member sultanate league of Marawi City. The first member of the President's Cabinet to be given the honorary title, Secretary Tatad expressed the determination of the President to bring the level of development in the Muslim areas. He further stated that it is for this minority that the New Society was launched, and it is for this minority that the New Society will be created.

NATIONAL Prime Commodities Council appealed to gasoline dealers to police themselves and to work out a system of allocation of fuel to their consumers. The council also appealed to the consumers to help conserve not only gasoline but also other petroleum products. The council issued the twin appeals in a meeting with gasoline dealers and representatives of the public transportation sector at the National Prime Commodities Operations Center in Camp Crame, Quezon City.

October 23—

THE PRESIDENT expressed concern over the fate of the Mangyans of Mindoro and reiterated the government policy of either absorbing the cultural minorities into the mainstream of national life or preserving their tribal cultures. The President expressed his concern for the Mangyans during his meeting with the survey mission of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development which submitted a report on the integrated development program for the two Mindoro provinces. Headed by Roy Hewson, the FAO-IBRD mission includes Roy Spinks, economist; John Clifford, engineer; Gerald Clarke, agronomist; Raymond Igo, irrigation engineer; and John Cole, economist.

THE PRESIDENT received the officials of B. F. Goodrich, who came to thank him for the restoration of peace and order in Basilan which enabled their plant there to operate. The President, in turn, requested the Goodrich officials to help the government in extirpating the root causes of grievances. The Goodrich officials who called on the President were O. Pendleton Thomas and Gerald Alexander, chairman and executive vice president, respectively, and Donald Ress and William Mitchell of Goodrich Philippines. The Goodrich officials pledged to cooperate and support the government programs to promote the New Society.

THE PRESIDENT told surrendered leaders of Yakans of Basilan who had fled to the hills that the time has come for all Filipinos, Muslims as well as Christians, to unite and work together for the improvement of the living conditions of everyone under the New Society. In his meeting with the Yakans, who were brought to Malacañang following their recent surrender, in connection with the government's policy of attraction, the President assured them that they would be extended all possible assistance to lead normal lives. Hadji Salajin Mutamad, Yakan tribal leader in Basilan promised to return to Basilan and convince his followers numbering about 100 armed men, as well as those of allied groups, to come out of hiding and take advantage of the opportunity granted them by the President to lead more productive lives.

SECRETARY of Information Francisco S. Tatad called for an overhauling of the concept of liberal education to make it an effective partner in the country's development. Speaking before faculty members of the University of the

East on the occasion of the Silver anniversary of UE's School of Arts and Sciences, the Secretary pointed out that the "movement towards development" launched under the New Society needs the support not only of those educated in the humanities. The new concept of liberal education, he said, trains man so that he may fully understand his human condition, his environment and his culture for the purpose of enlightenment and coping with life. The secretary stressed that this education in liberation will go a long way toward attaining the New Society's goals of "transforming the national consciousness, of effecting the cultural revolution that we have spoken of."

THE PRESIDENT directed the budget commissioner to release P2 million from the Calamity Fund to the Bureau of Plant Industry for use in the immediate purchase and distribution of good palay seeds for lending to farmers in Cotabato, Central Luzon, Laguna and the Bicol area who lost their rice crop due to floods, plant diseases and typhoons "Luming" and Narsing and who, by virtue of their location, are capable of replanting their farms. The director of the Bureau of Plant Industry was instructed to administer the seed purchase and distribution.

BUREAU of Internal Revenue has realized P65.6 million back accounts in the form of uncollected withholding taxes. The amount was due from interest payments remitted by local banks to foreign creditors in the names of local firm-debtors. The P65.6 million collection was the result of a directive from Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata for the BIR to exert effort in the collection of taxes due on interest payments made to foreign creditors.

NATIONAL Labor Relations Commission capped its first year of operations with the payment of P68.7 million in restitutions to 12,240 workers. This was the highlight of a report submitted to the President by Labor Secretary Blas F. Ople on the first anniversary of the founding of the NLRC under Presidential Decree No. 21. The report said that for the period, the NLRC, headed by Undersecretary of Labor Amado G. Inciong, received a total of 6,275 complaints of which 5,145 were settled. The payments to workers were in form of back wages and other benefits, such as separation pay and increase in wages received by the workers.

October 24—

THE PRESIDENT has issued Presidential Decree No. 318 limiting the power of chartered cities to increase taxes on petroleum products. The decree provides that notwithstanding the provisions of Section 24 of Article 3, Chapter II of the Local Tax Code, "the cities shall not increase the rate of taxes imposed by them on petroleum products and prevailing at the time of promulgation of the order of the Oil Industry Commission dated October 20, 1973, increasing the price of petroleum products which is likewise the date of effectivity of PD No. 314, increasing the specific tax on petroleum products."

THE PRESIDENT received the Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, in the course of the latter's stopover in Manila on his way home from Tokyo, Japan. The President, with some members of the Cabinet, had a cordial talk with the Prime Minister on matters of mutual interest. The President and the Prime Minister expressed mutual satisfaction on the quality of bilateral cooperation between the Philippines and Bangladesh, and jointly voiced the hope that there would continue to be a strengthening of relations.

DEPARTMENT of Justice has ruled that domestic private companies with at least 60 per cent Filipino capital may acquire private lands in the Philippines under the new Constitution, Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos issued the opinion in reply to a request from the Commissioner of Land Registration. The justice secretary said that although the new Constitution provides that no private corporation or association may hold alienable lands of the public domain except by lease, he asserted that domestic private companies with 60 per cent Filipino capital may acquire lands under the new charter.

SECRETARY of Information Francisco S. Tatad said no one may collect fees of any kind from media personnel in connection with their work. The DPI chief at the same time announced that the collection of fees from media establishment by the Media Advisory Council has been suspended. The secretary invited parties from whom the MAC had collected fees in spite of the memorandum to report to the authorities so that the violators could be apprehended.

THE PRESIDENT expressed gratification over the findings of a 160-man survey mission of the Kam Ngan Stock Exchange of Hongkong which arrived here in the Philippines to study the investment and business possibilities in the country. Mr. Woo Hon Fai, chairman of the Kam Ngan Stock Exchange, which is the biggest in Hongkong, informed the President that “your country is ideal for foreign investment, especially” by the people of Hongkong.” Mr. Woo Hon Fai said they had observed the general peace and order situation, the abundance of the country’s natural resources, its sufficient labor force at reasonable wages, very sensible labor laws and attractive government incentives which include protection of foreign investments. The President in return expressed the hope that more frequent mission will arrive and help in the economic development program under the New Society.

October 25—

THE PRESIDENT has promulgated Presidential Decree No. 320 increasing the national aid share that should be provided to provinces, cities and municipalities for road maintenance funds to conform with the changes in the amounts accruing to their roads and bridges fund as a result of the implementation of PD 144, which revised the distribution of income derived from taxes to local governments. PD 320 increases the allocation for contingent emergency expenditures from five per cent to 10 per cent of the Highway Special Fund. The decree likewise increases the allocation for discretionary fund from five per cent to 10 per cent of the Highways Special Fund.

THE PRESIDENT has amended the provisions of the Special Calamity Fund of 1972 to authorize payment beyond June 30, 1973 of obligations for materials used and services rendered in calamity projects from the unexpended balances of the Calamity Fund. The amendment is embodied in Presidential Decree No. 319 which states that the present provisions of the Special Calamity Fund Act of 1972 specifically provide under Section 1 that no funds therein appropriated shall be expended beyond March 31, 1973, and that any unexpended amount beyond March 31, 1973, whether obligated or not shall automatically revert to the General Fund, except those for on-going projects started before March 31, 1973, disbursements for which may be authorized until but not beyond June 30, 1973.

THE PRESIDENT has proclaimed the third week of November of every year as “Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Week” to increase the understanding among the people of the adverse effects of dangerous drugs on their health as well as on the social and economic conditions of the country. In Proclamation No. 1192, the President points out that intensive and well-coordinated preventive education and community information on the evil effects of the dangerous drugs will in a large measure help in the prevention and control of drug dependence.

THE PRESIDENT inducted Querube Makalintal as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Among those who witnessed the induction of Makalintal were the First Lady, incumbent and former justices of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals, members of the Cabinet, other members of the judiciary and close relatives and friends of the inductee.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: October 26 - November 1, 1973

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

October 26—

THE PRESIDENT reminded all municipal judges of their role to uproot the causes of valid grievances by preventing the miscarriage of justice. The President described the municipal judges as the backbone of the judiciary who are the deciding factors in many of the things that the government is doing. The President said that under the New Society, it is necessary to act upon the complaint of any citizen who has any grievance, whether such grievance is valid or not. Addressing the closing day of the eight national convention of the League of Municipal Judges at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang, the President said he will soon issue a decree creating the *Sandiganbayan* and *Tanodbayan*, which are provided for under Article XIII of the Constitution.

THE PRESIDENT has issued Proclamation No. 1198 declaring October 27 a legal holiday in the Muslim provinces to give Muslims an opportunity to properly observe "Hariraya Puasa," marking the end of their fasting season. The event, also called Eid-UI-Fitr and Eid-UI-Adha, falls on the first day of the tenth lunar month of Shawwal in the Hijrah calendar. Capping the Muslim feasting month of Ramadan, the religious observance coincided with October 27, 1973 in the Gregorian calendar. The President also directed that all Muslim employees working outside the Muslim provinces and cities shall be excused from work during this holiday without diminution in salary. The President has also issued Presidential Decree No. 322 amending PD No. 291 which prescribes the observance of Muslim holidays as legal holidays.

NATIONAL Grains Authority and the National Irrigation Administration signed an agreement designed to intensify further the Government's cereal program. Under the agreement, rice farmers serviced by the NIA may pay their loans or irrigation fees and other charges in the form of palay. The NGA, in turn, will buy the palay at the Government support price of P35 per cavan of 50 kilos. This way, the Government will be able to collect its receivables from farmers without much difficulty and at the same time assures farmers of a ready market for their harvest at a reasonable price.

DEPARTMENT of Finance warned government officials and employees who fail to deduct or remit in time the withholding tax on their personnel's wages will be subjected to administrative action pursuant to the provisions of Presidential Decree No. 6. Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata issued the warning in view of reports that many government offices have been remiss in the remittance of withholding taxes. The finance secretary said that public officials or employees who fail to remit the withholding taxes may not be held liable for surcharges and interest but can be administratively charged with "negligence in the performance of their duty."

PHILIPPINE Medical Care Commission called on the country's drug manufacturers to study the possibility of compressing protein from its natural form into pills or capsules. Dr. Pacifico E. Marcos, PMCC chairman, said that protein in pills or capsules would have far-reaching effect on the Government's health and nutrition program. Speaking before members of the Drug Association of the Philippines, Dr. Marcos noted that the nutritional deficiency of the people is in protein and not in vitamins. At the same time, he appealed to the drug manufacturers to sell their products at reasonable prices so that Medicare program can be expanded further.

THE PRESIDENT received the credentials of the new Indian and Belgian ambassadors to the Philippines. In separate ceremonies held at the Malacañang Ceremonial Hall, the President received the letters of credence of Ambassadors P. S. Naskar of India and Louis Vandenbrande of the Kingdom of Belgium as ambassadors extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Philippines. Ambassador Naskar said that because of the program of reforms, the Philippines is now poised to achieve new heights in the field of social and economic development. Ambassador Vandenbrande, on the other hand, noted the progress made by the Philippines after liberation, and its contribution to every move to promote world peace. In return, the President expressed the hope that as both the Philippines and Belgium face new opportunities, their relations will come closer with more contacts between the citizens of both countries. The President also expressed gratitude to the government and people of India for the

assistance and technical equipment given to the Philippines for the rehabilitation of the Philippine National Railways.

THE COUNTRY'S pineapple industry registered a total of 282 million kilos in 1972, according to the Bureau of Plant Industry. During the 12-month period, 29,630 hectares of land were planted to pineapple, producing 282,085,600 kilos. According to the bureau, pineapple is grown extensively in Northern Mindanao, Bicol Region, Southern Tagalog, Cagayan Valley and Western Visayas. The BPI said that pineapple ranks third in money value after banana and mango, and fourth in hectareage among the country's major fruit crops.

October 27—

THE PRESIDENT has promulgated Presidential Decree No. 323 providing for a more reasonable tax scheme for overseas Filipinos, by allowing certain exemptions or deductions from their gross incomes. The issuance of the decree was prompted by the government's awareness of the heavy tax burden borne by non-resident Filipinos who have established their residence abroad. It was also pointed out that consistent with the reforms under the New Society for a better tax administration, it is envisioned that overseas Filipinos can better meet their obligations of citizenship through voluntary compliance with reasonable, just and fair-tax laws. PD 323 amends Sec. 21 of the National Internal Revenue Code.

THE PRESIDENT has issued Presidential Decree No. 299-A reducing from 35 per cent to 15 per cent the tax on dividends received by a domestic or resident foreign corporation from a domestic corporation through the amendment of Sections 24, 29, 53 and 65 of the National Internal Revenue Code. This tax on dividends has been reduced to encourage more capital investments for large projects.

DEPARTMENT of Health has enjoined the country's health officials to organize educational activities to create public awareness on the dangers of drug abuse. The DH issued the call pursuant to Proclamation No. 1192, declaring the third week of November every year as "Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Week." In a related development, the Dangerous Drug Board urged professional, civic and religious groups to hold seminars, symposia and panel discussions during the "Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Week."

DEPARTMENT of Trade approved an application to construct housing communities for the retired Filipino and foreign servicemen and businessmen in the Philippines. The "retirement communities" will be opened to retired servicemen and businessmen of whatever nationality who meet the requirements regarding financing status, entry, lease clauses and Philippine government clearance. Trade Secretary Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. said the housing complex will be constructed by a Guam-based construction firm in joint venture with Filipino partners.

October 28—

THE PRESIDENT said an increasing part of every official peso expenditure will be devoted to economic development and social amelioration as the reform program of the government moves on. The President, in reply to a question from the press, said this is the meaning of the shift in orientation in government spending under the New Society. Prior to the proclamation of Martial Law, the operations of government represented the bigger portion of government spending as against capital expenditures for development. This is a conscious policy that forms part of the effort of the government to remove the inequalities in society that spawn disaffection and, sometimes, dissidence.

THE PRESIDENT has proclaimed the period from November 11-17, 1973, as "Management Consciousness Week," in line with the policy of the government to promote management consciousness in both the public and private sectors to help achieve the developmental goals of the nation. Proclamation No. 1187, issued by Acting Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, by order of the Chief Executive, pointed out that management consciousness is essential to promote better business practices, increase production and improve public administration and services, which are vital prerequisites to economic development, social progress and stability.

THE PRESIDENT has promulgated Presidential Decree No. 317 amending certain sections of Act 2427 (Insurance Act) so as to broaden the cooperatives base and enable cooperatives to expand their activities in coordination with the economic, social and agrarian reforms of the government. PD 317 amends Sec. 200 (B) of the Insurance Act to the effect that the supervision and control of the insurance commissioner shall not apply to cooperatives undertaking insurance on the life, health, property and other risks of its members or those of the individual members of the member-societies.

THE PRESIDENT was informed by officials of one of biggest independent manufacturers of car components in the world, the Dana Corp., that they have decided to make Manila their Southeast Asian headquarters because of the favorable investment climate in the country. Led by Frank Groper and Robert Davis, the Dana officials said they arrived at the decision after making a survey of investment possibilities in various Southeast Asian countries.

THE PRESIDENT directed General Romeo Espino, AFP chief of staff, to set aside 30 hectares of land in Fort Bonifacio for a Maharlika Village to serve as a Muslim residential area. The President ordered General Espino to draw up the plans for the village, and to determine priorities in accommodation therein. The President's directive for setting up the Muslim village is in line with the government's policy of like treatment for both Christians and Muslims.

October 29—

THE PRESIDENT inducted into office the three new and eight incumbent members of the Supreme Court. The new appointees are Justices Estanislao Fernandez, Cecilia Munoz Palma and Ramon C. Aquino. The three new associate justices will hold office during good behavior until the age of 65. The eight incumbent associate justices who were made to continue in office by the President under Sec. 10 of Article XVII of the Constitution, will hold office until the age of 70, unless sooner replaced.

THE PRESIDENT called upon the country's librarians to help the government face squarely the challenges posed by the 20th century. The librarians, according to the Chief Executive, are in the best position to obtain the deepest understanding of the needs, values, aspirations and resources of the national community. In a speech read for him by Secretary of Education and Culture Juan L. Manuel during the closing ceremonies for the golden jubilee celebration of the Philippine Library Association, the President stressed that imbued with energy, dedication and idealism, many librarians are destined to become planners and doers, not merely operators of libraries.

THE PRESIDENT declared November 1, 1973, a special public holiday. The Chief Executive noted in Proclamation No. 1199 that paying homage to the dead on All Saints Day is "one of our cherished traditions and, in keeping with that tradition, the people should be given full opportunity to observe the day with all its religious fervor."

THE PRESIDENT exhorted foresters to redouble their total effort towards the important task of protecting and conserving the valuable forest resources of the country not only for material progress or for its aesthetic value, parks, games and wildlife but also for the prevention of soil erosion and flood control as well as the maintenance of the proper ecological balance of nature for the welfare of this and the generation that will come after. In a message to the Society of Filipino Foresters, the President said the forest resources will long continue to be one of the major pillars of our economy, particularly in the earnest efforts of the New Society towards industrialization, stabilization of the international trade and the general uplift of the standard of living of the Filipinos.

October 30—

THE PRESIDENT directed the Department of Trade and the Department of Industry to set up the proper "desks" that will attend to inquiries from, and provide other assistance to, foreign investors desiring to participate in the country's economic development. The President issued the order after receiving several foreign missions which had decided to make further investments in the country but would want to have a "one-stop shop" in dealing with the government, and some sort of "marriage bureau" to enable them to enter joint ventures with local companies.

FOUR Government agencies and two private organizations signed a memorandum of agreement organizing a nationwide medical self-help program through the *barangays*. The agencies which signed the agreement were the Department of Health, Department of National Defense, Department of Local Governments and Community Development, Office of Civil Defense, the Philippine National Red Cross and the Philippine Medical Association. The inter-agency project headed by the Department of Health was designed primarily for residents in the remote areas which seldom get proper health and medical attention. The project was conceived by the agencies in support of the national health program initiated by the President.

SCIENTIST from the National Institute of Science and Technology (NIST) reported that coir dust coming from coconut husk can be made into useful active carbon. A group of NIST engineers showed in laboratory scale that the decolorizing effect of active carbon produced from coir dust compares favorably with commercial active carbon. The group found out that coir dust already contains 20.78 per cent fixed carbon. However, the NIST group said more development works are needed before the process could be applied in commercial scale.

October 31—

THE PRESIDENT said that in 10 years the Philippines will have graduated from a source of primary products to an exporter of finished products. The President based his prediction on the emphasis being given by the administration to the promotion of processing of local products, and on the wide acceptability that Philippine products are finding in the world market today. The President made this prediction during the call of Alberto Peissevaux, managing director of Compagnie Franciere Eternit of Brussels, and H. Clive Hemming, executive vice president of Eternit Corp. of the Philippines. The group informed the President of the vast changes that they had noticed which according to them are “very encouraging for investors.”

THE GOVERNMENT is calling on all gasoline users to exert their utmost to help in the conservation of fuel. “This is an urgent call,” Secretary of Information Francisco S. Tatad stressed in a briefing for newsmen. He said the country faces a reduction of 15 to 20 per cent in crude oil supply because of cutbacks in production in the Middle East. These cuts are without regard to the 70 per cent increase in posted prices, which means that there will be less crude at any price. However, the implementation of the National Energy Plan of the government is being sped up, particularly with respect to the development of substitutes for oil, and the reduction of fuel consumption for the transportation system, Secretary Tatad said.

THE PRESIDENT promulgated Presidential Decree No. 327 extending the period granting amnesty to persons who are required by law to file income tax returns from October 31, 1973 to November 30, 1973. The decree notes that the entire country had had inclement weather for the past few weeks brought about by three typhoons that caused considerable damage to public and private properties, with consequent and unexpected financial difficulties among the poorer sectors of the community and considerable delay in the tax filing campaign.

November 1—

THE PRESIDENT said that the government has no intention of utilizing the Philippine International Trading Corp. to take over in any way the private sector’s present channels of export and import. The statement was issued by the President in view of some apprehensions in the business circles, particularly abroad, that the PITC would take over some export and import channels. The PITC, however, would be available immediately to normalize the price situation during emergencies, as in the case of shortages of food, fuel, steel, animal feeds, and fertilizers, as well as in any conspiracy to rig artificially the prices of essential commodities.

THE PRESIDENT issued a proclamation declaring Sunday, November 4, this year, as President Carlos P. Garcia Day in the province of Bohol and the City of Tagbilaran. The day marks the 77th birth anniversary of the late fourth President of the Republic and first president of the 1971 Constitutional Convention. In his proclamation, the President said that the people of Bohol, the birthplace of President Garcia, should be given full opportunity to pay homage to one of their province’s greatest sons.

THE PRESIDENT created an administrative committee to manage a portion of land set aside as a Muslim housing village in Bicutan, Taguig, Rizal. The committee, created through Letter of Instructions No. 142 will take charge of operations for the establishment of the Maharlika Village, conceived to give substance to the policy of the government concerning the economic, social and cultural development of Muslim Mindanao. Named chairman of the administrative committee was the executive secretary. Appointed members were the presidential assistant for housing and resettlement, and the chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

PHILIPPINE trade representatives in Jakarta, Indonesia reported that the country is a good market for Philippine-manufactured optical lenses. The number of spectacle-users in the country as estimated by the Indonesian Optical Association, is placed at 1.5 per cent of the population or roughly 1,800,000 persons with a growth rate of 1.5 per cent annually. The demand, according to the study, will stem from the present number of spectacle-users who will be needing replacement spectacles or parts and from the accretion of new wearers to this group. Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. was informed that Indonesia still relies on imports of this item. There are two optical manufacturing companies in Indonesia but the production capacities of these two manufacturers are "relatively small."

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: November 2-8, 1973

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

November 2—

THE PRESIDENT directed Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile to inventory existing oil supplies in the country in the face of cutbacks in production and deliveries. This would cover importers of crude, refineries and processing plants, distributors and gasoline stations. The President has also ordered the printing of fuel ration cards to prepare for the possible rationing of fuel. In this connection, barangays were directed to update their listing for this purpose.

THE PRESIDENT has issued Proclamation No. 1194 extending the period of the annual educational and fund campaign of the Community Chests and Councils of the Philippines, Inc. (CCCPI) from October 31 to December 31. Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. said the extension was aimed at enabling the organization to realize its fund campaign goals. Proclamation No. 1194, which was issued October 19, superseded Proclamation No. 1128 of April 12 which set the CCCPI's campaign period from June 1 to October 31.

DEPARTMENT of Finance dismissed 12 backsliding municipal treasurers, suspended six others and fined five more. The penalties on the 23 personnel were imposed by Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata after they were found guilty of administrative charges filed against them pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 6. The total number of officials and employees of the Department of Finance and its bureaus and offices who were either dismissed or considered resigned as notoriously undesirable has now reached 1,127.

THE PRESIDENT speeded up the establishment of a Muslim housing village in Bicutan, Taguig, Rizal, with the creation of a committee to take charge of the project. Named chairman of the administrative committee was Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. The committee was created through Letter of Instructions No. 141 issued to give substance to the policy of the government concerning the economic, social and cultural development of Muslim Mindanao.

PHILIPPINE Tobacco Administration and Agricultural Credit Administration launched an integrated financing program for small growers of cigar-filler tobacco in major tobacco-producing areas. PTA Chairman-General Manager Demetrio P. Tabije and ACA Administrator Teofilo T. Azada adverted that the "joint venture" is aimed at increasing the income of the small farmers and expanding the production of this crop which has demonstrated an infinite potentiality for earning foreign exchange. Under the said program, farmers can avail of the production and working capital loans from a special fund that these agencies allotted for the purpose.

November 3—

THE PRESIDENT said the encouragement of sports is one of the keystones for developing the capacities of the youth and "their outlook for a world that can be peaceful." In a speech read for him by Secretary of Education Juan Manuel at the opening of the Asian Zonal Volleyball Championship at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum, the President noted that in all of the developing countries in Asia today, the promotion of sports is a crucial factor of development. "Regional competitions among our nations show finally not the superiority of one nation over another, but our common aspiration to development and brotherhood," the President said.

THE PRESIDENT has directed that some 500,000 customers of the Meralco shall become owners of the public utility firm as a result of the proposed transfer of the holdings of the Lopez family in the Meralco Securities Corp. to the Meralco Foundation. This is in line with the government policy to encourage the private sector, particularly public utility firms engaged in the exploitation of natural resources, to broaden their ownership. The 500,000 customers comprise about 80 per cent of Meralco's light and power consumers. They include only those whose electric bills did not exceed P100 a month for the one-month period ending October 31, 1973.

FORMER US Secretary of State William P. Rogers said the New Society in the Philippines “has already achieved a record of successful accomplishments” and expressed hopes it will continue to move forward. The former US official made the statement during a formal dinner given in his honor by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo in New York.

THE GOVERNMENT authorized the establishment of two more Philippine Houses in two European capitals in line with its efforts to promote Philippine exportable products as well as tourism. The two new houses will be located in Rome, Italy, and Vienna, Austria.

November 4—

THE PRESIDENT spurred faster implementation of the land reform program, but issued guidelines to protect small landowners, particularly those owning 24 hectares of rice and corn lands or less, who may be adversely affected. Noting that the small landowners constitute part of the economic middle class which the government is trying to build, the President said measures should be taken to forestall the possibility of an economic dislocation as a result of the current drive to uplift the lives of tenants. Through Letter of Instructions No. 143, the President directed a number of government officials to make studies to determine, among others, the possible effects, especially on small landowners, of the full and speedy implementation of land, reform.

THE PRESIDENT included blackmarketing of gasoline or of any other oil product in the category of crimes against national security and will be triable by military tribunal. The President took this move even as he warned against the temptation of engaging in the illegal traffic of gasoline and other oil products in the face of the critical supply of these commodities all over the world.

EXECUTIVE Secretary Alejandro Melchor Jr., by order of the President, proclaimed the period from November 6 to 13, 1973 as “Purchasing Week,” in line with the government policy to attract investments from both Filipinos and foreigners. Proclamation No. 1200 points out that nationwide efforts of industrialization and socio-economic development can be enhanced effectively not only by making the citizens more aware of the benefits that will accrue to them from industrialization but also by making industries more socially oriented.

November 5—

THE PRESIDENT promulgated Presidential Decree No. 329 allowing private citizens to file their complaints or grievances against “backsliding officials, at the minimal cost of ten centavos per telegram thru the

Bureau of Telecommunications and all private telecommunications, telegraphic and similar establishments. Under the decree, the complaints and grievances by private citizens maybe addressed to the President, the secretary of national defense in his capacity as chairman of the special Cabinet committee to cheek on backsliding, all action committees of this special Cabinet committee, as well as all provincial governors, and city mayors.

THE PRESIDENT hailed the plan of two Munich aircraft factories to enter into a joint venture with a local firm to establish what may ultimately become the nucleus of an aircraft industry in the Philippines. Fritz-Deter Winkleman of Helicopter Technik and Gerd Schonbuchner, regional sales director of Dorneir GMBH, both of which firms are based in Munich, Germany, called on the President to seek permission to establish a factory in the Export Processing Zone in Mariveles, Bataan, in cooperation with Malayan Motors Corp. The two business executives said they plan to make the Philippines their base of operations in Southeast Asia because of the investment incentives offered by the government and the generally favorable business atmosphere.

DEPARTMENT of Trade said the Philippines is registering a \$14.6 million balance in her favor, in total trade with socialist, and communist countries as of the month of October. Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon, Jr. said that since the issuance of Executive Order No. 384 by the President promulgating policy guidelines and trade with socialist and communist countries, the country has increased its exportation of both new and traditional products. Total Philippine exports to these new outlets amounted to US\$38,420,272.62 while total Philippine imports from the

same sources amounted to only \$23,781,473.59. Philippine exports consisted mostly of Portland cement, plywood and veneer, crude coconut oil in bulk, buri fibers and apitong logs and copra.

PHILIPPINE Government and the United Nations Development Programme launched a joint forest management project designed to optimize timber yield and improve forest conservation measures in the country. The project is financed by UNDP contribution of \$764,800 and a Philippine government counterpart fund of P3,737,600. The project document was signed by Director-General Gerardo Sicat of the National Economic and Development Authority, William M. Harding, UNDP resident representative to the Philippines, and Campbell R. MacCalluch, country representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the Philippines, at the NEDA conference hall.

DEPARTMENT of Health has underscored the need of training medical specialist to spearhead the move of providing blood banking services in the rural areas. Secretary of Health Clemente S. Gatmaitan noted that "blood banking services are needed in the rural areas in times of natural calamities." Speaking at the 4th National Scientific Seminar of the Philippine Society of Pathologists in Baguio City, he also pointed out that Martial Law has beneficial effects on blood banking in the country. Although warning against erring blood banks, Secretary Gatmaitan said that most of the country's blood banks "are beyond reproach due to the sense of responsibility and dedicated service of those who are professionally managing these banks." In issuing the warning, he said that there is no allowance for human error in blood transfusion because such an error may mean the death of the patient.

November 6—

THE PRESIDENT directed all government offices to effect the highest possible savings on energy consumption by working without air conditioning and by suspending less essential activities that make use of petroleum products. The Chief Executive likewise urged the private sector to observe the same measures. In order to further conserve motor fuel, the President has directed that appropriate bus stops and jeepney stops be now installed and properly marked on the various city routes in order to minimize unnecessary stops of public vehicles.

THE PRESIDENT conferred the Gold Cross on Major Gaetano Faillace (ret.) of the United States Army for gallantry in action during the Liberation of Manila and for providing a detailed and accurate photographic record of the Battle of Manila. During his call on the President, Faillace presented to the President photographs of Malacañang Palace taken in 1945.

PHILIPPINE Medical Care Commission requested hospitals to comply faithfully with the provision of the Medicare Law which specifically enumerates a number of medical and surgical services as not covered by the Medicare Program. Dr. Pacifico E. Marcos, PMCC chairman, said that some hospitals and physicians have been giving false hopes for themselves and for their patients by applying for payment of non-compensable services. RA 6111 otherwise known as the Philippine Medical Care Act of 1969 excludes from the Medicare Program the following services: cosmetic surgery or treatment; dental services, except major dental surgery or operation which needs hospitalization; optometric services; chronic psychiatric illness; services which are purely diagnostic; and normal obstetrical services.

DEPARTMENT of Labor has issued new guidelines in the licensing of recruiters or recruiting firms engaged in overseas employment. Labor Secretary Blas F. Ople said that under the rules, all work contracts should be authenticated by the Philippine labor attache, the Philippine consulate or the appropriate foreign government agency at the site of work before they can be processed by the Office of Manpower Services of the labor department. The purpose is to protect the workers from racketeering recruiters or from exploitation by unscrupulous employers abroad.

DEPARTMENT of Agriculture and Natural Resources recommended a shift to pulpwood tree farming pending the phasing out of log exports. Secretary Arturo R. Tanco, Jr. said that two pulpwood species—the "Benguet Pine" and the "Albizia Falcata"—can generate a sizable income for long-range investors. In recommending the shift to pulpwood tree farming, he said the total ban on log export to be imposed by 1976 will encourage pulpwood processing in the Philippines. He added that market for pulpwood "is limitless" and processing it locally on a

massive scale will not only help supply the increasing market for wood but will also open new horizons in the industrial sector.

November 7—

THE PRESIDENT call on both the government and private sectors to support the setting up of a national auditorium for local chess players. Speaking during the closing rites of the First Philippine International Chess Tournament, held at the Maharlika hall of Malacañang, the Chief Executive took note of the sad showing of the local boys in the tourney and expressed the need for an auditorium) to give Filipino players more chances of being exposed to tournaments.

THE PRESIDENT approved the prizes recommended by the Department of Local Government and Community Development in connection with the *Balikbayan* contest for bringing back the most number of overseas Filipino. Under Letter of Instructions No. 105, the period from September 1(1973 to February 24. 1974 has been designated by the Chief Executive as a homecoming season for Filipinos or their families and descendants who are now residents or citizens of other lands Pursuant to the said Letter of Instructions, prizes shall be awarded to provinces, cities, municipalities and barrios which succeed in inviting tor a home visit the most number of overseas Filipinos. A total of P4 million to be paid out of excess income takes is allocated for the purpose.

COMMISSION on Elections Chairman Leonardo B. Perez declared that the President's continuance in office after the termination of his term on December 30 is mandated by the new Constitution. Chairman Perez said one of the basic changes under the new charter is the elimination of December 30, 1973 as the cut-off date for the term of the President. The Comelec chairman said the legal reality do not arise from the will of the President but from the mandate of the sovereign people. "He did not need to; the people gave it to him that he may continue to implement his program of reform," Chairman Perez added.

ROOT CROPS can now be irradiated to increase their yield and decrease maturation periods. This new breakaway from the usual irradiation treatment of other agricultural crops like rice was successfully accomplished by a professor of the University of the Philippines, department of botany. According to observations made by the said professor, irradiated rootcrop yields much higher than a normal root-crop including increases in the quantity and vitamin content.

November 8—

THE PRESIDENT called on government finance experts to help transform the national budget into a "living vehicle" for the attainment of overall developmental goals. These technical men, according to the Chief Executive, can pinpoint wastefully operated areas in the government service which can be done away with, thus effecting savings. Moreover, they can discern the more important programs which could hasten progress provided these are supported with more adequate funds, he said. In a speech read by Assistant Executive Secretary for Development Affairs Ramon B. Cardenas at the convention seminar of the Philippine Association for Government Budget Administration held at the Development Academy of the Philippines in Tagaytay City, the Chief Executive called on his fiscal experts to come up with "more positive and concrete suggestions for my consideration."

THE PRESIDENT said the growing energy problem resulting from a cutback on oil supplies will require a greater measure of sacrifice from the people. He said that this sacrifice must be shared by all, "the high and the low, the rich and the poor."The President made the remarks in a speech delivered for him by Secretary of General Services Constancio E. Castañeda at the second national convention of purchasing and material managers. The organization is composed of purchasing specialists from both the government and private sectors. Stressing that there should now be a spirit of innovation and a dynamic response to the emergency, the President called on the purchasing officials to be more "selective in building up inventories of stocks needed by their offices or their establishments."

THE PRESIDENT and the Cabinet took cognizance of the existence of a crisis in oil in view of the cutbacks in deliveries of crude to the extent of 25 per cent. The following policies were laid down during the Cabinet meeting:

- 1) The present requirements of production and essential social services will be maintained, including the need of

expanded activity in these areas, but there will be necessary cuts in the general consumption of fuel; 2) A National Allocation Board was created during the meeting with the principal task of managing strategic resources and determining their allocation to the various sectors of society; 3) Motor fuel allocation will be rationed per family, with an allocation of 200 liters a month per car, for a maximum number of two cars per family; and 4) That starting November 12, government offices go on a three-day weekend, to minimize energy consumption in the offices.

THE PRESIDENT issued a decree codifying, revising and updating all forestry laws in order to conserve more effectively the nation's public forests and at the same time provide suitable agricultural land for the people. In the course of his address before delegates to the first annual conference of lumbermen, foresters and forest concessionaires gathered at Maharlika Hall of Malacañang, the Chief Executive emphasized the serious need to effectively conserve the nation's public forests, including watershed areas, to protect and preserve national parks. He stressed the urgency of giving force and effect to the code "in the quickest possible manner and time," pointing out that the Filipino people had suffered from the last catastrophic flood and droughts throughout the country.

THE PRESIDENT reiterated the Philippine government's full support for the full implementation of United Nations Resolution J-242 as a necessary step for the restoration of peace in the Middle East. The resolution, adopted unanimously by the Security Council on November 22, 1967, calls for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Arab territories seized in the 1967 Middle East conflict. The President made the statement during the presentation of the credentials at Malacañang of the new Egyptian ambassador to the Philippines, Abdel Monein Zabi El-Shenawy, who replaces Ambassador Adel Abdel Amid Fadel.

SECRETARY of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon, Jr. directed the Fair Trade Board to investigate reported malpractices by certain gasoline station operators, in particular the adulteration and selling only of premium gasoline. Secretary Quiazon took the move in response to various calls for assistance and complaints from various sectors. The Secretary said the erring parties will be immediately prosecuted for breach of the fair trade law.

SECURITIES and Exchange Commission warned the investing public against putting money in so-called "fixed-interest guaranteed plans" unless these have been licensed by the commission. SEC Commissioner Arcadio Yabyabin took this action in view of report that a number of firms are selling plans guaranteed either to make your money grow or make you a "millionaire." Commissioner Yabyabin explained that the SEC has previously ruled that said plans are securities in the meaning of the Securities Act (Commonwealth Act No. 83) and therefore, require registration before these companies can solicit funds from the public. Banks selling bonds or trust funds are not covered by the SEC warning.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: November 9-15, 1973

President's Week in Review: November 16-22, 1973

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

November 16—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the takeover by the government of the entire domestic sugar supply to ensure its availability in the market at officially prescribed socialized prices. The Chief Executive issued the order in view of reports that sugar has become scarce to general consumers in the traditional retail outlets. The Chief Executive stressed that all steps must be taken to avoid any difficulty in the procurement of any essential commodity that would compound the existing energy crisis.

SECRETARY of Public Information Francisco S. Tatad urged the members of the Philippine Association of National Advertisers to use their influence to make the mass media a source of excellence and nourishment under an enlightened society. Keynoting the opening day of the 1st national advertisers conference at the Pines Hotel in Baguio City, Secretary Tatad invited the advertisers to assess the problems of media accurately and without hesitation and then to help push internal reforms in media to assure the success of their endeavors. He stressed there is no controlled press in the country but much work has to be done to get the best out of the media. The secretary said that because of their role as the life and blood of the mass media, the national advertisers can do much to improve the standards of performance in the mass media, to raise the level of intellection in society.

THE PRESIDENT, through Proclamation No. 1205, has proclaimed the period from November 25 to December 1 every year as "Social Welfare Week" for the promotion of a higher quality of life among the people. In the said proclamation, the Chief Executive called upon all social workers and others engaged in socio-economic development to redouble their efforts to create a society that shall strive to attain the full economic and social development of the people. In a separate order, the President directed the proclamation of the period from November 26, 1973 to December 2, 1973 as "Amateur Radio Week" in connection with the 41st anniversary celebration of the Philippine Amateur Radio Association on November 26, 1973. The order as contained in Proclamation No. 1204 underscores the necessity to focus public attention on the important role that the Philippine Amateur Radio Association plays in radio broadcasting service in times of national emergencies, disasters and calamities, and in promoting and fostering friendly international relations.

PERIOD of the annual educational and fund campaign of the Community Chest and Council organizations in the Philippines has been extended to December 31, 1973 by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. under Proclamation No. 1194, to enable them to realize their fund campaign goals. Under Proclamation No. 1128 issued last April 12, the fund campaign of these entities was to have ended on October 31.

November 17—

THE PRESIDENT has promulgated Presidential Decree No. 304 which provides that the "realty tax on real property actually, directly, and exclusively used by the owner for educational purposes as prescribed PD 261 shall begin to accrue on January 1, 1975 instead of January 1, 1974. These real properties shall be listed and assessed for taxation purposes during the calendar year 1974 on the basis of 15 per cent of their current and fair market value in accordance with the provisions of PD 76, as amended by PD 261.

INTERNAL Revenue Commissioner Misael P. Vera issued the clarification that the income tax exemption for retirees covers social security benefits, gratuities, pensions and other similar benefits from foreign sources. Accordingly, similar benefits received by resident citizens, resident aliens and non-resident citizens from foreign governments or from foreign private entities during the taxable year 1973 (January 1 to December 31, 1973) and thereafter are exempt from Philippine income tax. Commissioner Vera issued the clarification in accordance with Presidential Decree No. 220 which exempts social security benefits retirement gratuities pensions and similar benefits from payment of income taxes.

SUPREME Court resolved to constitute itself into two divisions of six members each. This is in pursuance of Section 2 of Article X of the new Constitution. The first division will be composed of Chief Justice Querube Makalintal, as chairman, and have Justices Fred Ruiz Castro Claudio Teehankee, Felix V. Makasiar, Salvador V. Esguerra and Cecilia Muñoz Palma as members. The second division will consist of Justice Calixto O. Zaldivar, chairman, and for members, Enrique M. Fernando, Antonio P. Barredo, Felix Q. Antonio, Estanislao A. Fernandez and Ramon C. Aquino.

November 18—

THE PRESIDENT has promulgated Presidential Decree No. 305, further amending certain sections of the National Internal Revenue Code governing private educational institutions, so that exemptions from the “income tax of such institutions be removed, and a fixed rate of tax be imposed on all their income. The decree provides that private educational institutions, whether stock or non-stock, shall pay a tax of 10 per cent of their taxable net income from the operation of the school, related school activities, and on their passive investment income consisting of interest dividends, royalties and the like. A corporation or association organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific athletic or cultural purposes, or for the rehabilitation of veterans, no part of the net income of which inures to the benefit of any private stockholder or individual, shall be exempt from the tax on corporation. However the income of any of the foregoing organizations of whatever kind and character from any of their properties, real or personal, or from any activity conducted for profit, regardless of the disposition made of such income, shall be liable to the tax imposed under this title.

THE PRESIDENT has ordered the National Prime Commodities Operations Center to see it that there will be no cutbacks in production and personnel layoffs in industry as a result of the energy crisis. The presidential directive was disclosed by Col. Pacifico Lopez de Leon, NPCOC executive director, during the concluding session of a three-day workshop on energy and oil sponsored by the Research and Management Associates.

THE PHILIPPINES and Bulgaria formally established diplomatic relations at embassy level. The Department of Foreign Affairs said a joint communique was signed at the Philippines Mission to the United Nations by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo and Bulgarian Deputy Foreign Minister and permanent UN representative Guro Grozev.

November 19—

THE PRESIDENT has created a special Rizal Day committee to ensure the successful observance throughout the Philippines of this year’s 77th death anniversary of Dr. Jose Rizal on December 30. Under Administrative Order No. 357, the special committee to take charge of all arrangements is composed of Education Undersecretary Narciso Albarracin as chairman and Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes as vice chairman. Under the said administrative order, the President authorizes the committee to meet at the call of the chairman, for the purpose of discharging its function, and it may create sub-committees, as necessary, the committee is likewise authorized to call any department, bureau, office, agency or instrumentality of the government, including government-owned or controlled corporations, for such assistance as it may need in discharging its duties and functions.

THE PRESIDENT received Australian Foreign Affairs Secretary Alain P. Renouf who made a courtesy call on the Chief Executive in the course of a brief stopover in Manila en route to Australia. Secretary Renouf informed the President that Prime Minister Gough Whitlam supports the President’s Asian Forum proposal. The Australian official also briefed the President on the latest developments in Europe, and exchanged views with the President on a wide range of matters of mutual interest between the Philippines and Australia.

THE PRESIDENT welcomed a joint government-private investment group from Singapore who had come to the Philippines to consider possible technical and financing assistance for a proposed pier complex for the Export Processing Zone in Mariveles, Bataan. Headed by Jacob Ballas, former president of the Singapore-Malaysia Stock Exchange, the group was made up of Chong Kek Clio and Teoh Jing Seng, director and assistant director, respectively, of the Singapore Port Authority, and Khor Tiam Siew, investments director of the Singapore Government Development Bank.

THE PRESIDENT was informed by the representatives of the companies entering into a joint venture that another large combine is now being formed to join the search for oil in the Philippines. Joseph D'Andrea, president of Westrans Industries of New York, and concurrently of Basic Petroleum, and Robert Spurlock and Donald Robilaud, chief negotiator and attorney, respectively, of Sun Oil, informed the President that they had already submitted their application for oil exploration and drilling on a service contract, with the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The oil officials expressed eagerness to start operations as soon as possible because of the current world oil and energy crisis.

November 20—

THE PRESIDENT commended over a hundred experts in the study and prevention of mental retardation for their dedication and their participation in the first Asian Conference on Mental Retardation now being held in Manila. The President said that mental retardation, which affects three per cent of world's population, including 75 million in Asia and one million in the Philippines, is of such dimensions that no single government can hope to face it and succeed. "We must salute you who have dedicated your entire lives to retrieving from the ash can of humanity those who 'have perhaps been retarded by retarded policies and set aside, constituting a burden we must all carry,'" the President added. THE PRESIDENT reiterated the government policy of guaranteeing the free flow of foreign capital, investors and personnel in the Philippines. The President told an Italian Economic Mission currently conducting a market and investment possibilities survey of the country that the government guarantees the free flow of foreign investments as well as of foreign investors and personnel from the managerial to the technical levels. The President was informed by the Mission that they are much impressed by the favorable investment climate here and are exploring investment possibilities as well as a market for their products, which consist mostly of machineries for agriculture, construction and plastics manufacture.

THE PRESIDENT, through Proclamation No. 1208, has declared the period from November 21 to November 27 as "National Employment Development Week" as a means of rallying the unqualified support of government and the private sectors in the implementation of national employment programs. The proclamation stresses that there is an urgent need for economic reforms in the country to enable the unemployed to obtain gainful employment. Proclamation 1208 underlines the fact that the government is putting emphasis on an employment strategy that serves not only to enhance further economic progress but also to increase employment and employment opportunities for the benefit of the majority of the Filipino people who have been 'by-passed in the process of economic growth.

THE PRESIDENT said that the program of reforms has all the signs of succeeding and that conditions have improved with Martial Law. The President, however, pointed out to Hongkong publishers and editors who called at Malacañang that Martial Law, Philippine style, is not the same as the martial law experienced in some other countries. In the Philippines, the President pointed out, the Constitution continues to exist and the President continues to retain civil authority although he may also be the commander-in-chief of the armed forces. The President was informed by the group that they were very much impressed with the very attractive investment climate and the generally peaceful atmosphere.

THE PRESIDENT gave the nationwide land reform program another boost when he directed all employees of the national government and all officers and men of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to submit individual land ownership declarations. The directive, contained in Memorandum Circular No. 679 issued by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. on the authority of the President, gives the government personnel and AFP men up to December 15 to submit their declarations.

November 21—

THE PRESIDENT said that Filipinos are committed to athletics and that they are believers in the classic maxim correlating "a sound mind and a sound body." The President made this observation during the call at Malacañang of heads of the different delegations participating in the First Asian Track and Field Championship meet being held at the Rodriguez Sports Center in Marikina, Rizal. The President at the same time congratulated the sports officials for having succeeded in bringing a conglomeration of 321 athletes from 18 Asian countries to the Philippines. He said

that athletics often succeed in promoting goodwill among nations where diplomats, politicians and chiefs of state, fail.

THE PRESIDENT assured a 15-man group of realtors from Hawaii who have just formalized an overseas contract for the sale of land in the vicinity of the Export Processing Zone in Mariveles, Bataan, that their interests will be protected by the government. The group, belonging to the Ray-Bar Corp. of Hawaii, had just formalized an \$11.4 million contract to sell overseas some 1,155 lots in Phase I of the Landoil Resources land development program in Bataan.

SECRETARY of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon, Jr. batted for long-range export development and promotion, as he noted that exports have emerged as the main avenue for further economic growth. Secretary Quiazon made the assessment at the opening session of the three-day symposium on Export Development and Promotion jointly sponsored by the Departments of Public Information and of Trade at the DBP Auditorium, Makati, Rizal. Secretary Quiazon said that export development and promotion can best be carried out through the cooperation of government and private sectors based on a clear and accepted understanding of objectives. He also added that the New Society has brought many innovations and reforms which have invigorated a rather anemic export situation.

THE PHILIPPINES was extended by the Japanese government a ten billion yen or approximately P220 million commodity loan. The loan was signed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tokyo, Japan, in a formal exchange of notes with Philippine Ambassador to Japan Roberto Benedicto. Riyoshisa Mikanagi, director-general of the Japanese Economic Cooperation Bureau, signed the formal note in behalf of Foreign Minister Masayoshi Ohira. The loan will be used for the purchase in Japan of such raw materials and light capital goods as are enumerated in a list agreed upon by the competent authorities of both the Japanese and the Philippine governments.

November 22—

THE PRESIDENT said that the health requirements of the country are given high priority in the administration's program of reforms. In a speech at the opening ceremonies of the annual convention of the Philippine Hospital Association, the President said that the country has been divided into 11 regions, with one major hospital to be set up in each region. He said the program also calls for the establishment of four medical centers at strategic points. The President disclosed that he has authorized the initial release of P100 million for the construction of hospitals, including 19 in the Muslim areas.

THE GOVERNMENT has stabilized the supply of sugar in the retail market, the National Prime Commodities Operations Center was informed. Secretary of Information Francisco S. Tatad said that during the meeting of the NPCOC, Brig. Gen. Prospero Olivas, the President's representative and military supervisor of the sugar industry, reported that the government's inventory of sugar stocks at this time stands at 1,707,483.05 piculs of domestic sugar, or 119,045.71 short tons. The NPCOC assured that there will be no curtailment of supply and no price increases and the socialized pricing of sugar will be strictly enforced. At the same time, the NPCOC directed the Philippine Highway Patrol Group to coordinate with the various police agencies in the Greater Manila area to effect the immediate installation of taxi stands in the area as a practical means of conserving fuel.

REPRESENTATIVES of all marketing arms of cement companies have been called to a meeting to thresh out what appears to be an artificial shortage in the cement market. Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, chairman of the National Prime Commodities Operations Center, warned that the government will not stand for any cartelization of cement that results in a supply squeeze and a rise in prices particularly of stocks diverted to the blackmarket. The secretary sees indications of hoarding as the cause of the artificial shortage for it was reported that in the first nine months of 1973, the industry produced 72 million bags, and yet there is a shortage.

THE PRESIDENT received Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek of Czechoslovakia who paid a courtesy call at Malacañang. The President said he considered it historic that the foreign minister of Czechoslovakia should make the first official visit after the normalization of relations between the two countries. Foreign Minister Chnoupek informed the President that his country is interested in developing ties, with the Philippines. He said it is in line with Czechoslovakia's foreign policy of peaceful cooperation between states with different social systems.

EXECUTIVE Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. by order of the President issued Proclamation No. 1206 declaring the last week of November of every year as the “Food Science and Technology Week” to focus public attention on the important role that the food technology profession is playing in the promotion of the proper processing, handling and utilization of foods. The proclamation places under the auspices of the Philippine Association of Food Technologists, Inc. the proper observance of the week.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: November 23-29, 1973

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

November 23—

THE PRESIDENT expressed determination to push through his administration's program of reforms until the centuries-old dreams and aspirations of the Filipino people are realized. Keynoting the sixth general convention of the National Council of Churches in the Philippines, meeting at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang, the President said it is his "moral obligation as President to see through all the reforms, and I would rather die than see them discontinued." Denning the moral basis of what he described as the constitutional authoritarian revolution, the President said "we are obligated to eliminate all the vices of the old society so that the poor will no longer suffer and the affluent will participate in democratizing wealth, which will no longer be used to brutalize and degrade man but to uplift him and return to him his dignity." In closing, the Chief Executive lauded the various churches of the country for coming together.

THE PRESIDENT ordered a direct inquiry into reported unauthorized fuel cuts made by certain sectors of the oil companies on agriculture and industry, and alleged allocation increases for certain non-productive purposes. The President designated Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, chairman of the National Prime Commodities executive committee and the National Allocation Board, and Oil Industry Commission Chairman Ponciano Mathay to undertake the inquiry.

The PRESIDENT expressed hope that with the establishment of full diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Czechoslovakia, trade, and cultural exchanges could now be intensified between their peoples. The President made the remarks during a dinner he gave in honor of Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek of Czechoslovakia at the Heroes Hall of Malacañang. With a sense of gratification, the President cited the fact that Czechoslovakia was the first country in Eastern Europe to open full diplomatic relations with the Philippines. Also, Czechoslovakia was one of the first to express support for the archipelagic doctrine sponsored by the Philippines as part of the proposed law of the sea. In response, Foreign Minister Chnoupek expressed the happiness of his country over its new relations with the Philippines. He said that his country hopes that the talks on arms will end in favor of an era of dialogue and cooperation among nations. "We are for peace, for reduction of tension, for security, for mutually advantageous cooperation," Chnoupek said.

THE DANISH government agreed to extend a \$5.4 million (30-million Danish Kroner) loan to the Philippines under the Danish development aid program. The agreement to grant the loan was signed at Malacañang by Hans Jespersen, head of the Danish International Development "Agency (DANIDA), and Assistant Executive Secretary Ramon Cardenas, who represented the Philippine government.

November 24—

THE PRESIDENT has approved a recommendation, from, the Philippine Constabulary waiving various travel requirements for Filipino Muslims joining the government-sponsored pilgrimage to Mecca next year. As authorized "by the Chief Executive, the Muslim pilgrims will no longer be required to submit their birth certificates or birth affidavits, tax clearance and police (and similar type) clearance. They will also not be asked to pay travel and other taxes relative to travel abroad. Furthermore, the pilgrims will not be required to get their passports for an official travel document will be issued to them. To avoid confusion, a certificate of citizenship by the local representative of the Commission on National Integration will be given to each Muslim pilgrim.

THE PRESIDENT issued Presidential Decree No. 338 to amend certain provisions of Presidential Decree No. 251, which exempts the Land Bank from all national, provincial, municipal and city taxes and assessments enforced or hereinafter established, among other provisions. Under PD No. 251, it would appear that the exemption from such taxes would be enjoined not only by the Land Bank but also "by persons and other entities doing business with the Bank," when it is not the intention of PD No. 251 to endow such exemption to the clients of the Land Bank. PD No.

338 further amended the second paragraph of Sec. 98 of Republic Act No. 3844, the Code of Agrarian Reform in the Philip pines, which had been amended by Sec. 21 of PD No. 251.

EXECUTIVE Secretary Alejandro Melchor Jr., by order of the President, issued Proclamation No. 1207 declaring the period from December 9 to 15, 1973 as “Government Employees Week” to have the public realize the existence of loyal and efficient state workers. The said proclamation calls upon all citizens to give a thought to the dedicated, honest and hard-working government employe in grateful appreciation of his services. The executive secretary stresses that the week should be devoted to maximizing service efficiency and promoting better relations between the public and the government employees. The proclamation notes there are legions of unsung heroes in the government whose existence has remained unnoticed, hence, the need to focus public attention on their efficient and dedicated service to the government.

November 25—

THE PRESIDENT has issued Presidential Decree No. 842 creating and establishing the Philippine Center for Advanced Studies (PCAS) at the University of the Philippines. PD No. 342 lists PCAS objectives as follows: 1) Bring together specialists from various disciplines to con duct systematic research at fundamental levels; 2) Assist the central government in the formulation of policies and programs; 3) Address itself to the examination of issues of central concern to the government such as problems of national integration, social, technological and cultural change, social effects of national policy, international developments and their impact on national life, as well as security and strategic problems, and 4) Establish degree programs and participate in “existing instructional programs in order to produce Filipino experts or specialists for the nation. The PCAS shall be an autonomous unit of the UP system, with a seven-men board of trustees which formulates and reviews the objectives and policies as well as nominates the PCAS officers and staff.

THE PRESIDENT formalized the creation of the provinces of North Cotabato, Maguindanao, and Sultan Kudarat out of the province of Cotabato through the issuance of Presidential Decree No. 341. Two related decrees were issued at the same time, PD No. 341 which creates the municipality of Datu Paglas in the province of Maguindanao and PD No. 339 which creates the municipalities of President Quirino, Mariano Marcos, and Esperanza in the province of Sultan Kudarat.

NATIONAL Cottage Industries Development Enterprise have jointly started stockpiling critically needed raw materials for cottage industries. Trade Undersecretary and NACIDA Administrators Mario R. Reyes said that the move was taken to assure the continued and steady flow of raw materials to the nation’s cottage industries in the face of an acute shortage of imported raw materials. Undersecretary Reyes also said that the measures would enable the cottage industry producers to meet the volume and quality requirements of the export market and save them trouble from non-fulfillment of delivery quotas.

November 26—

THE PRESIDENT acted to alleviate further the oil shortage by allowing the importation, free from customs duties, of naphtha and other processed products as may be determined by the Chief Executive upon the recommendation of the National Economic and Development Authority. Through Presidential Decree No. 343, the importation, free from customs duties, maybe made by persons or entities duly authorized by the Oil Industry Commission, for a period of 45 days from approval of the decree (November 26, 1973) unless sooner terminated by the President.

THE PRESIDENT appointed Mr. Felimon C. Rodriguez, a well-known business executive, as acting president of the Philippine International Trading Corp., and declared the new government agency officially operational. The President announced the appointment of Mr. Rodriguez as PITC president during the courtesy call of the 11-man trade mission from the People’s Republic of China, led by Director Yao-Ting Wang of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade. The PITC was established by Presidential Decree No. 252, issued last July 21, for the purpose of strengthening the country’s position in the international trade.

THE PRESIDENT granted a 60-day reprieve to three death convicts who were scheduled to be executed in the electric chair for the gun-slaying of a Chinese national and a policeman in Leyte in 1958. Given a lease on life were Valentin Suparable, Antonio Pacli and Benjamin Pacli. The execution was suspended upon recommendation of the Board of Pardons and Parole, which has asked for sufficient time to study the petition of the convicts for executive clemency.

November 27—

THE PRESIDENT proclaimed a state of public calamity in the provinces of Capiz, Negros Occidental, Aklan, Nueva Vizcaya and the Cagayan Valley, which suffered widespread destruction to property and loss of lives caused by the strong winds and heavy rains of typhoon “Openg.” The Chief Executive issued the proclamation (Proclamation No. 1210) to prevent the excessive increase in the prices of essential commodities due to profiteering and hoarding, as well as to enable government and civic relief and welfare agencies to carry out their objectives effectively.

THE PRESIDENT has ordered substantial increases in the per diem and other travel expenses for government officials and employees traveling on official business abroad and within the country. The presidential directive was contained in Executive Order No. 421, covering the travel of officials abroad, and Presidential Decree No. 344, regulating the traveling expenses of officials and employees when on official travel within the Philippines. These increases seek to alleviate the plight of public officials and employees sent on official mission or business in the light of the continuing rise in the costs of hotel or other accommodations, transportation and other expenses incident to travel within the country and abroad.

SECRETARY of Information Francisco S. Tatad voiced a strong appeal that “libraries be brought to the people,” because libraries are not merely repositories of information and knowledge but “powerhouses of human motivation for achievement.” The secretary sounded the appeal during the celebration of National Book Week sponsored by the Library and Library Science Departments of the Philippine Normal College. The secretary stressed that a library is useless if it stands like a parthenon on an inaccessible hill; it must be brought down and play its vital role in the life of the people. “The books do not belong to the shelves as prey to dust and the ravages of time; they belong to the people.”

THE PRESIDENT has authorized the city of Manila to tap its idle P3, 696,922 sinking fund for public market construction, purchase or repair, and use it for urgent public outlays. The President’s directive is contained in Presidential Decree No. 345.

THE PRESIDENT conferred the Presidential Merit Medal on C. Allan Foran, former president of Ford Philippines, “in appreciation of significant contributions to economic development, particularly in car manufacture and technology.” It was Mr. Foran who was responsible for Filipinizing the Ford management and personnel force up to 99.9 per cent, and it was he who constantly sought to inculcate the values of skill and efficiency and substantially upgraded the Filipino’s skill in mechanics and technology.

November 28—

THE PRESIDENT directed all gasoline stations, distributors and dealers of gasoline and other oil products to service the public during all hours of the day and night outside the four-hour curfew, notwithstanding any existing directive from any national or local agency limiting their operation to certain specific hours. The President also directed the oil companies to make available to all their outlets at least one week’s supply of gasoline and other oil products to ensure a steady supply through these outlets.

ALL government agencies involved in the energy conservation program were directed by the President to review all existing emergency policies that have been adopted in the wake of the oil crisis, with the end in view of facilitating the normalization of the local oil situation. The President’s action was prompted by a communique from Algiers that the Arab summit conference there had decided to ease the oil squeeze on the Philippines and Japan.

EXECUTIVE Secretary Alejandro Melchor Jr., issued Memorandum Circular No. 684, extending the deadline for submission of land ownership declarations of government personnel to December 15, 1973. The circular amends Memorandum Circular No. 679 directing all employees of the national government and the officers and men of the Armed Forces to submit through their office or unit heads land ownership declarations not later than November 24, 1973.

November 29—

CUTS on the fuel allocations to industries have been restored to not more than 20 per cent reduction of the first nine-month monthly average to maintain production and avoid layoff of labor. At the same time, all provincial governors have been ordered to organize local allocation boards for the conservation and disposal of fuel in their respective provinces. The order to restore cuts in the fuel allocations to industries was issued by Secretary of Industry Vicente T. Paterno, who is chairman of the Petroleum Operation Center under the National Prime Commodities Executive Committee.

THE PRESIDENT told a visiting member of the Parliament of India that the present program of reforms in the Philippines is nothing more than the implementation of the massive war on poverty. "When we speak of poverty," the President told Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao, "we speak in terms of the farmer who has known disease and hunger." The President pointed out that 75 per cent of the people in the country live on farms but because of poor conditions they are forced to move to urban centers. The President said this is being done by providing them with incentives such as the establishment of cottage and small and medium-scale industries in the countryside, compact farming, marketing, cooperative, irrigation, electrification, and others.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: November 30 - December 6, 1973

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

November 30—

THE PRESIDENT exhorted the organizers of the Mabuhay ang Pilipino Movement to go to the barrios and act as “motivators” of the changes going on even as he congratulated them for the success so far achieved by the Movement. Addressing the officials, coordinators, and members of the Movement on the first anniversary of its launching, the President said that the movement is a success considering the fact that it has spread to 29 provinces in Luzon, 14 in the Visayas and 11 in Mindanao; and 32 cities, with 292 municipal charters and many more barrio chapters. However, the President said, there are 1,400 municipalities and 40,000 barrios throughout the country, and the MPM should now go to the barrios and provide the necessary organization to make the people in the barrios “initiators of change.”

THE PRESIDENT expressed the hope that the coming here of the trade mission from the People's Republic of China not only would promote the expansion of commercial relations between the Philippines and mainland China but would also contribute to the unity and brotherhood among men in Asia as well as in the rest of the world. The President was host at dinner held in Malacañang in honor of the 11-man mission which is currently on a 10-day exploration of local trade possibilities, as guest of the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines.

WORLD BANK tourism development mission which had just gone through an extensive three-week survey of investment possibilities in the Philippines informed the President that they are impressed by the tourism assets of the country, principally its scenic spots, fine beaches, ideal climate and its “very warm and hospitable people who have the facility of the language.” “We found your assets very outstanding, Mr. President, and hope to be of assistance in the various phases of development of your country,” Dr Philip Glaessner, deputy director of the WB tourism department and head of the group, said.

EDUCATION Secretary Juan L. Manuel said the new Constitution is “a powerful instrument for social reform.” Secretary Manuel in a speech before the Philippine Constitution Association (PHILCONSA) on the occasion of Bonifacio Day said that among the provisions which make the Constitution a powerful instrument for social reform are those on the development of a more intense nationalism, the stress on the obligations of citizenship, the new concept of social morality and the dominance of social justice ideals. The secretary said that under the new curriculum, the Constitution will be taught on all levels. The ultimate goal is to make the Constitution a living part of the people's daily activities, the secretary said.

BOARD of Regents of the University of the Philippines approved unanimously the conferring of the award, Doctor of Humanities, *honoris causa*, to the First Lady in recognition of her various works and support to the propagation of the arts and the execution of projects aimed at improving the well-being of the people.

December 1—

THE PRESIDENT forged an agreement of cooperation with Muslim rebel leaders from Sulu, Basilan, and Zamboanga del Sur during his trip to Sulu recently. At the same time, the President appealed to the people of these areas to join the efforts of pacification, even as he directed Commodore Romulo Espaldon, SOWESCOM chief, through Letter of Instructions No. 149, to take more energetic steps towards in forming the citizens in the area of the program he has enunciated for the economic development and rehabilitation of these provinces.

IN SPORTS, acts of greatness and human courage, even when they end in defeat, are just as important as the medals and trophies that symbolize victory. This was stressed by the President in a speech read for him by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. at the opening ceremonies of the 7th Asian Basketball Confederation championship at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum. The Chief Executive pointed out that in athletic competitions, man tests the limits of his endurance, speed and strength, moving him to perform courageous feats worthy of admiration.

Whether these feats end in victory or failure is of no moment, added the President, because the eventual victor is “the human spirit, the capacity of man to achieve and to exceed the limits of his sense of accomplishments.”

THE PHILIPPINES is the new “banana king” of Asia. In 1971, the Philippines exported 185,000 tons of bananas or about 31 per cent of Asia’s total banana exports of 594,200 tons. The next year saw the Philippine banana exports leap to 52 per cent of the regional total of 618,900 tons. The second biggest producer of banana is Taiwan.

December 2—

THE PRESIDENT directed heads of government departments, bureaus and offices to enjoin their personnel to engage in food production activities, in furtherance of the government’s self-sufficiency program. The President’s directive is contained in Memorandum Circular No. 687, issued by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. by authority of the President. The circular emphasizes it is imperative that the time and effort of these personnel be devoted to productive activities in line with the New Society’s objective of achieving greater food sufficiency.

THE PRESIDENT said the government is exerting efforts to broaden the benefits for retired government employees and that a scheme that would increase the pensions of other retirees to a more equitable level would be perfected soon. In a speech read for him by Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes at the Biennial National Convention of the Philippine Government, Retired Employees Association, held at the GSIS Social Hall, the President assured retired employees in the public service that the government will listen to every proposal of the association that will reasonably enhance the living conditions of retirees or help them lead lives of usefulness and self-respect.

SECRETARY Francisco S. Tatad paid tribute to the work of radio amateurs in this country and abroad, and said the New Society has not been slow in recognizing their worth. The secretary, as guest speaker of the Philippine Amateur Radio Association on the occasion of Radio Amateur Week, said that by and large amateur radio in this country has been dominated by a strong sense of responsibility, leadership, and patriotism. This is the very reason why the government pays tribute to the work of the radio amateur in designing a week of every year as Radio Amateur Week.

December 3—

THE PRESIDENT invited overseas Filipinos to take advantage of the Balikbayan project in order to see for themselves what is actually taking place in the new Philippines. The President issued the invitation through Mr. Precioso M. Nicanor, who took his oath of office as president of the Philippine Communities Executive Council in the Eastern United States, before the President.

THE PETROLEUM Operations Center was given blanket authority by the Executive Committee on Prime Commodities to monitor and settle all problems concerning petroleum products in the country. This was made at the meeting of the committee at Camp Crame, Quezon City, during which Secretary of Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, committee chairman, strictly enjoined the POC to establish priorities in fuel allocations so as not to slow down the nation’s economy. With the authority, the committee empowered the POC to determine allocations, restorations on cutbacks, the movement of petroleum products from abroad and within the country, and other matters pertinent to petroleum products.

TWO GROUPS of investors from London and Hongkong apprised the President of their plans to invest in the country, during separate courtesy calls at Malacañang. The groups are composed of officials of the Fleming Bank of London and a 30-man Kowloon (Hongkong) economic survey mission touring the country and looking for investment possibilities. Both groups informed the President that they are hopeful of making investments here. In his talks with the foreign investors, the President gave assurance that their investments will be protected by the government and that they are free to make remittances of profits and capital.

December 4—

THE PRESIDENT hailed the influx of Japanese investors into the country as an indication that the level of trade between the Philippines and Japan will continue to rise. The President told a visiting foreign investment research mission from Fukuoka, Japan, who called at Malacañang, that “today Japan has already taken the premier position from the United States as the Philippines’ trading partner.” Speaking for the mission, Tsukasa Shishima, president of Sogo Bank of Fukuoka, said the mission found the effects of Martial Law “very good for the Philippines.” Mr. Shishima informed the President that many of the members of the mission are coming back to enter into joint ventures with local companies.

THE GOVERNMENT policy to set up two copper smelters in the Philippines, to be operational by 1976, was announced by the President. The Chief Executive decided to set up the two smelting plants, one in Northern Luzon and another in the Visayas, during his meeting with mining representatives and Chairman Vicente T. Paterno of the Board of Investments, who is concurrently secretary of industry.

SECRETARY of Information Francisco S. Tatad urged the private sector, the media industry and government to pool their resources and promote new avenues of mass communication for national development. Speaking at the seminar of the Philippine Executive Academy at the Pines Hotel in Baguio City, Secretary Tatad noted that the nation is at a state when the vital organ of public opinion is no longer a huge impersonal media industry but the live forums of people discussing with one another in the barangay, in the schools and in the offices. The secretary expressed the hope that the academy, the participants at the seminar, the media industry and the government will find it possible to pool their minds and start an earnest and practicable program to link together mass communications in the country.

THE PRESIDENT received Dr. J. Englebert Dunphy, chairman of the board of trustees of the American College of Surgeons who, together with his wife, called to pay his respects to the President. Noting the plan to build a modern medical center and hospital in the Philippines, Dr. Dunphy said that this plan will not only arrest the brain drain but will attract foreign students who will take special training in the facilities offered by the Philippines.

December 5—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the immediate implementation of his agreement with former Muslim rebel leaders, for the development of Muslim areas, particularly in the rebuilding of homes destroyed in military operations and the establishment of light industries to provide jobs. The President issued the order to Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile and Commodore Romulo Espaldon, chief of the Southwest Command, during another conference with the former rebel leaders in Malacañang.

SIX members of the 15-seat board of directors of the Philippine Shippers’ Council have been named by the President to facilitate the development and growth of Philippine foreign trade and the national economy, by enhancing the interest of local shippers. The new appointees increase the actual membership of the board to 11. Appointed to the board were: 1) Eduardo Cojuangco, to represent the cement industry; 2) Antonio Florendo, to represent the banana industry; 3) Geronimo Velasco, to represent the pineapple industry; 4) Romulo Lumaig, to represent cottage industry products and handicrafts; 5) Jose de la Rosa, representing wood products, and 6) Delfin Gonzales, representing base and precious metals.

AKASAN bin Hadji Abdul Rahman, director-general of the National Land Rehabilitation and Consolidation, and spokesman of a group of officials representing the Malaysian ministry of land development, lauded the bold thrusts achieved by the New Society through the implementation of the land reform program. The Malaysian official made the observation after a study tour of land reform areas in the Cagayan Valley and in Central Luzon. The NLRC official, who travels a lot as representative of the Malaysian government, said; “I’ll always have good words for the Philippines wherever I go. I am most impressed by the enthusiasm of the people working hard to make land reform in this country a success.”

SECRETARY of Tourism Jose D. Aspiras called upon operators of business establishments and police authorities to ensure the health and safety of tourists in the country. Speaking before the MMP officers and owners of sauna baths, hotels, motels, cocktail lounges and other establishments at the Philamlife auditorium, Secretary Aspiras asked the

operators to cooperate in the government's drive to promote tourism not only in the city but throughout the country. More than 200 operators of these establishments, mostly in the tourist belt area responded favorably during the four-hour meeting which was called by the Manila Metropolitan Police upon the request of the Department of Tourism.

December 6—

DRAMA of national development has been lifted from the "sterile" pages of theory and is now witnessed by the millions of this nation in its "actual setting." The President gave the closing remarks through Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes at the conclusion of the Second Refresher Seminar of the Philippine Executive Academy in Baguio City. In all this, the President observed, the government has been the "principal agent of change," because sound management and administration is "most gravely sought in the government machinery." In a parting word, the President expressed hope that the seminar would give rise to a determined effort on our part to translate what we have learned into indicators of growth and change in our society."

THE PRESIDENT appealed to all employers to "endeavor with their honest best to maintain employment levels during this critical period, adding that both management and labor must bear with fortitude the burdens imposed by the times. In his keynote speech at the opening of the convention of the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines the President stressed: "The government responsibility is clear—employment must be safeguarded." At the same time, the President renewed his appeal to the more affluent sectors to desist from any undue display of wealth and conspicuous consumption.

EXECUTIVE Secretary Alejandro Melchor Jr. signed Proclamation No. 1211 declaring the period from December 7 to December 15, 1973, and the second week of December of every year thereafter as "Atomic Energy Week." The Philippine Atomic Energy Commission has been directed to undertake such activities as may be necessary to ensure the successful observance of the week. The proclamation notes that mankind today faces an actual worldwide shortage of energy-producing fossil fuels and a major source of power is nuclear energy. It stresses the need to accelerate the pace of atomic energy development in the country.

THE PRESIDENT has authorized heads of departments, bureaus and offices of the government, including government-owned or controlled corporations, to nominate a senior official based in the Mindanao region to attend the first session at government expense of the Mindanao State University-University of the Philippines Executive Development" Program. Memorandum Circular No. 678, issued by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor Jr., by authority of the President, points out that the MSU and the UP, in response to national policy to promote the well-being of the cultural minorities, have entered into an agreement whereby the UP, through the Philippine Executive Academy, will provide the technical expertise and services in the design and management of an appropriate executive development program for the Mindanao region, with MSU providing financing assistance.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: December 7-13, 1973

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

December 7—

THE PRESIDENT stressed that the country's development efforts are aimed not only at putting the Philippines on equal footing with other countries of the world but also at generating greater economic benefits that could adequately be distributed among the people. These benefits will be made possible by the sacrifices that Filipinos are now willing to make for their country, the President added. In a speech read for him by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. at the regional conference for development planning for East Asian countries in Tagaytay City, the President said that with Martial Law, the people are now imbued with a sense of purpose in working toward development goals. "Today, for the first time since we became a nation, we are at last on the road to development," the President pointed out.

PHILIPPINE National Red Cross was challenged by the President to come up with a strategy to increase further its already proven capacity to provide relief to the needy, in peace or in war, even as he lauded the organization for its efforts to look ahead of problems, identifying them in advance and adopting solutions even before problems arise. In a speech read for him by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. at the opening of PNRC's three-day 10th Biennial National Convention, the President described the PNRC method as the "dependable approach to any task," adding that "the amoeba-like, hit-and-run approach of the old society is unworthy of the new Filipino and must be discarded forever." The PNRC was assured -by the President that "within reason," the government and people will back up any strategy that the Red Cross may adopt to meet emerging needs.

December 8—

EXECUTIVE Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., by authority of the President, issued Proclamation No. 1213 declaring the period from December 9 to December 15, 1973 as "Savings and Loan Week" to focus national attention on the increasing role and involvement of the entire savings and loan industry in the mobilization of voluntary domestic savings for development purposes. The proclamation points out that the government's massive effort towards the socio-economic upliftment of the people includes inculcation of the thrift habit among the people and the provision of adequate financing facilities for housing and extension services, and for small and medium-scale industries.

SECRETARY of Labor Blas F. Ople summed up the major accomplishments of his department in connection with the agency's 40th foundation anniversary. According to the secretary, the Department of Labor scored impressive gains in three main fields—workers' protection, labor relations and manpower development and utilization. These gains, the secretary emphasized, were geared toward improving the social landscape as well as promoting economic growth.

PERIOD from January 14 to 20, 1974, has been proclaimed as "Insurance Week" under' Proclamation No. 1209. Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. issued the proclamation by order of the President. The observance of-the week will be under the auspices of the insurance commission and the entities involved.

CENTRAL Bank issued a circular requiring the approval and registration with the CB of all royalty or rental contracts and film distribution agreements. The CB circular, which drastically amended existing regulations on royalties and rental contracts, also set a ceiling on the royalty or rental rate that may be stipulated in the agreement. The CB likewise required these contracts to have a fixed term of not exceeding five years, renewable upon the approval of the CB in consultation with the Board of Investments.

December 9—

ALL government personnel are enjoined to give full support and participation to the “Ugnayan,” a project under the First Lady’s continuing cultural development program. Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, in Memorandum Circular No. 688 issued by authority of the President, suggests that government personnel enlist as members of a circle or assist in the organization of circles in their respective barangays. The Ugnayan will have its premiere performance using indigenous musical instruments. In addition to linking the past and future, the project also promotes and widens the traditional values of bayanihan and the spirit of barangay, through mutual sharing of cultural experience. Thus, the Ugnayan means community inter-linking through music.

ADVERTISING agencies can be held liable for the three per cent contractor’s tax only on the amount actually retained by them as their commission from the media. The Department of Finance, in an opinion handed down by Acting Secretary Pedro M. Almanzor, upheld the stand taken by the Association of Philippine Advertising Agencies that gross receipts, as basis for the collection of the contractor’s tax, should not include any amount payable to the media. Advertising agencies are among business firms subjected to a three per cent contractor’s tax under Sec. 191 (16) of the National Internal Revenue Code, as amended by Presidential Decree No. 69.

SECRETARY of Health Clemente S. Gatmaitan defined the important role of the physician in the control of drug addiction problem, particularly in such aspects as prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and research. The secretary made this statements at the round table conference of the Manila Pharmaceutical Society and the Manila Medical Society of Manila in celebration of Pharmacy Week. He said that though the key factors in the development of drug abuse or misuse are the interplay between the chemical nature of the drug, the personality traits of the individual and the environment, the physician as the socially-approved arbiter on the dispensing of drugs, plays a critical role in the use as well as misuse of psycho-active medications.

CENTRAL Bank of the Philippines cautioned the private banking sector to desist from launching or going into promotional ventures, particularly those touching the lottery principle, to attract additional depositors without the CB’s approval. According to the CB, while it is pleased with the positive response from the banking sector of supporting the government’s national savings campaign program, it views with “alarm the uninhibited promotional ventures of some banks which, if not placed under reasonable restraint, might result in cut-throat competition among the different banking sectors and, therefore, jeopardize the entire national campaign.”

December 10—

THE PRESIDENT placed crude oil and other fuel oils and petroleum-based products under the control of the Philippine National Oil Co.

Under General Order No. 41, all crude oil and other fuel oils as well as all petroleum-based products, whether imported or produced by the local oil refineries, are placed under the control of the national oil firm and the sale and distribution of these products shall be under its supervision. The President placed these products under government control because these are considered strategic materials and vital to the security of the country and it is necessary that the government, during this critical period, be in possession of all information on the available supply of crude oil, other fuel oils and petroleum-based products.

THE PRESIDENT was informed that the European Economic Community (EEC) has taken great interest in the Philippines and looks forward to greater Philippine exports, particularly in handicrafts, which are considered labor-intensive. The report was made by the EEC representatives who called on the President in Malacañang. They also informed the President that their mission came to the Philippines to explore ways to strengthen the cooperation between the EEC and its nine-member states with the Philippines, especially by furnishing information on business, industry and foreign trade.

SECRETARY of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon, Jr. reminded shipping agents and Philippine companies operating ocean-going vessels to submit full reports on their fuel requirements to the department. This applies to vessels which have not been traditionally getting their fuel in the Philippines but which, because of the oil restrictions, cannot now get their fuel needs from their usual suppliers abroad.

December 11—

THE PRESIDENT has appointed Secretary of Industry Vicente O. Paterno as chairman and acting president of the Philippine National Oil Co. and six others as members of the firm's board of directors. Named to the board are: Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., Finance Secretary Cesar E. A. Virata, Panfilo O. Domingo, president, Philippine National Bank; Solicitor General Estelito Mendoza, and Leonides S. Virata, chairman, Development Bank of the Philippines.

THE PHILIPPINES exported \$19.1 million more than it imported from communist countries from May 19, 1972 to November 6, 1973, according to the Department of Trade. Secretary Troadio T. Quiazon, Jr. said the value of Philippine goods sold in the communist markets for the 17-month period was \$40,810,622, while that of import was \$21,651, 000. Secretary Quiazon said goods sold to communist countries consisted mostly of cement, plywood and veneer, coco oil in bulk, buri fibers, apitong logs and copra.

ASIAN Development Bank has approved a \$29.6 million loan for the development and expansion of the Manila International Airport. The amount will be used for Phase I of the long-term master plan for the MIA, international gateway to the Philippines. The ADB loan is for a term of 20 years, including five-year grace period, with interest at seven and a half per cent per annum.

SECRETARY of Health Clemente S. Gatmaitan stressed the need to develop the infrastructure of health services and to install a health delivery system. In a speech delivered before about 500 public health workers in Bulacan, the secretary said the goal of the country's health service is "to reach the maximum number of population with at least the minimum of basic service, including those of material and child care, family planning and nutrition."

GOVERNMENT employees who are jailed but later released are not entitled to back salaries for the period! of their detention. This decision was rendered by Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos based on the case of a customs employee who was detained in Camp Crame and later acquitted. The justice secretary added that there is no law authorizing the payment of back salaries in such a case.

December 12—

THE PRESIDENT called for stronger relations among the member nations of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) which he said, is rapidly gaining recognition in other parts of the world, such as the European Economic Community. The President told visiting officials and students of the Indonesian National Defense College who paid their respects, that the day will come when the ASEAN will provide the answer to the possible withdrawal of major powers like the United States from the region. The visiting Indonesian Defense College group was led by Maj. Gen. Soeparno Soerjatmadja.

EXECUTIVE Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. said that the present energy crisis underlines once again the need to rationalize the oil industry and bring it in line with the fundamental guidelines of the national development effort. Speaking at the opening of the conference-workshop on energy sponsored by the Department of Public Information and the Development Academy of the Philippines in Tagaytay City, the secretary stressed that the organization of the Oil Industry Commission some years back was hardly the last step toward the rationalization of the industry. Secretary Melchor pointed out that the government is interested in the economic and efficient operation of the refineries. This includes the minimization of waste, improvement of structural designs to exploit economies of scale, expansion or redesigning of inefficient refineries to make the best possible use of existing investment and the provision of tie-up with petroleum-related industries in the interest of developing petrochemical industry.

IMPLEMENTATION of the United Nations Security Council's Resolution No. 252, which the Philippines supports, can bring lasting peace to the Middle East. The President made the assessment during the courtesy call of Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khadam at Malacañang. The President added that the Philippines adheres to the basic principle of self-determination of races and nations, their independence and freedom in internal affairs, the integrity of territories, and the sanctity and inviolability of boundaries. In reply to the

President, Deputy Prime Minister Khadam said, “We know what the Philippines has given for its freedom and liberty and we know what you, Mr. President, are doing to maintain these principles for the benefit of your people.”

BUREAU Directors Association Incorporated (BUDIEAS) resolved to adopt the necessary positive measures to purge their own ranks of misfits, to accelerate government efforts to national development and progress. The resolution, endorsed unanimously by the BUDIRAS general membership, highlighted the association’s second quarterly general meeting held at the constabulary headquarters roof deck conference room in Camp Crame, Quezon City. It was the organization’s response to a call made by Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile in a speech keynoting the affair that BUDIRAS keep the initiative of reform.

December 13—

THE PRESIDENT urged all Filipinos working abroad to keep in mind their Filipino identity always and thereby maintain their reputation for integrity, competence and compassion. In his keynote speech at the opening of the 1973 national convention of the Philippine Nurses Association, the President forthwith directed the Department of Health, in cooperation with the Philippine Nurses Association, to work out certain amendments to the nursing law so as to upgrade and improve the nursing profession. These amendments shall include the creation of a Board of Nursing Education to take charge of the accreditation of colleges and schools of nursing and the upgrading of nursing education.

DEPARTMENT of Labor has warned recruitment agencies against compelling workers, whom they are placing in jobs abroad, to purchase air tickets from travel agencies owned or patronized by such firms. In a memorandum circular, acting Labor Secretary Amado G. Inciong said violation of the directive could lead to cancellation or suspension of the agency’s license to operate. The circular was issued in view of complaints received by the department that excessive travel fees were being applied on job applicants by some recruiters to purchase air tickets only from travel agencies chosen by the employment agencies.

COUNTRY’s fishery exports for the ten-month period from January to October 1973 amounted to P104.2 million—the highest in the history of the local fishing industry, the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources reported. The 10-month export represented an increase of about P33 million (or roughly 30 per cent) over the export receipts last year, which totalled P70.5 million for the entire year. Agriculture Secretary Arturo R. Tanco, Jr. said experts predict fishery exports will hit the P125 million mark.

US Ambassador William H Sullivan assured the Philippine government of continued American assistance for the security and economy of the Philippines “while it is preparing for self-reliance.” In a luncheon speech before the Manila Lions, Ambassador Sullivan said the US would maintain its Seventh Fleet and 13th Air Force for the protection of the Philippines and other Southeast Asian countries.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: December 14-20, 1973

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

December 14—

THE PRESIDENT was informed that the Philippines was elected to the 23-man Drafting Committee of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, being held in New York. The news of the Philippines' election to the committee was wired to the President by Ambassador Arturo M. Tolentino, head of the Philippine delegation. The election of the Philippines to the committee is significant in view of the fact that the Philippines is the strongest exponent of the archipelagic theory.

LOCAL officials in Sulu and other trouble areas in the South were warned by the President against raking up old wounds and maltreating former enemies who have joined the government drive to bring about peace and order. In his conference with some 27 former rebel leaders, 12 of them foreign-trained, who came to Malacañang accompanied by Commodore Romulo Espaldon, head of the Southwest Command, to pledge their support and cooperation to the government, the President expressed the hope that more and more of those still out of the folds of the law will return.

THE PRESIDENT also expressed the hope that the various athletic competitions being held in the Philippines will help bring about brotherhood among men and the unity of nations. The President told the basketball delegations from 13 Asian countries participating in the VIIth Asian Basketball Confederation's championship games that usually the athletes succeed where statesmen and leaders fail to bring about brotherhood among men and unity among nations. The President said he sees in the championship games, not just the victory, of one team over another but an "Asia getting together, joining hands, and seeking one single dream and attaining it."

INCREASE in trade between the Philippines and Romania was predicted by Maximilian Vardon, director of Romanian Exhibits during his courtesy call on the President. Director Vardon said that through the exhibits and his attendance at lectures held at the University of the Philippines, he has found what his country can import from the Philippines, and what the Philippines can get from Romania. The President, in response, congratulated President Ceausescu and the people of Romania for their rapid progress which has reached a 13 per cent rate of development annually.

December 15—

THE PHILIPPINES was assured by the Shah of Iran of an uninterrupted flow of crude oil at original delivery levels following personal representations made by the President through the First Lady. The Shah expressed understanding of and sympathy for the Philippine oil situation and assured the First Lady that Iranian deliveries would continue at existing levels.

SECRETARY of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. said the Philippine government, through the Department of Trade, will undertake extensive export promotion to fully realize the benefits of the Generalized Scheme of Preferences (GSP) among Philippine exporters. For this purpose, GSP experts from the European Economic Community will be invited to the Philippines and a trade mission to the EEC countries is being considered as part of the implementation strategy. This was revealed by Secretary Quiazon in closing remarks he delivered before the two-day seminar on "the EEC-GSP at the Ramon Magsaysay Hall of the Social Security System building.

CHAIRMAN Florencio A. Medina of the National Science Development Board strongly urged the government to hasten the steps towards the construction of the proposed nuclear power plant as part of the long-range plan to diversify the country's energy sources. Speaking in a workshop sponsored by the Department of Public Information and the Development Academy of the Philippines in Tagaytay City, Chairman Medina said that the country's fuel strategy should aim for less dependence on fossil fuel. In view of the tightening oil squeeze, he stressed that the government can no longer afford to procrastinate or change its mind in its plans to build a nuclear plant.

December 16—

THE PHILIPPINES has begun exploring the possible barter of Middle East crude oil with cement and sugar. The President authorized initial exploration of the subject during recent conversations between the First Lady and the Shah of Iran, Mohammed Reza Pahlevi. The barter scheme, he said, is intended to assure a stronger Philippine foothold in the Iranian crude oil market, which has assured the Philippine government of uninterrupted deliveries up to the level of existing sales.

NEW SOCIETY was established for all Filipinos, and unless we are able to effectively enlist the poor, the ignorant, and even the misfits into it, not all the talents of the present community leaders will save us from our present vicissitudes, Secretary of Information Francisco S. Tatad told the Dagupan Jaycees. Expressing confidence that the economically and socially distressed masses, who are mostly in the rural areas, are quite capable of achievement, the secretary pointed out that the means are there, the infrastructure will be provided by government; they only need the motivation, the challenge and the pressure of responsibility. Addressing himself directly to the Jaycees, the secretary said that the greatest accomplishment of the Jaycee movement will be that its "leadership enkindles a passion for leadership to among less gifted fellows."

AGRICULTURE Undersecretary Jose D. Drilon Jr. lauded the country's rural radio broadcasters for playing a major role in the success of the Masagana 99 rice production program. In a keynote speech before the seminar-workshop on rural radio broadcasting at the UP College of Agriculture in Los Baños, Undersecretary Drilon pointed out that more than half of the country's population is reached directly by radio, even the remotest areas. It is in this instance, he said, that radio stands above the other means of communication. He underscored the need to further train our radio broadcasters to improve their skills in absorbing scientific information and simplifying them into presentations useful to the farmers.

BACOLOD is becoming a major fishing port of the South and may even grow as big as the Navotas (Rizal) fishing port of Luzon. In a report to Agriculture Secretary Arturo R. Tanco Jr., Fisheries Director Felix R. Gonzales said that Bacolod has now 108 deepsea fishing vessels with an aggregate of 4,588 gross tons. Director Gonzales reported that the expanded fishing fleet is expected to produce some 4,950 metric tons of fish for fiscal year 1973-1974. This incremental production of Bacolod is already about one-fifth of the expected national production of 22,000 metric tons of fish worth about P4.5 million.

December 17—

THE PRESIDENT has ordered the the finance secretary, the Bureau of Internal Revenue commissioner and other entities concerned to exercise all the necessary caution and prudence in entering into any negotiated contract or bid in the construction of the national office building of the Bureau of Internal Revenue at the Government Center in Quezon City. The directive embodied in Letter of Instructions No. 152 is intended to facilitate the construction being undertaken and at the same time ensure the structural integrity of the designs, plans and specifications of the building.

THE GOVERNMENT is now seeking relocation of oil and chemical storage away from population centers, particularly in the urban areas. The relocation plan was arrived at in the wake of the disaster at the Meralco Rockwell Station in Makati, Rizal where several persons were killed and injured and some homes burnt down.

AGRARIAN Reform Secretary Conrado F. Estrella called on land owners to desist from filing charges against their tenants. Secretary Estrella warned that "these ejectment suits or other acts of harassment by landowners intended to eject or remove their tenants cannot be sanctioned by the government." The DAR chief said that unless certified by him as a proper case for trial, no court shall take cognizance of any ejectment case "or any other case designed to harass or remove a tenant of an agricultural land primarily devoted to rice and corn."

VICENTE T. Paterno, chairman of the Board of Investments and currently chairman of the Cement Industry Authority, directed the Philippine Cement Corporation "to suspend all exports of cement in view of the petroleum

shortage.” The suspension of exports is calculated to cut down on the bunker fuel consumption of the cement industry.

December 18—

THE PRESIDENT directed Budget Commissioner Faustino Sychangco to release P28 million to pay for 25 per cent of the retirement gratuities of retired government personnel in time for Christmas. This is the second 25 per cent gratuity payment for some 8, 716 former employees of the government. At the same time, the President authorized the Budget Commissioner to release P50, 000 for the purchase of the national colors to drape the caskets of deceased veterans.

GERONIMO Z. Velasco was inducted into office by the President as president and chairman of the Philippine National Oil Co. Mr. Velasco succeeds Secretary of Industry Vicente T. Paterno who is currently chairman of the Board of Investments.

THE PRESIDENT conveyed the gratitude of the Filipino people to the Summer Institute of Linguistics for its work in bringing enlightenment to the cultural minorities of the country during the last 20 years. The President took public cognizance of “the debt of gratitude of the entire Filipino people to the Institute,” during the conferment on the President of the Presidential Award of Distinction by the Board of the International Institute. The President was cited, among others, for his continuous support to the SIL activities, his understanding of the needs of the cultural minorities, and his warm compassion and abiding concern for their welfare, and the policy of integrating them into the national mainstream or preserving the purity of their cultures.

INFORMATION Secretary Francisco S. Tatad proposed that private media help to build a more extensive communications infrastructure in the rural areas to effect the widest possible social mobilization of the citizenry. At the same time, he called for more scientific and more advance training for those who desire to engage in the practice of media. Speaking on media strategies for 1974 at a seminar sponsored by the Philippine Mass Communications Research Society, the Secretary said that ultimately the media will have to stop looking to the cities alone and devote more attention to the rural areas, where majority of the population live.

THE PRESIDENT expressed satisfaction over the steady stream of returning Filipinos who have come to see the progress of the New Society, because, he said, it is the best argument against the derogatory information being peddled abroad against the country by some elements. The President welcomed to Malacañang some 60 overseas Filipinos, mostly heads of Filipino organizations abroad, who have come to see for themselves the true situation in the Philippines, under the Balikbayan Program of the Department of Tourism.

December 19—

FINANCE Secretary Cesar E. A. Virata stressed that assessments of real properties by provincial or city assessors are appealable to the board of tax (assessment) appeals of the province or city. The secretary said that real property owners who are not satisfied with the assessment of their properties under Presidential Decree No. 76 may appeal to their respective tax appeal boards within sixty days from the date of receipt of the written notice of assessment. If the property owners are still not satisfied with the tax appeals board’s decision, they can still elevate their appeal to the central board of tax appeals headed by the secretary of finance.

SECRETARY of Health Clemente S. Gatmaitan assured Filipino nurses he would work to solve the problems plaguing their profession in the country. Secretary Gatmaitan gave his assurance at the close of the convention of the Philippine Nurses Association at the Manila Hotel. According to him, there are plans to increase the number of nursing graduates by expanding educational facilities. However, emphasis would be placed not only on quantity but also on quality of graduates, the secretary said.

DEPARTMENT of Finance Secretary Cesar E. A. Virata directed customs authorities to hasten the early completion of Manila port facilities to keep pace with the fast-increasing domestic and international trade and the rapid growth of local industries. The finance chief issued the instruction to Commissioner Rolando Geotina, Deputy

Commissioner Pedro C. Mendoza Jr. and Manila Port Collector Augusto T. Africa during a two-hour ocular inspection of port facilities in the South and North Harbors together with members of the staff of Secretary Virata.

EXPORT Processing Zone Authority established an interim direct-dial telephone link between Manila and the Bataan Zone. The interim direct-dial telephone was inaugurated with a phone call between Director-General Gerardo Sicat of the NEDA in Manila and EPZA Chairman Teodoro Peña in Bataan. The telephone communication system, which features an SEL 5-50-6 PABX switchboard with 50 lines, cost P3,237,815.

BUREAU of Animal Industry is undertaking programs on animal production designed to provide the nation with a sufficient supply of animals and animal products and contribute positively to the growth and development of the Philippine economy. BAI Director Pedro G. Refuerzo said the animal industry is concentrating on the provinces where livestock raising has reached the stage where it can be most rapidly advanced.

December 20—

THE PHILIPPINES chalked up an unprecedented balance of trade in her favor amounting to \$237,005,630 in total trade with 127 new and traditional trading partners as of the quarter of 1973. In her new trade relations alone with socialists and communist countries, the Philippines registered a total balance in her favor amounting to \$11,999,164. Of the biggest trade partners—Japan and the US—the Philippines has a favorable trade balance of \$99,415,000 and P204, 839,776, respectively. According to the latest statistics submitted by Department of trade Secretary Troadio T. Quiazon Jr., the Philippine exports amounted to \$38,420,272.62 against imports valued at \$26,421,107.92 or a total balance of \$11,000,164.08 in favor of the Philippines. Total trade amounted to \$64,841,397.92.

DEPARTMENT of Local Government and Community Development reported that a total of P4 million has been collected throughout the country from members of 8,448 Samahang Nayon chapters. The DLGCD's Bureau of Cooperatives Development said the amount represented membership fees and annual dues collected from May to November.

THE FIRST Lady and her children, Bongbong and Irene, spread cheer to 10,000 indigent children from Manila and suburbs at the traditional, annual "Maligayang Pasko" Children's Festival held at Malacañang Park. Assisted by wives of ranking government and armed forces officials, volunteer ladies and representatives of business and civic organizations, the First Lady and her children plodded through the different distribution booths, handling out gift bags to the less fortunate kids who were brought to the park from "Tulungan Centers," orphanages and other charitable institutions.

BUREAU of Cooperatives Development of the Department of Local Government and Community Development has started implementing the Barrio Savings Fund under the Samahang Nayon program. Cooperatives Undersecretary Orlando Sacay made the announcement after receiving a memorandum-circular from the Central Bank's department of rural banks and savings loans associations. The memorandum-circular enjoined all rural banks all over the country to implement the Barrio Savings Fund.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: December 21-27, 1973

President's Week in Review: December 28, 1973 - January 3, 1974

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

December 28—

THE PRESIDENT appointed the following judges of Courts of First Instance, Courts of Agrarian Relations, and various municipal courts: 1) Provincial Fiscal Rodolfo Hermoso of Nueva Vizcaya as judge of the Court of First Instance of Quirino with station at Cabarroguis; 2) Judge Ricardo Pronove as judge of the Court of First Instance of Rizal and the Cities of Quezon, Pasay and Caloocan, Branch XI, with station at Pasig; 3) Arsenio M. Gonong, first assistant provincial fiscal, as judge Of the Court of First Instance of Ilocos Norte with station at Batac; 4) Judge Rafael Mendoza as judge of the Court of First Instance of Cebu and the Cities of Cebu, Danao, Lapu-Lapu and Mandaue, Branch VI, with station at Cebu City; 5) Romeo N. Firme, assistant fiscal of Manila, as judge of the Court of First Instance of La Union, Branch IV, with station at Bauang; 6) Judge Felicidad Villalon as judge of the Court of Agrarian Relations, First Regional District; Branch I, with station at Tuguegarao, Cagayan; 7) Juanito Cagampan, as city judge of Dagupan City, Branch II; 8) Ricardo Resultan, as city judge of San Carlos City (Pangasinan); and 9) Assistant Provincial Fiscal Rodolfo R. Aquino as district state prosecutor for the Third Judicial District, Dagupan City.

THE GOVERNMENT and the Philippine Hospitals Association have launched a nationwide project designed to make the people—particularly those in the rural areas—more hospital-conscious. The project, known as “The Barangay Hospital Support Association,” will put into positive action the spirit of bayanihan in the country’s 35,000 barangays to cover the all-embracing field of health care. The PHA, headed by Dr. Jose Caedo, will work in coordination with the Department of Local Governments and Community Development.

DEPARTMENT of Finance directed all provincial and city treasurers to accept real estate tax payments beginning January 1, 1974 based on the assessed valuation of properties as of December 31, 1973. The directive was issued by Finance Secretary Cesar E. A. Virata following complaints reaching his department that some property owners have not yet received their owners copies of their tax declarations covering their real properties as assessed pursuant to the provisions of Presidential Decree Nos. 76 and 261.

DEPARTMENT of Health announced that the menace posed by *Anopheles gambiae*, the deadly malaria-transmitting mosquito brought to Palawan by a team of Japanese researchers last February, is over. According to Secretary Clemente S. Gatmaitan, “there is sufficient conclusive evidence to warrant the termination of the project.” The African Anopheline mosquito whose name was derived from Gambia, an African country, created a big stir in the Philippines when it was discovered that the team of Japanese researchers had surreptitiously brought a colony of the mosquito for study purposes.

DEPARTMENT of Trade has introduced 16 Philippine exportable products in Canada during the past three months in a bid to capture an equitable portion of that country’s export market. Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr., identified the new export products as textile, oil paintings, wooden furniture, handicrafts, shoes, foodstuffs, automotive parts and accessories, plastic products, wall tiles, edible decorations for the pastry industry, children’s wear and baby dresses, iron wire and rattan furniture.

December 29—

THE PRESIDENT called upon the nation to keep the momentum of its unprecedented 10 per cent national growth in the various areas of economic activity. Latest reports have also pointed to a 60 per cent rise in exports, of which 23 per cent represents new products; and to the increase in the foreign exchange reserve from \$300 million before Martial Law to about \$1 billion today. Talking at Camp Aguinaldo on the Occasion of the 38th anniversary of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the President also called upon the military establishment to sacrifice, if necessary, its power supply of gasoline in order to maintain the energy required for the operation of the nation’s booming industries.

PHILIPPINE Veterans Investments Development Corp. and the three-man Philippine Veterans Assistance Commission were both activated by the President. In activating the PVIDC, which was created by Presidential Decree No. 243, the President appointed and inducted into office the officers of the corporation and placed P10 million at its disposal to start its operation. In establishing the PVAC, headed by Brig. Gen. Teodorico P. Almuete (ret.), the President called attention to the inadequacy of government services for veterans and their dependents.

SECRETARY of Information Francisco S. Tatad exhorted the youth to emulate Dr. Jose P. Rizal who advocated reforms, not through violence, but by articulating the aspirations of the Filipino people against the excesses and injustices of his time. Speaking at the 12th National Rizal Youth Leadership Institute at Teachers Camp, Baguio City, the secretary pointed out that Rizal's influence—and in the final analysis his leadership—filtered through the media of literature and communications, and these were and are preeminently the means whereby ideas take hold of the consciousness of the masses of men. He urged that “we must again make the effort to rediscover Rizal, search anew for the real springboards of his thoughts, and find again what he wanted to say to Filipinos of his time and of future generations.”

THE PRESIDENT has promulgated a presidential decree providing for annual special group term insurance for members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, renewable annually, in an amount not exceeding P6,000 per member, in addition to the compulsory insurance for members of the AFP by the Government Service Insurance System as provided by existing law. Included in this special insurance coverage, aside from the AFP members in the active service, are cadets of the Philippine Military Academy, cadets of the Philippine Air Force Flying School, probationary officers, trainees and draftees.

DEPARTMENT of Local Governments and Community Development has directed its fieldmen to help in relief and rehabilitation operations in, the provinces earlier proclaimed in a state of calamity by the President. DLGCD Secretary Jose Rono urged DLGCD field workers to coordinate with the National Rescue and Relief Coordinating Center for relief and rehabilitation operations. Specifically, Secretary Roño directed DLGCD workers to help in the rehabilitation of projects destroyed by the recent typhoon in the provinces of Aklan, Capiz, Negros Occidental, Cagayan and Nueva Vizcaya.

December 30—

LAND Bank of the Philippines shall be recipient, for relending purposes, of proceeds of loans, credits and indebtedness secured by the President under the Foreign Borrowing Act (Republic Act 4860) as amended by Presidential Decree No. 150 dated March 13, 1973. To make this possible, the Foreign Borrowing Act was amended further by PD 351. Under PD 351, not only the Development Bank of the Philippines but also the LBP is authorized to relend the proceeds of the Foreign Borrowing Act to pay for the direct and indirect foreign exchange requirements including peso costs for industrial, agricultural, and other economic and social development projects. Also under the new decree, government-owned or controlled corporations as well as local governments may also qualify to benefit from the relending of the proceeds of the Foreign Borrowing Act.

CUSTOMS Commissioner Rolando G. Geotina reported that the Bureau of Customs registered an all-time high collection of more than P3 billion from January to December this year. The P3 billion collection for the calendar year, compared to the same period last year, showed a 70 per cent increase, or more than P1.3 billion. Commissioner Geotina added that this peak collection so far by the customs bureau was backed by an array of accomplishments which had transformed the bureau into a model government agency.

THE PRESIDENT issued 11 appointments in the judiciary, including one for provincial fiscal, one for assistant city fiscal, five for municipal judges, two for registers of deeds, and two for clerks of court. The new appointments follow: 1) Hermenegildo Cruz as municipal judge of Mandaluyong, Rizal; 2) Rodolfo P. Beltran as municipal judge of General Tinio, Nueva Ecija; 3) Edilberto C. Fabunan as municipal judge of Subic, Zambales; 4) Pedro Godinez as municipal judge of San Fernando, Cebu; 5) Prudencio Villafuerte as municipal judge of Bonifacio, Misamis Occidental; 6) Eufrazio J. Ramos as register of deeds of Cavite; 7) Antonio Redillas as register of deeds of Zamboanga del Norte; (8) Mrs. Concepcion L. Gonzales as provincial fiscal of Southern Leyte; 9) Mariano P. Catalan as second assistant city fiscal of Puerto Princesa City; 10) Miss Rosario B. Bandal as clerk of court of the

Court of Agrarian Relations at Malolos, Bulacan; and 11) Alberto B. Cuilan as clerk of court, Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court of Baguio and Benguet.

DIRECTOR General Gerardo P. Sicat of the National Economic and Development Authority disclosed that the Philippines has availed itself of \$254-million long-term development assistance from both bilateral and multilateral financing institutions in 1973 to finance various development projects throughout the country. Total government contributions in peso counterpart funds is estimated to exceed P1.8 billion for these development loans from international lending institutions like the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan, the United States Agency for International Development and bilateral or country-to-country loans from foreign governments. According to Director Sicat, these development loans, which do not include short-term loans, are the biggest development assistance availed of by the country in the last several years.

December 31—

THE PRESIDENT took twin measures intended to stabilize and safeguard Philippine civil airline operations that have been placed solely under the Philippine Airlines not later than January 2, 1974. In parallel directives, the President ordered the chairman and members of the Civil Aeronautics Board: 1) To issue an order requiring the surrender of possession of the property and facilities of both Air Manila Inc. and Filipinas Orient Airways to the Philippine National Bank, and 2) To direct the Philippine Airlines to honor unserviced tickets already sold and all confirmed bookings of Air Manila and Filipinas Orient Airways, in order to avoid public inconvenience.

MUSLIM rebels were reassured by the President that the government “welcomes as brothers and as friends” those who wish to return to the folds of the law and lead more productive lives. The President gave the reassurance to another batch of Muslim rebel leaders who had decided to come down from the hills and cooperate with the government. Habib Mohsin, who headed the group, promised the President that they would do all they could to persuade all their followers, numbering about 300 operating in Zamboanga del Sur, Basilan, Tawi-Tawi, and the Cotabato provinces to come out of hiding and cooperate with the administration in carrying out its program of rehabilitation and development of their communities.

THE PRESIDENT granted executive clemency to 122 more convicts upon recommendation of the Board of Pardons and Parole in keeping with the New Year tradition. The Chief Executive had granted executive clemency to 195 others on the eve of Christmas. Of the pardoned convicts this New Year, eight were granted absolute pardon, one special absolute pardon, 97 conditional pardon with parole conditions, and 16 commutations of sentences.

January 1—

THE PRESIDENT has organized the Professional Regulation Commission created under Presidential Decree No. 223, with the appointment of the commission’s members. Designated to constitute the full membership of the commission were: Eric C. Nubia, Chairman; Solicitor Jose A. R. Melo and Eduardo Gullas, associate commissioners.

EIGHT additional appointments to various positions in the government service has been made by the President. The new appointees follow: 1) Cancio Garcia as city judge of Caloocan City; 2) Teofilo B. Talavera Jr. as city judge of Cabanatuan City; 3) Jaime A. Venago, presidential assistant on housing and resettlement, as director of the People’s Homesite and Housing Corp.; 4) Teodoro L. Hernando as assistant provincial fiscal of Cagayan; 5) Pacifico Braganza as register of deeds of Pangasinan; 6) Pepito Fernandez as first deputy register of deeds of Pangasinan; 7) Pedro de la Cruz as second deputy register of deeds of Pangasinan; and 8) Jorge Gonzales as department manager of the National Power Corp.

COUNTRY’S banana exports from January to November, 1973, earned P167.5 million, or P39.7 million more than the total earnings of P127.8 million for the whole of 1972. According to a report submitted to Plant Industry Director Eliseo C. Carandang, last month alone, the Philippines exported 54,703,314 kilos of bananas worth P21,634,780. Director Carandang expressed optimism that the industry “would still be on an upward trend, as it has

always been, in the years to come.” He stressed that the favorable economic conditions now prevailing in the country had bolstered the growth of the industry.

January 2—

AN AREA around Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro has been set aside by the President as site for research on the effects of human activities on ecosystems of mountains, grasslands, forests, water bodies and coastal zones. The scientific studies to be conducted by the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) of the Philippines are intended to obtain a rational basis for the efficient utilization and management of the country’s natural resources.

CONSTABULARY Firearms and Explosives Unit (FEU) announced that renewal of firearm licenses this year will be made during the birth months of the licensees. Col. Alfonso Trance, FEU chief, said the licensees need not go to the FEU at Camp Crame or to the different P.C. commands and units to make inquiries and ask for renewal forms. He said the licensees have only to wait in their residences for the renewal forms which will be sent to them through the mail.

DEPARTMENT of Trade announced that direct sales of flour to small bakeries was expanded to include all bakeries consuming not more than 15 bags of flour a day in a move to completely check the blackmarket sales of the commodity. The Philippine Association of Flour Millers took this action in line with the directive of Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr., to service directly small bakeries.

January 3—

THE GOVERNMENT purchased 91,284 cavans of palay worth P3,174,940 from March last year to January 2, 1974, according to the National Grains Authority. NGA Administrator Jesus Tanchanco said the purchases were made under the NGA’s direct procurement program aimed at realizing its buffer stock of 10 million cavans. Mr. Tanchanco said the 91,284 cavans were bought at the Government support price of P35 a cavan of 50 kilos, or P0.70 a kilo.

THE FIRST LADY, representing the President, called for “affirmative resolution and positive action,” from all segments of the nation in the task of nation-building. The occasion was the cornerstone-laying of the Muslim Maharlika Village in Bicutan, Taguig, Rizal. In her brief remarks, the First Lady emphasized that the brotherhood of all Filipinos is “demanded of us” and the rise of a Muslim community in the heart of Greater Manila indicates the true meaning of “our membership in the national community.”

DEPARTMENT of Education and Culture is helping control population growth by reorienting the values and attitudes of the people, according to Education Secretary Juan Manuel. Secretary Manuel made the statement before participants in the National Multi-Sectoral Seminar on Population Education at the Development Academy of the Philippines in Tagaytay City. The education secretary said that a program on population education attuned to the existing beliefs and conscience of the Filipinos is the most effective instrument in the campaign against population growth in the country. The Philippines is the only country in the world which has embarked on a nation-wide population program through the formal school system, he said.

DEPARTMENT of Trade announced that the Philippines exported more than \$9 million worth of lumber and plywood last month to bring the total export receipts for these products to \$46.6 million during the last five-month period ending December 1973. The monthly breakdown of lumber exports during the last five months follows: August \$3,268,128; September, \$3,798,971; October, \$5,112,413; November \$3,660,850; and December, \$4.2 million. For plywood, the monthly export receipts were: August \$6,854,843; September \$6,400,820; October, \$5,161,054; November, \$3,298,475; and December, \$4.8 million. The bulk of the exports went to the United States, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Hongkong, Denmark, Switzerland and Guam.

INSURANCE Commission issued a new ruling requiring foreign reinsurers transacting business with insurance companies in the Philippines to submit a report to the Insurance Commission and the Foreign Exchange Department of the Central Bank of the Philippines. Insurance Commissioner Gregoria Cruz Arnaldo said such report shall: 1)

Include all contracts for the settlement or liquidation of insurance claims for losses or damages and reinsurance premium liabilities; and 2) Indicate the particular reinsurance contract involved, the currency and amount paid, the date of payment and the name of the local bank through which the inward remittance of foreign exchange” was effected.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: January 4-10, 1974

President's Week in Review: January 11-17, 1974

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

January 11—

THE PRESIDENT described the young generation of officers in the Armed Forces of the Philippines, particularly those from the Philippine Military Academy, as the “indestructible youth who have written a history of achievement.” In his speech at the commencement exercises for PMA s Class 1974 in Baguio City, the President emphasized that as the Armed Forces enters new dimensions in bolstering its role in socio-economic, political and cultural transformation of the country, the young leaders from the PMA should be well trained in mind and body to meet their expanding tasks. The President said the PMA should stand in the forefront of national development as an institution for scholars and leaders trained not only in the art of arms but of government and of molding the New Society.

INDIVIDUALS whose incomes are fixed in nature have to file their income tax returns not later than March 15 beginning this year. Other income tax filers, including non-resident citizens, shall file their returns on or before the old April 15 deadline. The new deadline is provided in Presidential Decree No. 371 and is applicable this year to income derived in 1973. The object is to reduce the work load on the last day (April 15) for the filing of income tax returns and to prevent undue inconvenience to taxpayers.

THE PRESIDENT has acted to protect the nation's fast-disappearing cultural properties by imposing more stringent regulations on their movement plus a limited form of registration. Presidential Decree No. 374 designates two priority levels of cultural properties which shall be accorded utmost protection by the state through the National Museum. Only the National Museum, or any institution duly authorized by the museum director, may now carry out exploration, excavation, or diggings on government and private property for archaeological or historical purposes.

DEPARTMENT of Trade directed the increase of the sulphur contents of motor oils and gasoline “both regular and premium” in view of the current energy squeeze. Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. said the move will have the following effects: 1) It will allow maximum utilization of the available supply of crude oil; 2) It will help maintain prices of petroleum products at normal level; and 3) It will boost the country's oil supply.

THE GOVERNMENT assured that the country's fertilizer requirements —both for foods and export crops—will be fully met in 1974. Agriculture Secretary Arturo R. Tanco Jr. gave the assurance in a statement to allay fears that the Government will be unable to fill the soaring demand for fertilizer brought about by its intensified food production drive. At the same time, Secretary Tanco directed the National Food and Agriculture Council “to see to it that *Masagana 99* farmers get the needed fertilizer supply for the dry season rice crop.”

January 12—

THE PRESIDENT has further strengthened the cooperative movement by exempting from the jurisdiction of the Government Printing Office (formerly the Bureau of Printing) the printing of educational and training materials in agriculture, land reform, cooperatives and family Planning. The exemption is embodied in Letter of Implementation No. 24 which amends Regulation No. 40 of Letter of Implementation No. 23.

THE PRESIDENT has issued a third tax amnesty decree covering all previously untaxed income or wealth acquired prior to 1973, to enable those who failed to avail themselves of the tax amnesty provided by Presidential Decree No. 23 to come within the folds of reforms in the New Society. Under Presidential Decree No. 370, the taxpayer must file a return with the Commissioner of Internal Revenue on or before June 28, 1974. The return shall be kept confidential and shall not be subject to verification or investigation. If the tax does not exceed P10,000 it must be paid at the time of filing of the return but not later than June 28, 1974. Amounts exceeding P10,000 but not more than P50,000 may be paid in three equal installments, the first not later than June 28, 1974, and the second on or before September 30, 1974. Amounts exceeding P50,000 but not more than P300,000 may be paid in three equal installments, and the last of which will be on or before December 31, 1974. In meritorious cases and where the

amount exceeds P300, 000, the BIR commissioner may grant time extensions, and the last installment may be paid not later than May 31, 1975.

DEPARTMENT of Education and Culture released the school calendar for schoolyear 1974-75. The opening date for the schoolyear will be June 3, 1974, and will end March 22, 1975. The schoolyear will consist of not less than 40 weeks, and the semestral term for collegiate courses shall consist of not less than 18 weeks with two weeks of semestral vacation. The long vacation is scheduled for March 23 to May 31, 1975. The Christmas vacation will be from December 15 to 28, with classes resuming on January 2, 1975. According to the schedule, collegiate summer classes will cover the six-week period from April 7, 1975 to May 17, 1975, while secondary summer classes will cover the period from April 7, 1975, to May 24, 1975. In addition to legal holidays, the secretary of education and culture may authorize the observance by all public and private schools of other special holidays, subject to the issuance of memoranda by the respective bureaus concerned.

January 13—

THE PRESIDENT has created the position of a second deputy director general in the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA). Under Presidential Decree No. 372, the following other changes were effected in the Integrated Reorganization Plan of the government as it applies to the NEDA: 1) In case-of illness or any other cause creating a vacancy in the position of director general, the President shall designate which of the two deputy directors general shall temporarily perform the functions of the office; 2) The NEDA director general is authorized to “use any savings from any item in the lump-sum NEDA budget for strengthening the NEDA office; 3) The seven member NEDA Investment Coordination Committee is enlarged to 10, with the addition of the secretary of finance, the president of the Land Bank, and the president of the Amanah Bank, provided that “the head of any other financial institution that may hereafter be created may be designated by the President as member upon recommendation of the NEDA;” and 4) The director general and his deputies may now be appointed as part-time” members of government bodies. The earlier proviso required them to work full-time in the NEDA and provided that they may not be extended any other appointment to public office except as ex-officio members of government bodies provided for by law.

MALACANANG announced two measures intended to set up the economic development of Mindanao and Sulu. In one measure, the President directed an increase in the number of Armed Forces engineering units for assignment to Muslim areas and ordered that development work in those areas be pursued immediately. In the second measure, the Office of the President systemized the funds disbursement program of the Presidential Task Force for the Reconstruction and Development of Mindanano (RAD), for greater efficiency and effectivity. In a complementary move, the President ordered the National Power Corporation to install transmission lines in the South.

THE GOVERNMENT is setting up a system under which it will buy locally manufactured composite fertilizers at prices that will be reasonable to farmers and will also assure profits to miners of phosphate and guano deposits. With agricultural development getting another share of his attention, the President ordered the Bureau of Mines to submit to him a report on the locations of phosphate and guano deposits throughout the country. These deposits are used in the manufacture of composite fertilizer.

January 14—

THE PRESIDENT has approved the application of the Kawazaki Steel Corp., one of Japan’s largest, to set up a \$100-million iron ore sintering plant in the Philippines. The President gave the go-signal for the project during the call of Ichiro Fujimoto, president of the corporation. The project was the first to materialize in accordance with the agreement forged by the President and Japanese Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka, for the acceleration of cooperation between the Philippines and Japan, particularly in economic development.

THE PRESIDENT has exempted from taxation all donations to the National Museum, the National Library and the archives of the National Historical Institute. Presidential Decree No. 373 provides that all monetary contributions and the equivalent monetary value of works of art, antiques, manuscripts, books or other articles of cultural,

historical or scientific significance, donated to the three government agencies are deductible from the donor's taxable income.

DEPARTMENT of Tourism announced it will intensify its promotional program in the country's traditional foreign tourism markets which include Japan, the United States, Australia, Europe and Hongkong. Anticipating possible adverse development, Tourism Secretary Jose D. Aspiras is concentrating promotion in these five tourism markets. The secretary said the Philippines is in the best position to compete for more tourists because of favorable developments on the home front beneficial to tourism.

January 15—

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady led the nation in extending a red carpet welcome to Singapore Prime Minister and Madame Lee Kuan Yew upon their arrival in Manila to start a three-day state visit. The Singaporean statesman is the second state visitor to the Philippines in two weeks. The first was Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka of Japan.

OFFICE of the President reminded all public officers to file with their department heads concerned, their statements of assets and liabilities under Republic Act No 3019, as amended, otherwise known as the Anti-Graft Law. Under Sec. 7 of the law, the statement of assets and liabilities shall be filed within 30 days after the approval of the Act or after assuming office, and within the month of January of every other year thereafter, as well as upon the expiration of a public officer's term of office, or upon his resignation or separation from office.

THE PRESIDENT has included the 200-year old Basilica of Taal, Batangas and the church of Sta. Maria, Ilocos Sur, among the national shrines, monuments and landmarks of the nation. The inclusion is effected under Presidential Decree No. 375 which is an amendment to PD No. 260.

January 16—

THE PRESIDENT and Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew held a conference at Malacañang on matters of mutual interest to the Philippines and Singapore on the second day of the premier's state visit to this country. Following the conference, the prime minister proceeded to the Rizal Park and Fort Bonifacio, Rizal, where he made floral offerings at the monument of Jose Rizal and at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

OFFICE of the President has issued Memorandum Circular No. 696 requiring the submission of additional information on government officials and employees who are recommended for official travel abroad. The circular was issued by Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, by authority of the President, to facilitate the processing of requests for travel authority.

HIGHWAYS Commissioner Baltazar Aquino says the government has spent P1.5 billion in eight years of road-building since January 1966. The Bureau of Public Highways has paved 6,975 kilometers of concrete and asphalt roads and constructed 19,340 kilometers of feeder and gravel roads during the period. It has also built 1,312 permanent bridges with a total length of 46,086 lineal meters.

January 17—

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady led the official send-off for Prime Minister and Madame Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore upon the conclusion, of their three-day state visit to this country at the Manila International Airport. In a brief press conference at the MIA, shortly after the prime minister's plane had taken off, the President told news men that the Singapore prime minister had a very successful visit during which they had long conversations, both formal and informal on various subjects affecting not only the two countries and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) but also of the entire world. The President paid tribute to Prime Minister Lee whom he described as one of the recognized Asian leaders and statesmen who have a splendid background of achievements behind them.

THE PRESIDENT stressed that it is necessary that each and every citizen take the initiative in order to strengthen the Republic, whoever he is, whether he is in government or outside. The President spoke over a radio-TV hookup from the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang on the occasion of the first year of the existence of the new Constitution. The Chief Executive also took the occasion to describe the Constitution as the people's "earnest of self-denial," their pledge that future generations will enjoy the blessings of freedom "founded on solid and stable ground. The President also added: "Today we must adhere to the Constitution and whatever power is exercised must be found within the limitation and authority granted by that same Constitution."

LABOR Secretary Blas F. Ople exhorted union leaders to be vigilant in protecting workers' rights and encouraged the nation's labor force to participate actively in working for the goals of the New Society. Secretary Ople made the exhortation at the induction of the incoming officers of the Bulletin Employees Union (BEU) at the Army and Navy Club. The labor secretary assured the workers that the Department of Labor, particularly the National Labor Relations Commission, was always willing to help them and protect their rights. However, he encouraged unions to settle disputes between them and management through dialogues, negotiations and bargaining. He urged workers to exhaust all venues open to them to reach an agreement with management without calling on the Department of Labor or any of its agencies.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: January 18-31, 1974

Official Week in Review: February 1 – February 7, 1974

February 1—

THE PRESIDENT directed all government financing institutions to foreclose all loans of delinquent borrowers with arrearages amounting to at least 20 per cent of the total outstanding obligation. The Chief Executive took this step to effect the early collections from large borrowers from government financial institutions who have long records of failure to pay their obligations. The government financial institutions were directed to foreclose the collaterals or securities for any loan after the lapse of 60 days from the issuance of the presidential directive.

THE PRESIDENT signed a \$50-million loan agreement with Interbanks, a consortium of Italian banks, for the development of the various geothermal energy sources and the Caliraya hydroelectric pumping station in Laguna by the National Power Corporation. In signing the loan agreement, the President conveyed the gratitude of the Philippine government and people for the accommodation “which reflects the growing confidence of the world financing circles and the Italian government in the success of the Philippines.” The loan agreement was signed by Gino Uglietti and Aldo Clemente, general manager and manager of the foreign department, respectively, of Interbanks.

THE GOVERNMENT moved to expand the country’s sugar production in view of the increasing demand for sugar in the Philippines and the world market, the National Economic and Development Authority announced. The expansion program involves some relaxation of Government policies affecting the sugar industry, particularly those related to the improvement of milling capacities and increasing sugar productivity at the farm level, the NEDA said.

DEPARTMENT of Finance reminded local government officials that the ceiling or maximum tax rates provided under the Local Tax Code are not supposed to be imposed during the first year of the Code’s implementation. Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata issued the reminder following numerous complaints that the rates of tax particularly on business as provided under the ordinances have gone several times higher than the previous rates.

February 2—

THE PRESIDENT issued Presidential Decree No. 388 creating the Philippine Sugar Commission to give sustained support to the sugar industry and to provide conditions needed for its continued growth and development. PD No. 388, which shall also be known as the Philippine Sugar Commission Decree, seeks to improve present sugar laws which were enacted based on conditions existing in the years 1933 and 1935 and which may no longer be realistic and adequate to promote the industry’s development.

ADMINISTRATIVE control over the Culion Colony has been restored to the secretary of health by the President through PD No. 384 so that appropriate measures could be undertaken to protect the natural resources inside the reservation for the benefit of leprosy patients. Records disclose that the health secretary’s authority over the colony, spelled out in Sec. 1066 of the Revised Administrative Code, was withdrawn by virtue of Sec. 22 of R. A. 4073 which repealed Sections 1060-1071 of the Code.

THE GOVERNMENT has warned fertilizer and farm chemical dealers against illegal practices in the sale of fertilizers and chemicals needed by Masagana 99 farmers. Agriculture Secretary Arturo R. Tanco Jr. issued the warning in the wake of mounting complaints that agricultural dealers would not sell farmers the needed fertilizers if the farmers refused to buy their brand of pesticide.

February 3—

THE PRESIDENT has promulgated Presidential Decree No. 383 allowing flexibility in the deadline for the annual submission of the Investment and Export Priorities Plan by the Board of Investments. PD 383 amends Sec. 18 of R.A. 5186, otherwise known as the Investment Incentives Act, which fixed the submission deadline on January 31

of every year. Deadline flexibility is needed, according to the President, to give the BOI ample time to study the exigencies confronting the country's industries at present.

February 4—

THE PRESIDENT emphasized the importance of intensive schooling for all sectors of society to achieve faster the New Society's program of change. Addressing the faculty members and students of the National Defense College of the Philippines who called to pledge their continued loyalty and support to the President and the administration, the President said the idea behind the intensive training and schooling going on throughout the country today is to impart new orientation and new attitudes to as many people as possible at the shortest time possible in order to create an interaction among the different sectors of society.

THE PHILIPPINES pressed for the institution of new safeguards to contain marine pollution in Southeast Asia. Keynoting the ASEAN Experts Group Meeting on Marine Pollution held in Manila, Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. said seas, oceans and marine life are being damaged by the increasing danger of pollution. The trade secretary reminded the delegates that the oceans are not so deep and vast as to escape the accumulated effects of pollution. "This is to say nothing of the effects of oil pollution on the tourist industry and the water sports of the surrounding waters and beaches," he said. Included in the conference are 10 foreign representatives, 14 observers from the Government sector and five observers from the private shipping sector.

DEPARTMENT of Education and Culture underscored the need for an intensive in-service training program on guidance counseling for teachers, as a solution to the problem of inadequate guidance services in the country's educational system. Education Secretary Juan Manuel pointed out that the need is not so much on the number of guidance counselors as the equipping of school personnel with requisite guidance competence through massive, systematic in-service training programs. The secretary in a speech before vocational guidance counselors in Marikina, Rizal, also recommended the maintenance of continuing guidance support activities like job surveys, community employment needs surveys and the projections of industry needs.

February 5—

THE PRESIDENT commended the Bureau of Customs officials for their success in cleansing their ranks and for increasing collections, but warned them not to "sleep on their laurels and, instead, continue exerting more efforts." The President made this admonition during the call of the 70-man Customs group headed by Finance Secretary Cesar E. A. Virata, Customs Commissioner Rolando G. Geotina, and Deputy Commissioner Pedro Mendoza Jr., at Malacañang. The Customs men called on the President on the occasion of their bureau's 72nd anniversary.

SECRETARY of Information Francisco S. Tatad announced that formal protests were filed by the Philippine government with the governments of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the Republic of Vietnam against display of force in the Spratlys. The Philippines urged the two governments that the question involving this territory be brought to the United Nations or to the allies so that it may be resolved to the satisfaction of all concerned.

PHILIPPINE Jaycees was lauded by the President for adopting for the year a program parallel to that of the government. The President was informed by David D. Chua-Unsu, national president of the Philippine Jaycees, during the induction of the organization's officials in Malacañang, that the Jaycees have adopted a two-point program for 1974, involving:

- 1) Man and his environment, which encompasses population control, environmental control, food production and conservation of energy; and
- 2) Neighborhood development, association, or the KKK (Kilusan ng Magkakapitbahay sa Kaunlaran), and family planning.

THE PHILIPPINES reversed trade trend with France by posting a \$2 million trade surplus in 1973 as against a trade deficit of \$19 million in 1972. This was the highlight of a briefing given by Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. for the members of the visiting committee on finance, economics and planning of the French National Assembly. The trade secretary said that the 1973 performance of Philippine exports to the French market exceeded expectations with export receipts amounting to more than \$19 million in 1973. In contrast, Philippine imports from France decreased by \$8.1 million, or 31.5 per cent of the total 1972 level.

UNITED Nations Fund for Population Activities has approved the Department of Social Welfare's proposal for the nation-wide expansion of its Population Awareness and Sex Education Program. The UNFPA will soon release P3.5 million for the intensive implementation of PASE to reach out a target clientele of 651,200 out-of-school youth within a period of three years, the DSW said.

February 6—

THE PRESIDENT formally received the final draft of the comprehensive employment strategy for the Philippines which was prepared by the International Labor Organization survey mission headed by Dr. Gustav Ranis of Yale University. Upon receipt of the 500-page report which was sent by Dr. Abbas Ammar, first principal deputy director general of ILO, through Director Hugo Lane of the ILO area office, the President ordered a study of present government policies for purposes of comparison with those recommended in the report.

CENTRAL Bank is issuing new P200 million worth of certificates of indebtedness to mop up excess funds for developmental projects. The Central Bank is issuing the new certificates in view of the increase in money supply which reached the P8.2 billion level for the month of December. The increase in money supply—about P894 million or 12.3 per cent in December—was brought about by the increase in the country's international reserves by \$42 million from the end of 1973 to January 29, 1974.

DEPARTMENT of Labor has warned field representatives of the National Labor Relations Commission against exercising regulatory powers over labor contractors. Labor Secretary Blas F. Ople said NLRC field representatives were not vested with such powers under Presidential Decree No. 21 which created the NLRC, and under any of its implementing orders.

February 7—

THE PRESIDENT promulgated the Forestry Reform Code of the Philippines to promote the wise utilization, conservation and development of the forest resources of the country, including their associated services relating to water supply, recreation and wildlife preservation. The code likewise seeks to safeguard the national interest in the maintenance of a wholesome ecological environment and accelerate the rehabilitation of denuded lands, including those under private ownership, as well as provide a stable forestry agency and a body of laws and regulations adequate to achieve the national policy.

THE GOVERNMENT is stepping up the shift in the- overall development program from urban centers to the rural areas starting this year, according to the National Economic and Development Authority. NEDA Director-General Gerardo P. Sicat said that as a rule, rural-oriented development programs will be given priority over urban-oriented programs. At the same time, the NEDA official said the President told the NEDA to give priority to the development of new sources of energy, followed by food production, and substitution and production of scarce commodities.

DEVELOPMENT Bank of the Philippines has amended its loans policy to small foreshore and river fishermen to make it easier for them to get loans. The current policy on the small foreshore and river fishermen loan will allow each fisherman to borrow a maximum of P3,500 provided that the loan is secured by chattel on durable goods acquired with loan funds. Under the amendment, the requirement may be substituted in the following manner: 1) That borrowers shall form themselves into groups of five and the loan of each group-member shall be secured by the guarantee of the other four members of the group; 2) All members of the group shall be jointly and solidarity liable for the loan granted to each member of the group; and 3) That in the grouping of fishermen-borrowers it is necessary

that fishermen-borrowers are land-based and reside in the same village and that they operate in the same fishing ground.

NEW format of “Typo A” treasury warrants will be issued by the Bureau of Treasury beginning this month. National Treasurer Vicente P. Rodriguez said that the new treasury warrants bear the seal of the Republic of the Philippines on the left side and the Rizal monument at the center with the background printing of the words “Bagong Lipunan” and the facsimiles of the Philippine flag in light color all over the warrant. The announcement was made by National Treasurer Rodriguez for the information of the 400,000 national government officials and employees who receive their salaries in treasury warrants twice a month as well as the banks, provincial, city and municipal treasurers, postmasters and other officials who cash or receive warrants as deposits.

THE GOVERNMENT netted P77.2 million in the intensified anti-smuggling operations in 1973. Last year’s anti-smuggling campaign, bolstered by Martial Law, increased by over P18 million the previous year’s collection of P59 million from contraband goods. The Anti-Smuggling Action Center—the Government’s coordinating anti-smuggling body—reported that the big increase in anti-smuggling collections came from logs and confiscation and taxation of PX and commissary goods.

Source: **Supreme Court Library**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1974). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 70(6), xli-xlv.

President's Week in Review: February 15-21, 1974

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

February 15—

THE PRESIDENT reiterated the Government's policy of affording every Filipino an equal chance to reach a position of leadership regardless of his birth or status in life. The President was guest speaker at the Working Youth Day celebration at the Maharlika Hall in Malacañang. The rites coincided with the 81st birth anniversary of the President's mother, Mrs. Josefa Edralin Marcos. "Remember, every Filipino is a prospective leader irrespective of the dignity of his birth or the affluence of his family, or lack of it," the President said.

APPEAL for an immediate friendly consultation among the countries involved in the dispute over the Spratlys Islands in the South China Sea was aired by the President. The Chief Executive likewise reiterated the position that the Philippine government is not claiming any of the islands in the Spratlys group but the Kalayaan group of islets near the Spratlys.

THE PRESIDENT hailed the Mindanao Executive Development Academy for implementing the government policy leading to the improvement of the quality of leadership at all levels in order to attain the competence needed to meet the challenges of the New Era. In brief remarks before the first graduates of the academy who called at Malacañang, the President pointed out that under the government reorganization program, the country has been divided into 11 regions with a regional director for each region. He said that these regional directors will be "mini-department secretaries" who will solve on the spot the problems brought to thorn by the people, instead of coming to Manila for assistance. Accompanied to Malacañang by Salvador P. Lopez and Mauryag Tamano, presidents, respectively, of the University of the Philippines and the Mindanao State University, which are sponsoring the Mindanao executive development program, the first batch of graduates was composed of 50 local executives, 30 Muslims and 20 Christians, both from government and the private sectors.

THE PRESIDENT extended the Balikbayan program for another six months—from March to August this year—to enable more overseas Filipinos and their families to visit the Philippines. The second phase of the Balikbayan program will draw on the country's many colorful *fiestas*, and festivals as its theme. In view of this, the President directed Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile to allow cities and municipalities to celebrate fiestas provided the celebrations are in keeping with a standing order against ostentation and lavish display of wealth. The President decided to extend Balikbayan in response to numerous requests from individuals and Filipino communities as well as from officials of the foreign service.

THE GOVERNMENT, through the Bureau of Internal Revenue, has created four new revenue district offices and redistricted five others to facilitate tax collection in newly created provinces. Finance Secretary Cesar E A Virata said this brought to 97 the total number of revenue district offices throughout the country. The new district offices are located in the provinces of Nueva Vizcaya Quirino. Maguindanao, North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Zamboanga del Sur, Basilan and Tawi-Tawi.

February 16—

THE PRESIDENT approved a package of measures to cushion the impact of rising prices on the low-income segment of the populace and to assure a continuous fuel supply for the country. Some of these measures are: 1) Grant of a P50 emergency cost-of-living allowance to government employees, whose take-home pay is not more than P600; 2) Approval of a decision of the Oil Industry Commission granting reasonable oil price increases—premium gasoline will now cost P1 02 per liter, and regular gasoline 96 centavos per liter; 3) Approval of a Board of Transportation decision for a realistic adjustment of transport fares; 4) Signing of a decree, recommended by the Department of Finance and the National Economic and Development Authority, increasing the specific taxes on gasoline, diesel, kerosene, lubricating oil, bunker oil and diesel oil, and imposing specific taxes on other refined and manufactured mineral oils; 5) Signing of an executive order recommended by the NEDA and the Department of Finance imposing higher taxes on premiums derived on several export products as a result of the worldwide price

increases; and 6) Approval of a decree granting discounts on real estate taxes to help relieve the adverse effects of price increases.

PHILIPPINE Legion of Honor (degree of commander) was conferred by the President on Brig. Gen. James A. Grimsley, Jr. of the United States Army for “exceptionally meritorious and outstanding humanitarian service to the Republic of the Philippines.” Assuming the post of chief of the Joint United States Military Advisory Group (JUSMAG) on August 8, 1971, Gen. Grimsley was chiefly responsible for the deployment of a 123-man disaster relief force which distributed over a million pounds of food and inoculated over 300,000 victims of the great flood of 1972.

BUREAU of Customs has designated the Pasig River bank from its mouth at the Manila Bay to Jones Bridge as exclusive loading and unloading area for cargoes from and into watercraft. Customs Commissioner Rolando Geotina explained that for easy identification and reference of vessels desiring to berth along the Pasig River banks, the area designated for berthing purposes will be numbered. He said the south bank of the river will bear even numbers, while the north bank will bear odd numbers. Each berthing space measures 10 meters long, he added.

GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System has reminded heads of Government offices to insure all public properties with the GSIS. GSIS General Manager Roman A. Cruz, Jr., who issued the reminder, said that R.A. 656, as amended by Presidential Decree No. 215, requires all “governments,” except municipal governments below first class level, “to insure its properties” with the GSIS General Insurance fund.

February 17—

THE PRESIDENT asked the Filipino people to show once again their sense of unity and national identity in the face of adversity even as he formally announced the package of measures adopted by the government to cope with the problems of insufficient and costly oil supply as well as of rising prices. Specifically, the Chief Executive called on the private sector to join hands with the government in confronting the challenges posed by the current crises, for “to do nothing would mean a possible disintegration of the economy and the setback of the programs of the New Society.” In a nationwide radio-television address, the Chief Executive stressed that at no other time in the country’s history has a sense of unity and national identity been as valuable as it is now.

FOREIGN Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Romulo underscored the importance of vocational education and the role played by the university in the development of the human person at the inauguration of the liberty and museum of the University of the East. Secretary Romulo who is president *emeritus* of the University of the Philippines, said that it is the task of the university to help the youth discover his own potentials and then to create the opportunities which will enable him to realize those potentials in the context of the needs of his particular society.

THE GOVERNMENT, through the Fertilizer Industry Authority, authorized a set of price increases for food crop fertilizer under a new subsidized pricing scheme. Executive Director Daniel G. Carreon of the FIA announced that the price increases have become “inevitable” in view of the escalating costs of fertilizers and fertilizer ingredients. Nitrogenous fertilizer, he pointed out, is petroleum-based.

February 18—

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady led the official welcome for Prince Juan Carlos de Borbon and Princess Sofia of Spain, who arrived for a four-day state visit. The Spanish prince is the fourth state visitor to the Philippines in two months. The first was Prime Minister Kakei Tanaka of Japan, followed by Prime Ministers and Mesdames Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore and Gough Whitlam of Australia.

FOREIGN TOURISTS are granted a 50 per cent discount on the amusement tax as additional incentive to accelerate the growth of tourism. To enable them to enjoy the discount, foreign tourists shall have to be properly identified, according to Presidential Decree No. 386 issued recently. The Chief Executive states in the decree that the government is committed to the policy of developing tourism into a major dollar-earning industry, and experience has shown that incentives previously granted to tourists were found to be effective.

THE PRESIDENT conferred on Prince Juan Carlos de Borbon, the heir to the Spanish crown, the Order of Sikatuna (rank of rajah), the Philippines' highest state decoration. In return, the state visitor conferred on the president the Grand Cross of Military Merit, consisting of a medal with a red-and-white sash. Assisted by the First Lady, the President also decorated Princess Sofia with the Order of Gabriela Silang. The First Lady was likewise presented the Grand Cross of Isabela Catolica by the Spanish prince. The exchange of decorations was held at Malacañang.

FOREIGN tourist arrivals in Manila last January reached 36,680, or an increase by 175.5 per cent the arrivals of 12,213 in January last year according to the Department of Tourism. Statistics released by the department placed the Japanese as the biggest arrivals, totalling 10 290 compared with 5,015 in January last year, or an increase of 307.6 per cent. The second highest arrivals were overseas Filipino residents totalling 6,157 compared with 1,409 in January last year, or an increase of 667 per cent. Majority of the Filipino arrivals came as Balikbayan homecomers.

February 19—

THE PHILIPPINES and Spain will conclude a basic agreement of technical cooperation on the occasion of the four-day state visit to the Philippines of Prince Juan Carlos de Borbon. Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Romulo and Spanish Foreign Minister Pedro Cortina Mauri will sign the agreement on behalf of their respective governments. The conclusion of the technical cooperation agreement is expected to consolidate further the traditionally friendly relations existing between the two countries.

DEPARTMENT of Education and Culture announced that the Youth Civic Action Program will be integrated in the total school program this school year. Education Secretary Juan Manuel said that the rules and regulations governing the program are contained in a primer recently released by the DEC. The YCAP will be implemented in all levels—elementary, secondary and post-secondary—in public and private schools throughout the country.

February 20—

THE GOVERNMENT has increased the support price for corn grains, from 50 centavos per kilo, or P25 per 50-kilo cavan, to 62 centavos per kilo, or P31 per 50-kilo cavan ex-farm, to enable farmers to make a profit and to meet higher costs of fertilizers and other production inputs. Letter of Instructions No. 165 also imposes price ceilings on corn grits and corn by-products to dampen further price increases toward the traditional shortage in month of March. The price ceilings are: corn grits, P1.45 per kilo; Tiktik (mesh No. 22), 70 centavos per kilo; Tahop (corn bran), 45 centavos per kilo; and White corn grain, 80 centavos per kilo.

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady treated Prince Juan Carlos de Borbon and Princess Sofia of Spain, as well as members of their official entourage, to typical Filipino dishes at luncheon given at the *Turo-Turo* Restaurant of the Nayong Pilipino in Pasay City. There, the state visitors got a glimpse of the Filipino Pageantry at a fluvial procession staged on an artificial lagoon, typical of colorful river festivals in some cities and municipalities on fiesta time.

February 21—

THE PRESIDENT directed Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco to release P1 million immediately for the relief and rehabilitation of the people of Sulu and Tawi-Tawi who were victims of Maoist violence. At the same time, the President directed Rear Admiral Romulo Espaldon of the Southwest Command, concurrently military governor of Sulu, to accept the surrender of Mayor Aminkadra Abubakar of Jolo and members of his police force who had signified their desire to return to the ways of peace.

THE PRESIDENT said that he and Prince Juan Carlos of Spain have reached agreement in many areas of interest to both Spain and the Philippines. In an interview by media representatives at the Manila International Airport, shortly after the Prince and his party took off for New Delhi, the President told newsmen that the visit of Prince Juan Carlos is novel in many ways. First, he said, it is the first truly official reacquaintance between Spain and the Philippines which separated under violent circumstances 75 years ago. The President said that on the basis of mutual dignity and

trust which resulted in the brotherhood of the two countries, he and Prince Juan Carlos have reached a number of agreements.

TOTAL OF P77,699,235 is now available for budgetary aid or financial assistance for development projects of local governments, the Department of Finance announced. Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata ordered the transfer of the amount from the Bureau of Internal Revenue to the Bureau of the Treasury which will release the funds to needy local governments upon recommendation of the Budget Commission and the approval of the Office of the President.

NATIONAL Grains Authority announced that there will be no increases in the floor price of palay and in the ceiling price of rice. NGA Administrator Jesus Tanchanco said the announcement was issued to prevent any undue speculations among rice traders and others engaged in the grains business.

BUREAU of Posts announced the revision of the Zip Code from the alpha-numeric characters to numerals. Postmaster General Felizardo Tanabe said the revised postal numbering system eliminates the region or zone as identified in the former Zip Code. The new postal numbering system, now known as the Postal Code System of the Philippines, will be fully implemented as soon as the new automatic sorting machine arrives from Japan.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: February 22-29, 1974

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

February 22—

THE PRESIDENT issued a set of directives aimed at cushioning the impact of newly-authorized increases in fertilizer prices both on the farm and on the end consumer sectors. The first of these directives, contained in a letter of instructions to the Departments of Finance and of Agriculture, the Central Bank and the Philippine National Bank is an order to earmark, from various sources, a subsidy fund with which the Fertilizer Industry Authority can directly subsidize the users of fertilizer for food crop production and slow down further fertilizer price increases.

RELEASE of P16 million has been ordered by the President to start the operations of two newly created government corporations, the Department of Finance announced. On orders of the President, the Bureau of the Treasury released P10 million as an initial capital stock of the Philippine Aerospace Development Corporation and P6 million for the initial operations of the Philippine International Trading Corporations.

THE COUNTRY exported P13.5 million worth of fresh bananas last January which was higher by P0.82 million compared to the record of the same period last year. This was reported to Plant Industry Director Eliseo Carandang. The report showed that last January, the country exported 35,734,517 kilos of fresh bananas to Japan worth P13,520,158. Compared to the January record of last year which was 29,911,733 kilos worth P12,695,396, last month's total earnings was higher by P824.762.

BUREAU of Cooperatives of the Department of Local Government and Community Development has collected some P4.7 million in fees and dues from 9,504 *Samahang Nayan* chapters as of January. In his report to the President, DLGCD Secretary Jose A. Roño said the 9,504-barrio associations have a total membership of 463,264 farmers from 11,973 barrios all over the country. Of the 14,973 barrios covered, 5,469 are still undergoing pre-organizational activities, he added. Mr. Roño said the fees and dues collected will accrue to the Barrio Savings Fund which is primarily intended as investment by the Samahang Nayan.

FOREIGN gift items sent through the mails and valued at more than P10 are subject to customs duties and compensating tax, according to the Bureau of Customs. Customs Commissioner Rolando G. Geotina issued this clarification in answer to complaints by recipients of gift items who maintain that the articles are unsolicited gifts and should not be taxed. The commissioner added that under the new Tariff and Customs Code, the Bureau of Customs is under obligation to levy the customs duty at the rate fixed by the Code depending on the kind of merchandise or articles brought or sent in through the mails.

February 23—

THE PRESIDENT has ordered the Budget Commission to release P20 million to pay the police salary subsidy to policemen whose salaries are below the minimum pay scale. Acting on the President's directive, the commission issued budget allotment No. A-190/3-04 for an initial P10 million release to the National Police Commission. The second installment of P10 million will be released through the Napolcom in the first week of April 1974.

THE PRESIDENT received officials of Reynolds International, who called to pay their respects, following their arrival recently on a business trip. J Louis Reynolds and Bruce Gralon, chairman and executive vice president, respectively of Reynolds International, together former Ambassador William McCormick Blair of the United States, informed the President of the plan to tap the geothermal energy in Leyte for the operation of a projected aluminum smelter plant.

NATIONAL Grains Authority Administrator Jesus P. Tanchanco reiterated that the government has pegged at P.80 per kilo the floor price for palay, or P40 per cavan of 50 kilos. The NGA, he said, has not raised the price and

warned people engaged in the grain business from speculating. For commercial rice, the NGA chief said the ceiling price remains at P1.90 per kilo.

February 24—

INCREASE in the support price for corn highlighted the government's multi-pronged campaign to help the farmers cope with the rising prices triggered by the energy crisis. The subsidy involves the increase from 50 centavos to 65 centavos per kilo, or from P25 to P31 per 50-kilo cavan. Together with this increase in the support price for corn, the government also imposed price ceilings for corn grits and corn byproducts to halt further price increases, especially towards March, a traditional corn shortage month.

KING Faisal of Saudi Arabia lauded the President's deep concern for the rights and socio-economic welfare of Filipino Muslims. The King made the statement during a two-hour audience recently with Dr. Mauryag Tamano, president of the Mindanao State University, and Salipada Tamano, director of MSU's Institute of Islamic and Arabic Studies at the King's Palace in the city of Jeddah. Dr. Tamano said that during the conference, King Faisal also declared he was highly gratified with the administration's full assistance to Filipino Muslims through various programs designed to uplift their economic well-being.

EXECUTIVE committee has been created to take charge of preparations for the holding of the 18th session of the governing council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to be held in Manila from June 5 to June 24, 1974. Memorandum Circular No. 706, issued by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor Jr., by authority of the President, designates Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes as committee chairman.

February 25—

THE PRESIDENT inducted into office three associate justices of the Court of Appeals, at ceremonies attended by members of the judiciary, and friends and relatives of the inductees, at the Malacañang Reception Hall. Inducted by the President were Justices Jose G. Bautista, Sixto A. Domondon and Buenaventura A. de la Fuente.

THE PRESIDENT received the unqualified support and cooperation of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and 57 affiliated associations in the Greater Manila area for the stabilization of prices of prime commodities. The manifestation of support was made in response to the President's appeal, made a few months back, for trade groups to help arrest run-away prices.

BUDGET Commission announced that upon the instructions of the President, government employees whose salaries or wages are less than P600 a month will get their emergency cost-of-living allowance immediately. The rules and regulations on the grant of said allowance have been issued by Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco. The grant of the allowance, embodied in Presidential Decree No. 390 issued by the President recently, was one of the measures taken by the President to cushion the impact of rising prices on the low-income segment of the populace.

SECRETARY of Information Francisco S. Tatad said that the advent of acupuncture is most welcome and ought to be encouraged particularly in the rural areas where more than 50 per cent of the people still do not get adequate medical care. Keynoting the First National Acupuncture Convention and Seminar of the Philippine Acupuncture Association, the secretary emphasized the need to train men and women in art like acupuncture in order to give relief to those who have been denied it either because they do not have the means to pay for medication or because those who can offer them medical services are not accessible to them.

COUNTRY'S foreign exchange transactions registered an overall surplus of \$41 million in January 1974 as compared with the P32 million recorded in January 1973, the Central Bank reported. Merchandise trade, which a year ago resulted in a surplus of \$7 million, ended up with a deficit of \$14 million as the marked advance of 104 per cent in imports outpaced the 77 per cent expansion in exports. Import payments, which a year ago suffered a slash of \$26 million, rose from \$95 million to \$185 million. The sharp increase may be attributed to world-wide cost-push pressures.

February 26—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the release of P43.8 million to the Export Processing Zone Authority (EPZA) in Mariveles, Bataan, to hasten its development work and finance its infrastructure projects, facilities and utilities that make up the conveniences of the modern industrial estate rising in the Mariveles area. At the same time, the Chief Executive also directed the Infrastructure Operations Center in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, to release 30 pre-fabricated buildings for the housing projects in the zone.

GOLDEN Heart Presidential Award was conferred by the President on Dr. John Hannah, former administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), for his deep interest in fostering the economic and social development of the country. As administrator of the USAID in Washington, D.C. from 1969 to 1973, Dr. Hannah sought to strengthen the program of assistance of the USAID in the Philippines and contributed to its rapid expansion.

THE GOVERNMENT has released P281.8 million to local governments as internal revenue allotments from July, 1973 to January, 1974, the Department of Finance announced. Finance Secretary Cesar E. A. Virata disclosed that the released amount was part of the total sum of P483 186,607 appropriated as internal revenue allotment to local governments for Fiscal Year 1973-1974. The balance of P201,339,766 will be released to local governments until June, 1974, the finance secretary explained.

RELEASE of P75.5 million has been approved by the President for six major projects being undertaken by the Bureau of Public Highways with commodity loans from Japan. BPH Commissioner Baltazar Aquino said the six projects are: Lumban-Caliraya-Cavinti road; Davao-Calinan-Bukidnon road; Marikina-Infanta road; Layag Junction-Mariveles road; Agoo-Tubao-Baguio City road; and Lamut-Banaue road.

February 27—

THE PRESIDENT and the Cabinet decided that there shall be no contraction of the economy. On the contrary, there shall be increased agricultural and industrial production to cope with rising levels of prices and the increased costs of development, and to sustain the momentum of growth. These decisions were reached during a five-and-a-half hour session of the Chief Executive with the Cabinet — the longest session ever of the present Cabinet — to draw a basic strategy for the Philippine economy in the face of worldwide inflation and soaring prices.

SECRETARY of Information Francisco S. Tatad voiced the need to found new development banks in key sectors of the economy even as he expressed hope that the 31 existing development banks in the country will expand. Having proved its validity, the private development banking system should now face the challenges of dispersal and growth, he said. This growth, he added, could only come about from the development bankers' meaningful response to the needs of the economy, particularly in the rural areas, and from their effective use of management skill in handling resources. In a speech before the Development Bankers Association of the Philippines as it kicked off the observance of the Private Development Bank Week, the Secretary said the value of development banking is now recognized by almost everybody everywhere. The potentials of the system should now be realized on a wider basis and its effects on priority projects multiplied, he stressed. Those in finance and those in government charged with the task of helping private development banks grow should join hands in working for these objectives, Secretary Tatad said.

NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority called on private industries to find ways and means of providing economic aids to their employees. NEDA Director-General Gerardo P. Sicat, who made the appeal asked private entrepreneurs to look into the feasibility of adopting one or a combination of the following measures: 1) Adoption of profit-sharing schemes; 2) Provision of cost-of-living allowances or commissaries in the form of essential commodities to low wage earners; and 3) Granting of across-the-board increase in wages.

February 28—

THE PRESIDENT has directed a restudy of the forestry code to allow expanded exportation of logs and other wood products until 1975, the regeneration of the coconut industry, and the full utilization of all cement plants and sugar mills in the country to power the 1974 export drive. He asked that the implementing departments and agencies of government accord his directives "life-and-death urgency."

SECRETARY of Information Francisco S. Tatad said that one of the major components of the government's development blueprint is a population program which aims to reduce the population growth rate from 3.01 per cent in 1970 to 2.55 per cent in 1977 by persuasion, not by force. The secretary told the first general assembly of the Christian Communicators of the Philippines at the Sacred Heart Novitiate in Novaliches that population control as an integral part of the development program is a definite manifestation of the government's concern over the population explosion and its commitment to bring about a reduction of the fertility rate.

THE PRESIDENT received Stephen Mosher, board chairman and chief executive of Boise Cascade Corp., a foreign firm which proposed to expand its wood processing investments in this country by \$74.3 million. The President expressed gratification over the ever-increasing confidence of foreign investors in the Philippines. Accompanied to Malacañang by Secretary of Agriculture Arturo R. Tanco Jr. and Director of Forest Development Jose Viado, Mr. Mosher informed the President that his company intends to engage in pulp production, reforestation and *kaingin* management and log barging.

THE PRESIDENT received officials of the Mitsubishi Corp. of Japan, who called to pay their respects following their arrival on a business trip. In receiving the Mitsubishi officials, the President assured them that Japan has been very helpful to the Philippines and that the government is prepared to extend all available support "within the limits of our laws and our standards." Earlier, the President and the First Lady also received Ambassador and Mrs. Ernesto Madero of Mexico who called to say farewell before leaving for Mexico where the outgoing envoy is being reassigned. In receiving Ambassador and Mrs. Madero, the President and the First Lady expressed the hope that they will return to the Philippines even as private citizens.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: March 1-7, 1974

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

March 1—

THE PRESIDENT has cancelled the licenses of 33 timber concessionaires either for violation of forestry laws and regulations or for the concessionaires' failure to establish processing plants as required by law. In meting out disciplinary action to the erring concessionaires, the President said that forest resources should be utilized and developed to improve the economy without sacrificing ecological balance. The cancellations, exercised by the Chief Executive under Art. XVII, Sec. 12 of the new Constitution, affirmed the revocation of these licenses by the secretary of agriculture and natural resources after a field evaluation of each licensee's performance.

PHILIPPINE National Bank has granted a total loan of P255 million to some 278,993 farmers cultivating 376,663 hectares of rice lands under its Masagana 99 rice production program as of January 30, 1974. The PNB's financing scheme which is divided into two phases showed that under Phase I some 213,633 farmers got loans amounting to P195,884,165 while under Phase II 65,360 farmers got only P59,042,249.00.

PHILIPPINE Legion of Honor with degree of commander was conferred by the President on Lt. Gen. Louis H. Wilson, commanding general of the United States Fleet Marine Force Pacific, "for exceptionally meritorious and distinguished service" to the Philippines. In his capacity as chief of the US FMF, which is based in Honolulu, Lt. Gen. Wilson "added immeasurably to the development and expansion, and enhancement of the capability of the Philippine Marine Brigade to perform its role under the New Society."

March 2—

THE PRESIDENT has increased the floor prices of Virginia tobacco and instituted a set of related measures to accelerate the development of the local tobacco industry for the benefit of millions of Filipinos dependent upon it. The new floor prices are P5 a kilo for grade A, P4.50 for grade B, P1 for grade C, P3.50 for grade D and P3 for grade E. These new prices were prompted by the increased costs of production inputs like fertilizers, insecticides and fuel as well as by the President's desire to augment the income of tobacco farmers.

BUREAU of Public Highways has been authorized by the President to use the past years' unspent balances of the Highways Special Fund for the repair of typhoon-ravaged roads throughout the country. According to BPH Commissioner Baltazar Aquino, his bureau has P6, 684,080 in accumulated balances as of June 30, 1973 for road repair work. These accumulated funds will augment the inadequate available funds for the rehabilitation and improvement of national, provincial and municipal roads destroyed by calamities.

MONETARY Board has adopted twin measures designed to boost local gold production and enable Philippine gold producers to hedge on their gold output. Implementing Presidential Letter of Instructions No. 171 directing the Central Bank "to take all necessary steps for the establishment of a gold refinery," the board directed the CB to set up a CB-owned gold refinery suitable in design and capacity for the needs of the country, as soon as practicable. Under the gold financing plan, gold producers who have to sell their gold output on spot basis will be financed by domestic commercial banks. The board said this would enable gold producers to defer actual exportation but nevertheless immediately realize the peso proceeds of their gold production on the basis of the prevailing free world prices.

March 3—

THE PRESIDENT has appropriated P185 million to liquidate the Bureau of Public Highways' obligation to the Philippine National Bank incurred in the purchase of heavy construction equipment for the government's infrastructure program. The appropriation of P185 million, made through Presidential Decree No. 393, would be sufficient to shoulder the payments in accordance with the amortization schedule, assuring the exclusive use of

rentals for the maintenance and repair of the equipment. The P185 million appropriation will come from the Rehabilitation, Improvement and Betterment Section of the Highways Special Fund.

RESPONSIBILITY for the construction of Bataan Zone's Dam No. 1 has been turned over by the President from the Export Processing Zone Authority to the National Power Corp. The Chief Executive said he would like to see the project completed as soon as possible, and water impounded in the reservoir starting June next year. Letter of Instructions No. 168 of the President directs the NPC to review and evaluate the plans, designs, cost estimates and other contract documents of the project, as prepared by the Engineering and Development Corp. of the Philippines and to negotiate a new contract with the Pacific Equipment Corp. After its completion, the dam will be turned over by the NPC to EPZA for custody and administration.

THE PRESIDENT issued a series of directives to alleviate the plight of the people of Jolo, which was razed to the ground by Maoists last month, and to speed the town's rehabilitation and recovery. At the same time, the President appealed to the people who are still in hiding to return to the folds of the law. Following a two-hour conference with the military top brass who gave the President a complete briefing on the Jolo situation, the President: 1) Ordered the release of P10 million to the Philippine Amanah Bank for the grant of loans to the people of Jolo, and he also ordered the Philippine National Bank to start giving all forms of loans—personal, commercial and industrial; 2) Directed the payment of all vacation pays of teachers and government officials, and the suspension of payments of loan amortizations and interests to government financing institutions; 3) Ordered suspension of compliance with all requirements like the filing of income tax returns and the payment of taxes until Jolo is rehabilitated and has recovered; 4) Ordered the release of P1.5 million to be given to some 2,000 Muslim students depending for support on their parents in Jolo, to help them out while their parents are recovering from the calamity in Jolo, and 5) Ordered the immediate construction of a bigger and modern marketplace where the people of Jolo can bring in their goods and generate more income.

March 4—

THE PRESIDENT underlined the sugar industry's key role in the government's strategy to combat inflation through export promotion even as he noted with gratification the industry's transformation into a sector conscious of its social responsibility to the workingman. Addressing the opening of the 1974 Sugar Industry Convention, the Chief Executive stressed that sugar, being the country's top foreign exchange earner, will play a major part in the current drive to increase export earnings with which to shoulder the incremental cost of much-needed imports.

THE PRESIDENT has streamlined export procedures for enterprises registered in the Export Processing Zone in Mariveles, in line with his policy of accelerating and expanding the country's export trade. Under Letter of Instructions No. 167, zone-based exporters will now need only an export permit issued by the Export Processing Zone Authority (EPZA) to effect the actual flow of their finished products from the zone. Eliminated by the Chief Executive are the requirements for the filing of the Report of Sales with the Central Bank and of the Export Entry with the Bureau of Customs. Zone enterprises are also exempted now from securing clearances from the Bureau of Internal Revenue prior to exportation. The export permit, to be accomplished by the exporter on EPZA Form No. 8103, takes the place of existing export licenses, specifically Central Bank E.D. Form No. 102.

EDUCATIONAL, scientific and cultural articles and materials imported under the UNESCO 1950 agreement are free from customs duty but not from compensating tax, according to the Bureau of Customs. Customs Commissioner Rolando G. Geotina issued this clarification in answer to queries from students of correspondence schools abroad that they have been levied taxes at post offices on school materials sent by their schools. The Commissioner explained that while Customs Administrative Order 211 dated August 27, 1956, admits educational, scientific and cultural articles and materials free of duty, paragraph 9 of the same order provides that "nothing in this order shall be interpreted to mean that any of the articles or materials mentioned herein is exempt from internal revenue taxes."

DEPARTMENT of Finance released P750,826 for the province and municipalities of Sulu to assist them in their rehabilitation program. Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata said the amount represents three months advance in internal revenue allotments to the province and municipalities of Sulu. The three-month allotments were for the

months of March, April and May. For Fiscal Year 1973-74, the finance department has allotted P3 million to Sulu province and municipalities. Out of the P3 million, P2 million has already been released by the finance department. At the same time, complying with the directive of the President, the finance department suspended the payments of all national and local taxes, including that of filing and payment of income tax returns, in Jolo.

March 5—

THE PRESIDENT conferred the Order of Sikatuna, rank of datu, on Ambassador Ernesto Madero of Mexico for services in the field of international relations. The President cited Ambassador Madero for constantly endeavoring to strengthen the friendly ties between Mexico and the Philippines and promoting closer understanding between the Filipinos and Mexicans through mutually beneficial undertakings. In accepting the award, Ambassador Madero assured the President and the First lady that at his new post as director general of Mexico's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "I shall continue to be close to the Philippines."

TOTAL trade between the Philippines and the socialist and communist countries amounted to \$72.2 million from May 19, 1972 to January 19, 1974, with the balance of trade tilting in favor of the Philippines, the Department of Trade announced. Trade Secretary Troadio T. Quiazon said that the total Philippine exports to the socialist and communist bloc countries during the same period amounted to \$42.9 million, or a balance of trade of \$18.7 million in favor of the Philippines. Philippine exports for the period in review consisted mostly of Portland cement, plywood, veneer, crude coconut oil in bulk, woodcraft, buri fibers, abaca and copra.

THE PRESIDENT received Soichi Yokoyama, president of the Bank of Tokyo, which is co-manager of the Japanese consortium of banks that is extending a new US\$150-million stand-by credit to the Central Bank of the Philippines. The Bank of Tokyo and Fuji Bank are leaders of the consortium of Japanese commercial banks that had been extending US\$50 million stand-by credit lines to the Central Bank. This credit was particularly useful during the first two years of the 1970 exchange reform program.

COPPER concentrates dislodged centrifugal sugar as the Philippines' number one export in January, 1974 compared to the same period last year. Export proceeds from this product amounted to \$27,750,000 FOB value in January this year against \$12,433,000 in January last year, or an increase of 123.2 per cent, the second highest percentage increase registered by the Philippines' leading exports. The highest increase was posted by desiccated coconut, up by 228.94 per cent, from \$1,099,000 in January 1973 against \$3,615,000 in January 1974. These figures are contained in a review of the country's trade performance during the first month of this year as recorded by the Bureau of Foreign Trade. Going over these figures, Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. said that value-wise, logs and lumber came second to copper concentrates among the leading exports in January.

DEPARTMENT of Labor has banned all its officials and employees from interceding for persons seeking employment in Greater Manila offices and overseas firms. Labor Secretary Blas F. Ople issued a memorandum order specifically banning department officials and employees from accompanying job applicants to employment offices in Manila and interceding in their behalf in the filing of applications for employment abroad. The secretary stressed that personnel who would violate the order would be dealt with administratively. Such practice invites charges of favoritism against the department, he explained.

March 6—

THE PRESIDENT said that the Philippine economy will continue to move forward notwithstanding the world energy crisis, inflation and shortages in food and raw materials. In welcoming a 30-man survey mission from the Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hongkong at Malacañang, the President pointed out that the country is blessed with rich natural resources and that while the cost of oil, capital goods and raw materials might have gone up, so have the cost, he said, of Philippine exports such as sugar, copper, gold. The President said that while Philippine society has adopted the egalitarian principle, it is fundamentally a free enterprise society which guarantees protection for investment, especially where investment is fair and just to labor which, he said, is its partner in productive enterprise.

CREATION of T'boli town in South Cotabato was decreed by the President to give some 150,000 hill tribesmen representing nearly 10 per cent of the 1.7 million-odd ethnic mountain people, a more effective collective voice in government. Sprawling over 130,000 hectares (326,234 acres) of forested mountains and rugged valleys in the Mindanao frontier land, the new town encompasses the areas being occupied by Ubo, Blaan, Manobo Blit and T'boli tribes. The municipality also includes the rainforest preserve of the famed Tasaday cave people. Seat of the town government will be the Kematu settlement of the T'bolis.

THE PRESIDENT received the credentials of Ambassador Phagna Ratana Vibhittr Keo Viphakone of the Kingdom of Laos to the Republic of the Philippines. In presenting his letters of credence and of the recall of his predecessor, Prince Khaming, the new envoy of Laos said his primary mission is to work towards the maintenance and development of friendly relations and cooperation between his country and the Philippines. The President, in return, expressed hope that as Laos' present difficulties dissipate and the country starts on the road to economic recovery, the Philippines can look forward to a "closer partnership with Laos to the end that peace and tranquility could be restored rapidly in this part of the world."

March 7—

EXTRAORDINARY gains made on oil inventories as a result of government-approved price increases, will be channeled to the public interest in the form of special economic and social development projects. This is the gist of Presidential Decree No. 389-A, which provides a basis for an administrative machinery through the Oil Industry Commission to effect public use of the private gains. The decree amends Republic Act No. 6173, charter of the Oil Industry Commission, to empower the Commission "to take such measures, including the payment by the companies benefited, to a special fund created by the decree, to be determined by the commission in an appropriate directive of such inventory gain, as would assure that said extraordinary gain would redound to the public interest." The decree further amends R.A. 6173 by transferring appeals from the commission's price-fixing orders, from the Supreme Court to the Office of the President, and shortening the period of time for making the appeal from 30 days to just seven days.

PHILIPPINE exports for the first two months of 1974 showed an impressive performance, raking in dollar earnings never before recorded in the history of the country's export trade for a 60-day period, according to the Bureau of Customs. Customs Commissioner Rolando Geotina reported that for the January-February period, the country earned a total of \$365,659,581. He said the amount—based on actual shipment from the different ports in the country—represented an increase of \$136,407,786 or 60.1 per cent over \$229,251,795 earned for the January-February period of last year.

THE PRESIDENT has promulgated Presidential Decree No. 401 penalizing the unauthorized installations of water, electrical or telephone connections, the use of tampered water or electrical meters and other illegal acts in the use of these vital public services. He emphasized the urgent need for putting an end to these illegal activities, because, he said, they not only run counter to the objectives of Proclamation No. 1081 but also prejudice the economic well-being of both the companies (public utilities) concerned and the consuming public.

TWO GOVERNMENT agencies have called on the country's municipal mayors to support the national family planning program. The appeal was embodied in a joint memorandum circular issued recently by the Department of Social Welfare and the Department of Local Government and Community Development. The DSW and the DLGCD requested the mayors to initiate the promulgation of an ordinance requiring couples applying for marriage license to present a certification that they have undergone family planning counseling. DSW social workers will provide the family planning orientation which will include discussions in husband-wife relationship, sexuality in relation to reproduction, psycho-social barriers to the acceptance of contraception.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: March 8-13, 1974

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

March 8—

THE PRESIDENT and visiting Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Omar Al Sakkaf restated their two countries' common commitment to peace, in brief remarks at dinner in Malacañang. Reiterating the Philippines' stand of rejecting war as an instrument of national policy, the President stressed that the country will always be against the use of violence in the acquisition of territory. He said that as the Philippines recognizes the right of Arabs to demand the return of their seized territories, so does the Philippines emphatically declare its right to defend itself "within our limited resources" against lawless elements. In response, Foreign Minister Sakkaf said that what the Arab world desires is peace, because the word Islam, with which all Arab nations are identified, means peace. Saudi Arabia specifically, he said, has always been calling for peaceful coexistence. "We want people to get together and work together for peace," he said.

UNITED STATES looks forward very much to maintaining the close ties that have existed for so long with the Philippines, the President was informed by United States Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth Rush, during the luncheon given in his honor by the President and the First Lady at Malacañang. Secretary Rush said that "no countries in the world today have as close relations as the United States and the Philippines, in the economic and political field, and the United States intends to maintain its friendship and mutuality of interests with the Philippines."

PHILIPPINE exports to Saudi Arabia have been constantly on the rise since 1970 but oil imports continued to wipe off the gains resulting in constant trade deficit for the Philippines. From January to November last year, the Philippines realized export proceeds amounting to only \$371,735 against \$37,206 for the same period in 1972. But imports also grew from \$50,639,725 in 1972 against \$89,954,960 in 1973. Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon, Jr. said the Philippines has to increase its exports to Saudi Arabia and at the same time try to reduce the levels of oil imports to narrow the huge trade gap. The Philippines' leading exports to Saudi Arabia during the past two years were: cordage, cables, ropes and twines of abaca and hemp, pineapple juice, cigars and cheroots, portland cement, angles, shapes and sections of aluminum.

THE PRESIDENT has appointed the mayor, vice mayor and six councilors of the newly created town of T'boli in South Cotabato. Appointed are Mayor Mai Tuan, Vice Mayor Dimas Tanco, and Councilors Norberto Lapastora, Pandalat Dala, Angkuy Bontol, Fludi, Tuan, Leonardo Derilon and Felino Ofong.

DEPARTMENT of Trade said owners and proprietors of retail establishments and stores violating the Price Tag Law face arrest or detention. Trade Secretary Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. issued the warning as he noted that most of the reports to his office involve violation of this law.

PHILIPPINE National Bank has approved the increase in loan value of the sugar crop financing from P33.25 to P60 per picul. The approval of the PNB board, headed by newly reelected Chairman Juan Ponce Enrile, for an additional financing of P26.75 per picul will mean an increase of P361 million, making a total of P810 million from the present P449 million loan exposure to the sugar industry. The total loan portfolio is estimated to finance 13.5 million piculs of sugar for the crop year 1974-75 representing PNB's assistance to the crash program in sugar production.

March 9—

THE PRESIDENT assured Saudi Arabia's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Omar Sakkaf that government resources are committed to the rehabilitation program of Mindanao, Sulu, Palawan, and other Muslim areas. The President gave the assurance to the visiting dignitary during a briefing on the progress of rehabilitation work in Mindanao. The briefing was given by the Presidential Task Force for the Rehabilitation of Mindanao.

THE PRESIDENT has acted to spur the development of Baguio City into a world convention capital by donating to the Government Service Insurance System six hectares of land in three parcels on which to construct a Convention Center equipped with all the essential facilities and amenities necessary to service local, regional and international conferences. The donation, worth P7,147,440, will serve at the same time as the national government's contribution to the GSIS Retirement Insurance Fund, according to Presidential Decree No. 396 signed February 27, 1974.

THE COUNTRY last year earned some P508 million from exports of cottage industry products, some P248 million (or 95 per cent) over the P260 million income of 1972. Also last year, 6,795 industries with investments amounting to some P19 million were registered with the National Cottage Industries Development Authority (NACIDA) which generated an estimated 131,429 factory and contractual workers. During 1971, only 4,141 industries with some P10 million capitalization were registered while 94,454 factory and contractual workers were afforded employment by the industry. This unprecedented increase in the exports earnings was attributed by the NACIDA officials to the improved climate and the encouraging incentives extended by the government to exporters, investors and producers of cottage industry products.

March 10—

THE PRESIDENT announced he has promulgated a decree setting aside for exclusive ownership of Muslim communities or of the country's mountain tribes the ancestral lands they are occupying at present. The presidential announcement was made in response to a toast offered by visiting Saudi Arabian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Omar Sakkaf during a dinner that Sakkaf tendered in honor of the President and the First Lady at Malacañang. These ancestral lands, according to the President, shall be closed to Christian occupancy, settlement and possession and "any deficiency in the matter of titling shall be made up at the government's instance."

EXECUTIVE Secretary Alejandro Melchor Jr. issued Memorandum Circular No. 408 creating a steering committee that will coordinate and integrate all land and water resources development programs in various major river basins starting with Central Luzon. The said memorandum was an offshoot of Presidential Decree No. 35. Under this decree, the National Irrigation Administration has been directed to conduct studies that will extend the benefits of the Upper Pampanga River Project to the provinces of Pangasinan, Tarlac, Pampanga and Bulacan.

A NIA representative will head the steering committee, which will have members from the following agencies: the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, National Power Corp., the Metropolitan Waterworks & Sewerage System, the Local Water Utilities Administration, the Bureau of Public Works, and the Department of Agrarian Reform.

March 11—

THE PRESIDENT received a group of prestigious leaders of the British business world, who had come to survey future investments opportunities and the general trade and industrial situation in the Philippines. Sir Archibald Forbes, chairman of Midland Bank Ltd., which was controlling interest in Cook International, said his group "looks forward very much to discuss with you and our colleagues and other business leaders future investments with reference to trade and industry in the Philippines." The President in return informed the group that the government is engaged in inviting investments through assurance of total commitment for their protection.

FULL pardon was extended by the President to Lt. Hiroo Onoda of the former Japanese Imperial Army, who came out of hiding, ending a 30-year saga of survival in the jungles of Lubang Island in Mindoro. The President said he had given full and complete pardon to Lt. Onoda for any violations he may have committed during and after the war, not only in recognition of his courage, but also in the hope that the world will be able to ban wars completely and establish brotherhood among nations, especially those in Asia.

SECRETARY of Information Francisco S. Tatad urged an honest and earnest review of the advertising industry to make it truly responsive to the goal of national development. Through such a review, he suggested that mediemen, advertisers, advertising agencies, men in government and community leaders will devise instrumentalities that will give the partnership of the advertising industry and government continuity and force. He sounded the appeal during

the presentation to him of a Plaque of Appreciation by the Association of Philippine Advertising Agencies. Secretary Tatad said a portion of these goals have been achieved “but many remain to be attended to.”

March 12—

THE PRESIDENT has acted to maintain government ownership of tracts of land that are now serving as site of the Export Processing Zone Authority in Mariveles, Bataan, as well as site of a low-cost housing project for EPZA workkers. He has issued Presidential Decree No. 403, giving the EPZA or, that failing, the government, the right to redeem EPZA lands which might be foreclosed by any lending institution. In issuing P.D. 403, the President puts in the proviso that “should the lands he used as collateral for any loan contracted by the grantee from any lending institution, the said lands, in the event of foreclosure, shall be subject to repurchase by the Authority, or in default thereof, by the Government within a period of five years from the date of foreclosure sale.”

THE GOVERNMENT has launched a program to make the country self-sufficient in corn and feedgrains. Dubbing the program “Masaganang Maisan,” the President has called on various government entities to intensify the production of corn, sorghum and soybeans, as well as provide the producers of these grains reasonable support prices and an efficient system of buying stations. Under Letter of Instructions No. 175, the secretary of agriculture and natural resources, through the National Food and Agriculture Council (NFAC), is directed to oversee and coordinate the activities of all participating government and private agencies.

THE PRESIDENT has approved the release of P307,392,000 to boost the government’s roadbuilding program, the Bureau of Public Highways announced. Highways Commissioner Baltazar Aquino said the amount will be used for the construction of bridges and farm-to-market roads and the repair of roads and bridges damaged by recent floods and other calamities. Mr. Aquino stated that P36 million will be used in the construction of farm-to-market roads included in the Capital Development Program while P32 million from the calamity fund will be used in the repair of roads and bridges damaged by floods and other calamities. He added that P3.9 million will be spent for priority projects throughout the country.

DEPARTMENT of Justice has ruled that the provision in the new Constitution providing for the compulsory retirement of judges upon reaching the age of 65 does not apply to incumbent judges as long as they hold the same office or are appointed or transferred to another court of the same rank and category. In this case the retirement age is still 70. Justice Secretary Vicente Abad Santos issued this opinion in reply to a request from Secretary Guillermo C. de Vega, presidential assistant.

March 13—

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady requested Foreign Minister Omar Sakkaf to convey their sincere greetings and good wishes to King Faisal upon his return to Saudi Arabia. Before leaving Malacañang for the Manila International Airport, Minister Sakkaf called on the President at the Study Room and expressed anew his faith in the sincerity of the government program for the welfare of the Muslim Filipinos, and his confidence in the ultimate return of peace and order to Mindanao. During the meeting, the President requested Minister Sakkaf to transmit to King Faisal a message of sincere greetings and good wishes, as well as gratitude for the sending of his minister of state for foreign affairs on an official visit to the Philippines.

SPECIAL inter-agency task force has been created to oversee the rehabilitation of the town of Jolo, in Sulu which was burned by Maoist rebels to cover their retreat from government forces last month. The task force will supervise all the rehabilitation activities in the ravaged town in cooperation with the Department of Social Welfare, the Special Program of Assistance for the Rehabilitation of Evacuees (SPARE), other government agencies and private organizations working the area. It will also establish rehabilitation guidelines and priorities and determine the forms of assistance needed from the government and business sectors to restore normalcy in Jolo. The task force’s creation is contained in Memorandum Circular No. 411 issued by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor Jr. on the authority of the President.

THE PRESIDENT received Masanori Kambayashi, president of Nichimen Co. Ltd. of Japan, who called to pay his respects. Mr. Kambayashi submitted to the President the program of investments of his firm in the Philippines, including the P33 million projects already approved by the Board of Investments, as well as those still being proposed, such as participation in local oil exploration. Mr. Kambayashi expressed the hope that in line with the Philippine-Japan treaty of friendship, the Philippine-Japan Economic Cooperation Committee (PJECC), and the recent visit of Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka to the Philippines, more Japanese investments will be encouraged and initiated in the Philippines.

THE GOVERNMENT has allocated a total of P1 million for the construction of 27 reservoir dams and farm ponds throughout the country. The projects, a joint undertaking of the National Food and Agriculture Council, Bureau of Soils and the National Economic and Development Authority, will be finished by June this year. Called demonstration projects for soil and water conservation, the farm ponds and dams will impound water during the rainy season and prevent soil erosion and floods.

Source: **Adamson University, College of Law Library**

President's Week in Review: March 15-21, 1974

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

March 15—

THE PRESIDENT commended the Logistics Center of the Armed Forces of the Philippines for the vital role it is playing in bringing about the success of the government's reform program. In a speech delivered at the AFP Logistics Center in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, on the occasion of the 12th founding anniversary of the outfit; the President commended the organization, particularly for its establishment of field maintenance and fabrication centers in Mindanao. The President said the setting up of such centers for the servicing and repair of heavy equipment is in line with the government program to develop Mindanao and Sulu.

THE PRESIDENT called for closer economic cooperation between the Philippines and Japan in the face of the numerous crises facing the world. Addressing the Filipino and Japanese delegates to the RP-Japan Economic Cooperation Committee, the President endorsed Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka's efforts to prevent misunderstandings and irritations which may arise between the Philippines and Japan.

NATIONAL Grains Authority was instructed by the President to buy white and yellow corn grains, sorghum and soybeans at Government support prices. NGA Administrator Jesus Tanchanco announced this as he explained that the cereal energy will buy directly from farmers and producers without the aid of middlemen. The NGA, he said, will buy corn, sorghum and soybeans at government support prices set by Letter of Instructions No. 175.

DEPARTMENT of Finance, stopped provincial, city and municipal treasurers including their subordinates from leaving their official stations without prior authority from the department. Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata issued the directive to all local treasury officials in line with the policy of conserving fuel and to achieve economy in the disbursement of local funds. In a provincial circular issued to all provincial and city treasurers, Secretary Virata said that the department has observed that provincial, city and municipal treasurers as well as other local treasury officials and employees travel to Manila and other places outside their official stations without prior permission from the Department of Finance.

March 16—

THE PRESIDENT declared that it is the official policy of the Philippine government to utilize investments coming from abroad to build a bigger and broader base for all the wealth in this country. In brief remarks at luncheon given in honor of the Japanese members of the Joint Philippine-Japanese Economic Cooperation Committee, the President served notice that it is the policy of government to encourage foreign investments and domestic investible funds to move in all levels, to the provinces and to cities other than Manila. The President expressed confidence that foreign investors, including Japanese businessmen, were aware of the Philippine policy. He said he only wished to reiterate these well-known principles of the New Society which, he said, the Filipinos "value and hold dear."

INCENTIVE allowances and bounsos have been provided for government technicians assigned in banks and financial institutions which are participating in the government's supervised credit programs to spur agricultural production. Embodied in Presidential Decree No. 409, these incentives are retroactive, covering the technicians' participation in the *Masagana 99* rice program and all other government undertakings involving special financing. The grant of the incentives is aimed at giving technicians enough encouragement, to maximize their participation in the campaign of the government to give much-needed loans to farmers through supervised credit schemes.

THE PRESIDENT observed the emergence of a "new Asia," with sports as one of the vital channels along which the continent's diverse peoples move toward solidarity and self-consciousness. Noting that not a year passes now without a multinational sportsfest taking place in some Asian city, and that in the Philippine alone, during the last five months, no less than six Asian sports contests took place, the President said he sees "this growing solidarity in Asian sports not only as the catalyst for the progressive development of Asian youth, but as the harbinger of greater and firmer community among Asians." The President made these remarks in a speech read for him by Executive

Secretary Alejandro Melchor at the opening of the six-nation Second Asian Men's Softball Championships and Third Asian Women's Softball Championships in Marikina, Rizal.

THE PRESIDENT enjoined the Philippine national basketball team which will play a series of games in Peking to "win not only your games but also the goodwill of your hosts." The President told the team's players and officials during their farewell call that the Philippines has a policy of friendship with all nations, and that they can act as ambassadors of goodwill to foster closer relations between the Philippines and the People's Republic of China.

March 17—

EXECUTIVE committee has been created by the President to take charge of the planning and execution of commemorative activities for the 32nd anniversary of the fall of Bataan and the fall of Corregidor in World War II. Designated chairman and co-chairman of the committee are Defense Undersecretary Manuel Q. Salientes and Maj. Gen. Fabian C. Ver, commander of the Presidential Security Command. The committee is empowered to call upon any department, bureau, office, agency or instrumentality of the government for such assistance as it may need, and to create such committee, sub-committee or staffs as may be necessary.

TIMELY relief from the fertilizer crunch is expected with the President's order throwing guano deposits wide open to public exploitation. The order adds an estimated half-million tons at least of badly needed plant nutrients to the nation's dwindling reserves. As of February 25, the Fertilizer Industry Authority said, the supply exceeded the total national demand of 900,000 tons this year by only 27,000 tons. Under Presidential Decree No. 412, which follows the President's order to the Bureau of Mines to report the location of all guano and phosphate deposits in the country, all guano deposits on private or public lands are excluded from the operation of the Philippine Mining Act (R. A. 137). This enables simultaneous exploitation of a guano deposit by more than one miner, and it also saves the miner from having to undertake expensive and time consuming procedures like applying for mining leases, mineral surveys, and administrative hearings.

March 18—

THE PRESIDENT announced he has ordered a restudy of the local tax structure, particularly the possibility of exempting rice and corn traders from the one per cent tax, as further incentive to the grains industry. He likewise said he is considering the feasibility of leasing virgin lands for the production of grains, as well as looking into the creation of a Grains Industry Development Foundation. In a speech read for him by Administrator Jesus Tanchanco of the National Grains Authority at the 20th convention of the Confederation of Filipino Rice and Corn Association at the Teachers Camp in Baguio, the President outlined the program of government assistance to the grains industry, including land reform, through which farmers were made owners of the land they till; the extension of massive credit facilities to the agricultural sector; and the grant of technical and other forms of assistance to farmers.

THE GOVERNMENT has adopted enough safeguards to minimize the effects of imported inflation to provide a more equitable distribution of benefits in the rural areas, according to the Department of Finance. In a speech delivered at the commencement exercises of Ateneo University, Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata said that the Philippines is a dynamic, fast-moving and fast-growing nation. The finance secretary also enumerated the following safeguards to minimize inflation: increased production targets supported by increased volume of supervised credit for food, export, and domestic industries to provide continuous flow of goods; adjustments of wages and prices; better price for Philippine export products; meticulous examination of imports; continuous development of more export products and markets other than traditional trading partners; and, the signing of agreements for mutually beneficial economic, social and cultural relationship with many countries.

NURSING graduates need not go elsewhere in order to find opportunities for service, according to Secretary of Health Clemente S. Gatmaitan. The health secretary emphasized this point in his address before the graduating class of a School of Nursing in San Fernando, La Union. Secretary Gatmaitan said that the exposure to actual field conditions would serve to awaken a wider social consciousness in the prospective nurse so she may know her obligations to society. This will also help alleviate or even solve the drain in health manpower which has plagued our health care system for sometime, the secretary added.

March 19—

THE PRESIDENT said the government intends to make the [unreadable] program truly universal by having it cover the entire population of the country. The President made this announcement in accepting the “Most Exalted Humanitarian Diamond Award,” which was conferred on him and the First Lady by the National League of Puericulture and Family Planning Centers, at the Malacañang Ceremonial Hall.

DEPARTMENT of Public Information and the Department of Foreign Affairs promulgated an order aimed at strengthening the working relationship between the officials of the foreign service of the Philippines and information attaches and other personnel abroad of the DPI. Under the agreement signed by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo and Secretary of Information Francisco S. Tatad at the DFA, information attaches or DPI representatives abroad shall, among other things, be under the administrative supervision and control of the chief of mission or principal officer of the embassy or consulate to which they are assigned.

DEPARTMENT of Local Government and Community Development, the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Central Bank of the Philippines signed a joint arrangement to bolster the collection of the Barrio Savings Fund of the Samahang Nasyon for the second crop of *Masagana 99*. The three agencies have agreed that: 1) The DLGCD shall furnish all rural banks and PNB branches lists of registered Samahang Nasyon and their bonfide members. The same lists will also be furnished to the chairman of the provincial action committee of the National Food and Agricultural Council (NFAC) for distribution of all farm management technicians; 2) The farm management technician will include in the loan the amount to be collected for the BSF which is five per cent of the total loan proceeds to be released if the farmer is a member of a registered Samahang Nasyon; and 3) The participating rural bank or PNB branch upon releasing the loan to the farmer-borrower will deduct five per cent from it and credit the amount to the account of the Samahang Nasyon.

DEPARTMENT of Local Government and Community Development has directed its fieldmen to strictly enforce the collection of contributions to the Barrio Guarantee Fund among Samahang Nasyon members. DLGCD Secretary Jose Roño issued the directive after receiving reports that “a good number of Samahang Nasyon members seem to demur from complying with this particular aspect of the program.” To bolster the savings program of the Samahang Nasyon movement, the DLGCD official also instructed field officers to be the first to contribute to the BGF.

March 20—

THE PRESIDENT served notice that there will be no extension of the 1975 deadline beyond which the nation’s lumbermen may not export unprocessed logs. At the same time, the President announced that he has approved the increase from 60 to 80 per cent the amount of raw logs which lumbermen may export this year to enable them to generate sufficient funds for the establishment of their own processing plants. In his brief remarks at the induction of officers of the Philippine Chamber of Wood Industries held at Malacañang, the President emphasized, however, that the increase of exportable raw lumber to 80 per cent is good only for 1974. He said that the rate for next year still will have to be decided, adding that government policy should be flexible and adaptable to changes in the world economy.

THE PHILIPPINES continued to maintain its lead in its trade with socialist and communist countries as it chalked a US\$12.3 million trade surplus as of March 19, 1974. Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. said that trade with these countries has assumed new dimension with the offer of the Chinese and the Russians to provide shipping services to Philippine exporters. Speaking before the Manila Javcees, Secretary Quiazon said that the Philippines appears to be strengthening its position in its trade relations with these countries by maintaining a favorable balance of trade. Latest statistics compiled by the Department of Trade show that total trade with these countries from May 1972 to March 1974 reached \$80,398,309 with exports totalling \$46,376,372 against imports of \$34,021,936. Philippine exports to these countries consisted mostly of portland cement, plywood and veneer, crude coconut oil in bulk, *burí* fiber, abaca and logs.

THE PRESIDENT received two top rank officials of the Mitsui Bank of Tokyo, who paid their respect following conclusion of a joint venture agreement with the Far East Bank of the Philippines. Yasushi Kaneko and Taizo

Nakamura, managing director and deputy general manager, respectively, of Mitsui Bank, arrived in Manila where they acquired for their bank 12.5 per cent equity in the FEB.

THE GOVERNMENT is initiating an intensified export development program to raise sufficient funds that would defray the increasing cost of imports, especially of petroleum products. This was disclosed by Director-General Gerardo P. Sicat of the National Economic and Development Authority in a speech before officers and members of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants. According to the NEDA official, this export development strategy calls for expansion in the volume of traditional export products and the acceleration in the development of industries with promising potentials in the world market.

March 21—

THE PRESIDENT appealed to the beneficiaries of the massive land reform program to pay for their lands as soon as they can without waiting for the amortizations to fall due, in order to help speed up land reform. "The success of the land reform program is irreversible," the President told some 15 former landowners who came to receive full payment for their lands, and 45 farmers who had completed payment for their lands and were given the titles thereto.

CHIEF Justice William Richardson of the Supreme Court of Hawaii hailed the program of reform instituted by the President for being "very successful." The distinguished jurist, who called on the President, together with Mrs. Richardson and Chief Justice Querube C. Makalintal, said: "Recent events proved the President right."

CENTRAL BANK announced that money supply as of the end of February 1974 rose by P242 million or 3.2 per cent compared to its position a month ago, to level at P7,767 million. On an annual basis, the expansion was P1,134 million or 17.1 per cent. Both components of money supply contributed to the total increase currency in circulation, by P95 million or 2.9 per cent and peso demand deposits, by P147 million or 3.5 per cent. The continuous favorable performance of the external sector which realized a total surplus of S68 million during February 1971, and the increased availments of credits by the private sector, contributed to the expansion of money supply by P386 million and P43 million, respectively.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

Official Week in Review: March 29 – April 4, 1974

March 29—

THE PRESIDENT has issued Presidential Decree No. 424 creating the National Water Resources Council, for the proper integration of water resources development efforts to meet the country's present and future needs. To operate under the Department of Public Works, Transportation and Communications, the council shall exercise broad powers, including: 1) The coordination of water resources development activities within the context of national plans and policies; 2) The review and approval of water sources development plans and programs; and 3) The undertaking of hydrologic surveys and the establishment of observation station networks and data center for the scientific survey of surface and ground water potentials.

SOCIAL Security System warned employers against failure to comply with the SSS Law regarding the payment of sickness benefits to qualified SSS members. SSS Administrator Gilberto Teodoro said the SSS Law provides that "the payment of such (sickness) allowances shall be promptly made by the employer every regular payday or on the 15th and last day of each month. . . for as long as such allowances are due and payable." Failure to comply with this provision, he pointed out, shall subject the employer to the penalties of a fine of not less than P500 nor more than P5,000 or imprisonment for not less than six months nor more than one year, or both, at the discretion of the court.

DEPARTMENT of Health has organized a six-man medical team to check the reported outbreak of El Tor and gastro-enteritis in Jolo, Sulu. Health Secretary Clemente S. Gatmaitan said the medical team is composed of two doctor-epidemiologists and four nurses. The team will replace the first medical team which was dispatched to Jolo recently to attend fire victims on orders of the President.

March 30—

THE PRESIDENT has converted the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System into a stock corporation with a capital stock of P1 billion to enable the system to undertake a long-range development program to fill the increasing demands of an expanding population, including the needs of growing and other commercial establishments. The conversion, embodied in Presidential Decree No. 425 will also give the system a wider latitude of fiscal projections that it is allowed at present. The decree authorized the system to adopt measures to enhance the maximum utilization of national resources to prevent environmental pollution.

FOREIGN investors were urged to recognize native abilities to organize and manage Philippine-based enterprises so as to make foreign investments in this country a dynamic partner in developing the economy. This was advocated by top Filipino government and private sector leaders during the whole-day forum on the role of foreign investments in national progress sponsored by the National Economic Protectionism Association (NEPA). Sixto K. Roxas, president of Bancom Development Corp. and one-time chairman of the National Economic Council, in a speech before the forum, voiced the Filipino view that the country adopt an adroit, flexible, foreign investment policy."

March 31—

THE PRESIDENT has ordered the dispersal of ownership of the Planters Products Cooperative Marketing and Supply, Inc. (PPI) in order to diversify the ownership of PPU among all fertilizers-consuming farmers, and to enable the government to fully support the necessary expansion of fertilizer production. The President pointed out that the expansion of fertilizer production. The President pointed out that the expansion of domestic fertilizer production will have to be dramatically accelerated to meet the rapidly rising local demand for fertilizer. Such expansion will entail heavy government involvement in the future including possible government guarantees of million of dollars.

BOARD of governors of the Development Bank of the Philippines may now have a vice chairman who shall preside over the meetings of the board in the absence or temporary incapacity of the chairman. The designation of the vice chairman from among the eight members of board is provided for in Presidential Decree No. 423, which amended section 14 of Republic Act No. 85, as amended by R.A. 3517. The amendatory decree was issued by the President in pursuance of the policy to promote efficiency in the public service.

THE FIRST Lady appealed to everyone to get involved in the green revolution, stressing that a developing nation like the Philippines needs the cooperation of all to make the country self-sufficient in food. She pointed out that the struggle against hunger knows no class or barrier as man must eat to survive, and “we can overcome this problem by relying ourselves by getting everyone involved.” The First Lady was guest of honor at the launching of “Green Race ’74” under the auspices of provincial, city municipal and other officials of Luzon provinces, held at Greenhills, Pasig, Rizal.

THE PRESIDENT has appointed to new positions five provincial and city treasurers in Mindanao, upon the recommendation of the secretary of finance. The appointees are: 1) Fernando A. Miguel, provincial treasurer of Cotabato, as provincial treasurer of North Cotabato, provincial treasurer of Sultan Kudarat; 3) Tamagantang Pangilamen, city treasurer of General Santos City, as provincial treasurer of Maguindanao; 4) Sixto L. Chavez, assistant provincial treasurer of Sulu, as provincial treasurer of Tawi-Tawi; and 5) Arturo H. Ramos, assistant provincial treasurer of South Cotabato, as city treasurer of General Santos City.

April 1—

THE PRESIDENT received the four-man goodwill mission from the Khmer Republic, headed by Foreign Minister Keuky Lim. In welcoming the members of the mission, the President requested them to convey to the head of government of the Khmer Republic the strong support of the Philippines to the proposal for a negotiated peace in that country. The President also expressed the hope that the peace situation in the Khmer Republic had considerably improved.

MASS media must serve the needs and goals of their specific setting, Secretary of Information Francisco S. Tatad told the ASEAN Training on Mass Media at the University of the Philippines. Rejecting a generally held view that the mass media are governed by concepts common to all nations and traversing all social and economic climates the secretary said that the “value of media as a social activity or institution is solely determinable from the kind of support that they give to a society and its purposes.” The secretary admitted that his subject, “Communication and Development,” has been obscured by many lofty misconceptions. But he proposed a conceptual framework for the media in our country as well as a practicable program for transforming this model a reality, so as to “bring down from the sky” the nebulous subject.

DEADLINE for all cooperatives in the country to comply with re-registration requirements has been extended to June 30. This was announced by Secretary Jose A. Roño of the Department of Local Government and Community Development (DLGCD). In making the announcement, Secretary Roño said no other extension will be made after June 30 to enable the DLGCD to finalize and put its records in order. Henceforth, he said all cooperatives are advised that failure to submit and comply with all the requirements will be considered sufficient ground for non-registration.

April 2—

THE PRESIDENT received the letters of credence of Ambassador Cai Torne Oskar Melin as the new non-residing ambassador extra ordinary and plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Sweden to the Philippines. The new Swedish envoy also presented to the President the letter of King Carl Gustaf, recalling his predecessor, Ambassador Karl Henrik Andersson. In accepting the credentials of the new envoy, the President assured Ambassador Melin of “Our continuing cooperation and constant widening of our contact.” The Swedish envoy, on the other hand, expressed the “sincere wish of my government and my people that the Philippines may continue its successful course to still greater prosperity and happiness.”

THE PRESIDENT has discontinued, effective April 1, 1974, the use of the coupon system (gas receipts and has issue card) in the allocation of gasoline in the light of the easing up of the available crude oil supply, but oil conservation will continue to be observed. Abolition of the coupon system, according to Letter of Instructions No. 178-A, is likewise intended to provide the impetus to maintain the momentum of the country’s economic growth.

DEPARTMENT of Finance announced that the Government will continue to impose the dumping duty on white cement imported from Japan and Taiwan. The announcement was made after Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata denied a motion for reconsideration filed by the Fil-American Hardware and Construction Supply which protested the duty imposition. The department said investigation showed there was dumping and that white cement from Japan was being imported and sold in the Philippines at prices (US \$29.69) lesser than the fair value (US \$60.90). The department fixed the dumping duty on white cement imported from Japan at US \$31.21 per metric ton as required by the Tariff and Customs Code.

DEPARTMENT of Labor noted a sharp increase in the number of private firms reporting compliance with the President's appeal on emergency allowances. Labor Secretary Blas F. Ople said that the number of responding firms rose to 4,132 from 3,100 listed. This reflected an increase of more than 1,000 firms complying with the reporting requirement under Letter of Instruction No. 174 in less than one day, he said. Mr. Ople said that on the basis of 4,312 responding firms 222,525 workers will be benefitted by the allowances.

April 3—

THE PRESIDENT announced that no Presidential Decree has been issued granting tax amnesty or immunity from tax investigation for the taxable year 1973. This announcement was made to dispel all speculations about the issuance of such a Presidential Decree.

DEPARTMENT of Finance ruled factories are not supposed to pay business taxes to the cities or municipalities they are located unless sales are made or goods sold are invoiced at the factories. Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata issued this opinion in answer to inquiries from several business firms. However, the municipality may levy permit fees and other regulatory fees on the factories located within their territorial jurisdictions, the secretary said.

THE PRESIDENT and First Lady received a high-level woman delegation from Romania which arrived to look into the possibility of promoting greater cooperation and stronger friendly relations between their country and the Philippines. The delegation was composed of Madame Suzana Gidea and Madame Florida Andrei, with Mr. Radui Liviu acting as interpreter. The delegation expressed belief that the establishment of Romanian embassy in Manila and a Philippine embassy in Bucharest could help promote cooperation between the two countries along economic, social, cultural and industrial fields.

April 4—

THE PRESIDENT was today presented with a draft of the Muslim Law Code of 1974, with codification of Muslim substantive law to be made later. The presentation was made by the research staff for the Codification of Philippine Muslim Laws, a unit under the Presidential Task Force for the Reconstruction and Development of Mindanao and Sulu.

NATIONAL Power Corp. has reported to the President that it has begun a massive 12-year power expansion program which will save the Philippines some P7.5 billion in oil importations over a 10 year (1975-1985) period. The NPC also expect that by the early Eighties, the national government will be saving three times the foreign exchange (estimated at \$700 million this year) at present expended for energy imports. All this will be made possible, according to NPC General Manager Ramon R. Ravanzon, once the potentials of indigenous energy sources-geothermal, coal hydro-power are harnessed, and nuclear power plants are established.

BOARD of Investments and the Bureau of Internal Revenue have signed an agreement governing procedures on the availment of incentives under the Investments Incentives Act (R.A. 5186) and the Export Incentives Act (R.A. 6175). The agreement is designed to facilitate matters affecting investors and registered enterprises on the availment of benefits under the two laws. For this purpose, the two government bodies created the BIR-BOI working committee so as to weld harmony and cooperation in the performance of their respective function in connection with the implementation of the two laws. Under the agreement, the working committee will be composed of two BIR representatives and two from BOI.

TRADE between the Philippines and the United States has remained consistently in favor of the Philippines since 1969, according to the Department of Trade. Trade Officer-in-Charge Mario R. Reyes said that in 1973, trade between the two countries amounted to \$1.1 billion, the highest during the last five years. Of this amount, he said, \$671,308,445 represented exports against the Philippine imports of \$449,492,080. He said the Philippines posted a balance of trade amounting to \$221,816,365 in 1973, or an increase of \$151,154,700 compared to the \$70,661,665 registered in 1969.

Source: **Supreme Court Library**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1974). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 70(14), ci-civ.

President's Week in Review: April 5-11, 1974

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

April 5–

THE PRESIDENT is firmly convinced that greater production for export and domestic use will beat the present inflation crisis which has added \$1 billion or more to the Philippines' operations bill. He rejects retrenchment as a solution. In Letter of Instructions No. 161-A he appeals to the entire nation to join the general sustained efforts at survival through accelerated and increased production of both export and domestic products. He urges the people "to participate actively at their initiative, without waiting for detailed instructions."

THE PRESIDENT has reserved around 40 hectares of the public domain in the municipality of Tigbauan, Iloilo, for the use of the Aquaculture Department of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) in its research studies on the spawning and culture of shrimps, prawns and other crustaceans and fish species. The order is contained in Proclamation No. 1246.

April 6–

THE PRESIDENT directed the Oil Industry Commission (OIC) to conduct an overall study of the petitions of local oil companies for an increase in price for their petroleum products. In issuing the order, the President made it clear to the OIC that should it be found out after the study and evaluation of the petitions that there should be an increase in the price of petroleum products, such an increase in price should only be made once.

The PRESIDENT boarded the ship, the *RPS Ang Pangulo*, for his traditional annual spiritual retreat. Retreat master is Rev. Fr. Michael McPhellen, professor of the Ateneo de Manila economics department. Other retreatants with the President on Board the *RPS Ang Pangulo* are some members of his Cabinet.

DEPARTMENT of Labor extended to May 7 the reporting deadline for compliance with the Presidential appeal for the grant of emergency living allowance to workers. Labor Secretary Blas F. Ople said that based on the latest reports from the Labor Statistics Services, a total of 10,220 establishments had reported compliance, benefitting 528,374 workers in manufacturing, commerce, agriculture, services and other industries. Secretary Ople expressed the gratitude of the workers and the Government to the cooperating firms, calling this response "an index of the nation's social conscience and the economic statesmanship of industry and business."

BACKPAY Certificates of Indebtedness may be used by original holders for the payment of hospital bills in the Government Service Insurance System General Hospital, according to the Department of Justice. Justice Secretary Vicente Abad Santos rendered this opinion upon request of National Treasurer Vicente P. Rodriguez. Secretary Abad Santos said that the GSIS General Hospital may be deemed a government hospital since its under a corporation owned or controlled by the government governed by the Uniform Charter for Government Corporations. He added that considering that the grant of backpay is an act of liberality on the part of the government, the provision of law allowing the acceptance of Backpay Certificates of Indebtedness in payment of debts to its agencies or instrumentalities should be construed liberally.

April 7–

COUNTRY'S land reform program is boosted anew with the creation of an inter-agency committee for the development and financing of industries in agrarian reform areas to benefit both farmers and landowners. Organized by the Office of the President through Memorandum Circular No. 717, the Committee will identify top-yielding projects in land reform localities, and help redirect idle agricultural capital into industrial production. Under this plan, the government hopes to increase the income of former landowners as well as of the farmers benefited by the land reform program.

April 9–

THE PRESIDENT stressed the importance of self-reliance, saying that if there is any lesson taught by Bataan, it is that the Filipino people should never depend wholly upon an ally no matter how strong that ally might be. In a speech at ceremonies commemorating the 32nd anniversary of the Fall of Bataan held atop historic Mount Samat in Pilar, Bataan, the President said that the Filipinos should make it too costly for any enemy to transgress so that no one might again dare trespass “upon this sacred soil.” The President’s remarks were prompted by an announcement made earlier by United States Ambassador William H. Sullivan on the finalization of a contract between the Philippines and the US governments that would allow the Philippines to manufacture its own weapons of defense.

TRANSPORTATION companies operating under certificates of public convenience are not required to pay the franchise tax levied by provincial city and municipal governments. A circular issued by Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata ordered provincial, city and municipal companies to refund the amounts paid or credit such payments to the account of the taxpayer for application to other tax obligations due to the province or city.

CHAIRMAN Leonardo B. Perez of the Commission on Elections has stressed his position that the national leadership and the Filipino people should take full advantage of the transition period as provided under the new Constitution to give the present leadership and the whole nation ample time to pursue the massive program of political, social, economic, cultural and scientific reforms.

SOCIAL Welfare Secretary Estafania Aldaba-Lim noted the marked change in the values of the Filipino women from complacency to commitment which is in line with the spirit of the New Society. Speaking during the induction of officers of the Zambales Ladies Circle, she lauded the women in their effort to support the government’s program. She also exhorted them to work along the modern concept of social work—not in doling out good to the needy but in restoring them into a life of dignity by giving them means of self-support.

VARIOUS Philippine Houses abroad, which carry displays of local exportable products, will also exhibit Philippine books and periodicals for a more effective dissemination in foreign countries of the best in Filipino thought and literature. The project, a brainchild of Secretary of Information Francisco S. Tatad, with the cooperation of Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon, seeks to put up a Philippine Bookshop in each and every Philippine House abroad, to complement the displays of handicraft, woodcraft, footwear and other items.

April 10–

THE PRESIDENT emphasized the need for more production and called on the local officials of Northern Luzon to take the initiative in increasing the production of staples and root crops. In this connection, the Chief Executive stressed that the government will put heavy emphasis on production-oriented infrastructures, particularly irrigation systems and feeder roads. The President delved on these matters in meetings held in Bagabag, Nueva Vizcaya; Caoayan, Isabela; Vigan, Ilocos Sur; San Fernando, La Union, and Laoag City during which he exhorted the local officials to coordinate with agriculturists and development officers of the national government in the current production drive.

THE PRESIDENT has directed the registration with the barangay or municipal registration centers from April 25 to May 10, 1974 of all resident aliens as well as all former foreign nationals who have acquired Philippine citizenship. The order, made pursuant to Presidential Decree NO. 278 dated August 24, 1973 and Presidential Decree No. 278-A, is aimed at facilitating the implementation of the National Reference card System, whereby all citizens and aliens in the Philippines will be given national identification cards.

BRANCH XII of the Court of First Instance of Leyte was converted by the President into a Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court for the provinces of Leyte and Southern Leyte, including the cities of Tacloban and Ormoc. This is the sixth JDRC in the Philippines. The others are in the cities of Manila, Quezon, Caloocan, Baguio and Iloilo. According to Presidential Decree No. 411, Branch XII of the CFI, with official station at Tacloban City, has yet to be organized; hence, its conversion into a juvenile and domestic relations relation court will not adversely affect the administration of justice. The official station of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court shall be in Tacloban

City. It shall be a court of record for which a judge, who possesses the same qualifications, enjoys the same privileges and receives the same salary as a judge of the Court of First Instance, shall be appointed by the President.

April 11–

AFTER an inspection survey of five Northern Luzon provinces, the President issued from Baguio City a series of directives designed to remedy certain problems facing the people of Northern Luzon. In his directives, the President: 1) Ordered the restructuring of all unpaid crop loans extended to farmers under the *Masagana 99* program, and the increase of the loan ceiling by the Agricultural Credit Administration from P2,000 to P5,000; 2) Ordered suspension of the payment of arrearages of Ilocos Sur to two government financing institutions, and the working out of a satisfactory solution; and 3) Directed that the five-peso minimum price for top-quality Virginia tobacco leaf be enforced strictly and that the four per cent research and regulation fee be borne by the buyer and not the farmer.

THE PRESIDENT has ordered P2 million released in partial payment for back pensions and death gratuities accrued since 1969 for disabled ex-servicemen or their widows and orphans. Under Presidential Decree No. 357, the President ordered the P2 million fund for back pensions and death gratuities taken from the government's share of the earnings of the \$31 million fund that the United States government paid some years ago in final settlement of the claims of some 73,000 recognized guerillas who were not paid in full or not paid at all.

THREE judges of Courts of First Instance in Manila, Nueva Ecija and Caloocan City were appointed by the President. Appointed to one of the Manila CFI's was Judge Antonio Cinco of the Cebu CFI. Assistant Solicitor General Jaime Lantin was named CFI judge with station at Guimba, Nueva Ecija and Assistant Solicitor General Bernardo Pardo as CFI Judge of the 7th Judicial District, with station in Caloocan City. The President made the appointments upon the recommendation of the Supreme Court.

Source: Supreme Court Library

President's Week in Review: April 12-18, 1974

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

April 12—

THE PRESIDENT has declared a general amnesty for violation of the election laws and related statutes in the five elections since 1965, including the election of delegates to the Constitutional Convention. Main beneficiaries of the amnesty declared under Presidential Decree No. 433 are public school teachers, other government, officials and employees, members of the armed forces, PACD officers, policemen, and treasurers. This new amnesty follows PD 384 dated January 3, 1974, which amnestied all persons who, as first offenders, failed to register or vote in connection with the July 27-28, 1978 national referendum.

THE PRESIDENT has ordered the restructuring of all unpaid crop loans extended to farmers under the *Masagana 99* program, and the increase of the loan ceiling by the Agricultural Credit Administration from P2,000 to P5,000. The order was one of several directives issued from Baguio by the President following a Northern Luzon survey to check on the peace and order situation and the economic conditions in the region.

April 13—

LOCAL governments have been authorized, by virtue of Presidential Decree No. 432, to grant emergency cost-of-living allowances to their low-salaried personnel. The decree was issued by the President in line with the policy to alleviate the plight of those belonging to the low-income groups who feel most the effects of the spiralling costs of prime commodities brought about by the energy crisis, and worldwide inflation.

INTERNATIONAL Labor Organization has accelerated its contribution to Philippine development since the proclamation of Martial Law through its joint projects with the Department of Labor and other Philippine government institutions. This was gathered from a report to Labor Secretary Blas F. Ople of the DOL's international labor affairs service. The report showed that the ILO, together with the United Nations Development Program, was responsible for the "landmark report" on the Philippine economy from the standpoint of employment policy by the 30-man expert task force headed by Dr. Gustav Ranis. The report has been submitted to the President.

PUBLIC Works Director Desiderio Anolin cited Bureau of Public Works engineers and workers in Western Mindanao for their work dedication. Director Anolin's assessment was made after a four-day inspection of BPW multi-million-peso development and rehabilitation projects in that region. He said BPW engineers and workers have shown that sacrifice and dedication could spur completion of projects way ahead of schedule.

April 14—

THE PRESIDENT has amended certain provisions of the Local Tax Code, generally reducing the rates by more than 50 per cent, and making the Code more responsive to changing patterns of business and economic trends. It has thus become a more effective instrument by which local governments may generate urgently needed revenues without unduly disturbing price levels in the domestic market. The Local Tax Code, enacted under Presidential Decree No. 231, took effect on July 1, 1973. It is amended by Presidential Decree No. 426, which was signed by the Chief Executive on March 30, 1974.

THE PRESIDENT called the attention of local officials to the urgent need to increase production for local consumption and export, and to raise foreign exchange needed for principal imports, particularly oil and capital goods. During a two-hour conference with the officials of Baguio City, Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga-Apayao and Mt. Province held at the Mansion House, the President emphasized that the Philippines is hard put to raise the \$1 billion needed this year to support the additional importation cost of oil and capital goods. The President called upon the local officials to go to the people and motivate them on the program of government under the New Society.

PHYSIQUE Culture Association of the Philippines Inc. has been authorized to conduct an educational, membership and fund campaign from March 31, 1974 to March 30, 1975 in connection with the association's objective of promoting the physical and mental well-being of the people and their development into good and useful citizens. Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor Jr. urges nationwide support for the fund drive in Proclamation No. 1250, noting that physique culture is the underlying basis of all sports activities and the development of a healthy and contented citizenry.

April 15—

ENDING his six-day inspection of Northern Luzon provinces and cities with a conference with Pangasinan and Tarlac officials at the Sison Auditorium in Lingayen, Pangasinan, the President urged the officials to prepare a list of promising industries that will increase export earnings.

As in his meetings earlier in other towns and cities during the Holy Week, the President hammered on the theme of increased production. He had cited rice production, and increased export earnings through medium and small-scale industries. Now, in Lingayen, he mentioned in particular *barakbak, bocayo*, coconut, charcoal, and guano industries. The President, at the same time, called on the citizens to get involved in the increased production program and to inform him of anything that should be brought to his attention.

THE PRESIDENT has created a task force to speed up the industrial development of Sapang Palay and provide jobs for 45,000 urban squatters relocated there. Under Memorandum Order No. 416-74, the President directed the task force to accelerate the establishment of factories in Sapang Palay, and specifically to: 1) Assess the physical improvement needed to develop and improve immediately the Sapang Palay industrial estate sites and provide maximum employment opportunities, and 2) Identify and mobilize the sources of funds, prepare an integrated plan to carry out the physical development of the estates, and outline a strategy for attracting industries to the area.

April 16—

THE PRESIDENT armed local governments with the means to assist actively in the construction of roads and bridges and in their maintenance and repair. He did this by increasing the specific tax on petroleum products and giving provinces, cities, and municipalities a share of that tax. Presidential Decree No. 436, which effects this combined tax and public works reform, comes into full force and effect as of this day.

LETTER of Instructions No. 166 was amended by the President by reducing the research and regulation fee of four per cent to a straight fee of ten centavos per kilogram of flue-cured tobacco sold, and shifting the burden of payment from the producer-seller to the buyer. The President said this has become necessary in order to relieve the former of the present burden of contributing to the support of trading centers. At the same time, the President said this would provide added incentives to both cigaret manufacturers and tobacco exporters who have been adversely affected by increased costs in redrying and processing tobacco. “

DELEGATES to the first meeting of senior officers on rice of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations were received by the President. In welcoming the delegates, the President observed that the meeting is very timely in view of the world food shortage which requires that “we exploit all possible sources of food.”

April 17—

THE PRESIDENT has granted the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) broad powers leading to the raising or lowering of tariff barriers in favor of or against certain importations, in the interest of the economy. The President has issued Letter of Instructions No. 177 streamlining the NEDA functions relative to the matter, and setting rules on Tariff Commission investigations in support of the NEDA.

THE PRESIDENT has acted to save rice and corn farms that face foreclosure, while at the same time ensuring that their obligations to government lending houses are met. As a preliminary step, he has required the production of

certain data on which to base a program of action, in memoranda fired to the Development Bank of the Philippines, the Philippine National Bank and its subsidiary, the National Investment and Development Corp., the Government Service Insurance System, and the Social Security System. These institutions had been ordered by the President under Presidential Decree No. 385 to foreclose mandatorily all loans with arrears amounting to at least 20 per cent of the total outstanding obligation.

NATIONAL Grains Authority has been directed by the President to study and submit a report on the feasibility of exporting high quality Philippine rice to cover payments for the importation of cereals to meet the deficit expected during the lean months of August and September. The Chief Executive cautioned that such, a move, if feasible, should be undertaken only if adequate domestic supplies of rice and corn are assured.

DEPARTMENT of Education and Culture announced that starting the next school-year it will require all colleges and universities in the country authorized to accept foreign students by the Commission on Immigration and Deportation to set up a foreign student section in their respective admission offices. Secretary Manuel said the foreign student section will be responsible for assistance to foreign students complying with enrollment requirements especially in the release of student grades for presentation to the DEC for renewal of appropriate permits. He said this move was taken in order to expedite the issuance of student visas to incoming foreign students and facilitate upon arrival their registration during the enrollment period.

April 18—

THE PRESIDENT urged farmers to increase their coconut production and contribute their full share to the nation's economy by taking advantage of the current high prices for coconut products. Because of the very attractive price levels, Philippine income from coconut products has increased tremendously. The President, in his talk with provincial, city and municipal officials in Tolosa, Leyte, pointed out that Leyte and Samar are the country's premier coconut-producing provinces and should take the lead in the program for increased production.

THE PRESIDENT announced that the government will ask the big industrial corporations to go into rice and corn production in an effort to achieve self-sufficiency in these staples. In meetings with provincial, city, municipal and barrio officials during his tour of the Central and Western Visayas, the President pointed out that large industrial firms are usually heavy buyers of these commodities and they should be asked to produce at least for their workers.

SECRETARY of Information Francisco S. Tatad and the non-resident Swedish ambassador to the Philippines, Cai Torne Oskar Melin, jointly expressed hopes of closer cooperation particularly in those areas where Sweden could provide technical assistance in Philippine development. The Secretary mentioned to the ambassador that the Philippines has launched a full-scale development program that calls for intensive activity in the exploration for oil and other mineral resources as well as for various types of energy, the development of major exports, such as wood, fibers, copra and other agricultural products, shipping, electrification and others. The ambassador remarked that Swedish investment and technology could possibly come in many of these areas mentioned. He expressed particular interest in shipbuilding, Sweden being the biggest shipbuilding country after Japan.

THE PRESIDENT told a group of war veterans to "add the weight of your collective influence in helping bring home to the people the urgency of increased production." The President's speech was read for him before the 8th Annual Assembly of the Government Employees' World War Veterans League, at the GSIS Social Hall, by Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes. Citing the League's record of identifying itself with the worthy causes of all worker groups, not merely of its own, the President said, "I have called upon our local officials to rally the people behind the drive for greater production, even as I now call upon you, as leaders and leading citizens in your respective communities, to help similarly in arousing public awareness to this great need."

DEPARTMENT of Tourism said that 95,759 tourists have arrived in Manila during the first quarter of 1974, or an increase of 55,989 compared with the 39,806 registered during the same period in 1973. The biggest arrivals during the period were Japanese numbering 38,019, up by 294 per cent compared with 9,650 during the first quarter of 1973. The second biggest arrivals were overseas Filipino residents numbering 14,454 compared with 3,888 during the same period last year, or an increase of 271 per cent.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: April 19-25, 1974

President's Week in Review: April 26 - May 2, 1974

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

April 26—

THE PRESIDENT has paved the way for a faster and more judicious resolution of contested assessments on real properties. This was made possible with the creation of the Board, of Commissioners and Staff to assist the Central Board of Assessment Appeals which is the final arbiter of all disputed real property assessments. This is contained in Presidential Decree No. 434 which further amends PD No. 76, dated December 6, 1972, requiring all persons, natural or juridical, owning or administering real property, including the improvements thereon, to file sworn statements of the true value of such property.

CENTRAL Bank has prohibited commercial and savings banks from accepting deposits of dollar notes and other foreign currency notes acquired by local residents from tourists, transients and U.S. military and civilian personnel in the Philippines. The CB's move is designed not only to discourage blackmarketeers from buying dollar notes from these sources and depositing them with these banks but also to improve the peso exchange rate against the dollar quoted in the blackmarket.

April 27—

THE PRESIDENT appealed for a "renewed sense of loyalty" to the rule of law under the New Society. "We are engaged, more than anything else, in a crucial experiment for survival," the President said in a speech before fellow alumni of the University of the Philippines College of Law at a reunion held at the DBP auditorium in Makati, Rizal. "We talk of an economic development program but it is the moral development of our race which is ultimately at stake," he added.

DEPARTMENT of Agrarian Reforms has announced that landowners whose landholdings have been transferred to tenant-farmers pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 27 have until June 30 to meet with their tenants" and agree on the average-gross harvest of their property. In an open letter addressed to landowners, Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado F. Estrella said that the DAR has set up Barrio Committees in Land Production to determine the average-gross production of specific land category, if landowners fail to decide the case with their tenants before the June 30 deadline.

THE PHILIPPINES exported P49.7 million worth of fresh bananas during the first three months of this year, exceeding by P12.09 million the total earnings during the same period in 1973. This was reported to Director Eliseo C. Carandang of the Bureau of Plant Industry by BPI Region II whose office in Davao renders technical assistance to the industry. The report showed that from January to March, the country exported; 128,051,603 kilos of fresh bananas to Japan worth P49,729,904. During the same period last year, the country exported P37, 634,927 worth of fresh bananas. The BPI said last month's P21,429,719 earnings was higher by P6,649,692 compared to the previous month's P14,780,027.

April 28—

TWO-PRONGED move for a massive and accelerated port development program has been launched by the President. On the one hand, he has created a policy committee to hasten the establishment of a Philippine Ports Authority. On the other hand, he has provided for the greater funding required. Administrative Order No. 360 empowers a special committee headed by the finance secretary to provide direction, coordination, guidance and effective management leading to the establishment of the Philippine Ports Authority, including port management units in selected ports. Using such sums as necessary from the Portworks Special Fund under the Bureau of Public Works, the committee shall hire consultant services, and review and approve their recommendation on procedures and staff plans.

THE PRESIDENT underscored the importance of exchanges of visits between friendly, countries, even as the First Lady told airport welcomers she was happy to be back from her successful cultural trip to Indonesia. Nations cannot individually stand alone and isolated, he said. The problem of Indonesia's stability for one thing, he said, would affect the Philippines in the same manner that any instability in our country would affect Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and other countries in the region.

April 29—

THE PRESIDENT called upon alien residents of the country to cooperate with the alien registration program of the government which, he said, has been launched for their own security and convenience. In brief remarks before a delegation from the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce which called at Malacañang, the President emphasized that this government program does not represent a change in policy on aliens in this country. "There is no intention to prejudice any alien," the President said. "On the contrary, this is for the security and protection of aliens who are in the Philippines legitimately."

DONATION consisting of 77 barrio schoolbuildings with an aggregate value of P2.5 million, to be constructed in different parts of the country was presented to the President. The presentation was made by a delegation from the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce of the Philippines which called at Malacañang.

THE PRESIDENT received the credentials of Ambassador Rudolf Kozusnik of Czechoslovakia, the first diplomatic envoy to be accredited to the Philippines by this eastern European socialist, republic. In accepting the credentials, the President noted the "historical parallel" between the Philippines and Czechoslovakia which, he said, should place the two countries closer together. "Having gone through the same struggle for self-determination should be a common bond between us, the President told the new ambassador.

April 30—

RUSSIAN bank executives were assured by the President that the Philip pines is moving toward the normalization of relations with socialist countries The President gave this assurance to Viatcheslav Ivanovich Ryzhkov, director and general manager; and P. K. Teo, manager and adviser of Moscow Narodny Bank Ltd., of Singapore, who called to pay their respects to the President. . The two bank executives, who were accompanied to Malacañang by Secretary Blas F. Ople of Labor, had come to the Philippines to assess local economic conditions and look for possible areas of investment.

EDUCATION Secretary Juan L. Manuel called upon school superintendents to draw up a workable plan and effective program for the development of moral values. The DEC secretary was keynote speaker during the five-day conference of some 200 superintendents from the Bureaus of Public and Private Schools held in Baguio. Secretary Manuel said that if there was any sector of the society which was greatly benefited by the national direction and the favorable environment and climate under the New Society, it was education because it was the first to reel from the impact of destructive youthful demonstrations in the recent past.

May 1—

THE PRESIDENT signed the Philippine Labor Code and declassified the Ranis Report on Comprehensive Employment Strategy, as a fitting climax to the observance of Labor Day in the Philippines. The President signed the Labor Code before a thousand labor leaders who had gathered at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang to hear the President's Labor Day address. Describing the Labor Code as an earnest of his pledge to improve the life of the worker, the President said, "Let it be accepted as a charter of human rights as well as a bill of obligations for every working man."

INTERNATIONAL Bank for Reconstruction and Development has granted another \$19 million loan to the Philippines to help finance one of its irrigation projects. The World Bank credit is aimed at boosting the funding requirements of the Aurora-Peñaranda irrigation project in Quezon Province.

May 2—

THE PRESIDENT said that the increase in officers and men of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, which would total to about 256,000 by the middle of next year, is hewed primarily at the development efforts of the country and only secondarily at its defense. The AFP is estimated to have a troop strength of 100,000 this year. Addressing the officers, men and civilian employees of the Philippine Air Force at Nichols Air Base on the occasion of the PAF's 39th anniversary, the President said that the increased troop strength might include reserve and home defense forces and possibly part of the local police finally incorporated into a national force.

RELEASE of P3 million for the improvement of a port road in Cagayan has been ordered by the President. The road—a 66-kilometer stretch from the junction of the old Pan Philippine Highway line at Barrio Dugo, Camalaniugan serves the Casambalangan port in Sta. Ana which is now being developed to replace the old port in Aparri. The work also serves the towns of Lallo, Buguey, Sta. Teresita, Gonzaga and Sta. Ana along the northeast coast of Cagayan.

PHILIPPINE Medical Care Commission (PMCC) urged government dentists to perform their work with renewed vigor. Speaking on the theme "Exploring New Approaches in Dental Public Health in the Context of the New Society," PMCC Chairman Pacifico E. Marcos said that renewed vigor in the government's dental services could be one of the new approaches in dental public health. Dr. Marcos keynoted the 12th annual convention of the Department of Health National Association of Dentists held at the session hall of the Quezon City Hall. He urged dentists in the public service to render direct medical services particularly to the country's children 90 per cent of whom, he said, have incidence of dental disease.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: May 3-9, 1974

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

May 3—

THE PRESIDENT has broadened the powers of the Philippine Coconut Authority, which is now given charge of a price stabilization scheme for coconut-based products. Under Presidential Decree No. 414, the PCA is also to manage the Coconut Consumers Stabilization Fund, which was formerly handled by the Coconut Consumers Stabilization Committee. The PCA will unify and systematize the operation of this fund to fuel research, production expansion, extension services and similar programs to boost the coconut industry.

THE GOVERNMENT has allowed the price adjustments for six basic commodities to insure the continued supply of the items in the domestic market. The six commodities affected are: drugs and medicines, infant dietetics, local canned milk, edible oil, writing pads and notebooks and plywood. Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr., concurrently Price Control Council chairman, said that the price adjustments fixed by the PCC were given clearance by the President to enable manufacturers and/or suppliers to cushion the impact of the energy crisis and international monetary developments on their operations. The manufacturers/ suppliers' justifications for the price adjustments range from increases in the cost of raw materials, the revaluation of the currencies of source countries and the devaluation of the US dollar, increase in packaging materials cost and increase in overseas and local freight costs.

THE PRESIDENT welcomed the choice of Manila as the headquarters of the Association of Pediatric Societies of Southeast Asia and Western Pacific as a signal honor for the Philippines. The President was informed by a delegation representing the participating countries at the First Asian Congress of Pediatrics now being held in Manila, that the unanimous decision to make Manila the headquarters was a tribute to the splendid showing of Filipino doctors, and the availability of adequate manpower and facilities in the Philippines. The Congress, the first to be held anywhere, served as a forum for the exchange of information and experience on child health, care and development, among the Asian countries.

May 4—

MOBILE teams have been created for the Presidential Task Force for the Reconstruction and Development of Mindanao to identify specific priority projects in predominantly Muslim localities, especially the Lanao, Zamboanga and Cotabato provinces. Representing some of the government agencies involved in the development of Mindanao, the members of the team are charged, through Memorandum Circular No. 425, with the task of making an immediate listing of priority projects, along with implementation guidelines and criteria for financial-support. The Presidential Task Force is the body coordinating and monitoring the activities being undertaken by the different government agencies to spur the development of Mindanao.

CASH down payment that private end-users have to pay for reparations goods or services has been scaled down from the old 10 per cent to just five per cent. The reduction is effected under Presidential Decree No. 443, retroactive to November 9, 1973, the date of effectivity of PD 332, which had earlier amended the Reparations Law. In lowering the down payment, the President hoped to help end-users in putting up their projects which will eventually contribute to the national economy.

DR. PACIFICO E. MARCOS, chairman of the Philippine Medical Care Commission (PMCC), told graduating interns of the University of the Philippines College of Medicine that the new Constitution gives the State the police power to require the members of the various professions to render civil service. Dr. Marcos who was guest speaker at the second interns' commencement exercises of the UP College of Medicine held at the Philippine General Hospital, and that this police power of the State on the professions is derived from the constitutional provision which makes it a duty of every citizen to contribute to the welfare and development of the State. Dr. Marcos at the same time, proposed a revision of the medical curricula in order that intermediate medical skills can be provided to those who may drop out and thus their years of formal training may not go to waste.

May 5—

AIRCRAFT for agricultural purposes, including spare parts and accessories may now be imported free of customs duties under Presidential Decree No. 440. The objective is to provide all possible incentives to investors to develop the nation's vast agricultural resources and hasten farm development and production through use of aircraft. The free importation privilege comes under amended section 105 of the Tariff and Customs Code, which provides that any article coming in duty-free may not be sold, bartered or used for purposes other than that for which they were intended without prior payment of duty and other charges. Any violation of this provision shall subject the imported article to forfeiture proceedings.

FINANCIAL sinews of the Land Bank have been further strengthened by allowing government firms including government financial institutions to invest in or accept Land Bank preferred shares in payment for any of their assets; This is effected under Presidential Decree No. 444, which adds a new section to the Land Bank charter (Republic Act No. 3844, as amended by PD 251), after Section 77.

May 6—

THE PRESIDENT said that the destiny of the Filipino people under the New Order can be brought to: its "ultimate efflorescence" if they continue to live by the principles for which the gallant defenders of Corregidor died. The President made this assertion in a speech at ceremonies commemorating the 32nd anniversary of the Fall of Corregidor held on the "Rock".

INFORMATION Secretary Francisco S. Tatad called on the medical profession to evolve a new philosophy of service that would give equal treatment to the sick, the aged and the needy irrespective of their stations in life. Batting for a new type of humanism in extending medical assistance to the poor, the secretary said that it is in the quality of the service given the lowly that Filipinos will get a glimpse of the kind of society they are trying to create. The secretary's call was issued during the launching of the National Hospital Week at the GSIS Hospital in Quezon City.

FORTY government rice technicians assigned in major rice-producing provinces in Luzon opened a one-week training course on rice direct seeding, according to the Bureau of Plant Industry. The course is being held at the BPI's Maligaya Rice Research and Training Center in Muñoz, Nueva Ecija. The-training course aims to popularize the new technique in rice-growing provinces by teaching government rice technicians on the mechanics of the new method.

May 7—

THE PRESIDENT said the present situation inexorably leads toward the normalization of relations between the Philippines and the People's Republic of China. "It is our hope that soon we will have full diplomatic relations, the President told the basketball team of the People's Republic of China who called on him at Malacañang. "Undoubtedly the events in Asia today point to one thing, and that is, that we must now understand each other and appreciate the different situations in which" we discovered our countries and peoples," the President said.

ALL nurses desiring to practice midwifery must first register with the Board of Midwifery and the Professional Regulation Commission before they can practice the profession. Health Secretary Clemente Gatmaitan said this ruling includes registered as well as private nurses who are not exempt from registration. The secretary also cited provisions 20, 22 and 28 of the Philippine Midwifery Law which expressly states that no person may practice midwifery without having been duly registered as midwife.

DEPARTMENT of Education and Culture will start this year a program for the formation and development of desirable moral values and attitudes among pupils and students. Education Undersecretary Narciso Albarracin, program coordinator, said the project which will utilize the resources not only of the schools but the whole community, will cover teachers and education officials whose main weapons will be love and persuasion.

May 8—

THE PRESIDENT announced an innovative experiment to return political power to the people and at the same time strengthen the basic concept of the New Society that all patrimony and wealth belong to the nation. The President made the announcement during his keynote address in opening the conference of the Southeast Asian Institutions of Higher Learning (ASAIHL) at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang. The President announced in his speech that all lands within the territorial boundaries of the municipality of Jolo shall be titled in the name of the entire community and turned over to all residents, subject to approval in a referendum by the people of Jolo themselves. The President said the experiment in land ownership is in line with the New Society's aim of democratizing all aspects of Philippine society, and emphasized the government's inclination not merely to assimilate the Muslim and other minorities but to allow the development in their "pristine purity" of the varied and different cultures, thus attaining unity in diversity.

SECRETARY of Information Francisco S. Tatad said the Filipino character will be the decisive setting of the Philippine struggle for development, and that success will depend on the Filipino's capacity for education, self-possession and pragmatism. Speaking at the Second Annual Cultural Conferences of the Philippine Government Cultural Association on the subject of Filipino destiny, the secretary said that "from the matrix of his past, from his pre-occupations today, we may hope that the Filipino's society tomorrow will be dynamic, progressive and humane." The secretary added that whereas other nationalities derive the concept of what they are from diverse factors such as religion, and culture, the "Filipino-ness" of the Filipinos derives solely from nationhood.

CALL was sounded by the President for a new breed of government property and supply officers who can bring to their tasks initiative, dedication and imagination. He urged the supply officers to develop "the habit of conservation, the capacity to husband our resources, the ability to anticipate and meet demands and goals." In making procurement operations cheaper, faster and more effective, the President said, the supply officer is contributing to making the New Society a perpetually just and good society. The President's speech was read for him before the Local Government Supply Management Association of the Philippines at the Session Hall, Quezon City Hall, by Secretary Constancio Castaneda of General Services.

DEPARTMENT of Finance announced that starting next month, provinces, cities and municipalities will receive the first of monthly allotments from specific tax collections to finance the building, maintenance and repair of roads and bridges. Finance Secretary Cesar E. A. Virata announced this as he released the rules and regulations on the determination and release of the specific tax allotments to local governments in accordance with Presidential Decree No. 436. The initial Specific tax allotments covering the period from April 16 to May 31, 1974 are scheduled to be released to the local governments within the first fifteen days of June 1974. The allotment checks for the month of June shall be released within the first five days of June 1974, and all releases thereafter shall be made within the first five days of the following month.

AGRICULTURE Undersecretary Jose D. Drilon Jr., has accentuated the increasing challenge facing the new breed of professionals in relation to the changes now sweeping the country as the citizenry continues to build a new Society. Addressing this year's graduating class at the University of the Philippines in Baguio City recently, he pointed to the need for the "new leaders" of the community to seek purpose and pursuit as pre-occupations of life. Mr. Drilon added that these changes demand that the gains and the momentum already achieved should be sustained and accelerated.

DEPARTMENT of Labor has now the power to discipline private watchmen or security agencies found to have violated labor laws or against which there is a pending labor claim by any of their employees. Labor Secretary Bias F. Ople said that under a memorandum agreement with the Philippine Constabulary, the DOL has to clear any security firm for any labor law infraction before it can be issued by the PC a renewal permit or new license to operate. The labor chief said this requirement ensures the protection of special watchmen and security guards from abuse or exploitation by their employers.

May 9—

THE PRESIDENT announced that he would call upon Barangay leaders to cooperate with the local police forces in ferreting out crimes all over the country and in bringing criminals to justice. In a speech before the national convention and seminar workshop of the Philippine Confederation of Chiefs of Police (PCCP) at the Maharlika Hall, the President said that although the crime situation in the Philippines seems to be under control, there still are instances of petty crimes reported in certain sections of the country. "It is therefore necessary that we now obtain the services and support of the entire citizenry," the President said, adding that no stable civil order can be attained without the cooperation of the citizens.

UNCONDITIONAL support and loyalty of the Filipino Muslim of Mindanao and Sulu was received by the President. The pledge was in the form of a resolution unanimously adopted by the Sultans of the 19 ruling houses of Mindanao and Sulu. The Sultans personally presented the resolution to the President. In accepting the resolution, the President approved a request for the holding of a seminar in Marawi City to explore all possible means of helping the government in the prosecution of the development program for Mindanao and Sulu. In adopting the resolution, the Sultans lauded the President for adopting the policy of strengthening Muslim communities through economic and social development; development of the Muslim individual by giving him more opportunity to serve in the government, including the armed forces; and his sincerity in prosecuting the Mindanao development program.

AGENCIES engaged in various programs and projects for out-of-school youths will soon be coordinated and their functions and efforts pooled under a single development policy. This was the message given by the President in a speech read for him by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor Jr. at the close of the five-day 22nd National 4-H Club Congress at the College of Agriculture in Los Baños, Laguna. The President said that the government will place these programs under one umbrella through the National Manpower and Youth Council.

SECRETARY of Information Francisco S. Tatad proposed an integrated approach to the problem of juvenile delinquency, saying that it is a national problem that demands the attention of parents, the police, social welfare institutions, the socio-economic planners, education and manpower development agencies. He proposed closer interaction among the agencies involved in meeting the problem, particularly the social welfare and police agencies. Speaking at the seminar-workshop of the Philippine Confederation of Chiefs of Police at Philamlife Auditorium, the secretary said there should be a competent documentation of the problem on an inter-disciplinary basis, with the police and the social worker exchanging relevant statistics. He also proposed that educational institutions enlist the police agencies in teaching the value of authority to the youth.

THE PRESIDENT said the programmed integration of the country's police forces into a unified command will be implemented throughout the country in 1975. He said the overall objective of the plan is to strengthen the government's peace-keeping activities and go to give proper protection and incentive to the forces' rank-and-file. The President made these remarks in a speech before chiefs of police all over the country who are in Manila attending a week-long seminar workshop on Modern Police Administration and Crime Prevention. During the occasion, held at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang, the President also signed a decree amending the Police Act of 1966 to suit the needs of the envisioned integration.

GRATITUDE of the people and government of the Philippines was extended by the President to the Republic of China for a \$25,000 seed donation to the First Lady's Green Revolution. In presenting the donation, Ambassador Liu Chieh of the Republic of China said the donation of various vegetable seeds is a token of support to the First Lady's Green Revolution. He expressed hope the seeds would bring "greater abundance."

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: May 10-16, 1974

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

May 10—

THE PRESIDENT launched the Four-Year Development Program for the Philippine rural banking system, and called on the almost 600 members of the Association of Rural Banks of the Philippines to exert all their efforts in support of this program. The President launched the preponderantly social and economic oriented program, at the opening of the 21st annual convention of the Association at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang. The President said the Four-Year Development Program seeks to improve the distribution of wealth, equalize economic opportunities, and generally raise the standard of living of the masses.

REDUCTION in the tariff duty on vegetable oils and some industrial oil import products has been ordered by the President to bring down the cost of consumer and industrial goods based on these products. Embodied in Executive Order No. 428, the Presidential directive provides a 20 percent rate of import duty on items under tariff heading No. 15.07 covering linseed oil, palm oil, tunda and oiticica oil and soya beans either in the form of "fixed vegetable oils, fluid or solid, refined or purified." The Chief Executive also ordered a downward revision of products listed under tariff heading 33.01 covering peppermint and spearmint oils and lime and lemon oils either in the form of "essential oils (terpeneless or not) concretes and absolutes or resinoids," from 30 percent ad valorem to 10 percent.

THE PRESIDENT has authorized the release of a total of P44,399,362 as budgetary aid or financial assistance for development projects of local governments, according to the Department of Finance. The release of the P44.2 million aid was authorized by the President upon recommendation of Finance Secretary Cesar E. A. Virata and Secretary Jose A. Roño of the Department of Local Government and Community Development.

COCKFIGHTING has finally come into its own as a national sport with the issuance by the President of the "Cockfighting Law of 1974" (Presidential Decree No. 449). The decree regulates and promotes cockfighting as a vehicle for the preservation and perpetuation of native Filipino heritage and its establishment as a national source of recreation, relaxation, and entertainment. Gambling in the premises will be strictly regulated, and no wagering except that on the fighting cocks will be allowed. PD 449 takes effect after its publication in the *Official Gazette*.

THE GOVERNMENT has taken steps to ensure the wider utilization by the people of the current advances in crop protection, science and technology, according to the Bureau of Plant Industry. The BPI, the main government agency entrusted with the protection of the country's agricultural crops, said the move is in line with the observance of the first Crop Protection Week. Among the actions taken by the government were: 1) The issuance of Proclamation No. 1256, setting aside every second week of May as Crop Protection Week "to remind the people of the importance of protecting crops from pests and diseases;" and 2) The intensification of pest control activities, including the on-going seminars and demonstrations in strategic places in the country as sponsored by the Bureau of Plant Industry.

May 11—

PRIVATE schools may now apply for increases in tuition and other fees not to exceed 15 percent of the rates charged last school year. The President issued Presidential Decree No. 451 authorizing the secretary of education and culture to regulate the imposition of school fees in private schools, colleges and universities. At the same time, it repeals Republic Act No. 6139, the old system which provided a cumbersome and time-consuming procedure for the approval of tuition fee increases.

NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority has created an interagency commission on interest rates that would make a thorough study and review of existing government policies on interest rates. NEDA Director-General Gerardo P. Sicat said the committee is expected to come up with recommendations that would be the subject of NEDA discussions on interest rates and its implications on national development. It is composed of representatives

and technical officials from the NEDA, Central Bank, the Department of Finance, the Board of Investments, and other government agencies.

THE PRESIDENT appointed the municipal officials • of the municipality of Esperanza, in Sultan Kudarat province, Headed by Mayor Esperidion Limson. The other municipal officials appointed are: Vice Mayor Castor Villanueva arid Councilors Genoveva Empig, Arcadio Napoles, Pedro Roa; Jose Libo-on, Placido Garde, Eleazar Custilo, Claudia Galapati and Mariano Garumba.

PHILIPPINE Medical Care Commission has proposed the training of the country's pharmacists on health work so that they can fit in into the national health program. Dr. Pacifico E. Marcos, PMCC Chairman, made the proposal in a speech at the 28th annual national convention of the Philippine Pharmaceutical Association held at the College of Forestry, University of the Philippines, in Los Baños, Laguna; Dr. Marcos, at the same time, urged them to undertake clinical research on medicinal plants and animals so that such plants and animals may become sources of raw materials for the manufacture of drugs and medicines.

FERTILIZER Industry Authority Executive Director Daniel G. Carreon announced that starting next month a price and quality standardization scheme for *guano* fertilizer will be imposed in line with the President's directive to exploit and develop *guano* deposits in the country. This was announced as he asked a gathering of *guano* operators and producers to immediately register with the FIA for the prompt implementation of such standardization scheme. He said the standardization scheme will be implemented through provincial and regional laboratories of the Bureau of Soils and the Philippine Sugar Institute.

May 12—

THE PRESIDENT has harnessed the country's 35 stock savings loan associations to: help in the financing of agricultural projects by empowering them to grant loans under the Land Reform Program. Under Presidential Decree No. 450, the agricultural loans may be medium-term (one to five years) or long-term (more than five years). But the President said that such stock savings and loan associations should also help in the financing of agricultural projects and boost the country's food production.

CONSULTATIVE council composed of Muslim leaders has been created by the President to involve the Muslim community in the governments policy formulation activities, especially in relation to the development programs for Muslim Mindanao. In an executive order issued by the President, the council is charged with the task of advising the President on Muslim affairs and of acting as the representative body for the Muslim communities. In signing the executive order, the President stressed that it is the New Society's aim to achieve national unity through the involvement of all sectors in government activities.

May 13—

THE PRESIDENT'S order reducing the tariff rates on imported coconut oil substitutes by 10 to 30 percent is a boon to local consumers and will result in net earnings for the government up to about \$25 million annually. Agriculture Undersecretary Jose D. Drilon Jr., who is concurrently chairman of the Coconut Consumers Stabilization Committee, said the new tariff rates embodied in Executive Order No. 428 will encourage the importation and use of oil cheaper than coconut oil.

GROUP of American rubber and tire manufacturers lauded the President for his "expert handling of the Mindanao development efforts despite such obstacles as the oil shortage and worldwide inflation." The American businessmen, all occupying top positions in the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, also thanked the Chief Executive for the return of normalcy in the South which, they said, enabled their rubber plantation to operate in full capacity. The group was composed of Russel DeYoung and Charles J. Pilliod, outgoing and incoming chairman, respectively, of Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. of Akron, Ohio, and I. B. Thomsen, president of Goodyear International.

SECRETARY of Information Francisco S. Tatad endorsed the promulgation of an advertising code of ethics aimed at upgrading the advertising industry in the country. The draft of the code has been completed, and it represents, he

said, a significant convergence, if not agreement, of many interests and hopes of the advertising industry, the government and other sectors of the society. Secretary Tatad said that probably the most important feature of the proposed code is that it is something born not of one viewpoint but of many viewpoints, not of the realities of power and authority but of the reasoned interplay of ideas among men of different persuasions.

TOTAL gross collections of the Bureau of Internal Revenue for the first 10 months of Fiscal Year 1973-74 amounted to a record high of P4,408,091,072.37. This was reported to Finance Secretary Cesar E. A. Virata by BIR Commissioner Misael P. Vera. Commissioner Vera said that the BIR total gross collections from July, 1973 to April, 1974 represented an increase of P1,589,723,408.75 or 56.29 percent over BIR gross collections for the same period in FY 1972-1973, which amounted to P2,820,367,663.62.

TRAINING center for the development of Muslim community development workers has been set up at the Mindanao State University, according to the Department of Local Government and Community Development. The Community Development Training Center, the first of its kind set up in Mindanao, will train prospective community development workers from the different Mindanao provinces.

May 14—

THE PRESIDENT granted local private educational institutions authority to raise tuition fees provisionally by 15 percent pending the final action of the Department of Education and Culture on their individual applications to increase tuition fees. The President took this action upon recommendation of the Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations (COCOPEA) in order to give parents of school children time to prepare for, and budget, the school expenses of their children in the next schoolyear, which opens in two weeks' time.

VALUE of photography and the other arts in "recapturing for man his sense of community with others," was stressed by Secretary of Information Francisco S. Tatad. The secretary's speech was read for him at the award ceremony, First International Color Slides Competition, Thomas Jefferson Center, by Bureau of Broadcasts Officer-in-Charge Antonio de los Reyes. Secretary Tatad noted the ability of photography to make positive statements about the life of man on this planet, and its importance as a medium to recreate the drama of human life. "But most important of all, perhaps, it has brought all humanity a sense of the sameness of their experiences."

CELEBRATION of the 76th anniversary of Philippine Independence on June 12 will start eight days earlier, on June 5. In a proclamation signed by the President, he said the celebration should be made a "proper occasion to again make a reaffirmation of our continuing commitment to the ideals that had set fire the hearts and minds of our people and united them in nation-building. It is but fitting and proper to ensure a nationwide awareness and involvement in the celebration of this significant milestone and to project the goals and objectives of the New Society."

May 15—

THE PRESIDENT stressed the utmost importance of making an accurate compilation of statistical data for the government's proposed data bank, with the nationwide filing of statements of assets on or before September 30, 1974. At the same time, he warned tax evaders that they have a last chance to make good on their undeclared incomes and wealth earned or realized prior to 1973. They should make the disclosures and corresponding payments not later than June 28, 1974. The President made these points clear in Letter of Instructions No. 185 addressed to the secretary of finance, and all other officials down to barangay heads.

THE PRESIDENT paved the way for the full utilization of drying and storage facilities purchased by the defunct Rice and Corn Administration in the current national food production drive. Called butler up-country warehouses, these drying and storage facilities for grains have not been placed into maximum economic use owing largely to the RCA's failure to settle its obligations with the Philippine National Bank which financed the purchase of the storage houses. To settle the legal and financing problems involved, as well as to remove a major stumbling block in the full utilization of the warehouses, the President issued Letter of Instructions No. 185 transferring to the national government, through the Department of Finance, the outstanding obligations of the RCA in connection with the importation and installation of the warehouses. The LOI also bestows on the National Grains Authority (NGA) the

ownership and administration of the drying-storage facilities so that ways and means could be devised to put them into maximum use.

May 16—

THE PRESIDENT said that more than one-half of the entire expenditures of the government goes to infrastructure and other public works projects that have, to do with production. This is a record that is much better than many, if not all, of the neighboring countries of the Philippines, he told some 400 members of the District and City Engineers League (DAGEL) and the Bureau of Public Works Association of District Engineers (BPW-ADE) during the opening session of **their** annual convention at the Malacañang Maharlika Hall. The increase in capital expenditures, the Chief Executive also said, is deliberate and in accordance with the policy that most of the government money be spent on infrastructures than on routinary or administrative expenditures, such as salaries for government officials. In his speech, the President also announced the conversion of the former Bureau of Public Highways into the Department of Public Highways and the elevation of Public Highways Commissioner Baltazar Aquino to secretary of the new department.

MORE communal lands, aside from those already declared in the burnt-out town of Jolo, are expected to be proclaimed by the President for human settlements. Addressing a convention of city and district engineers, the President directed the new secretary of public highways and the director of public works to submit separate lists of infrastructure projects where it will be necessary to declare public lands communal property.

THE PRESIDENT has authorized the Oil Industry Commission to collect amounts not exceeding P0.15 per liter of refined petroleum products from persons or companies engaged in importing, manufacturing, or marketing those products. To effect the collection, the President issued Presidential Decree No. 456 directing the OIC to issue an appropriate order. The decree cautions the OIC that in collecting payments for the Special Fund it shall take into account the Fund's special requirements in relation to its purposes, the effect of the payments on the oil prices, and its cost impact on the economy, the consuming public, and the oil industry.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: May 17-30, 1973

President's Week in Review: May 31 - June 6, 1974

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

May 31—

THE PRESIDENT expressed the hope that his informal talks with President Soeharto of Indonesia have set a precedent for other leaders of Southeast Asia to meet informally on problems affecting the region. In an interview at the Nichols Air Base after disembarking from his plane from Manado, North Sulawesi (Celebes), the President also enumerated some areas of agreement reached with President Soeharto during their talks: 1) Economic cooperation between their two countries, including the updating of their border crossing and barter trade agreements; 2) Philippine assistance to Indonesia in the latter's manpower training program, not only on the unskilled but also on the highly skilled technician levels, especially in logging, and 3) Complementation in the development of industries.

ACTING Postmaster General Pedro P. Gambalan reminded all postal patrons to use postal code numbers instead of zip codes on all mail matter to speed up handling and delivery of their mail. He said the new postal code system is in effect due to the acquisition by the Bureau of Posts of an automatic letter-sorting machine from Japan through reparations. The system uses four numerals to be read by the automatic sorting machine. Its first two numbers represent the provinces in the Philippines, and the last two, the names of post offices within each province. The machine is capable of sorting 22,000 letters per hour—speeding up the movement of mail which has recently been the subject of public complaints.

HIGH school graduates who had enrolled in short-term courses and who now wish to pursue four-year college degrees are exempted from the requirements of the National College Entrance Examination (NCEE). Secretary of Education and Culture Juan L. Manuel issued an order to this effect to the Directors of Private Schools, Public Schools, and Vocational Education and the coordinator of state colleges and universities. These collegiate programs or short-term courses include secretarial and vocational-technical courses which are terminal in nature.

June 1—

THE PRESIDENT fired off an order to look into the progress of the establishment of wood processing plants, as required in the Forestry Code. He directed Secretary Jose Leido Jr. of Natural Resources and Director Jose Viado of Forest Development to "check which of the timber concessionaires are faithfully complying with these policies, and submit your report to me within one week."

SELECTED executives from the private sector shall now be admitted into the year-old National Defense College of the Philippines, training ground for upper-level national defense leaders and civilian government officials. At the same time, a rigid system of screening candidates has been devised in order that only the best qualified may be enrolled in the defense college, which has been placed directly under the defense secretary. These are the major features of Presidential Decree No. 452, which amends PD 190 that created the college last May 11, 1973.

The decree was issued in order that the purposes and objectives of the National Defense College of the Philippines can be effectively and satisfactorily attained.

JUSTICE Secretary Vicente Abad Santos ruled that advance deposits for the use of a dwelling unit; or for land should not be more than, the equivalent of two months' rent. Secretary Abad Santos issued the opinion in answer to a query from Presidential Staff Director Genaro A. Eslava of the Office of the President. Mr. Abad Santos pointed out that the house rental law provides that "no lessor of a dwelling unit or of land on which another's dwelling is located may demand a deposit, for any purpose, of any amount in excess of two months' rental in advance."

PAYMENT of retirement gratuities has been suspended to former Congress and Commission on Appointments employees who are working again in the government. A memorandum circular issued by Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes says payments are being held in abeyance while it is determined whether such employees

are entitled to the current gratuities payment, or might even have to refund part of the partial gratuity payments they already have received.

June 2—

AUTHORITY over and responsibility for the development and regulation of civilian shipping are reposed for the first time in just one body, the Maritime Industry Authority (MIA). The MIA, created under Presidential Decree No. 474, gathers together functions that had previously been fragmented among various government agencies, resulting in inadequate and inefficient shipping facilities and services.

UNIFIED surveying and mapping service working on comprehensive plans and using common standards is the objective of Memorandum Order No. 431 which Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor issued recently. MO 431 creates a 12-man committee that shall coordinate the activities and standardize the practices of about a dozen mapping and surveying agencies of the national government. The committee shall direct the agencies to use common standards for map and chart bases, procedures, methods and equipment, which the committee shall recommend.

SECRETARY of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata approved a customs administrative order allowing the entry duty-free, of aircraft spare parts and accessories imported by agro-industrial companies to be used in their agricultural and industrial operations. The duty-free entry will be allowed only if the importer is certified by the Secretary of Agriculture as a duly established agro-industrial company, and upon presentation of a sworn statement that the articles are not available locally in reasonable quantities, quality and price.

June 3—

THE PRESIDENT has taken steps to carry out major organizational changes embodied in the new Labor Code that he signed last May 1. He issued two Letters of Instructions. In LOI No. 191, the President directed that the CIR shall automatically lapse on October 31, 1974, end of the sixth-month transition period provided in the Labor Code. The CIR was ordered to stop accepting new cases, and to transfer all pending cases filed after October 14, 1972 to the Bureau of Labor Relations for appropriate action. In LOI No. 190, the President directed the orderly abolition of the Bureau of Workmen's Compensation, the Workmen's Compensation Commission, and the regional Workmen's Compensation Units, and after October 31, 1974, it will be the SSS and the GSIS that shall process and pay workmen's compensation claims. The President has said that under the new arrangements, the government will save P28 million a year in dubious workmen's compensation claims and another P12 million in administrative expenses, while facilitating payment of benefits.

PRIVATE employers in the country were given by the President a 60-day period within which to comply with the government appeal for them to grant their workers emergency allowances or be compelled to do so by mandatory decree. The President issued the warning upon receipt of the latest report from the Department of Labor showing slow compliance on the part of private employers with an earlier Presidential letter of instructions appealing for such allowances. The appeal is contained in Letter of Instructions No. 174.

THE PRESIDENT underscored the role of Filipino athletes as ambassadors of goodwill. Receiving the 27-man Philippine swimming team which called to pay their respects, the President pointed out to the swimmers, whose ages range from nine to 17 years, that while sports development is one of the goals of the New Society, winning the goodwill of other nations is a lot more important than winning medals. Some 250 swimmers from 15 Asian countries will; participate in the three-day Fifth Asian Swimming Championship competition to be held at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum on June 28-30.

June 4—

THE PRESIDENT gave final instructions to the Philippine delegation to the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, who called at Malacañang before leaving on June 11. The conference will be held in Caracas, Venezuela, from June 20 to August 29 this year. The delegation is headed by Ambassador Arturo M. Tolentino and

Secretary Vicente Abad Santos of Justice, co-chairman and Solicitor General Estelito P. Mendoza, as vice-chairman. The President is attaching much importance to this conference in view of the Philippine proposal for the international adoption of the "archipelago theory" which was reported to be gaining wide support.

PHILIPPINE Legion of Honor, degree of commander, was conferred by the President on Admiral Noel Gayler, commander-in-chief, United States Forces in the Pacific, for "exceptionally meritorious and distinguished service to the Republic of the Philippines." Through the award, the President conveyed the "sincere and heartfelt appreciation of the Filipino people and government for all the support of the U.S. government and Admiral Gayler, the highest representative of the U.S. government in the Pacific, towards the attainment of the Philippines' self-reliant defense posture."

June 5—

THE PRESIDENT called on the rich countries of the world to shoulder a major responsibility in international development even as he stressed the importance of fostering closer cooperation among all countries to promote worldwide economic development. While recognizing the desirability of self-help and regional cooperation among developing countries, the President emphasized that these could be frustrated without the cooperation of affluent countries. The President delved on these points in his address at the opening of the 18th session of the governing council of the UNDP in Pasay City. In his speech, the President also thanked the UNDP which has been the Philippines largest multilateral source of pre-investment and technical assistance. He expressed gratification over the assurance made by the UNDP donor countries that they would exert every effort not only to maintain but also to increase substantially the level of their assistance so as to keep the momentum of development in the Third World.

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady led the nation in the observance of World Environment Day. Watching from the balcony of Malacañang, the First Couple applauded as a long fluvial parade participated in by government officials and employees, private citizens and representatives of the American community, passed by Malacañang as it sailed up the Pasig River. The celebration of World Environment Day was provided in Proclamation No. 1149 which was issued last June by the President.

June 6—

THE PRESIDENT and the Cabinet decided to give social and economic development the lion's share in the next fiscal year's national budget. Going over the budgetary proposal for fiscal year 1975, the President and the Cabinet agreed that economic development should get a share of more than 46 per cent, and social development over 18 per cent. The single biggest increase of outlay will go to public works. This will make possible the continuation of the government's infrastructure program needed to sustain the policy of industrial expansion in the countryside.

RELEASE of P96.54 million was ordered by the President to meet the needs of millions of students in the school year just opened. Meeting his Cabinet, the President set aside the following appropriations: 1) P39.54 million for the construction of new school buildings and erection of prefabricated school-houses to relieve the schoolrooms shortage caused by the tremendously increased in school population; 2) P20 million for printing of basic textbooks needed in public schools; 3) P22 million additional appropriation for vocational schools, plus the allocation of 692 prefab school buildings to accommodate some 40,000 students who failed to qualify in the recent National College Entrance Examinations; 4) P10 million to subsidize public general secondary schools, including barrio high schools; and 5) P5 million for purchase of athletic supplies and equipment in connection with sports development program for the public schools.

THE PRESIDENT praised the noble undertaking of the United Nations Development Programme and declared that the Filipino people are proud to associate themselves with it. He spoke at a dinner that he and the First Lady hosted at Malacañang in honor of Representatives of more than 70 nations attending the 18th session of the UNDP governing council. In response, Horst Moltrecht, UNDP first vice president from the Federal Republic of Germany, praised the President's address at the council's opening session about the basic problems that developing countries are facing and the increasing role the UNDP has played in their economic development.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: June 7-13, 1974

President's Week in Review: June 14-20, 1974

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

June 14—

THE PRESIDENT led the nation in a quiet observance of the 29th anniversary of the Fall of Besang Pass by laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Libingan ng Mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Rizal. Congratulating the men of the US Armed Forces in the Philippines, North Luzon (USAFIP-NL), for their victory at Besang Pass, the President, however, warned them against "living in memory and resting on laurels, when the country is faced with more sophisticated enemies."

THE PRESIDENT moved to arrest moral decay and loss of cultural values resulting from practices like those that recently erupted in the basketball scandals. He ordered severe penalties under Presidential Decree No. 483 for betting, game-fixing, point-shaving, and other illegal and unethical machinations in amateur and other sports as engineered by gambling syndicates. At the same time, he insured that civic-spirited citizens who come out to denounce these baneful practices shall not be harassed in nuisance suits, PD 483 increases the penalty for violations of the foregoing nature to a maximum of six years imprisonment and a fine of P2.000, with subsidiary imprisonment in case of insolvency, if the offender is an official, like promoter, referee, umpire or coach.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY Alejandro Melchor Jr., directorate chairman of the National Computer Center, announced that the government's 16th Computer Programming Course will start July 1. Except for a minimal charge to cover the direct cost of test and issue materials, the 11-week course is offered free to AB and BS degree holders, not over 25 years of age, and proficient in the fields of engineering, mathematics and other related sciences.

June 15—

THE NATION moved another step closer toward the nationwide integration of all local police forces as required by the Constitution. The police and fire departments, along with the town and city jails in six provinces were welded together in six more pilot areas, under Presidential Decree No. 482. This is the second PD on the matter. The first PD 421, created the initial pilot Metropolitan Police Force in four cities and 13 towns within the Greater Manila Area, more than two months ago. These pilot projects are expected to produce more effective police and safety work in close collaboration with the Philippine Constabulary which in all cases, acquired immediate jurisdictional control.

THIRTY-EIGHT former rebel leaders from Tawi-Tawi pledged to give their all-out support and defend with their lives, if need be, the efforts of the President to bring peace, unity and progress to Muslim Mindanao. The promised to return to the hills and persuade those who had fled with arms to return to the fold of law. The rebel leaders, who had surrendered a total of 1,750 assorted firearms to the government spoke to the President in Malacañang, in the company of Rear Admiral Romeo Espaldon, military governor of Tawi-Tawi and head of the Sulu Sea Frontier Command.

June 16—

GOOD progress in a preliminary geological survey in Samar aimed at identifying deposits of aluminous clay to be processed in a projected smelter, was reported by Director Juanito C. Fernandez in Letter of Instructions No. 184, the President had ordered the entire island of Samar closed to mining operation (prospecting) almost two months ago, pending determination of all possible areas containing these minerals by the Bureau of Mines. The Bureau of Mines has sent five parties to expedite the work. They are now in Northern Samar working southward. Despite the rough terrain, inaccessibility, the parties have produced results. What is found in Samar is aluminous day or bauxitic clay of good quality, at a ratio of 7 alumina to 1 silica. The purpose of survey is to assure a sufficient supply of ore in connection with the government-approved plan to set up an aluminum smelter at the Tungonan hot springs in nearby Ormoc City, Leyte. The smelter will tap the geothermal energy at the hot springs.

EXECUTIVE Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. issued Memorandum Circular No. 417 creating two high-level teams to pave the way for the establishment of the aluminum smelter. One will handle engineering matters and the other will concentrate on the legal side. The teams will coordinate with Reynolds Aluminum in undertaking studies leading to the establishment of the first aluminum smelter in the country. The circular also designates the program execution monitoring office of the Development Management Staff as the coordinating secretariat for the studies.

June 17—

THE PRESIDENT congratulated the Philippine Basketball Team, saying it has performed a “yeoman’s duty” not only in the world of athletics but also in the world of international relations. In his send-off talk to members of the team who called at Malacañang, the President said that their various trips abroad, including the historic one to Red China, gave the world a glimpse of the nature of the New Society. “It is our hope that the outside world will see the Philippines through you, through your sportsmanship, your athletic prowess, talent and general disposition, as well as your achieving inclinations.”

EXECUTIVE Secretary Alejandro Melchor Jr., on order of the President, has issued Proclamation No. 3276, declaring the period from June 22 to 29 as professional consciousness week. In proclaiming the special week, it was recognized that with their thorough preparation and expertise, professionals are a distinct segment of society which must bear a heavier portion of the responsibility and the burden of nation-building. The proclamation further emphasized the need for upholding the spirit of professionalism as the goal towards which all non-professional workers should strive, meaning excellence and thoroughness in whatever job a person is engaged.

DEPARTMENT of Health advised the public to take precautionary measures against gastro-enteritis, cholera El Tor and typhoid fever as the incidence of these acute intestinal diseases usually reaches its peak in July and August. The Disease Intelligence Center of the Department of Health attributed the prevalence of these acute diseases during rainy season to poor environmental sanitation.

June 18—

THE PRESIDENT said that it has been his obsession as head of the country to include in the program of the New Society the development of the youth with the boy scouts movement as one of the principal vehicles for such development. In assuming the office of the Chief Scout of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines in ceremonies held at Malacañang, the President pledged all available resources of government, as well as those in the private sector which supports the New Society, for the advancement of scouting in this country. The ceremonies were considered a milestone in the history of the scout movement here in that for the first time in 50 years, the President of the Philippines has accepted the position of Chief Scout.

CENTRAL Bank of the Philippines has been authorized by the President to operate a security printing press, for the printing of bank notes and such other security papers as the plant facilities might permit. In Presidential Decree No. 484, the President said it is only “appropriate” for the CB to operate such a plant considering its responsibility and authority over the currency issue of the country.

June 19—

THE PRESIDENT reassured that existing valid private rights shall be respected in carrying out the new government policy on the disposition and utilization of land. The President gave the reassurance during his conference with policy advisers at Malacañang. The President stated that private rights to properties, whether titled or not, shall be recognized. He expressed his desire to have the implementing rules and regulations flexible enough to avoid possible injustice that might arise from the plan. Among the private rights on untitled lands that must be recognized are: 1) Rights declared for taxation purposes; 2) Those pending administrative and judicial adjudication; 3) Those with incomplete titles; that is, those under continuous, uninterrupted, exclusive and notorious possession for 30 years, as recognized by the Civil Code; 4) Those where sales, free patent and homestead applications had been filed and applicant has complied with all the conditions required by law, making issuance of title mandatory.

June 20—

THE PRESIDENT hailed as “ambassadors of goodwill” the participants in the First World Invitational Karate Tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum, and expressed hope that they will contribute toward the attainment of world unity. “You are most welcome not only as participants but also as ambassadors of goodwill from your countries,” the President told some 77 karate experts from seven countries, who called to pay their respects. “You symbolize the efforts of mankind and of humanity to join hands and attain the oneness that has eluded political leaders, as well as well-meaning and sincere men who seek to eliminate divisive factors in our world.”

NATION’S minority groups were urged by the President to hasten the organization of barangays in their respective villages so that they may be able to participate more actively in the affairs of government. In his meeting with a delegation from the Mindanao Highlanders Association, the President said he had dispatched officers of the Department of Local Government and Community Development to different sections of the country to help organize this smallest political unit among the minority groups and thereby enable the administration to assist them more effectively. Accompanied by Commissioner Mama Sinsuat of National Integration, the delegation which represented 36 non-Muslim tribes in Mindanao called at Malacañang to pledge, their loyalty and to offer their services to the government, particularly in the current pacification campaign in the area.

THE PRESIDENT declared June 24, 1974 as a special public holiday in the City of Manila. This marks the 403rd anniversary of the founding of Manila as a Christian capital city and is popularly called “Araw ng Maynila.” In proclaiming June 24 as a special public holiday, the President stated that the residents should be afforded an opportunity to celebrate this milestone in their city’s history with appropriate ceremonies.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: June 21-27, 1974

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

June 21—

THE PRESIDENT cited karate as symbolic of the efforts of poor developing nations with limited resources to overwhelm big obstacles to their development and security. Opening the three-day First World Invitational Karate Tournament of the Philippines at the Jose Rizal Memorial Coliseum, the Chief Executive stressed that, like in the science of karate, small nations are tackling great problems through the employment of balance, timing and art. The President also underlined karate's role in developing the poor countries' greatest asset—their human resources, emphasizing that karate is not only physical discipline but also spiritual and mental discipline; not an art for aggressive destruction, injury or killing, but an art to discipline the body, mind and spirit. Earlier during the program, the President was conferred the honorary degree of ninth dan (red belt) by Gogen "Cat" Yamaguchi, 10th dan grandmaster and founder of the Japan Goju-Kan. It was the first honorary karate title to be presented to a chief of state.

MUSLIM conference held in Marawi City under the auspices of the Federation of Muslim Royal Houses of Mindanao and Sulu unanimously approved resolutions expressing "complete support to the on-going policies and programs of President Marcos for the Muslim communities. This was the gist of the report of Sultan Harun Al-Rashid Lucman, chairman of the Coordinating Committee who was authorized by the conference to convey to Malacañang the "full confidence of the Muslim communities on the leadership and ability of the President to solve the problems of the region in the context of building a new nation based on the unity of the people." Sultan Lucman headed a delegation to the Palace. It formally presented a copy of the communique issued by more than 2,000 conferees with the unanimous support, Lucman said, of some 20,000 observers from all over Mindanao and Sulu. The President, in turn, congratulated all those who participated in the conference for their valuable contribution to national unity.

June 22—

DEPARTMENT of Industry has been created by the President to integrate industry activities of the government into a single, unified structure. Under Presidential Decree No. 488, the DOI shall be the primary policy, planning, programming, coordinating, and administrative entity of the government in the development, expansion and diversification of industry. The issuance of PD 488 is the go-signal for the organization of the Bureau of Industrial Coordination and the Bureau of Industrial Information and Programs, which are also directly under the DOI.

THE PRESIDENT amended certain provisions of the Investment Incentives Act (Republic Act No. 5186) and the Export Incentives Act (Republic Act No. 6135) primarily to encourage more investments and expand existing ones. In particular, the amendments widen the scope of tax credits, invite wider participation from government financial institutions, and open up new opportunities for the construction of additional infrastructures from the private sector.

The main features of the amendments are: 1) The inclusion of basic services among the industries that may be registered under the Investment Incentives Act and 2) The authorization of the preparation of a Public Utilities Priorities Plan along with the present Investment and Export Priorities Plans. The amendments are contained in Presidential Decree No. 485.

June 23—

CONSTANT vigilance coupled with continued efforts towards the buildup of our length as a people and nation are at the core of the Philippine strategy for survival. The President spoke at the 17th annual General Assembly of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines at Fort Bonifacio through Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile. The President also cited several measures oriented both to the future and the continuing search for survival. "All projects and Programs are by way of redeeming the hopes and dreams of those who fought to keep this land whole and free," the President told the assembled veterans.

THE PRESIDENT has taken steps to meet the greatly increased requirements of the local cigarette industry for imported blending tobacco leaf. He issued Presidential Decree No. 446 which increases the allowable importation of blending leaf tobacco by one million kilos a year. The new importation level is now six million kilos a year, which may not be exceeded "unless the exigencies of the industry require otherwise." These measures are expected to lessen the cost of locally manufactured cigarettes and protect the consuming public which eventually is made to pay for any increases in cost.

OFFICE of the President reminded the public that September 30, last day for filing statements of assets, liabilities and net worth is fast approaching. Under Memorandum Circular No. 745, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor cited Revenue Regulations 4-74, which govern the filing. These regulations are based on Presidential Decree No. 379 as amended by PD 417. Any person required to file the statement under PD 379 who knowingly makes a false declaration or who deliberately fails to comply with any of the provisions hereof, shall upon conviction, pay a fine of not less than P5, 000 and be imprisoned for not less than two years. If the offense is committed by a juridical person, the manager or person in charge of the management of the business or affairs thereof shall be responsible therefor and, upon conviction, shall pay a fine of not less than P5.000 and be imprisoned for not less than two years.

UNIVERSAL Friendship Week (July 15-21) was proclaimed by the President to coincide with the weeklong 1974 Miss Universe Beauty Pageant, the Philippines eyeful spectacular that is expected to place Manila in more than half a billion tv sets all around the world on July 21. In Proclamation No. 1280, the President said the holding of the pageant in the Philippines will provide a golden opportunity to cement relations with other countries.

June 24—

THE PRESIDENT emphasized the need for developing, along with the economy, the human resources, which he called the most precious resources of any country. Addressing the first batch of students of the Development Academy of the Philippines, who are about to finish a 10-week course, the President revealed that since his first year in office in 1966, he had envisioned the creation of a career executive service and the Development Academy of the Philippines. The President said that constraints and limitations, particularly financial ones, prevented the early implementation of his plans. However, he said, because of their importance, he saw to it that they were immediately implemented under the New Society. "While we have vast untapped natural resources, he said, "our most important and valuable resources up to now are still our manpower—the nature, the character, the intelligence and the capacity of the population."

THE PRESIDENT authorized the takeover by the Central Bank of the Continental Bank to protect its depositors from undue risks in the face of repeated violations, of banking laws and practices by the same bank. The President based his action on the recommendation of the Monetary Board. He asked the Central Bank and the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) to expedite payment of all insured deposits, and the Central Bank to gather and hold the assets of the bank in order to protect the claims of other creditors. The President also asked the Central Bank to grant accommodations to other banks and investments 'houses whose credits with Continental Bank will be frozen on account of its closure. In authorizing Continental Bank's closure, the Chief Executive took into consideration such violations as grant of huge loans to certain corporations without collaterals or supporting papers and without the usual credit investigations.

THE PRESIDENT said he will "personally attend" to the government program of increasing cattle production in the country, not only for domestic consumption but also for export. The President made this announcement at the Manila International Airport while inspecting a planeload of Brahman breeders consisting of 290 heifers and five bulls which arrived from Texas on board a Flying Tiger cargoliner. The President w is accompanied by Director Pedro G. Refuerzo of the Bureau of Animal Industry. The shipment was imported by the Philippine government, together with another shipment of 260 heifers to "beef up" the country's cattle raising industry which has not made appreciable progress due to the reluctance of cattle ranchers to expand operations because of poor returns.

June 25—

THE PRESIDENT of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) governing council said the Philippines has gained an incalculable amount of respect and goodwill from some 70 nations around the world as a result of the successful meeting here of the UNDP. In a personal letter of thanks to the President, Ambassador Narciso G. Reyes, president of the council, said the statement made by the President at the opening session of the council made a "crucial contribution" to the deliberations. The President, replying to the expression of thanks from the UNDP officials, expressed satisfaction with the work of the UNDP and pledged continued Philippine support for all its efforts.

June 26—

THE PRESIDENT directed Secretary of Natural Resources Jose Leido Jr. to submit, an official list of timber agreements and licenses recommended for cancellation in view of their apparent failure to put up wood processing plants. The government has required concessionaries to set up their own processing plants in line with its decision to ban the exportation of unworked logs and other raw wood products starting January 1, 1976.

June 27—

THE PRESIDENT received the letters of credence of Ambassador Klos Visessurakarn as the new ambassador plenipotentiary and extraordinary of Thailand to the Philippines. Ambassador Visessurakarn replaces Ambassador Swate Komalabhuti who was recalled by the home office for reassignment after completing his regular tour of duty in the Philippines. In presenting his credentials to the President, the new Thai envoy said that his people have been watching with great interest and admiration the remarkable progress and development achieved by the Philippines "under the able and inspiring leadership of the President and the firm determination of the people to work selflessly for the common good." In his reply, the President said that the observation made by the envoy, who is a frequent visitor to the country, was "but another indication that we are on the right path and, God willing, we will stay on that path until our objectives are fully attained."

THE PRESIDENT has appointed 14 municipal judges on recommendation of the Supreme Court, as follows: Lino V. Quezon to Mariano Marcos town, Sultan Kudarat province; Julian B. Lukban to Paracale, Camarines, Norte; Conrado D. Diestro to Maayon, Capiz; Calixto A. Esparagoza to Padada, Davao del Sur; Mariano C. P. Gonzales to Dingras, Uocos Norte; Efren S. Ubungen to Cabugao, Ilocos Sur; Enrico Lanzaneas to Calamba, Laguna; Manuel Ma. Ubay-Ubay to Jassan, Misamis Oriental; Roger A. Domagas to Mangaldan, Pangasman; Florenio E. Tierra to Quezon, Quezon; Apolinar P. Antazo to Montalban, Rizal; Niceto Lanuevo to Quinopondan, Eastern Samar; Car to A. Eisma to Jolo Sulu and Zenaida P. Placer to Agusan del Norte.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

Official Week in Review: June 28 – July 4, 1974

June 28—

THE PRESIDENT said no civilian or military official presence of any kind will be allowed at the nationwide consultation of the barangays on September 1, to allow the people “complete freedom” in judging the performance of military and civilian officials. The nationwide consultation, referred to as “Pulong ng Mga Barangay”—(Gathering of Barangays), is being called by the President as a form of national integrity day, to ascertain popular support for individual military and civilian officials in key positions in the government. This popular assessment of official conduct is an attempt to comply with the principle laid down by the President in his political writings and speeches to the effect that public officials must be accountable to the people at all times.

THE PHILIPPINES has exerted efforts to make sports a purposeful instrument for youth development, the President said at the start of the 14-nation Asian Age Group Swimming Championships at Rizal Memorial Coliseum. “I am aware that sports promotes not only physical fitness but also the qualities of discipline, brotherhood and leadership,” the President said in a speech read for him by Geronimo Velasco, Philippine National Oil Company president-chairman. The government’s sports development program supplements traditional reliance upon the universal educational system to lay the groundwork for citizenship and leadership. In this work, the administration has called on the participation of the private sector, from trade unions and private industry to civic and religious organizations.

June 29—

THE PRESIDENT declared the Philippine government rejects and will continue to reject a military solution to its problems in Muslim Mindanao and will instead continue to pursue a fullscale socio-economic and political program for the advancement of the country’s minorities. The President made this statement at luncheon in honor of the visiting foreign minister of Lebanon, Fouad Naffah. As a proof of this, the President declared that a government loan recently signed by Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata with the Kuwaiti government will be used exclusively for projects in Mindanao. This is the first Arab loan to the Philippines—the first Asian loan from Kuwait—in the amount of five million Kuwait dinars or \$17 million.

REGION 4 of the Department of Public Highways was divided by the President into two, to be known as Region 4–A and Region 4–B, to assure better administration and more thorough supervision of highway projects in all the provinces and cities within the region. Each region is headed by a regional director and both shall have regional offices in the Greater Manila area. Region 4–A comprises the following cities and provinces: Batangas City, Caloocan City, Cavite City, Lipa City, Lucena City, Manila, Pasay City, Quezon City, San Pablo City, Tagaytay City and Trece Martires City and the provinces of Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, Quezon and Rizal. Region 4–B comprises Puerto Princesa City and the provinces of Oriental Mindoro, Occidental Mindoro, Palawan, Marinduque and Romblon.

ORDER of Sultan Kudarat was conferred by the President on Foreign Minister Fouad Naffah of Lebanon in recognition of “extraordinary services to the cause of Filipino nationhood,” particularly during the Islamic Conference held in Kuala Lumpur. In accepting the award, Minister Naffah said he was highly honored because it was conferred on him not only by the President but by the architect of the New Society. The Lebanese foreign minister said the award was symbolic of developing friendly relations between the Philippines and Lebanon, and, in general, between the Philippines and the Arab world.

June 30—

THE PRESIDENT signed a socio-economic development-oriented budget of P14,164,010,000 for fiscal year 1974 to give full implementation to his anti-inflation policy of accelerated and increased agricultural and industrial production. The amount, which reflects the increased cost of development, will be drawn from resources, conservatively put at P15,639,000,000 by the Budget Commission. The new budget reflects the resolute effort of the government to maintain its economic performance in 1973, which registered an unprecedented growth rate of ten per

cent. Despite the pressures of increased cost of government as well as socio-economic development, the government expects a more than satisfactory performance.

CHARTERED cities are now authorized to give financial aid to courts of first instance. Under Presidential Decree No. 500, a city may now share in the expenses relating to the construction, repair and alteration of the courthouse or courtroom and court offices, and the cost of equipment and supplies, of a court of first instance or similar court within its jurisdiction. PD 500 comes into effect notwithstanding Section 190 of the Revised Administrative Code which provides that the expenses for the maintenance of courts of first instance are to be borne by the provinces concerned. The decree notes that this provision incapacitates cities not expressly authorized by their charters to extend financial aid to the courts of first instance within their jurisdiction. Courts of first instance and similar courts in cities should be assured of adequate financial support to enable them to attain optimum performance, according to the decree.

THE PRESIDENT has set aside P1 million to preserve, restore, or reconstruct certain national shrines, monuments, landmarks, or cultural treasures for the fiscal year starting July 1, 1974. Under Presidential Decree No. 496, the same amount shall be set aside in each succeeding fiscal year's budget for the same purpose. One-half of the amount shall go to the National Museum to take care of the national cultural treasures. The other half shall go to the National Historical Commission which has charge of several shrines, landmarks and monuments.

CONTRACEPTIVE devices as aid in the nation's family planning program may now be transmitted through the mails. This was not possible under the Revised Administrative Code which laid down postal rules and regulations prohibiting the use of the mails for the purpose. However, the President issued Presidential Decree No. 495 amending Section 1954, Paragraph (C) of the Revised Administrative Code. PD 495 exempts contraceptive devices that are non-abortive and are not intended for indecent and immoral purpose from the list of absolutely non-mailable matters provided by Section 1954, Paragraph (C) of the Revised Administrative Code.

July 1—

ELECTRIC cooperatives have been returned to the supervision and control of the National Electrification Administration in line with the government's policy to accelerate rural electrification. The return is effected under Presidential Decree No. 501, which exempts electric cooperatives from the regulatory powers of the Bureau of Cooperatives Management, Department of Local Government and Community Development. With electric coops returned to the NEA, they are expected to get a boost as soon as the NEA is converted into a national corporation. As such, the NEA will promote, organize, register, assist and regulate electric cooperatives.

PERSONS who failed to make full disclosures of their untaxed wealth and income under Presidential Decree No. 370 can now file "rectified" returns, liabilities and net worth as required by Presidential Decree No. 379. Deadline for the submission of these statements is September 30, 1974. The chance for taxfilers to rectify their returns under the tax amnesty decree is made possible through Letter of Instructions No. 200 issued by the President.

July 2—

THE PRESIDENT has authorized the purchase by the national government of a 95,732 square meter piece of land in Makati, Rizal, to be used for the construction of an underground drainage main, in line with the flood control program in Greater Manila. The authorization is spelled out in Presidential Decree No. 502. The area will be purchased from the National Power Corp. which had formerly used it as right-of-way for the former Caliraya transmission lines.

THE PRESIDENT extended the term of the Presidential Commission on Reorganization to December 31, 1974. The extension, embodied in Executive Order No. 1286, would enable the Commission to continue its task of recasting the governmental structure. The Commission's term expire June 30, 1974, under a previous executive order.

SECRETARY of Labor Blas F. Ople has urged all cottage industry producers and exporters to have themselves listed in the Philippine Directory of Cottage Industry Producers and Exporters now being published by MAI

Directories for the Chamber of Cottage Industries of the Philippines. In a signed message, Secretary Ople also said that the directory will help achieve for the cottage industry heavy demand and establish communication lines abroad for cottage industry products.

CENTRAL BANK of the Philippines requires all investment houses to publish quarterly consolidated statements of their operations in accordance with Section 12 of Presidential Decree No. 129 otherwise known as the Investment Houses Law. The investment houses were told to publish their consolidated statements beginning with the end of the second quarter this year, which was June 30. Thereafter, statements shall be published every September 30, December 31, and March 31 of every year or of such other date as the CB may require. The quarterly publication shall be made within 300 days from the end of a particular period. It was specified that those statements shall be published in any of the three daily newspapers with the highest number of paid nationwide circulation certified by the appropriate government agency.

July 3—

THE PRESIDENT has created the “Gawad Mabini” award to give fitting recognition to the Department of Foreign Affairs personnel and other deserving Filipinos who have rendered distinguished service to the country at home or abroad. Named after the Philippines’ first secretary of foreign affairs, Apolinario Mabini, the decoration will be given on July 22 of every year, the hero’s birth anniversary. As provided in Presidential Decree No. 490, the award has three ranks, namely: Dakilang Kamanong, Dakilang Kasugo and Kasugo.

July 4—

THE PRESIDENT congratulated Eugene Torre, Asia’s first international grandmaster, and assured him of full government support in the development of Filipino chess players. The 22-year old Filipino chess grandmaster, who received a rousing welcome on arrival from Nice, France, called on the President to pay his respects and to thank him for the parental concern he and the First Lady had shown to him. The President also gave the go-signal for the holding of a grandmasters’ tournament in the Philippines this coming October.

AN AREA consisting of 23.5 hectares in Lucap, Alaminos, Pangasinan, has been proclaimed as a national reservation and site for a marine fisheries multi-culture farm. Under Proclamation No. 1282 issued by the President, this area in three lots has been withdrawn from sale or settlement in Lucap Bay, subject to private rights if any there be. The place has actually been used to carry on experimental projects on marine species of shells and fishes since 1961. The presidential proclamation formalizes its disposition as a national reservation.

PERIOD from October 22 to October 26, 1974—and the third week of October of every year thereafter—has been declared “Midwifery Week.” Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor Jr., who issued the proclamation, pointed out that, as members of health teams, midwives contribute to the task of nation-building by promoting maternal and child health practices. The promotion of maternal and child health, it was stressed, fits into the goals of the New Society which demands of every citizen full contribution to national development.

Source: Supreme Court Library

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1974). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 70(27), clxxxiii-clxxxvi.

President's Week in Review: July 5-11, 1974

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

July 5—

THE PRESIDENT predicted a new era of Philippine-American friendship marked by greater understanding and cooperation, with the replacement of the Laurel-Langley Agreement which expired July 3, and the review of the two countries' economic and defense arrangements. Speaking at a dinner on the occasion of Philippine-American Friendship Day in Malacañang, the President said that "never under any circumstance will friendship between the Philippines and the United States be erased by our two peoples, and that instead it shall strengthen with time." In his response, United States Ambassador William H. Sullivan paid tribute to the Philippines as in fact the nation in Asia that compelled the United States to abandon its policy on colonialism.

ALL heads of departments and chiefs of bureaus and offices of the national government are authorized to incur obligations for July and August 1974 not to exceed two-thirds of the total expenditures under Presidential Decree No. 233 (the old fiscal year's budget) during the first quarter of fiscal year 1974. Pending approval of the cash budget for the first quarter of fiscal year 1975, the same heads of offices are authorized to withdraw cash from the national treasury but in no case shall the total cash withdrawn during July and August 1974 exceed the level of cash withdrawals authorized for each of them for the months of July and August 1973. The foregoing are the salient provisions in Budget Memorandum Circular No. 148 issued by Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, pending distribution of copies of the General Appropriations Decree for FY 1975 and the release of the advices of allotments for the first quarter of FY 1975, so as not to disrupt normal operations.

July 6—

THE GOVERNMENT took another step to speed up the grant of ancestral lands to members of the cultural minorities with the issuance of the rule implementing Presidential Decree No. 410. The decree provides that lands of the public domain occupied and cultivated by members of the National Cultural Communities by themselves or through their predecessors in interest or ancestors for at least thirty years before March 11, 1974 shall be granted to such occupants. Exempted from the coverage of the Decree are lands of the public domain previously reserved for settlement purposes under the administration of the Department of Agrarian Reform and other areas reserved for other public or quasi-public purposes, including proclaimed forest reserves, watershed forest reserves, national parks, forest areas essential to research, scenic, recreation or fish and wildlife purposes.

DEVELOPMENT Academy of the Philippines and the National Electrification Administration (NEA) created a rural electric cooperatives' federation designed to complement government efforts for the total electrification of the country. Supplementing the creation of the Federation of Electric Cooperatives of the Philippines (FECOP) is the proposed Electric Cooperatives Insurance Society of the Philippines which will set up a P15 million insurance guarding fund. The federation which will integrate all electric cooperatives into a unified movement was conceived after a six-month study by the DAP.

July 7—

THE FIRST Lady presented to the Filipino people, through the President, the Folk Arts Theater which she called the "symbol of the unity of our race." With the opening of the theater, the First Lady stressed that the folk arts now have a permanent home, to serve in the "further consolidation of the Filipino spirit." The formal opening of the Folk Arts Theater was preceded by a spectacular two-and-a-half-hour pageant-parade in front of a presidential reviewing stand facing the theater.

BUREAU of Customs became the top revenue earner of the government last fiscal year with an unprecedented collection of P4.976 billion. This year's total customs collection exceeded last year's P2.09 billion by more than P2.75 billion, or by more than 131.75 per cent. Customs Commissioner Rolando Geotina said the total collection

this fiscal, year “reflected the success of the bureau’s determined efforts fir maximize the efficiency of the service and achieve a new spirit of integrity, dedication and discipline among officers and men of the New Society.”

July 8—

THE PRESIDENT has earmarked a total of P5.3 billion as counterpart funds for 50 ongoing infrastructure projects with foreign loan components. The exact amount earmarked as counterpart funds for the foreign loans to complete the 50 ongoing infrastructure projects is P5,344,704,006.00.

July 9—

CENTRAL Bank has required anew the domestic private commercial banks to maintain a balanced foreign exchange position for every acceptable foreign currency other than the U.S. dollar. In a memorandum to agent banks, the CB also ruled that, effective immediately, they may, at their option, run and oversell or overbuy foreign exchange position in any of the acceptable foreign currencies in the normal course of their foreign exchange operations.

MINING firms are exempt from sand and gravel tax as prescribed under Section 10 of the Local Tax Code (PD 231). This was clarified in a ruling issued by Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata. Secretary Virata said since the mining of aggregates which includes sand and gravel as authorized under Placer Lease Contract issued by the Bureau of Mines comes within the legal contemplation of Section 5-m of the Local Tax Code as amended by PD 426, the imposition of the sand and gravel tax no longer holds valid in such operation.

July 10—

THE PRESIDENT has set aside 5,000 hectares as the site of a self-contained satellite city at the far outskirts of Antipolo, Rizal. Preliminary studies by the Housing and Urban Development Team envision a well-planned growth center outside of Metropolitan Manila. It will have all the necessary service facilities, and a well-balanced housing. Under Proclamation No. 1283, the townsite consists of 3,780 hectares segregated from the Marikina watershed reservation, plus 1,225 hectares of alienable and disposable land in Antipolo.

THE PRESIDENT pressed for the acceleration of nationwide rural electrification which, he said, is one of the most crucial phases in the economic development program of the country. Addressing presidents and general managers of Rural Electric Cooperatives at Malacañang, the President stressed the importance of providing cheap electric power, particularly in the outlying areas, as a means of improving the living conditions of the people. “As we move forward in our efforts at economic development, we must continuously support and press for the electrification of the rural areas which account for 70 per cent of our entire population”, the President said.

PROMOTION of 265 officers to full colonel in the armed forces effective May 1, 1974 has been approved by the President. Those promoted include 64 in the Philippine Army regular force and 15 in the reserve; 40 in the Philippine Army regular force, nine in the reserve, and two in the retired list; 49 regular Philippine Air Force officers and 19 reservists; three regular Philippine Navy officers (rank of captain) and 20 reservists; three regular Judge Advocate General Service officers and two reservists; 12 Medical Corps regular officers and six reservists; one regular officer of the Medical Administrative Corps; one Nurse Corp regular officer and six reservists; four Dental Corps regular officers and two reservists; two Chaplain Service regular officers and two reservists, and three Corps of Professors regular officers.

July 11—

THE PRESIDENT asked his economic advisers to draw up a program that would give the country the fullest benefits from science and technology. The President called for a comprehensive review and drastic revision of existing state policies that might have contributed to the slow growth of science in the country. In a three-hour meeting with his advisers in the National Economic and Development Authority, the President who is also the

chairman of NEDA, said it was high time the government concerned itself with the growth of science, particularly in the field of gainful research.

SECRETARY of Information Francisco S. Tatad put in a good word for peace through love of books at ribbon-cutting ceremonies aboard the world-girdling library ship m.v. *Logos*. Secretary Tatad praised the work of the *Logos*, which brings a wide assortment of educational texts into many ports of the world. He said the plans of the Philippines for a wider book distribution have a source of inspiration in the *Logos*. The secretary represented the President in welcoming the *Logos* on its third visit to the Philippines. It first came here in July 1972 and was here again in August last year.

THE PRESIDENT expressed gratification over the continuing support given by the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines to the government's general effort at reform, as he swore in the chamber's new set of officers. The President expressed the hope that the CCP, along with other chambers in the Philippines, will coordinate with the government in the effort to solve the lack of trained technical personnel. In his report to the President, Dominador I. Lim, CCP president, said that the organization recognizes and fully subscribes to the social overtones of the Four-Year Development Plan, in the belief that man is the ultimate object of development. Mr. Lim said that during the 70th anniversary of the CCP last year, the organization raised P500.000 as a fund for the promotion of small and medium-scale industries.

SECURITIES and Exchange Commission reported a marked increase in the number of new companies and investments here in the fiscal year just past (July 1, 1973 to June 30, 1974). During the 12-month period, the SEC said, close to P2 billion in new capital was invested in the country. The 2 billion consisted of P789 million in paid-up capital of 4,101 new domestic companies and 1,824 new partnerships and P1.2 billion in paid-up capital of 28 foreign companies registered with the SEC. The remarkable increase in investments during the period reflected the bullish climate for investment and improved confidence of business men and foreign investors. The sharp rise in investments was also in response to the various investment, economic, financial and banking reforms undertaken by the New Society, the SEC reported.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: July 12-25, 1974

President's Week in Review: July 26-31, 1974

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

July 26—

THE PRESIDENT authorized, the Central Bank to build an international conference center and bring Manila a step closer to becoming the financial center of Asia. Under Presidential Decree No. 520, the CB will organize and capitalize an independent corporation to operate the conference complex to be named the Manila International Conference Center. The giant joint conference of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank scheduled in Manila in 1976 will be hosted by the center. A portion of the reclamation area near the Cultural Center of the Philippines is being eyed by the CB as site for the conference center which will be one of the most modern of its kind in the world.

THE PRESIDENT hailed the 10 outstanding Ilocanos who received the "Tawid" (Heritage) awards for 1973 and said they reflected the "new achieving spirit" of the Filipino and the transformation of our moral and spiritual infrastructure under the New Society. The President's speech was read for him by Dr. Pacifico E. Marcos, Medicare chairman, before a distinguished Ilocano audience that gathered at the Cultural Center's Little Theater for ceremonies held once every two years under the auspices of the Ilocano Heritage Foundation. The President pointed out that the key factors in the national drive for reforms are not only natural resources and capital wealth. "We have to strengthen our national character, firm up the collective backbone," he said. He was happy to observe that the Ilocano pioneering spirit and habits of frugality and industry have become a part of the national character.

July 27—

THE PRESIDENT authorized the payment of 10 percent salary increases to officers and enlisted men of the Armed Forces of the Philippines effective July 1. Earlier, the President also authorized a 10 percent across-the-board salary increases to officials and employees of the national government to cushion the effects of the rising cost of living. He also urged private companies to follow the move taken by the government and on their own initiative grant salary increases to their employees.

DEPARTMENT of Trade laid down a six-point program for the current year in an effort to further intensify government efforts to promote foreign trade. The six-point program, designed to provide the best framework for carrying out the promotional drive, included: 1) Encouraging the coming into the country of more trade missions and the sending of local trade missions in priority areas abroad; 2) Intensification of the market research program; 3) Stepped-up trade information both here and abroad on local products; 4) Expansion of foreign markets for traditional and non-traditional Philippine products; 5) Rationalization of export transport policy through the pooling of exports, bulk imports and shipping facilities; and 6) Establishment and support of Philippine Houses in key cities of the world to serve as display and sales centers for locally-made products.

SECURITIES and Exchange Commission disclosed that 52 firms whose stocks are listed in the country's stock exchanges declared a total of P948 million in cash, stock and property dividends last year. The declaration of dividends is pursuant to the government policy of diffusing inequability private ownership and profits. Based on the figures released by the SEC, these companies paid a total of P413 in cash dividends, P489 million in stock dividends and P25 million in property dividends. Of the 52 firms, the top 10 corporations declared cash stock dividends amounting to P831 million.

July 28—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the construction of small airstrips along national highways in strategic sections of the country to link up urban and rural communities. The scheme calls for the construction of extra lanes every hundred kilometers or so along highways, on which light planes could land and take off. According to the President, the airstrips could also be used for emergency landings specially for light aircraft which usually are not equipped with adequate air navigational facilities; He said that the landing airstrips could facilitate the inspection of various

ongoing infrastructure projects all over the country. The President issued the order during a conference with Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor Jr., Secretary of Health Clemente Gatmaitan, and Secretary of Public Highways Baltazar Aquino.

THE GOVERNMENT has broadened its fertilizer policy to apply the privilege of tax exemption to locally procured fertilizer or fertilizer inputs, under recently issued Presidential Decree No. 517. Under earlier PD 135, which PD 517 amends, the privilege was limited to imported fertilizer and fertilizer inputs. Additionally, the new decree extends the period during which the Fertilizer Industry Authority can purchase tax-free fertilizer or fertilizer inputs either here or abroad, from two years (PD 135) to five years. This will give the FIA added flexibility in procuring fertilizer in view of foreseeable continued tight supply. PD 517 specifically applies the tax exemption to naphtha, a fertilizer input that is locally processed from imported crude.

THE PRESIDENT appointed three highly experienced educators to the helm of three government technological institutions to further boost administration efforts to promote vocational education in the country. Appointed were: 1) Antonio T. Federizo as acting president of the Bulacan College of Arts and Trade (BCAT); 2) Jack Smith as acting president of the Tarlac College of Technology; 3) Dr. Paulino L. Villagonzalo as acting president of the Polompon Institute of Technology.

DEPARTMENT of Public Highways announced the launching of a P10 million feeder road program. Public Highways Secretary Baltazar Aquino said most of the farm-to-market roads would be built in Central Luzon to boost the main thoroughfares being constructed with the \$68 million loan from the World Bank. The National Government had earlier allotted P60 million for feeder roads in other parts of the country, adding that some P60 million more would go to secondary roads to support main thoroughfares.

DEPARTMENT of Education and Culture urged private educational institutions to set up pension plans for some 55,000 academic and non-academic personnel. Director Julian Yballe of the Bureau of Private Schools said the need is for private institutions to guarantee employee retirement, disability and death benefits which would supplement benefits they get from their membership in the Social Security System. Earlier, DEC Secretary Juan Manuel had recommended a pension plan as a legitimate application of salary increases and other benefits schools would be required to give their personnel under Presidential Decree No. 451 which lifted the ban on tuition fee increases.

July 29—

CITY judges were granted salary increases by the President. Presidential Decree No. 516 signed by the President fixed the salaries of judges in the cities of Manila, Quezon, Caloocan, Pasay, Baguio and Cebu at P35,000 annually. Judges in second and third class cities will be paid P25,000 and the rest will get P20,000. One of the reasons for the salary increases was the removal of income tax exemption privilege from members of the judiciary which they enjoyed before the new Constitution took effect. Earlier, salaries of court of first instance judges also were raised to P40,000 a year.

DEPARTMENT of Trade created a committee to assist prospective buyers of subdivision lots. Trade Secretary Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. made this move due to mounting complaints against owners and or developers of subdivision lots not only in the Greater Manila area but also in other parts of the country. Specifically, the committee was assigned to advise prospective buyers of subdivision lots before entering or signing the proposed contracts so as to avoid misunderstanding between the buyers and the subdivision owners.

DEPARTMENT of Foreign Affairs announced the establishment of a Philippine consulate in Port Moresby, capital of Papua New Guinea. The new consulate, to be headed by Consul Ruben Mendoza, will initially service the needs of the continually increasing Filipino community in the country. The Foreign Office said there are now some 300 Filipinos in Papua New Guinea.

July 30—

THE PRESIDENT accepted an offer of the Philippine Ambassadors Association to assist the government in its many projects. Former Ambassador Emilio Abello, president of the association, relayed the offer to the President during the induction of PAA officers by the Chief Executive at Malacañang. Mr. Abello told the President that the association was organized not merely for the purpose of getting together “but, more important, to offer you and your government whatever services we can do to assist you in the administration of the affairs of the state.”

MONETARY Board authorized the progressive increases in the interest rates for savings and time deposits but stayed the lending charges at 12 and 14 per cent. Under the new rates, saving deposits in thrift banks (savings banks, rural banks, and loan and savings associations) will now earn 6.5 percent interest annually; 8.5 percent on 90-day deposit; nine percent on 180 days; 10 percent on 360 days; and 11.5 per cent for time deposit on two years. Beyond two years, there will be no interest ceiling. Interest payments will depend on the prevailing market rates. With respect to savings on commercial banks, the interest rate remains at six percent. To encourage the small depositors, the interest rates on savings balances of not less than P200 will be 8 to 8.5 percent which is equivalent to the yield on the 90-day deposits.

THE PRESIDENT received New Zealand Defense Minister Arthur J. Faulkner who had come over on a three-day official visit. The visiting official informed the President that he was looking into the advisability of New Zealand's setting up a permanent embassy in Manila next year, and the Philippines' setting up its permanent embassy in Wellington. The President and Mr. Faulkner also exchanged views on worldwide inflation, food and fuel shortage as well as developments in the Pacific area.

DEPARTMENT of Trade approved the exportation of crude coconut oil valued at \$2,760,000 to the People's Republic of China. The export transaction approved by Secretary of Trade Toadio T. Quiazon, Jr. was concluded by Legaspi Oil Compny Inc. of Makati and the National Cereals, Oils and Foodstuff Import and Export Corp. of Peking, China. This new export to China was the second to be approved in one week by the department.

NATIONAL Grains Authority expanded its cereal buying program to include four other staple crops. NGA Administrator Jesus Tanchanco said the agency would buy mongo, corn, soybeans and sorghum from farmers at government support prices through the Samahang Nayon and from farmers cooperatives accredited by the Department of Local Government and Community Development. Mr. Tanchanco said that NGA would procure these commodities on a cash basis at government support prices of P31 per cavan of corn of 50 kilos, P31 per cavan of sorghum and P110 per cavan of soybeans. The price support for mongo will be announced later, he added. To boost the country's cereal stocks, the government had earlier launched a comprehensive palay buying program.

July 31—

THE PRESIDENT decreed the mandatory payment of emergency allowances to workers in the private sector effective August 1 to enable them to cope with the rising cost of living. Presidential Decree No. 525 required all employers who have not paid employees emergency allowances in accordance with Letter of Instructions No. 174, shall pay their employees receiving less than P600 a month a monthly emergency allowance of P50 each if their capitalization is more than P1 million; P30 a month if their capitalization is more than P100,000 but not exceeding P1 million; and P15 a month if their capitalization is P100,000 or less. The decree does not apply to severely distressed industries, as defined by the Department of Labor.

DEPARTMENT of Labor's Region IV announced the payment of a total of P33,705,881 in compensation benefits to nearly 10,000 workers during fiscal year 1973-74. In a report to Labor Secretary Blas F. Ople, Region IV Administrator David P. San Pedro said the amount increased by P4.9 million over the previous year's total. He said 9,589 workers benefited from the payments as compared to 9,135 beneficiaries in the preceding year. A total of P39,504,612 in restitutions of various benefits to some 14,500 workers was paid by the regional office during the period, according to Administrator San Pedro.

GUIDELINES for the prompt disposition of compensation cases pending before the workmen's compensation units in the Workmen's Compensation Commission and in the 12 labor regional offices were issued by the Department of Labor. Department Order No. 3, which was issued by Labor Secretary Blas F. Ople, provides that amicable

settlement of all claims shall be free and voluntary, written in a language known to parties, and final and binding between them. The order likewise provides that should the parties fail to arrive at a settlement, a decision shall be rendered within three working days thereafter if the evidence on record is sufficient to support the decision. Otherwise, the case shall be heard and decided on the merits.

July 31—

THE PRESIDENT urged the timber producing members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations or ASEAN to coordinate their policies to stabilize the world market for wood products in the face of erratic business conditions. He made the appeal in a speech before the 14th annual assembly of Philippine Lumbermen at the Philippine Village Hotel in Pasay City.

DEPARTMENT of Health was ordered by the President to launch a nation-wide drive against dirty facilities used in catering to tourists and other travellers. Signing Presidential Decree No. 22, the Chief Executive directed the secretary of health to organize a system of supervision and enforcement of sanitation rules to insure basic facilities for the health and convenience of tourists and to project a favorable image of the country and its people. Under the decree, violators will be fined from P2,000 to P5,000 or penalized with from two to five years imprisonment or both fine and imprisonment at the discretion of the court.

LOCAL Tax Code and the Real Property Tax Code have been pointed to as heavy contributors to the rapid development of local government financial structures. Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata, in a speech delivered at the provincial Development Project Convention, said that the rates of taxes as provided in the Local Tax Code give the local government the necessary leeway so that taxation can be used as an instrument for the establishment of more business and industry. He urged the provincial authorities to undertake more infrastructure projects in order to hasten the economic and social development in the provinces, particularly in the countryside.

IMMIGRATION and Deportation Commissioner Edmundo M. Reyes underscored the role of tourism in promoting greater international understanding. Tourism, he said, is the most potent influence in the emergence of a new robust process of people-to-people communication in the world. He noted that tourist promotion in Asia is now being undertaken to a greater extent than in the past by its own people. By bringing people close together, Commissioner Reyes said, tourism also boosts international trade and commerce. This it does, he said, by creating “a healthy and congenial psychological climate for the exchange of goods and services.”

NATIONAL Science Development Board honored 14 Filipino scientists and researchers who have contributed to the enrichment of scientific knowledge towards the realization of the development goals of the New Society. The awardees, six of which were cited for their scientific research and eight for their published works, were presented plaques by NSDB Chairman Florencio A. Medina in a fitting ceremony held at Club Filipino in San Juan, Rizal. Among the awardees were F. Landa Jocano, Benjamin Cabrera, Josefina Gonzales, Carmen Velasquez and Augusto Litonjua.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: August 2-8, 1974

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

August 2—

THE PRESIDENT told some 100 heads of delegation to two world Chinese conferences in Manila that the free enterprise policy of the government has made it easy for foreign businessmen to enter the country. The two conferences were the Sixth World Chinese Banking Amity Conference and the Fourth World Chinese Tourism Amity Conference whose delegation heads paid a courtesy call on the Chief Executive. The President explained that before the new policy foreign businessmen, especially Chinese nationals, found it very difficult to enter the Philippines.

MANILA office of the Philippine Amanah Bank at Doña Amparo Building on España was inaugurated by the President with the First Lady cutting the ceremonial ribbon. Diplomatic representatives of four Muslim countries—Indonesia, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia and Egypt—witnessed the affair, described by the President as yet another indication of the government's policy to achieve national unity. "The success of this bank will mean the acceleration of the social, economic and political progress of Mindanao and will make our Muslim brothers equal partners of their brethren in Luzon and the Visayas in the adventure of nation-building," the President declared.

CENTRAL Bank reiterated that the country welcomes more foreign investments in the newly-liberalized areas of the Philippine economy. CB Governor Gregorio S. Licaros said these liberalized areas are economic ventures listed by the Board of Investments for Filipinos' major participation. The CB official said that after three years from the date the projects are listed in the BOI's annual investments priorities plans and the measured capacities are not applied for by Filipinos, the same areas of investments are opened 100 per cent to foreign investors. Aside from this, Governor Licaros said that full foreign ownership is possible in industries included in the Export Priorities Plan and those industries included in the pioneer areas of investments as defined in the investment Priorities Plan.

DEPARTMENT of Labor called on Philippine organized labor to avoid being drawn into "trade union wars" which could have an unsettling effect on the labor relations and industrial productivity. In a meeting with leaders of major labor federations, Secretary Blas F. Ople stated that they should instead seek an orderly restructuring into responsible industrial unions in accordance with the New Labor Code. Mr. Ople who called "trade union warfare" as "wasteful and counter-productive" said the government support of trade union unification and restructuring was based on the principle that a "reorganized trade union movement would pursue policies in harmony with the priorities of national development and with regard for our competitive position in the world."

August 3—

PROMOTIONS for 1,616 officers in the Armed Forces of the Philippines, ranking from full colonel down to first lieutenant, were approved by the President. These promotions were based on recommendations of various AFC promotions boards with favorable endorsements by the AFP chief of staff and the secretary of national defense. The President said that the qualifications and fitness of officers recommended by the boards for promotion but whose names are not included in the released list, are still being studied and evaluated.

DEPARTMENT of Finance said that P57.4 million worth of Premyo savings bonds was sold by the Securities Servicing Department of the Central Bank during its first day of public offering held last August 1. The brisk sale of the bonds was mainly attributed to the enthusiastic response of the people on the new government savings program. The CB reported that the biggest buyers were the commercial banks which, in turn, will sell these bonds to their clients or individual buyers.

August 4—

THE PRESIDENT required aliens seeking entry or permanent residence in the country under the provisions of the Immigration Act to pay higher fees. Signing Presidential Decree No. 524, the Chief Executive raised 33 specific fees collectible from such aliens. These fees, originally fixed in 1940 were last raised in 1950. Religious missionaries admitted into the country as aliens are exempt from payment of monthly extension fees payable by temporary visitors. Foreign government officials, their families, attendants, household helps and employees, and non-immigrants in transit to a destination outside the Philippines are also exempt from paying their passport visas.

DEPARTMENT of Trade stressed that the long-term solution to the rapidly-spiralling of price of prime commodities is the expansion in production and increase in productivity. Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr., who is concurrently Chairman of the Price Control Council, asserted this as he discussed the rationale behind the government pricing policy. The trade official explained that the price control being instituted by the government is only an interim measure to discourage price manipulation and speculation. He said that the real factors that would cushion the impact of prices are the intensification of food production, expansion of exports, and the development of alter native sources of energy, among others.

MALACANANG, through Assistant Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora, ruled that apartment owners are prohibited from charging new or incoming lessees rentals higher than those paid by previous lessees during the effectivity of an existing presidential decree on rentals. The ruling was handed down by Secretary Zamora in reply to an inquiry sent to Public Information Secretary Francisco S. Tatad by an apartment dweller in Paco, Manila. The opinion was a clarification of Presidential Decree No. 20, freezing rentals for lower-income groups. In his opinion, Secretary Zamora said that all the unauthorized increases in rentals must be refunded or applied to future payments of the lessors.

BUREAU of Standards has promulgated new standard code for food processing establishments and the processing and handling of frozen foods, the Department of Trade announced. The new standard code contains the guidelines for the production of quick frozen foods to maintain the latter's quality particularly those for export. Specifically, the new code provides for the direct supervision and control of food processing establishments so that proper care in the environmental and personal hygiene requirements in these firms for the protection of the consumers are complied with strictly.

DEPARTMENT of Labor prodded sugar cane planters to give plantation workers the benefits due them under an existing social amelioration fund. In a meeting with representatives of the sugar industry, Labor Secretary Blas F. Ople noted that reports from the department's Bacolod City office indicated that "certain" planters had refused to distribute the amelioration fund to their workers. Under the amelioration fund planters would help the workers through cash bonuses and amelioration projects based on an assessment of P0.90 per picul of sugar determined by the Sugar Quota Administration.

PHILIPPINES and West Germany signed an agreement to train Filipino military personnel in West Germany starting this year. Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Romulo and Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile signed the agreement for the Philippines, while German Ambassador to the Philippines Baren von Buddenbrock signed for West Germany. The grantees will study in the German Army Command and General Staff College, which is equivalent to Fort Bonifacio's Army College. The grantees will be provided with accommodation, food, clothing and personal needs in barracks. The requirement for grantees is to know German.

August 5—

THE PRESIDENT directed barangay and barrio officials to help regular police agencies in the maintenance of peace and order in their respective communities. The President's order was embodied in Presidential Decree No. 528 which declared as a matter of government policy that these local officials took a more active part in peace-keeping duties of the barangay and barrio officials. To give teeth to the decree, the President ordered that barrio leaders who, without justifiable cause, fail to furnish police agencies with the necessary assistance, be made liable for a six-month to one year imprisonment and perpetual disqualification from public office.

SECURITIES and Exchange Commission disclosed that the total foreign investments pumped into the country last year amounted to P64 million. The figure is 185 percent higher than the P22 million combined paid-up capital of corporations organized during the preceding year. The SEC statistics also showed that a big chunk of the investments was siphoned into the various commercial activities. The next biggest investments were channelled to the manufacturing sector.

BOARD of Investments said that 266 BOI-registered firms invested an aggregate amount of P5.9 billion as of September, 1973. The BOI said that these projects, registered under the Investment Incentives Act, have contributed to the country's overall economic development efforts. Of these projects, 125 were agro-based; 48 were engaged in the manufacture of chemicals and chemical-based products; 24 in mining and mineral processing and 54 were in the engineering field. The BOI said that foreign equity participation in the BOI-registered firms totalled P322 million or 21.1 percent of the total subscribed capital. Among the foreign investors, the Americans appeared on top by contributing 61.1 percent of the total foreign equity participation.

August 6—

THE PRESIDENT granted another incentive to oil explorers when he authorized the tax-free importation of machinery and equipment, spare parts, and materials required in oil explorations. The same privilege and been previously granted by Presidential Decree No. 87 to contractors, all of them aliens, entering into service contracts with local concessionaires. Under Presidential Decree No. 529, the President decreed that explorers should enjoy the same exemptions in the payment of customs duties and compensating tax. Earlier, the government also had provided other incentives to oil explorers, like the repatriation of capital and profits.

FOREIGN Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Romulo called on Asians to end the "slavish imitation" of the past and solve their own problems with methods relevant to their experience. Speaking before the faculty and student body of the Seoul National University in South Korea, Secretary Romulo observed that Asian nations are in varying stages of modernization which indubitably calls for new institutions. He recalled that in the past, Asian countries had adopted models imported from the West in the hope that they would fit "the unique situations in which we now find ourselves."

CENTRAL Bank allocated an additional fund (credit) amounting to \$25 million to cover the importation of the country's textile and tobacco manufacturing industries. The import fund will be used for the importation of raw cotton and unmanufactured tobacco to meet the raw-material requirements of the covered industries during the rest of the year. The Monetary Board which approved the resolution for the allocation of the fund said that the credit line will take effect immediately and will be available to textile firms and tobacco manufacturers up to June 30, 1975.

PHILIPPINE Medical Care Commission required clinics and hospitals to become members of the Philippine Hospitals Association before they can participate in the Medicare program. Dr. Pacifico E. Marcos, PMCC chairman, said that the PMCC passed the resolution in the wake of reports that some hospitals were allegedly charging Medicare patients exorbitantly or were committing abuses and showing, non-cooperation with the Medicare program. Dr. Marcos, however, said the PMCC will allow non-PHA member hospitals and clinics reasonable time urged to immediately provide the provincial or city Board of Assessment may be sent either in person or by mail to the PHA's headquarters at the GSIS Hospital, Quezon City, or to its provincial or city chapters.

DEPARTMENT of Finance acted to facilitate decisions on contested real property assessments. In a letter to Secretary Jose Roño of the Department of Local Government and Community Development, Finance Secretary Cesar E. A. Virata suggested that provincial governors, provincial boards, city mayors, and municipal boards or city councils be urged to immediately provide the provincial or city board of Assessment Appeals sufficient appropriations for the purchase of office equipment, supplies and materials, communication, travel and transportation facilities including per diems in order to perform their functions efficiently. He also stressed that the provincial or city Board of Assessment Appeals should be provided with office spaces for hearing purposes inasmuch as the Board has only 120 days within which to decide numerous appeals involving contested appeals on assessments of real properties

DEPARTMENT of Agriculture announced the creation of a citizens' complaints unit to attend to complaints relating to the activities of its bureaus and agencies. Agriculture Secretary Arturo R. Tanco Jr., said the unit will absorb the functions of the citizens' complaints section which was recently abolished. The new unit will bring complaints to the attention of heads of bureaus or agencies. It will also adopt and follow a systematic method of reporting so that the office of the secretary is properly informed of the progress and actions taken on the complaints and to inform the complainants.

August 7—

THE PHILIPPINES and the United States concluded a loan agreement under which the US government will grant an additional \$18-million loan for the rural electrification program of the country. The President and US Ambassador William H. Sullivan signed for their respective governments. Chairman Ramon Ravanzo of the Board of the National Electrification Administration and Director Thomas Niblock of the US Agency for International Development acted as co-signers. The loan, payable in 30 years at three percent interest with a grace period of 10 years at two percent interest, will finance the costs of materials and equipment for 15 additional electric cooperatives.

CENTRAL Bank issued guidelines for the establishment of money shops by banks. Under the guidelines, banking institutions qualified to set up money shops in the markets are stock savings and loan associations, commercial, savings, and development banks which should be at least 70 percent Filipino-owned. The setting up of money shops in the markets is designed to check loan sharks' who lend money to stall holders at exorbitant interests. Money shops lend money to stall holders up to P10,000 each with 14 percent interest per annum.

August 8—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the integration of the police forces, fire departments and jails in 17 provinces. The Chief Executive announced this in Camp Crame in the course of his speech keynoting the 73rd anniversary of the Philippine Constabulary. He said the police forces, fire departments and jails would be integrated in the provinces of Benguet, La Union, Bataan, Rizal (except those cities and towns already integrated under the Metropolitan Police Force), Cavite, Batangas, Quezon, Iloilo (including Guimaras), Negros Occidental, Negros Oriental, Leyte, Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao Oriental, Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: August 9-15, 1974

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

August 9—

THE PRESIDENT issued Presidential Decree No. 513 providing a system for the proper recording and keeping of mining documents. Under this decree, registers of deeds in every provincial capital or city will continue to act as ex-officio mining recorders. But their work will be limited to the registration of mining instruments (except original declarations of location) relating to mining claims located prior to May 18, 1974 under Commonwealth Act No. 137. These ex-officio mining recorders shall be responsible for the safekeeping of such recorded documents in their custody and the issuance of certified true copies thereof, subject to payment of fees to accrue to the province or city concerned for the maintenance of the office of the mining recorder. Mining instruments registered under Presidential Decree No. 463 after May 18, 1974 shall be recorded with the Bureau of Mines regional officers (four of them) and such persons as may be appointed or designated by the mines director. The director shall be responsible for the proper recording of such documents and shall issue forms and regulations as are required to implement Presidential Decree No. 513.

DEPARTMENT of Finance said that domestic labor earned P85 million in the processing and manufacture of embroideries and garments for export during the 1973-74 fiscal year. Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata said that the labor intensive industry's earnings during the period was 83 percent higher than the previous year's earnings of only P47 million. The finance official said that the significant increase in the operations of embroidery firms is due to several reasons such as the favorable climate for investments, full government assistance and incentives in the form of tax exemptions and tax credits on certain importations, and the presence of skilled and comparatively cheap labor supply.

TO ASSURE the continuity of the supply of wheat and ensure the price stability for the industry and consuming public, the Central Bank approved a foreign exchange outlay of \$68 million to cover the wheat importation of local flour milling industry. The CB said that the out lay which will be in the form of a credit line provided by the United States' Commercial Credit Corp. will be used solely by the country's flour millers for the importation of their wheat requirements for the first semester of 1975. The Monetary Board okayed the outlay upon the recommendation of the Development Bank of the Philippines, the agency that approves all the applications of the industry for the opening of the letter of credit and the purchase of foreign exchange for the importation of wheat.

DEPARTMENT of Tourism adopted rules and regulations governing the management and operation of hotels all over the country. With the adoption of the rules and regulations, the Philippines became one of the few countries in the world to implement such requirements. Tourism Secretary Jose D. Aspiras signed the hotel code in the presence of leading hostelry operators and other members of the local tourism industry. Under the' new code, hotels will be classified according to the star system, ranging from one star (economy class) to five stars (deluxe class) subject to demerits or reclassification. All hotels will be required to register with the Department of Tourism for licensing purposes, subject to ocular inspection.

August 10—

"JEEPNEY Cooperatives" experiment will no longer be confined to the Greater Manila area. Under the new setup, the same guidance and assistance extended by the government to Manila drivers will be given to provincial drivers desiring to organize their own transport cooperatives. Metropolitan Manila area, however, remains the priority area for the establishment of transport cooperatives. The widening of the experiment's coverage is in response to pleas from various drivers' groups in the provinces, following the success of the idea in the Greater Manila. Another innovation introduced is the broadening of the membership base for the cooperatives, to include not only drivers but also owners, operators and workers in the transport industry. The changes are embodied in Memorandum Order No. 438, issued by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor upon the President's authority. Memorandum Order No. 438 broadens the scope of Memorandum Order No. 395 which created a committee, headed by Asst. Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, to study ways and means to encourage the organization of transport cooperatives.

August 11—

THE PRESIDENT issued three presidential decrees imposing death penalty for four more crimes—piracy, highway robbery, cattle rustling and illegal fishing. Presidential Decree No. 532, the Anti-Piracy Law, imposes the death penalty for piracy if murder or homicide is committed as a result or on the occasion of the piracy, or when the offenders abandon their victims without means of saving themselves. Presidential Decree No. 533, the Anti-Cattle Rustling Law, provides the penalty of life imprisonment to death if a person is injured or killed as a result or on the occasion of the commission of cattle rustling. Presidential Decree No. 534, or the Anti-Illegal Fishing Law, also imposes penalties up to death on fishermen who use explosives or poisonous substances in their operations and if such use leads to the loss of lives.

DRASTICALLY liberalized and comprehensive investment incentive scheme was offered by the government to the tourism industry when the President signed Presidential Decree No. 535, otherwise known as the Tourism Investment Program of 1974. Some of the incentives are designed to make investments in hotels and tourism-oriented facilities more attractive while others are meant to attract foreign investors and foreign financing into the Philippines. The incentives are available to Filipino-owned enterprises, or those controlled by Filipinos to the extent of at least 60 percent, whose foreign exchange earnings in the year during which the incentives are granted are at least 50 percent, if they are in the Greater Manila, and are at least 35 percent in the case of those outside Manila.

DEVELOPMENT Bank of the Philippines has taken another step to revive the abaca industry as one of the country's major crops. The DBP said it increased the loan ceilings of abaca projects from P2,500 per hectare to P5,000 per hectare for new projects and to P3,000 per hectare for the rehabilitation of existing projects. The DBP indicated that the amended credit assistance is designed not only to revitalize the abaca industry, but also to make the lending program of the bank more responsive to the needs of the farmers.

August 12—

THE PRESIDENT signed Presidential Decree No. 537 ordering the organization of municipal circuit courts out of the 1,444 existing municipal courts all over the country. The Chief Executive decreed the formation of municipal circuit courts to effect savings in government operations through the abolition of dormant municipal courts. In signing the decree, the President pointed out that a number of municipal courts did not receive a single case for investigation or trial during fiscal year 1971-72 and a still much bigger number received not more than 60 cases during the same period. The Supreme Court was vested with the power and function of carrying out the organization of municipal circuit courts as envisioned by Presidential Decree No. 537 through implementing orders on a province to province basis.

PHILIPPINE National Bank disclosed that the Government earned a total of P129 million in the form of taxes, licenses, inspection fees and specific taxes from the tobacco industry in 1973. The bank's statistics also showed that last year, the farmers produced 64,700 metric tons of tobacco valued at P175 million, placing tobacco in the third slot among the country's commercial crops. As such more than two million people are directly or indirectly dependent on the industry either as producers, factory workers and others involved in the transportation, distribution, and marketing of leaf tobacco and tobacco products.

THE GOVERNMENT "intends to break the psychology that sustains the inflation in the Philippines without resorting to drastic measures," According to the Central Bank. CB Governor Gregorio Licaros said that inflation and high prices are the twin problems that beset the world's economies today. For the Philippine economy, Governor Licaros stated that among the measures instituted by the CB in a bid to cushion the impact of inflation are the freezing of house rentals below P300 and the allocation of a certain percentage of production of exportable items for domestic markets so as not to dislocate the local supply-demand situation.

August 13—

THE PRESIDENT directed stricter enforcement of existing laws and rules and the adoption of more forceful measures to stabilize the prices of prime commodities, particularly foodstuff, by narrowing the price gap between

producers and consumers; Presiding over a meeting of the National Economic Development “Authority at Malacañang, the President directed the reduction of the number of middlemen dealing in these goods and the regulation of their profits within reasonable levels. He traced the increased markup in the prices of commodities, especially foodstuff, in the urban communities like Greater Manila, to the fact that these commodities pass through many hands before reaching the consumer.

THE PRESIDENT called on the Filipino people to help promote national unity through a more intensified propagation of the national language. In a speech read for him by Labor Secretary Blas F. Ople at the start of the observance of National Language Week at La Consolacion College auditorium, the President stressed that unification efforts would be incomplete without the full development of a national language. In line with this policy, the Chief Executive urged the Department of Education and Culture to intensify the development of Pilipino and to oversee the implementation of the approved bilingual system of instruction for the country’s schools. The bilingual system, which calls for the use of both Pilipino and English as medium of instruction from the grades up to the university level, is being gradually implemented starting this schoolyear.

THE PRESIDENT moved to facilitate the establishment of a 3,000-hectare iron and steel complex in Villanueva, Misamis Oriental. The first step is the lease of a 138-hectare site for the P1 .5-billion iron ore sintering plant to be put up by the Kawazaki Steel Corp., the Japanese industrial giant that will process five million tons of raw iron ore initially a year for Kawazaki’s requirements in Japan and ultimately will also provide for a projected integrated steel industry in the Philippines. The integrated steel complex will be located in an 800-hectare lot adjoining the Kawazaki project. These two projects will be the core’ of the 3,000-hectare industrial complex under the Phividec Industrial Authority, which the President created.

CENTRAL BANK adopted new rules to boost further the stock transaction of foreign investors who have bought CB-approved Philippine securities traded in the local stock exchanges. Under the new rules, foreign investors may re-invest the peso proceeds from the sale of the securities they held to other CB-approved securities without necessarily keeping themselves within the limitations imposed by the CB. One of the limitations that the CB has removed was the 15-day limit or period within which to re-invest the proceeds they realized from their initial investments in CB-approved securities. As a result of this, foreign investors can take enough time to select the stock they desire to buy.

DEPARTMENT of Education and Culture approved the implementing guidelines for the revised secondary education program which cover such areas as the nomenclature of subjects, class scheduling, teaching load, student promotion and classification, grading periods, practical arts requirements, electives, instructional materials, guidance programs and other curricular offerings. The revised program, being implemented this schoolyear, has two essential features: the integration of academic and vocational courses in all levels in secondary education and the scheduling of classes patterned after college. Under the new class schedule the 40 minutes every subject daily schedule has been scrapped and the new one-hour scheduling of subject may now be implemented.

August 14—

THE PRESIDENT simplified the system of valuation of real property left by deceased persons by doing away with the present method of having two sets of valuation, one by local assessors and the other by the real property valuation committee operating under the Department of Finance. Presidential Decree No. 539 provides that “the estate shall be appraised at its fair market value as of the time of the death or as on six months thereafter, at the election of the executor or administrator, using for the purpose the current and fair market value as reflected in the schedules of values prepared by the provincial and city assessors pursuant to Commonwealth Act No. 170, as amended by Presidential Decree Nos. 76 and 261.”

BOARD of Investments ruled that foreign-owned firms existing prior to the enactment of the Foreign Business Regulation Law (RA 5455) in 1968, are not subject to the provision of the law. The investment body said that existing firms which are engaged in domestic operations may expand their operations without seeking prior authority from the BOI provided that the expansion is financed out of the internally-generated funds such as the declaration of stock dividends. Foreign-owned firms which have limited their manufacturing and marketing

operations in the domestic market must raised their additional capital out of their own resources or other local resources.

NATIONAL Science Development Board announced that it had completed 116 research and development projects during the 1973-74 period. The list of accomplishments submitted by NSDB Chairman Florencio Medina to Malacañang included the fields of agriculture and natural resources, engineering and trade, new sources of energy, food, medicine and nutrition, inventions, science, education and science projects. The accomplishment report also gave emphasis on the initial success chalked up by the government in solving the problems of bringing remote communities and barrios "closer to the 20th century."

August 15—

THE PRESIDENT approved the holding of two more international conferences in the Philippines. The first conference that of the International Conference on the Development of Tourism and Air Transport, will be held in February next year. The second conference, whose date has not yet been decided, will be participated in by developing countries in Asia. The conference on tourism and air transport will be attended by some 300 presidents of national airlines, ministers or directors general of tourism and government authorities. They will assess the effects of inflation on tourism and air travel, and seek common solutions.

THE PRESIDENT expressed the hope that the example set by the participants to the 12th World Junior Chess Championship would be emulated by the world's younger generations. The President made the statement before the participants who called on him at Malacañang. He said that "perhaps, it is these younger generations which some day will see the dream of man attained, when mankind will have become one human family." In the past, the President noted, man had been prevented from uniting into one family by hatreds, conflicts and differences. The Chief Executive said that by their example, chess players have shown the world's younger generations that they can get together in an age of confusion and violence, to participate in a tournament that "tests your minds, talents and capability."

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: August 16-22, 1974

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

August 16—

THE PRESIDENT said that the government has adopted an economic policy that is energetic and persevering in the pursuit of national goals, and adaptive and responsive in changing situations. Addressing the closing session of the 21st National Convention of Manufacturers and Producers at Maharlika Hall in Malacañang, the President said the objectives of this policy continue to be the increase of domestic production, and the moderation of inflation concurrent with the distribution of income. The President pledged that in the pursuance of these objectives, the government will use all mechanisms available, including but not confined to, the regulation of money supply and credit, as well as fiscal, diplomatic and trade instruments.

SECRETARY of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo announced that the Philippines and Thailand have called for a conference of Southeast Asian nations to constitute an Asian Forum to discuss and tackle problems of vital interest to the region. In a joint communique signed in Bangkok, Thailand by Secretary Romulo and Thai Foreign Minister Charunphan Isarangkun Na Ayuthaya, the two foreign ministers stressed the need for evolving a Southeast Asian community "viable and strong enough to remain independent" if the region is to achieve integrated political and economic power. The communique also reiterated the Philippines' and Thailand's firm adherence to the ideals and principles of the ASEAN declaration to intensify ASEAN collaboration in all fields of common endeavor.

August 17—

THE PRESIDENT called a meeting of the National Disaster Control Committee in view of the extensive floods in Luzon provinces caused by the intermittently heavy rains the past few days. He also sent Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr. and Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile to make an on-the-spot inspection in Central Luzon. In other moves, the President ordered the release of P2 million to the Department of Social Welfare for the extension of relief aid to flood victims. Likewise, the President released P5 million from the Special Highways Fund for contingencies.

GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System disclosed that its assets hit the P4 million mark in Fiscal Year 1973-74. The figure is 10 percent more than the preceding year's total of P3.4 million, or an additional amount of P393 million earned during the period in review. GSIS General Manager Roman Cruz Jr. said that the increase in assets is due to the full implementation of reforms in GSIS finances, operations and services. As a result of the increase in the total assets, correspondingly the total investments rose from the 1972-73 figure of P2.5 million to P2.8 million or an increase of 9.7 percent during the period in review. Bulk of these investments were in the form of service loans extended to members. Also, the GSIS financed low cost housing projects.

BUREAU of Customs adopted the concept of one arrastre contractor per pier at the North Harbor to pinpoint responsibility and increase efficiency. This is the second part of a three-phase move conceived last year by labor and customs officials in a bid to have the entire Manila domestic port serviced by a group of new arrastre contractors. Customs Commissioner Rolando Geotina, who signed the contract papers of the arrastre firms said the eight contractors will service the eight piers of North Harbor with a 10,000-man labor force. Commissioner Geotina, In signing the contract, warned that the bureau would cancel the efficacies of the instrument should it discover that the arrastre and stevedoring firm violate any of the two-point conditions set. He said "these are the rendition of an efficient and effective service and the full satisfaction of what is rightfully due the 10,000 waterfront workers and laborers at the North Harbor."

August 18—

STATE of public calamity was proclaimed by the President in Greater Manila and 13 provinces in Luzon where floods spawned by heavy rains had wrought widespread destruction in these places. The President announced the emergency measure after meeting with his Cabinet in Malacañang. The provinces covered by the proclamation were

Rizal, Tarlac, Pampanga, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Bataan, Zambales, Lagtina, Cavite, Quezon, Benguet, Pangasinan and the sub-province of Aurora. Explaining his move, the President said that while the initial damage caused by the floods was not as extensive as that of the 1972 calamity, the state of emergency was, still needed to cushion the impact of the disaster. At the same time, he warned hoarders and profiteers, who might take advantage of the floods, that the full force of the law will be applied to them.

REPORTS of widespread destruction in flood-ravaged areas in the provinces prompted the President to order the postponement of the “Pulong ng mga Barangay,” originally scheduled on September 1. The move, the President explained will enable people in the disaster areas to devote their time to the urgent task of reconstruction. The Pulong was originally called by the President in his Independence Day address to give the people a forum where they can ventilate their grievances against elective and appointive officials and military officers and men.

August 19—

THE PRESIDENT had issued a decree limiting the amount of increase in the assessed valuation of real property which in effect will greatly reduce the tax liability of real property owners. Presidential Decree No. 532 cushions the impact of the recent sharp upward valuations of real properties, which in some cases have tripled or even quadrupled the 1973 tax levies on land. The decree provides that “increases in the assessed valuation of real property shall be gradual from 1974 to 1977 and in no case shall the increase in any year be more than 100 percent” of the 1973 assessed valuation.

THE PRESIDENT urged all barangays to involve themselves in the relief and rehabilitation efforts on behalf of the flood sufferers. He said that while the government has mobilized all its agencies for the extension of relief aid and the rehabilitation of damaged crops and infrastructures, there are many number of ways by which the barangays could help in alleviating the sufferings of the flood victims and in speeding up rehabilitation and reconstruction work.

NATIONAL Grains Authority assured the public that the country’s rice supply is sufficient to meet the needs of the entire populace. NGA Administrator Jesus Tanchanco said that the rains and floods did not cause any damage to the government rice stored in NGA warehouses in Central Luzon and the Greater Manila area. He also said that there are good harvests from the Visayas and Mindanao. According to Administrator Tanchanco Japan, China and Thailand have also made commitments for a total of 50,000 metric tons of rice for the Philippines.

BUDGET Commission said that national government employees who were granted a 10 percent salary increase based on their basic pay as of June 30 are still entitled to an emergency living allowance of P50 if their salaries or wages were less than P600 before the increase was implemented. Budget Commissioner Faustino Sychangco, who issued the clarification, said that Budget Circular No. 240 provides that notwithstanding the 10 percent across-the-board salary increase, the emergency cost of living allowance under Budget Circular No. 238 and 238-A dated February 18 and April 30, respectively, will be continued.”

DEPARTMENT of Education and Culture announced that schools found violating rules on state scholarship programs shall face either blacklisting or revocation of permits to operate, or both. DEC Chairman of State Scholarship Council Pablo Mateo issued the warning amid reports that some schools where state scholars are enrolled allow grantees to enrol in higher courses without the necessary prerequisites to the course. One school for example allows grantees to take up English 3 ahead of English 1 and even reports passing grades instead of failing marks to the Bureau of Private Schools. Chairman Mateo said schools deliberately and consistently committing such violations will be blacklisted from among institutions state scholars can enrol, as well as face other appropriate measures which the bureau will take against them.

GOVERNMENT’S vegetable and bean production program exceeded its target production for the last fiscal year by producing 864,188, metric tons of various vegetables and beans, the Bureau of Plant Industry announced. BP1 Director Bernardo S. Castillo said this represented a 2.9 percent accomplishment of the target production which was 839,823 metric tons. In terms of hectareage, he said the program also exceeded the target area of 80,144 hectares by planting a total of 97,847 hectares, representing a 122.1 percent accomplishment. The program implemented in 21

priority provinces and one city, is aimed at increasing the country's produce by extending to farmers the scientific methods of production. The program also undertakes a nationwide equitable distribution of quality seeds and planting materials and extends to farmers technical assistance on the control of plant pests and diseases and on the proper use of fertilizers.

August 20—

THE GOVERNMENT banned travel abroad by any state official or employee without the approval of his office. The travel ban was one of a series of moves taken by the Chief Executive to conserve dollars and combat inflation. The President also: 1) Suspended overtime work in both national government offices and government corporations; 2) Disallowed further purchases of furniture by government offices and firms; and 3) Prohibited recourse to unprogrammed appropriations without the specific approval of the President himself. The President likewise issued a hand written memorandum cutting to one-half the 216-member athletic delegation to the Asian Games in Teheran. The presidential action followed recent world developments which have affected the national economy.

THE PRESIDENT inducted into office Carlos J. Valdes as Philippine ambassador to the Vatican. He succeeds Alberto Katigbak who has been reassigned to the home office. The new ambassador, a lawyer and accountant, is president of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants, governor and treasurer of the Philippine Council of the International Chamber of Commerce and president of the Manila archdiocesan community development.

NATIONAL College Entrance Examination Board of the Department of Education and Culture ruled that all Filipino and United States World War II veterans wishing to enrol in four-year degree courses in the Philippines are exempt from taking the NCEE. DEC Undersecretary and NCEE Board Chairman Narciso Albarracin said the exemption, which is non-transferable, was precipitated by an appeal of US veterans who did not qualify in the NCEE. The board also decided that honor graduates of secondary schools who did not qualify in the 1973 NCEE for courses requiring at least four years of study and who plan to take the 1974 exams cannot enrol provisionally in such programs pending results of this year's NCEE.

August 21—

THE PRESIDENT called on the sugar industry to strive for greater production and of higher technology in order to meet the growing demand for the commodity here and abroad. In a speech read for him by Philippine Ambassador to Japan Roberto S. Benedicto at the annual convention of Philippine Sugar technologists in Cebu City, the President said that increasing sugar production is imperative to meet not only the Philippine sugar commitments in the world market, but also to provide for domestic supply requirements. Sugar, the President stressed, will have high priority in all government actions for a long time.

DEPARTMENT of Finance disclosed that the national government netted a surplus of P579.3 million in the general fund for the month of July this current fiscal year. Secretary of Finance Cesar E.A. Virata said the total operating receipts of the general fund for the month of July was P1,793,571,244 while the operating disbursements totalled P1,214,182,321 resulting in the surplus of P579.3 million. The finance official also stated that the total increase in the cash balance of the general fund for the month in review alone was P792, 480,486.

DEPARTMENT of Education and Culture announced that all teachers and school officials who do not report drug pushers and/or users in or outside school premises face dismissal, fine or disciplinary action. DEC Undersecretary Narciso Albarracin said the stepped-up campaign against drug abuse was brought about by reports of the upsurge of drug abuse among secondary and college students. The DEC official further added that the DEC will conduct drug education seminars for private school administrators in cities with reported upsurge in drug abuse like Manila, Bacolod, Olongapo, Zamboanga and Davao.

DEPARTMENT of Finance released the rules and regulations on the tax-free local purchase of articles by aliens and Overseas Filipinos coming to settle in the Philippines. The rules are pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 439 which authorizes the tax-free purchase of vehicles, house hold appliances, professional instruments and other tools of trade,

occupation or employment. The persons qualified to avail of the tax-free privileges are: 1) Holders of foreign passport arriving in the Philippines with Philippine visa issued pursuant to Section 13 of the Philippine Immigration Act of 1940 as amended. These affects foreigners coming to settle for the first time in the Philippines; and 2) Overseas Filipinos and/ or their families and dependents were permanent residents or immigrants of other countries. The goods that may be purchased under this privileges are: brand-new locally manufactured household appliances: brand-new vehicles listed under the Progressive Car Manufacturing Program and other brand-new tools for trade, occupation or employment.

August 2—

THE PRESIDENT directed the implementation of a 10-point plan designed to speed up the government's rehabilitation and replanting program in flood-ravaged areas. The President outlined the plan in a presidential decree and a letter of instructions after assessing the latest comprehensive reports on Luzon flood damage. The 10-point scheme includes the lifting of the P5, 000-ceiling on rice crop loans and the increase of the *Masagana 99* loan from P1, 200 to P1, 500. After meeting with Finance Secretary Cesar E.A. Virata and Agriculture Secretary Arturo R. Tanco Jr., the Chief Executive also lifted the ban on overtime work for personnel engaged in the rehabilitation effort in calamity areas for the duration of the emergency.

DEPARTMENT of Finance assured provincial, city and municipal officials that it will sustain its efforts to improve financial management in the local governments. Finance Secretary Cesar E.A. Virata said that the attainment of financial stability by local governments is a pre-condition to their transformation into autonomous and self-reliant communities. He made the assurance as he clarified certain provisions of Presidential Decree No. 477 and Presidential Decree No. 464. It was explained that the supervisory authority of the Secretary of Finance over the financial affairs and financial agencies of local governments was derived from the Revised Administrative Code. He said that the term direct "executive supervision" pertains only to administrative and disciplinary matters and does not in any way come in conflict with the duty of the local chief executives to exercise, in conformity with law, general supervision over the government of the province and municipalities.

DEPARTMENT of Local Government and Community Development directed all cooperatives to stop engaging in the insurance business or mutual benefits plans without proper authority. DLGCD Secretary Jose Roño noted that some cooperatives were doing business either directly through issuance of policies or indirectly through mutual benefit plans "without actuarial studies and certificate of authority." He said the insurance business is a specialized kind of activity which involves tremendous risks and which requires authority from the DLGCD and the office of the insurance commissioner.

DEPARTMENT of Finance reported that 15 insurance companies invested a record high of P169.6 million in socio-economic projects during the month of July alone this current year. Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata said that the July investment was unprecedented for the insurance industry in a single month. By way of comparison, the Finance official said the investments made last June amounted to only P68.9 million. Of the 15 insurance firms, the Philippine American Life Insurance Company poured in the biggest investment amounting to P163 million, the finance secretary added. A major source of investment funds for socio-economic projects, the insurance industry has invested the total amount of P4.194 billion in the fiscal year 1972-73.

PHILIPPINE National Railways recorded a total gross earnings of P29.1 million from January to May this current year. As gleaned from the data released by the National Economic and Development Authority, the gross earnings realized by the PNR from its passenger transportation service alone during the first five months of 1974 totalled P20.6 million, accounting for about 70.7 percent of the overall gross receipts. The country's railway system was able to chalk up this impressive performance due to the rehabilitation and modernization program of the PNR undertaken by the company for the last three years. This program includes the acquisition of new rail cars and engines, the introduction of new service and the reopening of the old service lines. Apart from this, the PNR also acquired several passenger buses to ease the traffic congestion particularly in the greater Manila area.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: August 23-29, 1974

President's Week in Review: August 30 - September 5, 1974

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

August 30—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the release of P44.2 million for the repair and cementing of national roads in Central Luzon, including Greater Manila. The P44.2 million earmarked for the repair and cementing of roads is broken down as follows: 1) P30.095 million will go to the repair of national roads in the disaster areas, 2) P14.105 million for concrete paving of 10 principal road sections in Metropolitan Manila. The President, likewise, ordered the release of P5 million for the repair of communal irrigation systems in the calamity areas. Another P1.5 million was released for the repair of irrigation pumps. The amount will be used for the rehabilitation of 150 to 200 irrigation systems and 4,000 pumps.

THE PRESIDENT created the Filipino Muslim's Welfare and Relief Agency to handle any assistance from the Islamic Conference for the benefit of Filipino Muslims. The conference is the confederation of Islamic nations throughout the world. The aid was offered during the last meeting of the Islamic Conference in Kuala Lumpur. At that assembly, the Muslim countries took cognizance of the efforts being undertaken by the Philippine government for the upliftment of Muslims in Mindanao. In Executive Order No. 432, the President charges the new agency with the exclusive responsibility of disposing this aid, so that "maximum benefit" could be obtained from it. Acting Gov. Simeon Datumanong of Sultan Kudarat was named chairman of the agency, with Minister Sergio A. Barrera as the co-chairman.

MONETARY Board has allowed foreign management firms, which entered into a management contract with domestic private commercial banks with foreign equity, to designate a foreigner to hold one of the responsible positions in the local bank they are managing. The MB regulation modified the prior limitation on the authority of the management companies to appoint foreigners to hold decisive positions in the managed bank but subject to the conditions imposed by the Central Bank. One of these conditions is the program for ultimate Filipinization of any such staff or line position which may be temporarily held by such foreigner under the management contract or similar document.

August 31—

THE PRESIDENT met with National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) board and heard representatives of coconut farmers and other sectors of the industry on their petition either to lift controls on trading or reassess the ceiling price set for exports, to make it "more responsive" to world trade developments and to allow copra trading to resume. It has allegedly stopped almost completely. Acting on the reports submitted by the representatives of coconut farmers and other sectors of the industry, the President immediately directed NEDA to assess the situation and take steps to protect farmer-producers and to ensure increased dollar earnings by allowing continuous trading and exports of copra and coconut oil. In its three-and-a-half hour meeting, following the guidelines set by the President, the NEDA board took the following steps: 1) Adopted a flexible price policy. The NEDA board agreed to scrap fixed export and domestic floor prices which were established earlier this month to guarantee continuity of exports and thus protect the reputation of the Philippines as reliable supplier. 2) Approved measures to help farmer-producers. The NEDA authorized the Philippine National Bank to enter into copra-purchasing operations working closely with the 877 town chapters of the Philippine Coconut Producers Federation to replace the domestic floor-price mechanism and maintain reasonable prices to farmer-producers. However, the PNB operations should not completely replace traders and exporters of the private sector.

DEPARTMENT of Agriculture said that the country's export earnings from fresh bananas during the first seven months of the current year totaled P154.6 million, exceeding by 77.2 percent of the export receipts recorded for the same period last year. In a report submitted to Secretary of Agriculture Arturo R. Tanco Jr., Acting Director Bernardo Castillo of the Bureau of Plant Industry said that from January to July this year the Philippines exported fresh bananas worth P154.6 million to Japan. This figure is P69 million more than the last year's level of only P87 million. Because of this favorable trend, BPI officials predicted that this year's foreign exchange earnings from fresh

bananas would far exceed that of last year. The Philippines is now the biggest supplier of fresh bananas to Japan, Ecuador and Taiwan are second and third respectively.

September 1—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the Government Service Insurance System to speed up the construction plans for modern Manila Hotel. The Chief Executive issued the order to GSIS General Manager Roman Cruz Jr. following the call of S. Bechtel, head of a well-known construction firm. The President said the renovated hotel should be operational by 1976. He, however, stressed the need to retain the hotel's present facade while making the rest of the building's facilities as modern as possible. He also noted that Manila Hotel has been associated with so many historical events of the country that it has become a sort of national museum.

THE GOVERNMENT will not institute new tax measures to sustain its policy of an expanded economic activity as a means to cushion the impact of the worldwide inflationary pressures. Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata said that the present tax policies are suffering since there is more than enough cash balance in the government securities to sustain its operation. The finance official added that the government has started to phase out the operation of premium duty on export items and probably by next year, the export tax shall have been scrapped altogether. This indicated that the country's budding export earnings are sufficient to meet the needs of government operations.

DEPARTMENT of Trade said that the country's exports to Australia had increased in 1973 compared to the figures in the previous years. A study conducted by the Trade Department on the effects of general system of preference for Philippine exports to Australia showed that last year the total Philippine exports to Australia amounted to \$17 million against the 1972 figure of \$8 million. The increase of Philippine exports to Australia was largely due to intensive export promotion drive launched by the government coupled by the recent world inflationary trends. Among the leading export products to Australia in 1973 were logs, lumber, handicraft products, crude coconut oil, desiccated coconut and furniture, among other things.

RETIREMENT plan for private school teachers and other school employees will be enforced starting next school year. The retirement plan, which was approved by Education Secretary Juan L. Manuel, is aimed at giving a sense of security to both teaching and non-teaching personnel. The scheme would require all private schools to grant retirement disability and death benefits. Secretary Manuel approved the benefit scheme after consulting with officials of private schools and private school organizations.

September 2—

THE PRESIDENT congratulated the five awardees of the Ramon Magsaysay Award for 1974, for their outstanding achievements in their respective fields. Composed of two from Japan, and one each from the United States, India and the Philippines, the awardees paid their respects to the Chief Executive, accompanied by Chairman Manuel P. Manahan and other officials of the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation. The awardees for 1974 are: 1) Governor Hiroshio Kuroki of Miyazaki Prefecture, Kyushu Island, Japan, for government service; 2) Miss Fusaye Ichikawa of Aichi Prefecture, Japan, for community leadership; 3) Fr. William P. Masterson of Brooklyn, New York, an oldtimer in the Philippines, for international understanding; 4) Shrimati M. S. Subbulakshmi of India, for public service, and 5) Zacarias Zarian, a Filipino from Batangas, Ilocos Norte, for journalism, literature and creative communication arts.

BUREAU of Internal Revenue has issued a memorandum circular prescribing a uniform schedule for the exchange of dollars or any other foreign currency into pesos for revenue tax purposes. BIR Commissioner Misael P. Vera said the uniform rate of exchange will be followed this fiscal year up to June 30, 1975. The memorandum circular prescribes, among other things, that where the currency involved is other than US dollars, the foreign currency shall first be converted to US dollars at the prevailing rate of exchange between the two currencies. The resulting amount shall then be converted to pesos.

DEPARTMENT of Trade urged the operating stock exchanges to exercise strict control in the release of information by their member-brokers which might tend to influence the stock market one way or the other. Secretary of Trade

Troadio T. Quiazon Jr., directed the Securities and Exchange Commission that all new reports of listed companies be cleared by the SEC before they are released to the public. Secretary Quiazon's call came in the wake of reports that the behavior of the stock market since the past week has been partly influenced by rumors being spread around by investors and or brokers.

September 3—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the immediate fielding of all available units of the Manila Transit Corporation to ease the transportation problem in Greater Manila. The Chief Executive took this step after noting that great number of commuters in various areas of Metropolitan Manila lose valuable manhours waiting for transportation. Meeting with Public Secretary David Consunji and Jose Crisanto Jr., MTC president and general manager, the Chief Executive directed the MTC to: 1) see to it all idle bus units in the premises of bus firms be rebuilt and rehabilitated so that they could be fielded as soon as possible. 2) speed up the acquisition of additional buses.

September 4—

JEEPNEYS will not be automatically banned upon organization of transport cooperatives. Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, chairman of the Committee Transport Cooperatives, issued the statement to allay jeepney drivers' and operators' fears of losing their means of livelihood once a transport cooperative is established in their area. One of the objectives of a transport cooperative, Reyes explained, is to enable the members to acquire managerial and operational expertise in preparation for their participation in the envisioned Mass Transit System. This will include the operation of buses, which provide safer and effective service to the riding public and assure better traffic flow.

CENTRAL Bank disclosed that the 35 stock savings and loan associations in the country had topped all banking institutions with a record of 50.20 percent increase in their savings deposits as of June 15 this year. This year's figure is P32.1 million more than the P64 million registered in June 30 last year. CB data as of June 15, 1974 showed that the thrift banks had a total of P96.1 million in savings deposits. The thrift banks performance enabled them to occupy the premier position among the banking institutions, capping the first year of the National Savings for Progress campaign spearheaded by the CB.

September 5—

THE PRESIDENT conferred the Ancient Order of Sikatuna, rank of datu, on outgoing Malaysian Ambassador Datuk Ahmed Zainal Abidin. In presenting the award, the President cited the Malaysian envoy for his services in the field of international relations as a worthy spokesman of his government and people in the Philippines. The Chief Executive said Ambassador Abidin was instrumental in promoting understanding between the two countries through mutually beneficial undertaking. In separate ceremonies at the Malacañang ceremonial hall, the President likewise received the letters of credence of: 1) Ambassador Yaday Prasad Pant, as non-resident ambassador of Nepal to the Philippines and 2) Ambassador Maseo Sawaki, as ambassador of Japan to the Philippines, replacing Ambassador Toshio Urabe.

BOARD of Investments reported that 231 export-oriented firms had registered an unprecedented export earnings of \$59.7 million for the fiscal year 1973-74 ending June 30. The export receipts of the BOI-registered firms represented an increase of \$41.1 million over that of the preceding year. The increase in exports of these enterprises is due to the export expansion of a variety of products such as garments textile yarns, fabrics, cordage, electric components, fish and seafoods preparations.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: September 6-12, 1974

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

September 6—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the release of P10 million from the calamity fund to speed up the rehabilitation of fishpond and fishpen projects devastated by the recent floods. Most of the outlay will go to the purchase of fingerlings and fry for restocking purposes. The residual of the outlay as well as repayments of loans therefrom shall go into a revolving fund for the same or similar purpose. At the same time, the President directed the Central Bank, the Philippine National Bank, the Development Bank of the Philippines and the Agricultural Credit Administration to consolidate and restructure all past-due obligations of fishpond and fishpen operators. The four government financing institutions were also asked by the President to grant a three-year moratorium on the payment of past-due obligations and to make the ceilings for fishpond and fishpen loans more flexible. These moves are among the measures taken by the President to put back in shape flood-hit fishponds and fishpens.

ORDER of Sikatuna, rank of Datu, was conferred on Foreign Minister Alhaji A. B. N'Jie of Gambia by the President, "for his sincere and earnest endeavors to promote friendly relations" between his country and the Philippines. In receiving the award in ceremonies held at Malacañang, the Gambian foreign minister expressed the hope that the "magnificent gesture" will mark the beginning of closer relations between the two countries, "so that developing nations will work together for peace and happiness throughout the world."

MAJ. GEN. Ismael Lapuz (ret.) was appointed by the President as Philippine ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Republic of China. His predecessor, Ambassador Pelayo F. Llamas, was recalled to the home office for reassignment. Immediately after signing the appointment, the President administered the oath of office to the new ambassador in the presence of a large gathering composed of close relatives and friends of the inductee at the Malacañang Reception Hall.

September 7—

THE PRESIDENT hailed the P242 million Pantabangan Dam, biggest infrastructure in the Philippines, not only as an outstanding engineering feat but as a symbol of the total effort through many directions to improve the Filipino quality of life. In a speech read for him by Secretary of Agrarian Reform Conrado Estrella at the Pantabangan Dam inauguration in Nueva Ecija, the President pointed to the mammoth dam as a milestone in the people's march toward growth and fulfillment by way of the "integrated approach." Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor Jr., formally opened the two dome-shaped 10-meter diameter intake gates. Present at the rites were members of the Cabinet who included, aside from Secretaries Melchor and Estrella, Secretary Cesar E. A. Virata of Finance, Secretary Vicente Paterno of Industry, Secretary of Information Francisco S. Tatad, and Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, Nueva Ecija officials headed by Gov. Eduardo L. Joson and Russel J. Cheetham of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

THE PRESIDENT broadened the scope of price control to include paper products used in the manufacture of socialized commodities. Affected by the President's action are paper products used either as raw materials or for packaging and labeling such as, but not limited to, newsprint, bond paper, paper board, cardboard, carton, corrugated board, paneling materials and paper strips. In Letter of Instructions No. 212 issued to the Price Control Council, the President notes that the prices of paper products have unreasonably risen, increasing in the process the prices of controlled commodities that utilize these paper items. The President stressed that if the prices of these paper products are allowed to remain uncontrolled, low-income consumers of socialized commodities will suffer an intolerable burden.

September 8—

FASTER and more effective agricultural services will be rendered to thousands of farmsteads throughout the country under a reorganized Department of Agriculture provided by Presidential Decree No. 547. This decree

integrates an army of some 6,500 farm extension workers from four of the department's five bureaus as well as from the Department of Agrarian Reform. In addition, it decentralizes the function of the Department of Agriculture among 11 department-wide regional directors. These regional directors shall integrate the implementation of the related field programs of the Bureaus of Soils, Plant Industry, Animal Industry and Agricultural Extension. The fieldmen belonging to each of these bureaus are now directly responsible to the regional directors, who in turn report directly to the department secretary. This pattern supports the regional development concept of the President as carried out through PRODs and PRAOs (presidential regional officers for development or action officers), as well as through the regional development councils organized by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA).

EXECUTIVE Secretary Alejandro Melchor Jr., by order of the President, issued Proclamation No. 1300 proclaiming September 19 as Law Day. It was stressed that the administration of justice is indispensable to a sound and vigorous democracy. It was also pointed out that it is but fitting that the important role played by lawyers in the administration of justice and in enhancing the rule of law be duly brought to the attention of the people. The Integrated Bar of the Philippines and lawyers' associations were called upon to mark the day with appropriate ceremonies.

September 9—

THE PRESIDENT has strengthened the organization of the Department of Public Highways by creating a Project Execution Service as the fourth of the major services in the department proper. The DPH reorganization is effected under Presidential Decree No. 548, amending PD 458 which created the DPH. The Project Execution Service of the DPH assumes certain functions discharged by the former Bureau of Public Highways before this bureau was elevated into a department. PD 548 states that in the main the Project Execution Service shall undertake the evaluation of the performance of the different offices and units under the department.

CITY Public works supervisors are placed directly under city engineers as provided for under Presidential Decree No. 549. Prior to the issuance of the Decree conflict arises as while charters of various cities provide for a Department of Engineering headed by the city engineer, Republic Act No. 5185, the Decentralization Law, **at** the same time, authorizes city governments to create the position of city public works supervisors, thus resulting in conflict and overlapping of functions. This situation is not conducive to the best interest of the public and the Decree orders that "the provision of Sec. 18 of RA 5185 to the contrary notwithstanding, the city public works supervisor shall be under the direct supervision of the city engineer."

SECRETARY of Information Francisco S. Tatad called for a massive educational campaign on cancer that goes down to the barrio level without the driving force of fear or pessimism. The message of hope and comfort, rather than of fear and panic, must be emphasized in this kind of information drive, he said. Addressing the First National Congress on Recent Advances in Oncology, the Secretary pointed out that there is more to the communication of information than merely knowing one's subject. Information, particularly cancer information, he said, must be conveyed at proper levels of understanding. Cancer education, he said, should aim at changing the climate of fear prevailing regarding the disease.

September 10—

THE PRESIDENT revealed that prior to the proclamation of Martial Law the country's military leadership made a solemn pledge of honor to uphold at all times the supremacy of civilian authority symbolized by a civilian President. He disclosed that the military officers whom he had consulted in all-night sessions at the Pangarap at Malacañang Park pledged that should the President be immobilized or should he fall, another civilian leader would assume the presidency and the military would submit and subordinate itself at all times in accordance with the mechanism to be embodied in a decree to be issued simultaneously with the proclamation of Martial Law. The President made this revelation at the Loyalty Day parade and review given in Camp Aguinaldo on the eve of his 57th birthday anniversary, as commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. He made it to debunk speculations here and abroad that the military would ultimately take over the government because it has become powerful, while the President is supposedly isolated, assertedly because he has no base with the masses except the military.

September 11—

RELEASE from political detention of former opposition Senator Jose W. Diokno, along with four other who had been taken into government custody upon the proclamation of Martial Law was ordered by the President. The four others are: former Secretary Eleuterio Adevos, Angel Baking, Antolin Oreta Jr., and Benjamin Guingona. All of the detainees signed a pledge of loyalty to the Constitution and the Republic.

THE PRESIDENT marked his 57th birth anniversary by working with the people in the barrios, releasing political detainees and meeting with his Cabinet on urgent problems including the need to cut power costs. Starting at daybreak, the President flew to three towns in Pampanga where he ate breakfast with fisherfolk, led the blasting of an illegal dike and helped in the replanting of a ricefield damaged by floods, and then surveyed the Bulacan-Nueva Ecija road construction before meeting with the Cabinet. Meeting with the Cabinet towards noon, he: 1) Decreed cuts on power for all consumers; 2) Raised the ceiling of housing loans from the Social Security System from P30,000 to P50,000 per applicant, effective immediately; 3) Created the Philippine Foreign Loan Guarantee Corporation to secure capital inflows into the country; and 4) Directed the Philippine National Bank to come to the rescue of the wood industry and; indirectly, some 4,000 to 5,000 laborers who had been displaced as a result of certain difficulties being met by the industry.

THE PRESIDENT enjoined all bus operators to field all new units as fast as they are finished by local assemblers in order to improve the transportation service. "I want nothing better on my birthday than to see all transportation companies provide an effective and efficient service to the people," the President told Justo de Dios, president of the Bus Operators Association of the Philippines. De Dios had come to Malacañang to show the first 15 new buses ready for duty under the financing arrangement made by the Development Bank of the Philippines and the Manila Transit Corporation with truck suppliers.

September 12—

LEONIDES S. Virata, chairman of the Development Bank of the Philippines, has been designated by the President as acting president of the billion-peso Philippine Foreign Loan Guarantee Corporation which was created under Presidential Decree No. 550. The loan guarantee firm was established to enable the Philippines to absorb greater capital inflows that it needs for economic development and growth, particularly in agriculture and industry and in social services. The new firm is a wholly-owned government entity and subject to provisions of existing laws and regulations applicable to government-owned corporations.

CELEBRATION of History Week is now bracketed within two of the most significant dates in Philippine history; namely, September 15 and September 21. Marked originally during the week-long period, September 17-23, it has been moved forward two days, under Proclamation No. 1304, to September 15-21. Justifying the change, Chairman Esteban de Ocampo of the National Historical Commission said: "These are the most appropriate days for History Week. September 15 was the date when the Malolos Congress, which drafted the Constitution of the First Philippine Republic, was convened in 1898. On the other hand, it was on September 21, 1972, that the President proclaimed Martial Law, which has brought new life and vigor to our democracy."

Source: Supreme Court Library

President's Week in Review: September 13-19, 1974

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

September 13—

THE PRESIDENT said the government seeks to expand trade relations with all countries of the world. The President reiterated this basic policy before the members of the Philippine Industry Study Mission who made a courtesy call before leaving for Moscow. Addressing the 12-man industry study group to Russia, the President expressed the hope that their mission would lend to increase trade between the Philippines and Soviet Russia. The study group, which was invited by the Soviet Russian Chamber of Commerce, will not only explore possibilities to increase trade but also observe production methods of possible value to the Philip pines. The mission is composed of representatives of various industries such as mining, textile, food, crude oil, and petrochemical headed by Filemon C. Rodriguez, president of the Philippine International Trading Corporation (PITC).

September 14—

THE PRESIDENT has ordered that foreign exchange expenditures for government travel abroad be cut down drastically. He directed that the pruning should be made in unnecessary travel to a variety of conferences which the Philippines can afford to miss. The President instructed department heads to prune down travel lists and to judiciously screen them. The President was informed by Central Bank Governor Gregorio S. Licaros that before Martial Law, government officials spent around \$50 million a year for travels abroad. He said that if travel budget could be brought down to \$25 million a year, that should be satisfactory.

THE PRESIDENT has declared September 17 as "General Makabulos Day" in the province of Tarlac. The day, which is not a special public holiday, marks the birth anniversary of Gen. Francisco S. Makabulos, a native son of Tarlac and well-known figure in the Philippine revolution. In declaring General Makabulos Day, the president said that it is desirable to fittingly commemorate his life and heroic deeds for the emulation of the people.

September 15—

SEPTEMBER 16 marks the start of "Design Consciousness Week," coincident with the anniversary of the Design Center of the Philippines, which was created on September 16, 1973. According to Proclamation No. 1259, Design Center Philippines has made possible a "breakthrough in organized and coordinated efforts toward product design improvement and quality control," and has been a key factor in enabling cottage industry products to occupy sixth position among the country's leading exports. Under the proclamation, the third week of September of every year has been declared "Design Consciousness Week" to underscore the need for continuous upgrading of product design, quality and adaptability to functional needs and aesthetic taste of the foreign market.

September 16—

THE PRESIDENT created an *ad hoc* committee to study the problems of the sugar industry and the to recommend a flexible policy for the industry. The President directed the committee, to be headed by Dr. Gerardo Sicat, director general of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), to meet at-once and to take up the problems of the industry. Sugar producers will submit these problems to the committee.

PRESIDENTIAL Medal of Merit was conferred by the President on Dr. Hugo C. Lane, director of the area office of the International Labor Organization (ILO) in Manila. The President presented the award in recognition of Dr. Lane's exemplary and dedicated service as local ILO director during which he effected close involvement and collaboration with the government in such fields as manpower development, promotion of employment, protection of labor, and the pursuit of peace through social justice. In accepting the award, Dr. Lane said that nothing could have been achieved without the strong and continued support of Philippine government officials who are now working in close cooperation with both labor and management.

September 17—

MUCH can be done to improve records management in the government, and this is a challenge that confronts not only the records officers but all other officials and employees who must act as guardians of vital documents that, pass their way. The President had a good word for Records officers for their concern over accelerating reforms in their immediate sphere of activity, in his speech that was read for him by Secretary Constancio E. Castañeda of General Services at the opening ceremonies of the First Conference-Seminar for Government Records Officers, held at the San Miguel Auditorium in Makati, Rizal. The President spoke highly of the role of records management as a key to efficiency and performance in development. Particularly in the government service, the, sound organization and care of public document is an inescapable obligation, he said.

SECRETARY of Information Francisco S. Tatad told a gathering of historians that writing contemporary history brings them right into the home grounds of development communication. The secretary spoke at the opening of the two-day seminar on "History and the New Society" under the auspices of the National Historical Commission at the National Library. The present trend, according to the secretary, is for more and more historians, like communicators, to be writing close to the current scene and thus help measure change or even bring it about. He cited for example how distinguished foreign scholars have assessed the impact of Martial Law in the Philippines. In a very real 'sense, the secretary said, the historian is concerned like the journalist and the communicator with present change. He is concerned with the impact of events upon the current scene and its course. He does not wait for the objectivity of time or distance, but involves himself in history as it unfolds from day to day.

A NUMBER of judges from the country's higher courts have been ordered transferred by the President. At the same time, the President boosted the educational system by naming highly qualified men to top posts in the Visayas State College of Agriculture. Ordered transferred were: 1) Court of First Instance Judge Eduardo Bengzon, from Dumaguete City to Batangas City; 2) Court of Agrarian Relations Judge Ramon Britanico from Ozamis City to the Court of First Instance of Bacolod City; 3) CFI Judge Bernardo Fernandez, from Olongapo City to Manila; and 4) CFI Judge Florelia Castro Bartolome from Malolos, Bulacan to Pasig, Rizal, but with station in Makati (Branch XV). Appointments to the Visayas State College of Agriculture were topped by Dr. Fernando A. Bernardo. He was named school president. Rufino D. Ayaso and Lauro A. Castillo were appointed members of the board of trustees, to serve for four years and three years, respectively.

September 18—

THE PRESIDENT has appropriated P16 million to subsidize the importation of metals needed in the manufacture of milk cans, and thus arrest the further increases in the prices of milk. The appropriation, provided for in Presidential Decree No. 554, covers the reimbursements of customs duties incurred by steel companies in the importation this fiscal year of steel slabs, hot-rolled coils and unwrought tin used in making tin plates for milk cans. In issuing PD 554, the President noted that world market prices of the vital metals are increasing, threatening to cause corresponding increases in the price of milk, to the detriment of the general public.

THE PRESIDENT said that the Philippines is happy to be able to bring together in friendly competition representatives of 42 nations with diverse ideologies, beliefs, persuasions and forms of government. Welcoming delegates to the 28th World Weightlifting Championships at the Rizal Memorial Stadium, the President said that this competition transcends the usual divisive lines that separate the human family. "I am indeed happy to note that here we see all the countries represented which, in other dimensions and in other fields may be bitter competitors," the President said. Headed by Goddfried Shodl, president of the International Weightlifting Federation, some 500 officials and athletes participating in the championships paid a courtesy call at Malacañang.

September 19—

STEPS are being taken to upgrade interisland shipping following orders issued by the President at a recent Cabinet meeting to accelerate the implementation of the government's interisland shipping program. At the meeting, the President said interisland shipping "has become one of the principal obstacles to our economic development," and directed that local shipping interests and related government agencies meet immediately to take up their problems.

The goals of the program are: 1) To increase production and productivity in the various islands and regions of the archipelago through effective sea linkage; 2) To provide for the economical, safe, adequate and efficient shipment of raw materials, products, commodities, and people; 3) To enhance the competitive position of Philippine flag vessels in the carriage of foreign trade; 4) To strengthen the balance of payments position by minimizing the outflow of foreign exchange and increasing dollar earnings; and 5) To generate new and more job opportunities.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: September 20-26, 1974

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

September 20—

THE PRESIDENT said that the official visit of the First Lady to the People's Republic of China will start the machinery for the eventual normalization of relations between that neighboring country and the Philippines. The President made this statement shortly after the Philippine Airlines jetliner bearing the First Lady and members of her party took off at the Manila International Airport. He said that the eight-day visit, which was being made upon the invitation of Premier Chou-en Lai, and the first made officially by a representative of the Philippines and the President, would pave the way for formal negotiations for the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and the People's Republic of China.

OFFICE of the President proclaimed the period from September 20 to September 27 as National Student's Week to commemorate the declaration of Martial Law (September 21, 1972), from which the youth continue to benefit directly. In Proclamation No. 1316, the youth are urged to continue helping build a stronger Philippines by constructive involvement in national affairs. They were exhorted to direct their energies and cultivate their creativity toward community development, in particular. They were also urged to press ahead with projects that will strengthen the bonds between students, youth, and government.

THE PRESIDENT proclaimed September 21, 1974, a special public holiday, to mark the second anniversary of the declaration of Martial Law. Martial Law, he said, has aroused among the people the will to build a New Society which would reflect their deepest aspirations, and in the brief span of two years, the people have made great strides toward attainment of that society and gained momentum toward specific economic and social goals. This unprecedented progress and the historic opportunity to discover and employ our people's competence to achieve it, he observed, are considered by the great majority of Filipinos a proper object of solemn remembrance and celebration.

September 21—

THE PRESIDENT issued Presidential Decree No. 557 on Thanksgiving Day, declaring all barrios in the country as barangays. The President, in his Report-to-the-Nation address, noted that certain degree of confusion had arisen concerning the distinction between the barrio and barangay. "As of today," he said, "this distinction ceases. I have here with me a decree which constitutes the barrio itself as the barangay. I now sign the decree in your presence and formally declare the fusion of the two units. The barrio is now the barangay." To strengthen the barangays as "dependable government units at the grassroots levels," the President also signed PD No. 558, which allocates a share in highway special fund to the barangays, and PD No. 559 declaring specific funding beginning Fiscal Year 1976-77.

DEPARTMENT of Finance reported that the specific tax collections for the months of July and August this year registered an unprecedented record about P300 million, or an increase of 123.36 percent over the collections of the same period last year. Internal Revenue Commissioner Misael P. Vera said the specific tax collections for the month of August alone amounted to P140 million, an increase of P66 million or 89.59 percent over the collection of the same period last year which amounted to only P73 million. The BIR commissioner predicted a P2-billion collection for this fiscal year considering the present trend of collection of specific taxes.

September 22—

THE PRESIDENT declared that it is policy of the New Society and the government of the Republic to encourage interest in all forms of sports as a means of improving the nation's human resources. The President made the announcement at the opening ceremonies for the 28th World Weightlifting Championships held at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum. "I am certain that many of our people are wondering what the President of the Philippines is

doing in this world weightlifting tournament at the coliseum,” the President said in his brief remarks. “I came here to demonstrate that it is our policy to support all forms of athletic activity.

September 23—

THE PRESIDENT announced a plan to shorten the medical course in the country. In a speech read for him by Health Secretary Clemente Gatmaitan at the opening of Medicine Week celebration, the President said the program will enable schools to produce more doctors who will serve in the rural areas instead of turning out “exportable” ones. He said the Department of Education and Culture is looking into the feasibility of making it possible for medical students to work in public medical services at any given year of their college course. At the same time, the President said the government will take immediate steps to provide wages for doctors.

CENTRAL Bank disclosed that the country registered a total balance of payment surplus of \$128 million during the first seven months of 1974 despite the deficits in July and August. The CB also reported that the country’s foreign exchange position last month improved considerably compared to the preceding month by cutting down the July deficit of \$45 million to only \$25 million last month. The international reserves of the country rose by \$12 million last month for a total of \$1,207 million during the first seven months of the current year.

September 24—

DEPARTMENT of Local Government and Community Development bared plans to give a “quick course” for barangay leaders on the Revised Barrio Charter particularly on the provision on funding of local projects. Secretary Jose Roño Jr. said there is a need for the seminar particularly for the barangay leaders who will, for the first time, start enjoying the privileges and assistance given to barrios under the Barrio Law. “As barangay captains, they should know what barrio captains and other village officials know specially with regard to the 10 percent share of the barangays, after the barrios have been converted into barangays. The barangay leaders should know how to administer and spend the barangay funds to implement local projects and activities,” Roño said. OFFICE of the President issued Proclamation No. 1317 declaring September 28 as Wenceslao Q. Vinzons Day in Camarines Norte. The day will be the 64th birth anniversary of an “outstanding hero and martyr of World War II and native son of Camarines Norte.” The proclamation says it is fitting to commemorate his birthday and recall to mind his exemplary love of country.

September 25—

THE PRESIDENT directed the Department of Foreign Affairs, the National Economic and Development Authority and other government agencies to implement the newly signed trade agreement between the Philippines and the People’s Republic of China. The agreement was secured during the First Lady’s current visit to China. The Chief Executive issued the directive after receiving a preliminary report on the First Lady’s visit from Gov. Benjamin Romualdez of Leyte. “Under the accord, China will sell high quality petroleum to the Philippines and buy Philippine products like coconut products, lumber, sugar, copper ore, and other metals. Upon instructions of the President, a Philippine economic mission will leave for Peking.

DEPARTMENT of Education and Culture will start implementing next school year shortened curricula for medicine, engineering and nursing if the drafts now being prepared by three task forces will be approved. The President has directed the National Board of Education, the country’s highest policy making body for education, to decide on the shortening of college courses as soon as possible. Education Secretary Juan Manuel said the department wanted to implement immediately the -proposed shorter programs for medicine, engineering and nursing. However, he said, implementation of the programs, if they would be approved would be gradual, similar to the adoption of the revised secondary program. For this purpose Secretary Manuel has directed Private Schools Director Julian Yballe to form a task force which would draft the shortened curricula. Director Yballe has been meeting with deans from various colleges in connection with the proposal to shorten some courses.

September 26—

THE PRESIDENT directed the National Economic and Development Authority to take charge of the full and immediate implementation of the trade agreement between the Philippines and the People's Republic of China which was concluded in the course of the current visit there of the First Lady. Presiding over a NEDA board meeting at Malacañang, the President was given a briefing on the world economic situation, particularly the recent trends and forecasts of movements in key economic indicators of countries with which the Philippines has trade relations.

OFFICE of the President has issued Proclamation No. 1309 declaring October 1974 as International Trade and United Nations Month, centering around United Nations Day (October 24). The month-long celebration suggests its increase importance in the thinking of the administration, which gave it only one week last year. The Chamber of International Trade, in cooperation with various government and private entities, has programmed for the month a series of activities revolving around the theme, "Expanding Frontiers for National Growth and World Understanding through Trade, Tourism, Industry and Exchange of Information." The presidential proclamation urges full support of the celebration by the government, in line with the policy of breaking down ideological barriers among nations by a broader exchange of culture, goods and ideas.

DEPARTMENT of Finance issued the rules and regulations for the immediate reduction of the franchise tax payable by power companies and the tariff duty on fuel oil used in the generation of electric power. Among the fuels are: 1) A franchise tax of two percent of the gross receipts of power generating firms will be collected in lieu of all taxes and assessments of whatever nature imposed by any national and local authority; 2) An *ad valorem* duty of 10 percent instead of 20 percent will be levied on petroleum oils as well as fuel oil to generate electric power by electric utilities; 3) All electric franchise holders were ordered" to reduce the rate of electricity charged to consumers. Such reduction will be effective on all consumers' billing for the month of September 1974.

Source: **Supreme Court Library**

President's Week in Review: September 27 - October 10, 1974

President's Week in Review: October 11-17, 1974

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

October 11—

THE PRESIDENT formally established the Career Executive Service of the Philippines by extending appointments to the first 52 graduates of the CES development program of the Development Academy of the Philippines, as career executive officers. At the same occasion he also presented certificates of graduation to a second batch of 57 graduates of the same executive course. The rites were held at Maharlika Hall of Malacañang. After presenting the certificates to the fresh graduates the President signed and distributed the appointments of the first graduates who completed their training last June 30. They were given their ranks, assignments and emoluments. Describing the formal establishment of the CES, the President recalled that as early as 1966 he had dreamed of a CES which is nonpartisan, development-oriented, professional, and committed to justice and well-being and liberty of the people. The President said that circumstances then prevailing and even shortly after did not make possible the establishment of such a CES and it has only been under the New Society, when the atmosphere has dissolved the obstacles to good government and opened up a world of new options to the people, that the CES could be set up. "Today, therefore," the President announced, "we shall install and establish the CES, which not only puts an end to partisanship in matters of appointments to the public service but demonstrates our fidelity to the ends and purposes of the New Society that we are building."

ESTABLISHMENT of cottage industries, the President said, as well as of small and medium-scale industries in the countryside, is one of the basic objectives of the New Society. The President officiated at the first annual Panday Pira Award held at Malacañang. The awards were given in recognition of significant contributions to the development and promotion of cottage industry. The awardees were: 1) Raoul E. Cawagas, in recognition of his outstanding achievements as manufacturer of scientific instruments for science studies and school laboratories; 2) Don Laureano A. Guevarra (posthumous), as "father of the Marikina shoe industry"; 3) Sister Bernarda Lapinid, O.N.D. as "catalyst and prime mover of a social-oriented cottage enterprise in Cotabato"; 4) Elisa Nieva Pununcialman, for her successes in the shellcraft industry, and 5) Segundina C. Vixcarra, for outstanding achievements in cottage production and entrepreneurship. The awards were created by the President under Proclamation No. 1188 issued on October 6, last year, to give due recognition to those who have rendered significant contributions to the cottage industry of the country, and to encourage them to continue with their productive endeavors.

LEADERS of industry uniformly hailed speedy Presidential action reducing the price of industrial fuel oil by P5.00 a barrel. They said this price reduction will be reflected to a greater or lesser degree in the reduction of their costs of production, depending upon how much oil they use in their operations. Any relief that the government can provide, they said, is most welcome, in the face of adverse factors like imported inflation. Industries determined by the National Economic and Development Authority as strategic and in which the special price of industrial fuel oil sold through Petrophil would result in maximum benefits are cement companies, textile plants, wood processing companies, pulp and paper plants, Philippine flag shipping and electric cooperatives.

October 12—

MEMBERS of Samahang Nasyon will be covered by life insurance to strengthen the base of social security. Cooperative Undersecretary Orlando Sacay said the newly organized Cooperative Insurance System of the Philippine (CISP) will undertake the insurance coverage. Formed last January, CISP's paid-up capital, including surplus, amounts to P3,544,523.75. A total of 8,477 Samahang Nasyon chapters representing some 400,000 farmers are members of the CLSP. The package insurance contract insures Samahang Nasyon members from a minimum of P2,000 to a maximum of P5,000. CISP waives medical examination of the insured members. The CISP premium is P8 a year per P1,000 coverage for group life insurance which is renewable. An additional premium of P1 per P1,000 coverage entitles a group to accident insurance.

DEPARTMENT of Local Government and Community Development and the Bureau of Agricultural Extension have agreed to integrate their programs and resources to promote and develop farmers' association, including the Samahang Nayon, throughout the country. Director Clemente Terso Jr. of the Bureau of Cooperatives Development said that while the DLGCD organizes Samahang Nayon chapters whose membership includes not only tenant-farmers but also owner-cultivators of farm, the BAE has been forming farmers association solely for farmers. In many barangays, he said, Samahang Nayon members are also members of farmers' associations. He said that since both associations' aim is geared toward the welfare of the farmers, the efforts of these agencies should be merged as one to insure better coordination and working relations and better approaches and techniques.

October 13—

THE PRESIDENT has appointed three of the five members of the new Philippine Racing Commission which he created sometime ago under Presidential Decree No. 420. The commission is composed of sportsmen closely acquainted with the requirements and problems of the sport. It is headed by Eduardo Cojuangco Jr., the former congressman from Tarlac. Two of its members are Luis Yulo, the Canlubang industrialist, and Federico B. Moreno, PVTA chairman. The President appointed them to serve terms of four years. Two other members remain to be named. The commission takes over from the Games and Amusements Board, headed by officer-in-charge Luis Tabuena, all supervisory and regulatory functions that have to do with horse-racing, except those concerned with betting.

October 14—

THE PRESIDENT said that the delivery of oil to the Philippine; from the People's Republic of China is a symbol of the desire of the Filipino people not only to establish an independent foreign policy led also to lay the foundation for the stability of the Philippine Republic. The President made this statement in brief remarks delivered at the Bataan Refinery in Limay, Bataan, where he and the First Lady formally took delivery of the initial shipment of 125,000 barrel of crude oil from the PROC. under the agreement brought home by the First Lady after her visit to the Chinese mainland. The First Lady, who spoke before the President, also said that the first shipment is symbol of the profound change which has taken place in this country's relations with China and the new spirit of friendship and cooperation which now enforce that relationship.

THE PRESIDENT deserved the Philippine experience in medical care as an emerging success in probing a major frontier of the social security question. He said we are still far from full realization of our national health goals, and the current world inflation has created a grave problem for the medicare program. "But we have taken significant steps . . . there is more agreement that development must be measured in terms of social benefits and social well-being," the President said. The President cited figures that more Filipinos are receiving better health care than ever before, in a speech read for him by Medicare Chairman Pacifico E. Marcos. The speech was read at the opening of the five-day Round Table Meeting on Organization of Medicare at the Social Security System Bldg., with 10 Asian and Oceania nations represented by 47 delegates and 167 observers. The figures cited by the President showed that this year, a total of over a million beneficiaries have enjoyed medicare benefits since such benefits became available on April 1, 1972. Of these beneficiaries, 377,987 are either SSS or GSIS members.

October 15—

THE PRESIDENT rallied the people behind the cooperative movement, which he described as the basic program of the New Society, and pledged all-out support to it. Addressing the 550 heads of cooperatives and Samahang Nayons who organized the Cooperative Insurance System of the Philippine (CISP), which was inaugurated at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang, the President warned that if the cooperative movement failed, the New Society may also fail. The President called on all farmers to unite behind the cooperative movement and enjoined the administrators and organizers to coordinate their efforts in order to keep the movement going forward.

THE PRESIDENT acted to assure safety of National Power Corporation teams in the field to enable that government firm to prosecute effectively its accelerated power development program. The NPC is in the midst of a massive power expansion program which is expected to provide additional hydropower potential of three million

kilowatt-hours and a geothermal potential of 1,330,000 kilowatt-hours by 1985, and save the country some P7.5 billion in oil importation over a 10-year period starting next year. In the LOI, provincial commanders, all provincial city and municipal officials, all police agencies, all barangay heads and others concerned are directed to help the NPC field units so that they can pursue their work without obstruction, interference and hindrance from local inhabitants, particularly in the matter of preliminary feasibility studies of potential power resources. The LOI focuses particular attention on two dam site projects Nos. 2 and 4 in Kalinga-Apayao, one of the mountain provinces, where preliminary studies, investigation and survey are being conducted along the Chico River. The LOI says that should the studies indicate that the project in the area is justified and has to be undertaken, the necessary steps should be taken to effect the proper relocation of the inhabitants to a suitable place.

October 16—

MEETING of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) as presided by the President for a periodic and continuing assessment of the nation's economy. It was agreed during the meeting that the rate of economic growth in the Philippines continue to be higher than it is in most countries, especially among those having political and more serious economic problems. The President directed that on-going high priority development projects shall be continued in order to sustain the nation's economic growth. He said that special emphasis shall be given to projects along the lines of food production, like irrigation, flood control, farm-to-market roads, and related projects. High priority shall likewise be placed on such other growth-stimulating infrastructures as highways, airports, waterworks, rural electrification, portworks, transportation and telecommunications.

October 17—

SECRETARY of Labor was directed by the President to immediately undertake and effect the organization of new offices created under the Labor Code (Presidential Decree No. 442), to ensure the implementation of the Code on the date of its effectivity, which is November 1, 1974. The secretary was also told to organize other administrative entities authorized under the Integrated Reorganization Plan which along with the new offices under the Code, are intended to carry out effectively the programs and activities arising from the implementation of the Code Budget estimates for the new offices, to be drawn from the authorized appropriations of the Department of Labor, and from the unexpended funds of the Court of Industrial Relations, which is abolished, shall be prepared for the approval of the Office of President. The Budget Commission is directed to give priority of action on the budget estimates submitted to it for consideration. Bureaus, offices, services and other entities in the Department of Labor whose functions and structures have been aligned in accordance with the Integrated Reorganization Plan and the Labor Code and whose budgets are already incorporated in the new Appropriations Act (Presidential Decree No. 503) are to be staffed immediately so that they could commence operations.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: October 18-30, 1974

President's Week in Review: October 31 - November 5, 1974

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

October 31—

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady visited a large garments factory as a model of the First Lady's principal project for the amelioration of resettled squatter families. The First Lady plans to set up labor-intensive industries in Carmona, Cavite, and in Sapang Palay, Bulacan to accommodate the unemployed among the squatter families who have been resettled there. The First Couple visited the Gelmart Industries Philippines, along the Manila South Superhighway. It employs over 1,000 workers, mostly women, in the manufacture of women's bra, knitted gloves and stockings, and infant wear which are exported to the United States and Europe.

THE PRESIDENT conferred on Msgr. Josef Koenen of the Caritas organization in Germany, the Order of Golden Heart in a ceremony held at Malacañang. As a representative of Caritas, Dr. Koenen was cited for having been the prime mover in enabling the Philippines to be a recipient of outstanding contributions from the institution, chiefly for relief to the distressed during calamities. Similarly, Dr. Koenen was cited for having been responsible for extensive social services rendered by Caritas to Filipino communities in Germany, particularly Filipino nurses employed in various establishments in that country. The Caritas are Catholic social welfare institutions organized in different countries of the world.

UNDERLINING the speed with which the government acts on worthy proposals for Philippine oil exploration, the President directed the Petroleum Board to approve its 12th service contract negotiated in less than a week's time between the government and a multinational exploration company. Trend Corporation of the United States, the latest foreign venture capital to join the search for oil in the Philippines, will be the operator under the service contract of a concession of more than 400,000 hectares in the Bicol offshore area. The President directed that negotiations for the service contract be expedited after Trend committed itself to drill at least one well each year from the second to the seventh years of the contract, in addition to the first test well.

November 1—

THE PRESIDENT, accompanied by the First Lady, flew through driving rain to conduct a personal survey of the extent of destruction wrought by the past four typhoons which successively hit Central and Northern Luzon recently. In the course of the survey, the President authorized the initial release of P7.5 million for the immediate repair and reconstruction of damaged public works installations, and for the prompt relief and rehabilitation of the stricken provinces. Provinces which will share in the P7.5 million outlay are Abra, Batanes, Benguet, Cagayan, Ifugao, Isabela, Kalinga-Apayao, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Mt. Province and Pangasinan.

November 2—

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady, in the course of their tour of Northern Luzon, to assess the damages caused by four successive typhoons, dropped in at Batac, Ilocos Norte, hometown of the President, for the traditional Filipino homecoming on All Saints' Day. There the First Couple conducted an inspection of the Don Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital and made a personal donation of an unspecified sum from the Marcos Foundation, for the improvement and expansion of the hospital's facilities. "This is my way of remembering our late father on All Saints' Day", the President said of the donation. The check was turned over to the hospital director, Dr. Eugenio Mendoza Jr., by Mrs. Josefa Edralin Marcos, the President's mother, who joined the First Couple in the traditional visit to the old hometown.

November 3—

THE PRESIDENT has issued Presidential Decree No. 571 extending amnesty to leaders, officers and members of the Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas (PKP), Hukbong Magpapalaya ng Bayan (HMB), Malayang Samahan ng Magsasaka (MASAKA), Malayang Pagkakaisa ng Kabataang Filipino (MPKP), at Samahang Pambansa ng Kababaihan sa Pilipinas (SPKP). Also included are those who may not be leaders or members of these groups but may have committed any illegal act to promote their political beliefs or to enhance acceptance of their ideas, views, and opinions about the social order, economic system or form of government in the Philippines. An earlier decree, PD 124, as amended, which expired on July 15, 1973, expressly excluded leaders and officers of these groups from amnesty benefits.

THE STAGE is set for a picture-project in urban renewal covering the Tondo foreshore area, with the chartering of the Tondo Foreshore Development Authority under Presidential Decree No. 570. With an initial outlay of P30 million, the Authority shall resolve the slum and squatter problems in the foreshore area, which “exemplifies a social in justice incompatible with the goals of the New Society,” according to the decree. The President named Brig. Gaudencio Tobias (ret.), director general of the Authority. Tobias helped lay the ground for the under taking with the planning group known as Tondo Foreshore Urban Renewal Project.

THE PRESIDENT has appointed 13 new municipal judges and has signed the transfer to other stations of six others. The new appointees are: Plaridel Mar Israel, Iguig, Cagayan; Francisco Collado, San Fernando, La Union, Branch II; Genaro V. Catalan, Los Baños, Laguna; Alejandro Arenas, Gasan, Marinduque; Jeremias A. Castro, Masbate, Masbate; Jose G. Montemayor, Sta. Rita, Pampanga; Abelardo G. Biala, Mapandan, Pangasinan; Leon M. Repatalo, Sual, Pangasinan; Salome A. Montoya, Makati, Rizal; Paterno Pondemira, Lavezares, Northern Samar; Pedro L. Felicen Jr., Maydolong, Eastern Samar; Adelardo G. Lee, Magallanes, Sorsogon; and Finestres G. Atienza, Kalintaan, Mindoro Occidental. Transferred were: Pioquinto U. Rodillon, from Sebaste, Antique, to Pandan, Antique; Gelacio Samulde, from Caluya, Antique, to Sebaste, Antique; Pedro Cabrereros, from Iguig, Cagayan, to Tuguegarao, Cagayan; Melanio C. Rojas Jr., from Cervantes, Ilocos Sur, to Suyu, Ilocos Sur; Celso P. Tayros, from San Juan, Negros Oriental, to Siaton, Negros Oriental; and Romeo S. Montefalco, from Diadi, Nueva Vizcaya to Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya.

November 4—

CURRENT world food crisis is a problem that must be solved not merely on a national level in developing countries but through close cooperation on a global scale, the President said at the opening of the 12-day “Conference on Plant Protection in Tropical and Sub-Tropical Areas” This will require the escalation of both technical and financial assistance to developing countries, from the wealthier and more technologically-advanced developed countries, the President added. Moreover he said, international organizations, like the United Nations, will need to assume an even more decisive and greater coordinating role in meeting the global problem. The resident’s speech was read for him by Agriculture Undersecretary Jose D. Drilon, Jr.

MALACANANG has granted extensions to the fund campaigns of the Consumers Union of the Philippines and the Community Chests and Councils in the Philippines, in separate proclamations. Under Proclamation No. 1345, the national membership, consumers’ education and educational fund drive of the CUP is extended to March 31, 1975. Its original fund drive was authorized from October 1, 1973 to October 31, 1974. Under Proclamation No. 1341, the period of the annual educational and fund campaign of the Community Chests and Councils in the Philippines has been extended to December 31, 1974. The money raised will go toward the support of the services of the various CC welfare agencies.

MALACANANG declared the period from November 2 to November 8 and the first week of every November thereafter as Packaging Development Week. In Proclamation No. 1343, it was noted that Philippine industry is continuously increasing its output of Philippine-made products both in volume and variety and that the consumers’ acceptance of “Made-in-the-Philippines” products will depend not only on the quality of the product but the appeal of its packaging presentation. It was pointed out that the marketability of products labeled “Made-in-the-Philippines,” both on the domestic and export market, can be improved by better packaging and the development of packaging components from local materials through the joint efforts of the Packaging Institute of the Philippines (PIP), representing the private sector, and the Design Center Philippines (DCP), representing the public sector.

November 5—

FRANK W. ZINGARO, president of the Philippine-American Chamber of Commerce of New York, with Mrs. Zingaro, paid a courtesy call on the President. Mr. Zingaro said he had known the President from a “long way back” and he wanted to renew old times. They were accompanied to Malacañang by local Caltex officials including W. C. Dunning, managing director; R. J. O’connor, and Francis Ablan, and their ladies. Later, the President also received officials of the Meiji Seika Kaisha Ltd. of Japan, reputedly the world’s fifth largest producer of antibiotics. Headed by T. Nakagawa, president, the MSKL officials are looking into the possibilities of entering into joint ventures with local firms for the establishment of a cocoa plantation and factory for the processing of chocolate products for export.

LAND reform has progressed to a point where all the big landowners, with lands as small as 24 hectares in area, have been dismantled, and the next step is due. The President made this known at a briefing that he gave the International Advisory Committee of the Chase Manhattan Bank on board the Presidential yacht *RPS Ang Pangulo*. The President explained that land reform is the keystone in the government program to extirpate the causes of the rebellion that had brought about the operation of the Constitutional self-defense mechanism called Martial Law. But while the big landholdings are being distributed to the actual tillers, no tenant will be allowed to acquire his piece of land unless he participated in a package service, the President explained. These included his membership in a cooperative, rural credit, infrastructure support, electric power, and small-scale industries.

THE PHILIPPINES plans the complete liquidation of its unemployment and underemployment problems “within this decade” by means of a bold program of human resources development and utilization. This was the President’s message delivered to the First Asian Regional Conference on Human Resources Training and Development at the Philippine Village Hotel. Some 250 delegates and 79 observers representing 20 Asian and Oceanian countries are attending the four-day conference. To fuel the employment program, the government has encouraged more investments—domestic and foreign. The volume of foreign investments alone has already increased in the first semester of the year by 109 percent over the previous year. Another measure is to reverse the country’s traditional export patterns by switching from land-based exports to labor-based products reflecting more value added, more labor added. Employment in public works will be doubled by applying more labor-intensive construction techniques in projects directly supporting food production, like irrigation and farm-to-market roads, with P500 million for each fiscal quarter appropriated. In addition, a nationwide network of public employment exchanges and a machinery for the export of excess manpower to job markets abroad has been created under the new Labor Code. The President’s speech was read for him by Secretary Blas F. Ople of the Department of Labor.

THE PRESIDENT discussed the need for technical and financial assistance for the development of local energy sources, particularly coal, with Udo Kollatz, deputy minister for economic cooperation of the Federal Republic of Germany. The German minister made a courtesy call on the President after a four-day stay here, during which he visited the national shrine on Mt. Samat, and the International Rice research Institute in Los Baños. The President expressed the hope Germany will send technical men in coal production so that coal can be tapped as another energy source along with hydroelectric and geothermal, to replace oil partially. The President also expressed hope the Philippines will receive a bigger share of the German tourist market, reputedly the biggest in the world, with the utilization of chartered flights which are economical and popular among the tourists.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: November 6-21, 1974

President's Week in Review: November 22-28, 1974

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

November 22—

THE PRESIDENT welcomes delegates from six nations participating at the 7th Annual Conference of Special Forces Commanders held at Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal. "I am indeed very happy to meet all of you who are in command of the special forces of your respective countries," the President told the delegates. "I know the valuable participation of special forces in military operations because we ourselves have been engaged in counter-insurgency, as well as in preparations for any event that may threaten our security," he added. The conference is held annually to promote mutual understanding, coordination and support among the special forces of allied nations, especially in this region. The last gathering was held in Indonesia. The United States is scheduled to host next year's meeting.

HONORE Bornacini, president of Minera Grisco of Mexico, reputedly one of the biggest silver mining companies in the world, was received by the President on a courtesy call. Mr. Bornacini heads a group of Mexican businessmen looking for investment opportunities in joint venture with local mining and development firms. In receiving him, the President pointed out that as a sister country for many centuries back, the Philippines welcomes the participation of Mexico in its economic development.

THE PRESIDENT received Sir Robert Clark, chairman of the King Ranch of Australia, who arrived in the Philippines to look into the operations of the King Ranch in Biliran, Southern Leyte, and another cattle ranch in Busuanga, Palawan, which will be established before the end of the year. The cattle king informed the President that some 3,000 breeding cattle and equipment are ready for shipment to Busuanga. The promotion of cattle-raising industry is one of the primary projects of the President, because it will not only improve the meat diet of the people, but may prove to be a major dollar-earning export industry, considering the vast pasture lands available and the favorable climate for raising cattle.

November 23—

OFFICIAL Philippines trade and economic mission, which returned recently from its initial visit to Peking, has entered into export agreements covering coconut oil, logs and plywood, copper concentrates, and sugar. The Philippines will export the following to the People's Republic of China: a) 5,000 to 10,000 long tons of crude coconut oil within January to June 1975, in lots of not less than 3,000 long tons each per shipment; b) 30,000 to 50,000 cubic meters of logs, to be delivered between January and March 1975; c) 2,000 cubic meters of lauan plywood; d) 4,000 metric tons of copper concentrates from Philex Mining Corporation and Atlas Consolidated; and e) 10,000 to 30,000 metric tons of raw sugar. China and the Philippines shall still have to conduct further negotiations on specifications, like prices, terms of payment, and other conditions relative to the agreements, and conclude relevant contracts. In all the agreements, Felimon C. Rodriguez, president of the Philippine International Trading Corporation, signed for the Philippines.

NOVEMBER 24—

THE PHILIPPINES has formalized the machinery for sugar trading, giving the government a more direct and active role. The objective is to protect the sugar industry and the national economy as a whole from uncertain fluctuations in the price of sugar rising from current worldwide shortage and increasingly speculative interest in the trade. The President issued Presidential Decree No. 579 under which the Philippine Exchange Company, Inc, a wholly-owned Philippine National Bank subsidiary, may be authorized by the President to purchase sugar allocated for export to the US and world markets in a quantity and at a price to be fixed in accordance with regulations that shall be established by the Sugar Quota Administration, the PNB, and the Department of Trade, with the approval of the President. The proceeds of the sugar trading operations shall be used to pay the PEC loans from PNB or the loans obtained from foreign creditors. The PEC shall charge a commission of 2 1/2 percent on gross sales, of which one percent shall cover overhead expenses, and 1 1/2 percent shall be set aside to fund the PNB "Sugar Development Program."

DUPAX del Sur, a new town in Nueva Vizcaya, has come into being with the issuance of Presidential Decree No. 586. The old town of Dupax becomes Dupax del Norte. Dupax del Sur's seat of government is the old poblacion of Dupax. Malasin is the seat of the municipal government of Dupax del Norte. This decree effects Republic Act 6372 which created the new town out of the existing town of Dupax in 1971. A plebiscite which was held on November 8, 1971 in conjunction with the local elections that year, as well as remarks submitted during the July 1973 referendum, overwhelmingly approved the separation of barrios and sitios to form the new municipality. The new town consists of the barrios of Mangayang, I-Iyo or Palabutan, Banila, Carrolotan, Ganao, Abaca or Kawala, Lukidnon. Abuyo and Lublub, and the sitios of Santa Maria, Tanibong, Gabut, Cayno, Narra, Aruat, Cabnawan, Dahilang, Ginir, Sequep, Padalis, Pass, Bato, Sinao, and Binai.

November 25—

THE PRESIDENT inducted into office former Judge Venicio Escolin of the Court of First Instance of Iloilo as associate justice of the Court of Appeals. With the recall to active duty and appointment as Judge Advocate General of the Armed Forces of former Associate Justice Guillermo V. Santos, the 36-man appellate court had only 27 members. Justice Escolin's appointment leaves eight more vacancies in the appellate court. Following the induction, which was held at Malacañang in the presence of members of the Cabinet and of the Court of Appeals, as well as close relatives and friends of the inductee, the President announced his intention to appoint more in order to organize at least one new division in the appellate court to speed up the disposition of cases.

November 26—

THE PRESIDENT moved to shield rice farmers from increasing production costs by ordering effective immediately; 1) a 33 percent increase in the *Masagana 99* loan ceiling from the present P1.200 per hectare to P1,600 per hectare, to enable them to absorb higher costs of fertilizers farm chemicals, and the like; and simultaneously. 2) An increase in the palay floor price up to P50 per cavan (from the old P45 level) to further prop up the selling price of their production. The Chief Executive ordered the Central Bank, the Philippine National Bank and the Agricultural Credit Administration to raise the rice loan ceiling by P400 per hectare, and the National Grains Authority (NGA) to raise the palay floor price to P50 per 50-kilo cavan for the harvest beginning with Phase IV (November 1974 to April 1975) of the *Masagana 99* program. Both increases in the loan ceiling and the palay support price are aimed at minimizing the effects of imported inflation on the government's efforts to achieve self-sufficiency.

November 27—

THE PRESIDENT allayed the fears expressed by residents of the Tondo foreshore land that they will be resettled far from their places of work under the government development program. The President told the eight-man Citizens' Committee, representing about 30,000 families living in the Tondo foreshore land and Isla Puting Bato, who called at Malacañang, that only 10,000 families can be accommodated in the foreshore land under the government development program. However, the President emphasized, nobody will be resettled outside Tondo. All the rest will be resettled in Dagat-Dagatan, which is now being reclaimed by the government at an expense of P103 million. The President assured the Tondo foreshore land residents that the government is prepared to enlarge the Dagat-Dagatan reclamation project to accommodate everybody.

THE PRESIDENT has moved to curb rampant gold thievery in the mines by providing stern measures which he set forth in Presidential Decree No. 581. The decree not only would make conviction for the crime simpler but would impose stiffer penalties. And it also punishes those who knowingly buy stolen gold. The decree is aimed in particular at "highgrading," the term by which the theft of gold ores or rocks is known. It says highgrading damages not only the mining operator but also the government. The government would lose foreign exchange and the taxes that the stolen gold could have generated. It denounces high-grading for promoting blackmarketing and the smuggling of the precious metal abroad.

NEWLY created Philippine Council for Print Media will be given custody of pertinent records of the abolished Media Advisory Council and the Bureau of Standards for Mass Media. A request to this effect from Hans M. Menzi,

chairman of the council, has been approved by the President. Menzi said the Philippine Council for Print Media will need these files as proper basis for discharging its mandated functions under Presidential Decree No. 576.

DR. SUBROTO, Indonesian minister of labor, transmigration and co operatives, was received by the President. Dr. Subroto informed the President that his visit was in accordance with the agreement reached in the last Menado summit in which the President and President Suharto agreed to initiate a conference among the labor ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Secretary Blas F. Ople of Labor, who accompanied Dr. and Mrs. Subroto to Malacañang, said he and Dr. Subroto are ironing out details in order to give employers and workers a seat in the ASEAN table through their labor ministers. The President also endorsed the various programs being ironed out by the two labor officials, including: 1) Possibility of cooperation in manpower training for the timber industry in Kalimantan; 2) Accommodation of two or three merchant marine trainees from Indonesia, and 20 Indonesian trainees for on-the-job training in the mine, and 3) The organization of the Samahang Filipino-Indonesia, both in the Philippines and Indonesia.

November 28—

THE PRESIDENT announced a nationwide hospital upgrading program which will cost the government about P240 million in total capital outlay alone. The President announced the plan before some 800 delegates and guests of the Silver Jubilee and 25th Annual National Convention of the Philippines Hospital Association at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang. In response to the requests made by the PHA which were previously discussed between the President and the PHA head, the President: 1) Announced that since November 1 when he visited the Northern Luzon Regional Hospital, he has already lifted the ban on the purchase of hospital equipment for government hospitals. 2) Directed the Medical Care Commission to submit plans before the end of the year for the universal coverage by the Medicare of the entire population by next year. 3) Directed the Medical Care Commission to consult the various sectors involved, particularly the PHA, in order to decide whether to increase the P12 maximum expenditure per bed per day to P16.80, and in order to finance the increase, to raise the personal contribution of all GSIS and SSS members from P3.75 to P5.00. 4) Directed the Development Bank of the Philippines to study the possibility of reducing the 12 per cent interest on hospital loans, and to explain why only P12 million of the P300 million earmarked for hospital loans upon instruction of the President was availed of. 5) Directed Secretary Clemente S. Gatmaitan of Health to organize a Board of Hospital Investments to study the proper places for hospital construction or expansion, the requirements for hospitals of every region, and the equipment and incentives required for such hospitals. 6) Directed that once created, the BOHI sit down with the National Economic and Development Authority to study the projection of costs for hospitals which, according to PHA, have increased substantially, resulting in a loss of P7, 000 per bed a year. 7) Directed Chairman Leonides S. Virata of the Development Bank of the Philippines to obtain concessional loans for hospitals from abroad, at the lowest rates and longest period of amortization possible.

THE PRESIDENT directed that all privately owned idle lands be identified and made available for full utilization in the increased food production program of the government. The President issued the directive during his conference with Presidential Regional Action Officers (PRAO), who reported a number of private idle lands in the country, including some 70,000 hectares in the Cagayan Valley and about 250,000 hectares in Mindanao. He ordered the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Agrarian Reform to get together and pinpoint these idle lands and also to determine what crops are suitable for planting in these areas. According to the PRAOs, these areas are being held by their owners primarily for speculation.

THE PRESIDENT was informed that the publishers have organized themselves into the Philippine Council for Print Media, the body that will henceforth regulate all Philippine print media. The Council for Print Media, according to Brig. Gen. Hans M. Menzi, its chairman, will cover all newspapers, periodicals, magazines, journals, publications and all advertising in the print media. In accordance with Presidential Decree No. 576, the Council for Print Media is preparing the rules under which the council will carry out the duties. The officers of the Philippine Council for Print Media are: Brig. Gen. Hans M. Menzi, chairman Raul Locsin, vice chairman: Rosario Olivares, director; Juan Perez director: Kerima P. Tuvera, director. The Council for Print Media is distinct from the Council for Broadcast Media, which is also authorized under PD 576 to supervise the operations of radio and television stations.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: November 29 - December 12, 1974

President's Week in Review: December 13-26, 1974

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

December 13—

THE PRESIDENT has separated the Philippine Coast Guard from the Philippine Navy and placed it directly under the secretary of national defense, at the same time enlarging its functions and consolidating the fragmented ones. Presidential Decree No. 601, which amends the Coast Guard Law (Republic Act 5173), stresses, among other things, the involvement of the PCG in the improvement of sea safety measures, marine pollution control, maritime industry development, merchant marine manpower development, and law enforcement at sea.

NUCLEAR science development in this country was given a big boost by the President when he issued a decree transferring the Philippine Atomic Energy Commission to his office and ordered the release of P2 million for the Commission's special projects. The President signed the decree transferring the PAEC from the National Science Development Board to the Office of the President at the closing ceremonies of the second observance of Atomic Energy Week at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang. At the same time, he: 1) Pledged "total and complete support" for all projects of the PAEC, and 2) Directed Gen. Florencio Medina, PAEC chairman, and other commissioners to notify him immediately any time a problem regarding their projects arises.

THE PRESIDENT announced the designation in an acting capacity of three provincial treasurers and five city treasurers, who are currently officer-in-charge of their respective offices. Designated by the President were: 1) Richard Baticados as provincial treasurer of Capiz; 2) Henry C. Rañola as provincial treasurer of Romblon; 3) Doroteo V. Macalalad as provincial treasurer of Southern Leyte; 4) Wilfredo Cabili as city treasurer of Butuan; 5) Juanito G. Caliwaliagan as city treasurer of Canlaon; 6) Lucio M. Bagnol as city treasurer of Gingoog; 7) Hugo B. Daguman as city treasurer of Ozamiz, and 8) Santos Satorre as city treasurer of Tacloban.

THE PRESIDENT received top executives of Peñarroya of France, one of the world's largest mining investors, who offered to help open up the French market for Philippine copper. Headed by Jean Ybes Eichenberger, board vice chairman and president-director general of Compagnie de Mokta, a sister firm, the group explained that France imports some 400,000 tons of copper metal a year and they proposed that the Philippines share that market. The French executives said that they already have executed a contract with Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corporation, which will supply them 24,000 metric tons of refined copper a year as soon as Atlas's proposed copper smelter goes on stream. Peñarroya has a network of 20 trading posts around the world. It has established one in Manila. The group was accompanied by former Agriculture Secretary Benjamin Gozon and French Ambassador Charles Guy de LeStrange.

December 14—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the release of an additional 454 persons arrested and detained after the proclamation of Martial Law. This brings to 1,076 the total number of released detainees since the President announced the government policy to "progressively relax" the rigid exercise of authority and restore national unity, in a nationwide radio-TV address last December 11.

THE PRESIDENT has approved the staffing pattern for 12 regional offices of the Bureau of Posts, paving the way for a more efficient and effective nationwide postal service. Approved were the appointments at large of 12 regional directors and 13 assistant regional directors, aside from opening more than 1,900 new positions for postal employees, including more than 1,000 mail-carriers, 87 postmasters, scores of drivers, all few lawyer's to man the legal staffs of the various regions, and others. Most of the regional directors and assistant regional directors (two of the latter for Region 4), already carry appointments in acting capacity. They are as follows: Regional directors: Servillano Abad, Beatriz Alaan, Eutropio Val. Apalisok, Genaro Basilio, Simplicio Dizon, Gerardo Escalada, Cesar Juan, Laureano Lapitan, Jose Navarro, Manuel Romero, Fabian Santos, and Angeles Zaragoza, Assistant Regional Directors: Hermelo Battad, Rodolfo Bisco, Lamberto Corro, Hortencio Cos, Augusto Donado, Bienvenido Ferrarico, Alfredo

Fulache, Jaime Jacala, Reynalclo de Jesus, Felipe Lazaro, Bienvenido Leetura, Ponciano Osero, and Eliseo Velasquez.

December 15—

PHILIPPINE National Railways can now go full steam ahead on its half-billion-peso modernization program as the President cleared the way for speedy procurement of equipment and supplies in the face of rapidly rising costs. Under recently issued Executive Order No. 438, all bids and negotiated contract proposals for supplies worth P50,000 to P100,000 are now delegated to the PNR board for approval, and those below P50,000 to the PNR general manager, in line with government policy to grant greater autonomy to corporate governing bodies. The new supplies procurement policy applies to the PNR rehabilitation, selective modernization and mass rail transit projects, as well as to others that may follow.

WORLD Hard Fibers Conference slated early next year in Manila will spotlight the Philippines as a major producer of abaca and provide added boost to the emerging program to rehabilitate the industry. Recognizing its importance, the President issued Administrative Order No. 362 naming Agriculture Undersecretary Jose D. Drilon Jr. and 12 others to a committee that will prepare the ground for the confab. The conference, scheduled on January 22 to 25, is the 18th Session of the Food and Agriculture Organisation's Inter-Governmental Group on Hard Fibers. It will be the first FAO meet to be held in Asia and only the second outside Rome, FAO's headquarters.

December 16—

THE PRESIDENT announced the start of the government's program to upgrade the capability of the Philippine Navy with the acquisition of modern ships. The President made the announcement during the trial run in Manila Bay of the *RPS Guimaras*, a high-speed ship built for relief and rescue operations during calamities. Expressing satisfaction over the ship's performance, the President said more ships of the same type and capability but varying in length and size, will be procured by the government for the navy. The *RPS Guimaras*, which has an overall length of 145 feet, was procured through reparations from Japan.

THE PRESIDENT has issued appointments in acting capacity to 16 chairmen and members of various boards of examiners. Of these, nine are reappointees and seven are newcomers whose records have been carefully looked into and found to be outstanding in their respective professions. The complete list follows: Dr. Remedios Abella Lim, reappointed chairman, of the Board of Chemistry; Capt. Jose P. Castillo, reappointed chairman of the Board of Deck Officers; and Bernardo J. Gallego, reappointed chairman of the Board for Engine Officers; Crispin, T. Ubaldo, reappointed member of the Board of Civil Engineering; Capt. Juanito R. Sarita, new member of the Board for Deck Officers; Dr. Federico L. Vila, new member of the Board of Dentistry; Luis S. Tomacruz, new member of the Board of Electrical Engineering; Manuel G. Anonuevo, reappointed member of the Board of Geodetic Engineering; Dr. Rosa Blanca S. Paredes, new member of the Board of Optometry, vice Antonio Joson Jr.; Uldarico Encenzo, reappointed member of the Board of Sanitary Engineering; Domiciano Natividad, reappointed member of the Board of Accountancy; Mrs. Marcela R. Ordonez, new member of the Board of Nursing, vice Laura Madrazo; Mrs. Isabel T. Faberes, new member of the Board of Customs Brokers; Jose P. Sto. Domingo, reappointed member of the Board of Sugar Technology; Dr. Geronimo de la Cerna, reappointed member of the Board of Veterinary Medicine; and Diosdado Monzon, new member of the Board of Master Plumbers, vice Arcio Casing.

December 17—

THE PRESIDENT has ordered the release of 111,845,944 for the payment of the remaining 25 percent of gratuities of some 3,173 government retirees, in time for the Christmas holidays. The President gave explicit orders to rush payment so that the government retirees and their families will be able to celebrate Christmas and the New Year with traditional joy and happiness. The beneficiaries include employees separated from Congress and the Office of the Vice President, retirees under Republic Act Nos. 660, 1616, and 910, separated employees of the 1971 Constitutional Convention, employees separated under Letters of Instructions Nos. 11, 12, 14 and 14-A, and retired and separated officers and enlisted men of the armed forces.

AMBASSADOR Peter G. F. Henderson of Australia was received by the President. The envoy called to say goodbye preparatory to his return to Canberra to take charge of the administrative affairs of the home office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ambassador Henderson, who served as envoy to the Philippines for 18 months, said he was very much impressed by the progress of the country, and the frequent visits of foreign heads of state and other dignitaries to the country in the last two years.

THE PRESIDENT has created a steering committee consisting largely of Cabinet members to pave the way for the successful hosting of the prestigious International Monetary Fund-International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank) annual conference in Manila on October 4 to 8, 1976. Chairman of the committee created under Administrative Order No. 364 is Secretary of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata, with Central Bank Governor Gregorio S. Licaros as vice chairman. The committee will take charge of preparations and arrangements for the projected meet of the IMF-IBRD board of governors, which has accepted the Philippine invitation to hold the meeting here. The IMF-IBRD conference, which is of ministerial level, will be participated in by finance ministers and governors of central banks of 126 nations, as well as by some 4,000 delegates including international bankers.

December 17—

THE PRESIDENT directed the Office of the Executive Secretary to conduct hearings on Presidential Decree No. 601 which made the Philippine Coast Guard into a major service command. The directive was issued after several offices outside the military establishment sought clarification of certain provisions of the decree affecting their respective functions. In issuing the directive, the President in effect suspended the effectivity of the decree until such time as the issues are resolved.

December 19—

THE PRESIDENT presented awards to the Ten Most Outstanding Young Men for 1974, who were chosen by the Philippine Jaycees for excellence in their respective lines of endeavor. Recipients of the 1974 TOYM awards during the ceremonies held at the Maharlika Hall of Malacanang were: Ramon Barba, agriculture; Jose Mari Chan, arts; Jose de Venecia Jr., business; Rev. Leonardo Z. Legazpi, education; Dr. Arcadio Alcid Tandez Jr., humanitarian services; Rodolfo D. Robles, law; Tyrone Reyes, medicine; Gov. Simeon Datumanong of Maguindanao, public administration; Filemon N. Uriarte Jr., science; and Eugene Torre, sports. A special award was presented by the Philippine Jaycees through Chief Justice Querube C. Makalintal of the Supreme Court, to the President for his exemplary accomplishments during his student days and in Congress, as well as his exploits during World War II where he emerged as the most decorated Filipino soldier.

INTEGRATION of benefits at present separately administered by the Bureau of Workmen's Compensation, the Social Security System, the Government Service Insurance System, and the Philippine Medical Care Commission has been suspended by the President for the period from November 1, 1974, when the Labor Code went into effect, to January 1, 1975. The suspension effected under Presidential Decree No. 608, would enable the completion of actuarial and financial studies leading to the establishment of a sound foundation for the State Insurance Fund that will be governed by an Employment Compensation Commission created in the Labor Code. The said presidential decree suspends effectivity of Titles II and III, Book IV, of the Labor Code. These titles are respectively entitled "Employee Compensation and State Insurance Fund" and "Medicare."

MAYOR, vice mayor, and six councilors of the new municipality of Dupax del Sur, Nueva Vizcaya, have been appointed by the President. They are Mayor William Giron, Vice Mayor Mata L. Reyes, and Councilors Liberate Pudiquet, Remigio Duza, Menas Inocian, Rodrigo Modi, Herminio Vicente, and Rodolfo Caanawan. The new town came into being last November 20, 1974 with the issuance of Presidential Decree No. 586, which put into effect Republic Act 6372. The law, enacted in 1971, created the new town out of the existing town of Dupax.

THE PRESIDENT administered the oath of allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines to 12 foreign nationals belonging to the Society of Jesus who have spent many years living and working among the people of the country. Those who took their oaths of allegiance before the President were: 1) Msgr. Albert van Overberke, Belgian, bishop-prelate of Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya, who was granted Philippine citizenship under Presidential Decree No. 587,

last November 22; 2) Fr. Juan Andechega, 56, Spanish, parish priest of the Mary the Queen Church, San Juan, Rizal; 3) Fr. Maximo Barbero, 42, Spaniard, head of the Religious Department, Xavier School, San Juan, Rizal; 4) Fr. Jose Calle, 52, Spaniard, Loyola Heights, Quezon City; 5) Fr. Jose Caycedo, 56, Columbian, superior of Xavier School, San Juan, Rizal; 6) Fr. David Clifford, 63, American, teacher at the Xavier School, San Juan, Rizal; 7) Fr. Joseph Kaufmann, 59, Hungarian, student counselor at Xavier School, San Juan, Rizal; 8) Fr. Louis Papilla, 61, Hungarian, assistant principal, Xavier School, San Juan, Rizal; 9) Fr. Francis Parisi, 56, Italian director of the Guidance Center, Regina Bldg., Escolta, Manila; 10) Fr. Robert Ricard, 50, Canadian, principal, Santa Maria Catholic School, General Blanco, Iloilo; 11) Fr. Pierre Tritz, 60, French, professor at the University of the East, Far Eastern University and Xavier School; and 12) Fr. Ismael Zuloaga, 46, Spanish, director of the Xavier School, San Juan, Rizal.

THE PRESIDENT received Manette Manalang-Villamor, widow of the late Col. Jesus Villamor, who paid her respects before returning to Washington, after a three-week stay in the Philippines. The widow of the Filipino hero who holds the Philippine Medal of Valor and the Distinguished Conduct Star, as well as the Distinguished Service Cross of the United States, is trying to put together a book which was started by her late husband regarding the exploits of the Filipino underground during World War II.

MALACANANG has issued a proclamation authorizing the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association to conduct a fund drive from December 15, 1974 to February 28, 1975. The organization needs financial support for the Philippine participation in the Second Asian Track and Field Championships to be held in Seoul, Korea, in June 1975.

December 20—

THE PRESIDENT presided over a three-hour board meeting of the National Economic and Development Authority for a year-end review of the overall economic situation and discussions on prospects for the coming year. It was agreed at the meeting that the growth momentum of the economy has been maintained throughout the year, with a balance of payments surplus at the year's end. It was also agreed that the fiscal position is strong due primarily to compensatory measures adopted by the government to carry on with its major infrastructure projects considered vital to development. In the course of the meeting, the President ordered the NEDA board to study the problems of the copper industry as they relate to the entire mining industry, and to recommend solutions to them. At the end of the meeting, the President administered the oath to Filologo Pante Jr. as NEDA assistant director general.

THE PRESIDENT sought to stabilize the prices of paper products for school use and for packaging purposes by directing Trade Secretary Troadio T. Quiazon Jr., who is also chairman of the Price Control Council (PCC), to instruct all manufacturers of paper and paperboard to sell certain paper products directly to manufacturers of socialized or controlled commodities at prices currently charged to commission agents or intermediary distributors. The order was issued, pending determination of maximum price ceilings for these products as directed in LOI 212 issued last September 5, in view of numerous complaints that the prices of paper and paper board used as raw materials for writing pads and notebooks or for packaging or in making socialized or controlled commodities have unreasonably risen. This rise in prices, it was found out, was brought about by the trading of these commodities through commission agents and other intermediary distributors who have to make their commissions.

INFORMATION Secretary Francisco S. Tatad hailed the inter-agency project on fish protein concentrate (FPC) as "one concrete project with a concrete objective" behind which he pledged the full support of the Department of Public Information. Speaking during the signing of the memorandum of agreement binding the DPI, the University of the Philippines and the Food and Nutrition Research Center of the National Science Development Board in a joint project to produce FPC on a pilot scale, Secretary Tatad said that FPC could be the long-awaited answer to the country's quest for cheap food that will bridge the protein-calorie gap. He expressed optimism that with the UP and NSDB fully behind the project, it is assured of successful implementation.

THE PRESIDENT said that appointment and advancement in the Career Executive Service are based solely on merit, capability, talent, dedication and loyalty to the public service. At the same time, the President said the retraining of key officials in development management, including the members of the Cabinet, will continue to upgrade the efficiency of the public service. The Chief Executive made this announcement during the

commencement exercises of the third session of the Career Executive Service Development Program at the Development Academy of the Philippines in Tagaytay. To dramatize his determination to keep politics and other personal considerations out of appointments, the President appointed on the spot the graduates of the third session of the CESDP as CES officers. The President also appointed and swore into office Nicanor Fuentes, the most outstanding graduate of the first session of the CESDP, as deputy director-general of the National Economic and Development Authority, and Dr. Jesus Azurin, also an outstanding graduate of the second session, as undersecretary of health.

PHILIPPINE Charity Sweepstakes Office was authorized by the President through Presidential Decree No. 610, to hold annually a sweepstakes draw exclusively for the benefit of the Philippine Veterans Assistance Commission (PVAC) to support and maintain veterans assistance projects. The special draw shall be held on the Sunday closest to the Fall of Corregidor which falls on May 6 every year. The fund campaign is in consonance with the provision in Section 3 of PD 244 which authorizes the PVAC to actively solicit, campaign for and receive contributions, donations and other valuable properties or money from private persons and government agencies or institutions. The PVAC is charged with establishing, maintaining and making available to Filipino veterans and ex-servicemen all services needed to provide for employment, medical care, education, and other related services.

MALACANANG authorized the Zarzuela Foundation of the Philippines Inc. to conduct a nationwide fund campaign from January 1 to December 31, 1975 through Proclamation No. 1356. The Foundation is a cultural organization committed to the revival, propagation and presentation of the Filipino zarzuela, which was one of the most popular forms of entertainment among Filipinos from the Spanish period to 1935. The President, in the proclamation signed by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor Jr., called upon all citizens and residents, as well as cultural organizations of the country, to assist in the foundation's laudable objectives by giving generously and to actively support the campaign.

December 21—

THE PRESIDENT and the Cabinet met for a year-end assessment of the economy and agreed that despite threats of recession abroad, the Philippines has performed well and can look forward to a vigorous new year. At the said-meeting, both the President and the Cabinet agreed that food production, low-cost housing, agriculture and infrastructure buildup should continue to have high priorities in 1975.

THE PRESIDENT called on the military to prepare for their role in peacetime under the concept of a Citizen Army, as conditions in the country are fast returning to normalcy. At the same time, the President expressed the latitude of the people to the Armed Forces of the Philippines as it celebrated its 39th anniversary at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City. Under the Citizen Army concept, which is provided for in the Constitution, the President pointed out that the armed forces is a citizen army, an army of the people. The President, therefore, called on the military and defense establishment to gradually implement a program to gain the direct support of the people as an organization. The President urged the armed forces to maintain its level of achievement during the past two years, which, he said, were high watermarks not only in the history of the country out of the organization.

December 22—

THE PRESIDENT paved the way for the speedy rehabilitation of destroyed or damaged fish pens in Laguna Lake by directing the grant of temporary license for a period of three years to existing fish pen operators who have heretofore been operating without license from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. The grant of the license would enable the fish pen operators to avail themselves of financial assistance as provided for by Letter of Instructions No. 235, from the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) or any government financial institution, as well as to restructure their fish pens as to make them conform with rules and regulations governing the size and location of fish pens. No temporary license will be issued however if the fish pen or any portion of it is inside a sea lane or a fish sanctuary. The issuance of the temporary license is subject to the condition that the fish pens are restructured not later than December 31, 1977.

SEMI-autonomous organization has been created by the President for the maintenance of an effective research program attuned to the needs of forest management, production and protection. Presidential Decree No. 607 sets up a Forest Research Institute (FORI) in the Department of Natural Resources that will integrate and conduct forest production and harvesting researches all over the country in line with the national forestry research program developed by the Philippine Council for Agricultural Research (PCAR). The policy-oriented economic research of the Bureau of Forest Development will, however, remain with the said bureau- In issuing the decree, the President stressed that scientific forest management, rational development and vigilant protection are essential to the continuous productivity and economic utilization of these resources.

December 23—

INSTITUTE of Labor and Manpower Studies in the Department of Labor has been created by the President through Presidential Decree No- 620 The President created the Institute in order to enable the department to cope with the expanded tasks and responsibilities as-r signed to it under the Labor Code, which resulted in, increased complexity of its technical and administrative functions. The Institute shall be headed by the executive director who must be a holder of a master's degree in economics, public administration, or any of the social sciences, with at least five years experience on the labor or in manpower fields. The director will be appointed by the President and will be under the direct supervision of the secretary of labor, who will provide the policy guidance, aided by a Council composed of the secretary and undersecretary, assistant secretaries and bureau directors of the department.

AREA reserved for the resettlement of residents of Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija, who were displaced because of the construction of the huge Pantabangan dam complex, has been expanded by the President. The expanded reservation is located in Pantabangan. Other relocation areas designated in Presidential Proclamation No. 983 are located in Bongabon, Nueva Ecija; Dupax, Nueva Vizcaya, and Maria Aurora, subprovince of Aurora. Expansion of the resettlement area in Pantabangan, made through Proclamation No. 1355, was necessitated by the fact that substantial parts of the area reserved in Nueva Vizcaya and Aurora had been developed by cultural minorities. The National Irrigation Administration and Department of Agrarian Reform will jointly, administer all resettlement areas after the transfer of settlers therein in accordance with the memorandum of agreement between the two agencies.

THE PRESIDENT has given agricultural education another big boost by granting autonomy to the Tarlac College of Agriculture (TCA) so that it can perform more vigorously its vital role in the economic development of the country. Through Presidential Decree No. 609, the Chief Executive separated the TCA from the Tarlac College of Technology in Camiling, Tarlac. The now independent state college aims to provide professional, technical and special instruction for special purposes and to promote research extension services and progressive leadership in agriculture, agricultural education, home technology and other related educational fields.

December 24—

THE PRESIDENT asked the housing agencies and labor to get together with government as well as private financing institutions and get financing support for low-cost housing projects that may not be covered by the P500 million fund ordered set aside for worker's housing. The President directed the secretary of labor, along with the Government Service Insurance System, the Social Security System, the National Housing Corporation and the People's Homesite Housing Corporation to start meeting with the DBP and the PNB on the financing of such projects. At the same time, the President directed the secretary of finance and the executive secretary to study what possible incentives could be given to private financing institutions, including insurance firms, to get involved in financing low-cost housing. The effort to raise housing funds from private sources underlines the priority that has been put on housing for workers and low-salaried individuals.

PRESIDENTIAL Commission has been created by the President to review the Code of Filipino Muslim Laws prepared by a research staff he had earlier organized under Memorandum Order No. 370. The codification of Filipino Muslim laws was ordered by the President as part of the effort to achieve national unity and to promote the development of Mindanao and Sulu. In the executive order creating the commission, the President said that "the realization of the aspirations of the Filipino Muslims to have their system of laws enforced in their communities will reinforce the just struggle of the Filipino people to achieve national unity." The chairman of the commission is the

dean of the Institute of Islamic Studies of the Philippine Center for Asian Studies, with a Supreme Court representative as vice chairman. Its members are representatives of the Department of Justice, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, the University of the Philippines Law Center, the Catholic hierarchy, two reputable Muslim lawyers, two learned Ulama and the project officer of the research staff for the codification of Filipino Muslim laws. The research staff created under Memorandum Order 370 shall serve as the secretariat of the commission.

December 25—

THE PRESIDENT has directed the secretary of labor to supervise and control the social amelioration program of the sugar industry. In Presidential Decree No. 621, the President has also ordered the labor secretary to issue rules and regulations on the “proper and equitable” implementation of the program. The decree was issued in response to verified reports that some sugar farm and mill workers have failed to enjoy their legitimate share in the benefits of the program.

PHILIPPINE Tobacco Board (PTB) has been authorized by the President to fix the floor prices of Philippine-grown tobacco to protect the tobacco farmers’ interests in view of the rising cost of production and prices of prime commodities caused by unprecedented worldwide inflation. In a presidential decree issued by the President, the PTB was directed to fix, upon the recommendation of other agencies concerned, a “reasonable and flexible” floor price at which tobacco traders may buy all types of tobacco, except flue-cured Virginia tobacco. Violation by any person of the fixed floor price policy or any of the implementing rules and regulations shall be enough grounds for the cancellation of his permit to trade, and shall be punishable with a fine of not more than P2,000 or imprisonment of not more than one year or both at the discretion of the court.

December 26—

THE PRESIDENT has named Minister Vicente Romero ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, and Luis Tabuena as acting chairman of the Games and Amusement Board (GAB). Ambassador Romero was a foreign affairs career minister stationed in Hawaii, while Chairman Tabuena was officer-in-charge of GAB. The President has likewise appointed the president of the Pampanga Agricultural College (PAG) and school superintendents of four southern cities. Named president of the agricultural college was Felix V. Remigio. Appointed city superintendents of schools were Pedro C. Aguilar, Cebu City; Iliminado Protasio, Cotabato City; Leopoldo Etulle, Lapu-Lapu City; and Asinudin Saipudin, Pagadian City.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: December 27-31, 1974

President's Week in Review: January 1-17, 1975

President's Week in Review: January 18-24, 1975

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

January 18—

THE PRESIDENT said that the Philippines which is as adversely affected as any other country by the energy crisis, hopes to start construction of nuclear power plants by June this year. The Chief Executive expressed this hope during the visit of Lord Goronwy-Roberts, Parliamentary undersecretary of state of the United Kingdom, who called at Malacañang following his arrival on an official visit. Lord Goronwy-Roberts conveyed his government's wish for the continued success and prosperity of the Philippines, and the hope for more and closer cooperation between the United Kingdom and the Philippines. The President said that although the cost of fuel imports rose sharply from \$200 million to \$700 million, forcing the Philippines to borrow \$700 million in foreign exchange, the rise in exports resulted in a surplus of \$96 million, instead of an expected deficit of \$400 million. He said the Philippines is tapping other sources of energy, particularly hydroelectric and geothermal, in order to minimize as much as possible the importation of crude oil which is the source of 75 percent of power used in the country.

THE PRESIDENT said that based on a report submitted by the Petroleum Board, eight exploratory oil wells would be definitely drilled this year. Four other wells could be drilled, also this year, depending on the results of various geological and geophysical studies, he said. The statement was issued after the Petroleum Board briefed the President on the marked acceleration this year of the country's petroleum exploration program. The program has gained tremendous momentum since the issuance of Presidential Decree No. 87, also known as the Oil Exploration and Development Act of 1972.

COMMANDER A. P. Diete-Spiff, military governor of Riverstate, Nigeria, was received by the President following his arrival on a three-day survey trip. The Nigerian official said he had heard of the progress of the Philippines in the last few years and had come to see if he could borrow some ideas from the Philippine experiment which would fit into his own five-year development program. He also invited the Philippines through the First Lady to participate in the "Black World Cultural Festival" to be held in Lagos in November. He said some 50 countries from Latin America, Asia and Africa are participating in the festival. The President and the First Lady thanked the Nigerian official for the invitation, and expressed the hope that he will be successful in his mission.

January 19—

THE PRESIDENT has ordered the adoption of the P1,600 per hectare *Masagana 99* loan ceiling to help the "Sabog-Tanim farmers cope with the increased prices of rice production inputs. He directed, through Letter of Instructions No. 242, the release of the required loans to the rice farmers beginning this month to provide them sufficient credit to buy the required inputs, like fertilizer and pesticides. The P1,600 loan ceiling will apply exclusively to all the areas involved in the government's rice recovery program dubbed "operation Recovery," a direct seeding or "sabog-tanim" program covering 150,000 hectares in 56 provinces, to be launched this March.

EXTENSION of the post-operative tariff protection has been ordered by the President to be given to the local manufacture of lubricating oil, including lubricating oil base stock, as a preferred pioneer industry by increasing the customs duty on the product from the present 30 percent to 50 percent through Executive Order No. 447. The Tariff protection was extended after studies conducted by the Board of Investments indicated that the local production of lubricating oil's base stock by the Philippine Petroleum Corp. is viable and needs protection against competing imported items.

January 20—

ALL voters who registered for the last referendum, except those from Manila, Quezon City and Caloocan City do not have to register anew for the forthcoming referendum. This was announced by the President. All the registry lists used for the last plebiscite, July 27 and 28, 1973, outside of those used in the three cities are considered valid for he

referendum next February 27, the Chief Executive added. He issued this statement in view of some confusion on the matter of who are required to register for the forthcoming referendum.

THE PRESIDENT called on the wealthy and the affluent to help in the New Society's efforts to improve the lot of the poor and less fortunate people of the country. The Chief Executive issued the call during the inauguration of the P30-million Asian Transmission Corp. plant and the ground-breaking ceremony for the Canlubang Urban Development Project, both in the Canlubang Sugar Estate in this province. During the inauguration of the ATC plant, which is the Chrysler Philippines' commitment to the government's progressive car manufacturing-program, the President expressed the hope that the plant will serve as a model for others throughout the country. He also took the occasion to extend the gratitude of the Filipino people to the government and industrial sector of Japan for their continued assistance and interest in the Philippines.

January 21—

THE PRESIDENT called on developing countries of the world to assert themselves forcefully in the formulation of global economic policies that would hasten the solution of the world's serious problems. He issued the call during the presentation of credential of Ambassador M. B. Bhatti, Pakistan's new ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Philippines, vice former Ambassador Abdul Aziz Farooq. He also received the letters of credence of Ambassador Daniel Gerald Nutter as Australian ambassador to the Philippines vice former Ambassador Peter Graham Faithful Henderson. "The world is beset with crisis," the President said, "and it is incumbent on the developing countries of the world to assert themselves forcefully in the formulation of world economic policies."

TEACHERS, especially in the field of non-formal education, should try to impart literacy with Philippine cultural concepts, values and attitudes and the knowledge of Philippine, political philosophy or ideology so that the greater masses of the people may participate in political processes and in the task of nation-building. This view was expressed by Information Secretary Francisco S. Tatad as he keyed the commencement exercises of the Foundation for Youth Development in the Philippines at the Central Luzon Teachers College in Bayambang, Pangasinan. Citing the Ranis Report which said that "the number of people now being reached by non-formal education greatly exceeds the total number of students in the school system," Secretary Tatad said that the New society's stress in education is on the developmental type that combines the better aspects of liberal education and the technical. He added that the thrust today is on functional education because the previous variety has ceased to be relevant to existing conditions and was markedly impractical, highly Western, abstract, and too other-wordly. The DPI Secretary exhorted the graduates to have an understanding of the Philippines' basic philosophy or

THE PRESIDENT received Maerks McKinney Moller, chairman and principal owner of the A.P. Moller Shipping Company, Scandinavia's largest shipping firm. Mr. Moller, together with his wife and Mr. and Mrs. Christian Lund, informed the President of his company's plans to improve its shipping services in the Philippines, particularly improve through conversion to full container service in September. The President thanked them for their continued interest in the development of the Philippines and invited them to participate in oil drilling activities in the Philippines.

CUSTOMS Commissioner Rolando G. Geotina reported to the President an increase of 77.5 percent in customs collections during the last six months of 1974 over those for the same period in 1973. In his report Commissioner Geotina said that total customs collections for July to December, 1974 reached P3,431,720,527, compared to only P1,933,248,688 for the same period in 1973. The customs commissioner pointed out that the total collections for the period were 27.2 percent above budget projections or an excess of almost P710 million. Commissioner Geotina said that only an economic recession of such magnitude as to cause a drastic reduction of dutiable imports and a voluminous drop of Philippine exports on which export premium duties are levied would prevent an estimated customs collection of P6.2 billion, instead of the previous estimate of P5.7 billion, or an increase of P500 million for the current fiscal year.

January 22—

THE PRESIDENT received the Grand Cordon of the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knight Hospitalier, and became the first leader in Asia to receive the ancient award. The presentation was made by Sir Roland Anthony Podesta, bailiff of the order's Priory of Australia, "as a testament of faith in your leadership and in the numerous achievements of your New Society." The award consists of a white cross about three inches wide hanging by a red sash with a white-hemmed red robe, and an accompanying diploma written in Latin on parchment. The award is given by the Order of St. John only to heads of states, and the President is the first head of state to receive the award in all Asia.

THE PRESIDENT warned that he would cancel the licenses of all wireless communications companies which cannot deliver messages on time. He also directed the Bureau of Posts to sort all air mail letters coming from abroad right at the Manila International Airport instead of the main office of the Bureau. The Chief Executive, at the same time, ordered the Bureau of Posts to install more post office boxes for traders and businessmen at the Post Office. The threat to cancel licenses of wireless companies was made following receipts of many complaints against clients not receiving messages from them on time. The President stressed that he would not tolerate wireless companies not performing their functions properly.

AMBASSADOR Zdzislaw Regulski was received by the President as the most non-resident ambassador of Poland to the Philippines. In presenting his credentials to the President, the Polish ambassador expressed the hope of further developing Polish-Philippine relations particularly in the cultural field, in order to promote greater understanding between them. In response, the President expressed elation over the initiatives being undertaken by the Philippine and Polish governments to promote foreign trade between them.

January 23—

THE PRESIDENT called anew on the rich and the affluent to help in spreading the benefits of wealth for everyone to share. Addressing some 70 participants in the RP-Canada World Youth Exchange Program, who called to pay their respects, the President said: "I have always maintained that the rich and affluent who acquired their property by inheritance and, perhaps through the corruption of the old society, should now help in spreading, the benefits of wealth for everyone to enjoy." He said that he does not intend to bring the rich down to the level of the poor but that he intends to bring the poor to the level of the rich, if not in material possessions, in hope and expectation. The President called on the youth to continue the crusade so that the generations to follow will inherit a better Philippines.

FIVE-hectare portion of the Dagat-Dagatan resettlement area in Navotas, Rizal, has been set aside by the President as the official site of the contest and demonstration for the 1976 International Architectural Competition. The contest and demonstration will be held in connection with the United Nations Conference-Exposition on Human Settlements in Vancouver, Canada. In issuing Proclamation No. 1372, the President hailed the choice of Manila as a demonstration site for the planning of an ideal settlement, as a signal recognition of the innovative human settlements program undertaken by the Philippine government.

MEMBERS of the board of the Compania General de Tabacos de Filipinas of Barcelona, Spain, were received by the President. They called at Malacañang to pay their respects following their arrival in Manila. The Tabacalera officials, headed by Chairman Manuel Meier, will hold their board meeting in Manila, to discuss the expansion of operations of their company in the Philippines. This will be the first time in 94 years that their board meeting is being held in the Philippines.

January 24—

THE PRESIDENT re-structured the Department of Public Highways by creating three additional offices in the department to enable it to perform its functions "with increased effectiveness and efficiency." The Chief Executive released Presidential Decree No. 636 which amends PD 458, creating the DPH. The new decree establishes a Special Projects Service to be responsible for the management and implementation of all special projects financed wholly or in part by foreign loans. The decree likewise creates an administrative division in the Bureau of Construction and Maintenance and a spare parts division in the Bureau of Equipment. The Special Projects Service

shall be headed by a director and assisted by an assistant director to be appointed by the President upon the recommendation of the secretary of public highways. The Bureau of Equipment is responsible for the management and "control of all equipment belonging to the DPH, including their repair, maintenance and allocation to the department field offices.

THE PRESIDENT hailed the graduation of the first 46,000 farmers who took the *Masaganang Maisan* School on the Air course as a big step in the food production drive. He also lauded the distribution of the first 100 shares of stocks of Planters Products to the first 100 farmers who had been adjudged outstanding graduates of the school on the air as a milestone in the democratization of wealth under the New Society. Expressing the gratitude of the entire country to the Rural Broadcasters Council headed by F. Rey Pacheco, and the Kapisanan ng Mga Broadkaster sa Pilipinas (KBP) chaired by Romeo Jalosjos the President said that their generous contribution has enabled the government to bring to the mass level the products of scientific research in farm techniques.

FORMER Secretary of Education Onofre D. Corpuz was inducted by the President as president of the University of the Philippines, vice Dr. Salvador P. Lopez who, in turn, was appointed President congratulated Dr. Lopez for his successful leadership during the most tumultuous history of the state university. He also upheld academic freedom in the university, saying that there has to be a zone of sanity, of clear unadulterated thought, so that turmoil can be seen at a distance and hopefully provide an approach to the service of society. He added that the new leadership is now faced with challenge of maintaining the intellectual integrity of the university.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: January 25-30, 1975

President's Month in Review: February, 1975

President's Month in Review: March, 1975

President's Week in Review: April 1-6, 1975

President's Week in Review: April 7-13, 1975

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

April 7—

THE PRESIDENT gave the Philippine Coast Guard the sole authority to issue permits for salvaging derelicts and sunken vessels or wrecks, and the Bureau of Customs the sole authority to issue permits for salvaging cargoes carried by sunken vessels. Previously, both agencies had the power to issue permits for these purposes independent of each other, resulting in an overlapping of functions between the two agencies. No license or permit for salvage operations, however, shall be valid unless approved by the President. The President made the clear division of functions between the two agencies, through Letter of Instructions No. 263, directed to the Coast Guard commandant and the customs commissioner, "to promote simplicity, economy and efficiency in the government service and to provide a healthier economic atmosphere for the salvage operations business."

THE GOVERNMENT has acquired ownership of Luzon Stevedoring Corporation, with the sale of 99.8 percent of the company's outstanding shares of common stock to the Philippine National Oil Co. and the Land Bank. The purchase was consummated at signing ceremonies held at the Lusteveco's main office at Port Area, Manila. PNOC Chairman and President Geronimo Z. Velasco signed the documents of sale in behalf of the buyers. Alberto M. K. Jamir, director and corporate secretary of Lusteveco, represented some 150 shareholders who sold 3,005,790 out of a total of 3,010,900 shares outstanding. In a statement, Chairman Velasco said that acquisition of said corporation by the PNOC will enhance the latter's operational flexibility and assist in the rationalization of the petroleum industry. At the same time, the acquisition by the Land Bank of part ownership of Lusteveco is consistent with its policy of diversifying its asset portfolio, he added.

HOLDERS of doctor of philosophy degree (Ph. D.) in chemistry or their equivalent are now allowed to register as chemists without the need of examination. The new chemistry law, as provided-by Presidential Decree No. 683, recognizes the "long and rigorous training" of Ph. D. degree holders.

THE PRESIDENT received Ichiro Fujimoto, president of Kawasaki Steel Corp., who paid a courtesy call at Malacañang following his arrival here to inspect the progress of the work on the P1.5 billion iron ore sinter plant being set up by his company in Misamis Oriental. Secretary of Industry Vicente Paterno, concurrently chairman of the Board of Investment, who was present during the call, explained that the sinter plant, which is exclusively owned by the Kawasaki Steel Corp., will process iron ore from nearby countries, primarily Australia, mix it with limestone from the Visayan islands and burn it into a sinter. This raw material will be shipped to blast furnaces in Japan to produce steel, Secretary Paterno said.

THE PRESIDENT received officials of the First National City Bank of New York, headed by George J. Vojta, executive vice president, who paid their respects at Malacañang. Mr. Vojta, who also heads the bank's international banking group, informed the President that his company is inaugurating the Citibank Center building in Makati, Rizal, as a manifestation of faith and confidence in the future of the country. "You have done well," Mr. Vojta informed the President, "and our chairman has asked me to convey his congratulations and best wishes" FNCB, or Citibank, has reputedly the largest banking network in the world, with branches, subsidiaries and affiliates in 103 countries.

EXACTLY \$159 million (P1.113 billion) in new foreign equity investment poured into various local enterprises last year, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) reported. As registered with the Central Bank, last year's new foreign equity investments bring to \$335 million the total approved foreign investments since February 21, 1970. Of the \$159 million, \$146 million or 92 per cent was in cash, the NEDA said. Unremitted dividends, profits and loans and technical fees converted to equity amounted to \$10 million or six per cent while investment's in kind came to P3 million or two per cent of the total. Investments inwardly remitted amounted to \$123 million, the NEDA reported. This represents an increase of 84 per cent over the previous year's total of \$103.32 million. The increase in foreign equity investments was registered during the year in spite of inflation, recession and rising prices of oil, the NEDA said. This was a result of a much improved business climate which

includes improvements in peace and order, increased government support for industrial development through attractive and liberalized investment incentive measures, priority allocation of loans to the industrial sector and continuing government aid to industry the NEDA added.

THE GOVERNMENT has signed a P754 million loan, agreement with 55 electric cooperatives in a move to step up rural electrification in the country. Col. Pedro G. Dumol, acting administrator of the National Electrification Administration (NEA), said in a conference with the mass media and representatives of the business sector the amount includes funds for the procurement of \$26.5 million worth of electrification equipment and materials. As of last fiscal year, Acting Administrator Dumol, said, 778 towns and 63 cities have been served with electricity by NEA cooperatives and private franchise holders. NEA cooperatives cover 122 towns and seven cities while private franchise holders have 656 towns and 56 cities, including the Greater Manila Area. Acting Administrator Dumol said the electrification in the country will be a continuing program as envisioned by Presidential Decree No. 40 and Letter of Instruction No. 38 which provides for the integration of private and municipal systems into electric cooperatives.

DEPARTMENT of Labor warned seamen applicants to refrain from dealing with unauthorized persons in their quest for employment aboard foreign-going vessels. The warning followed reports that certain persons and agencies were still entertaining seamen applications despite circulars instructing otherwise. Under the new Labor Code, only the National Seamen Board has the authority to recruit Filipino Seamen for employment aboard ocean-going vessels free of charge. Acting Labor Secretary Amado Inciong said any recruitment activity shall be ground for the revocation, suspension or cancellation of the license granted to recruiting shipping agents or representatives.

April 8—

THE PRESIDENT said that the greater monument which Filipinos can build in fulfillment of the dreams of the heroes who gave their lives in Bataan is a New Society where the people can live in freedom, peace and prosperity. At the unveiling of a Bataan Memorial erected at the center of the Ayala triangle in Makati, Rizal, the President pointed to the monument and stressed that it was not only a homage to the past but was also a symbol of the future. Depicting the gallantry, the struggle and the suffering that was Bataan, the memorial was of five bronze figures of mound representing the hills of Bataan where Filipino and American troops made their gallant stand against the invading Japanese forces in the early months of World War II. "Today, we are building a greater monument," the President said. "As memorials like this remind us of the turbulence of war, they also remind us of the dangers that confront us while building a nation. If there be any leader who shrinks at the threat of the hooting crowd, then he must face the accusations of those men for whom this memorial is built."

THE GOVERNMENT approved the exportation of four major Philippine products to Mainland China valued at \$4,448 million (P29.59 million). The approval was made by the Department of Trade under the provisions of Executive Order No. 384 which set the guidelines for trade with socialist and communist countries. Trade Secretary Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. said the export to be made by the Philippine International Trading Corporation (PITC), a semi-government trading agency, consists of copper concentrates, \$1.7 million; crude coconut oil, \$1.79 million; and sawn logs and plywood, \$740,996.

April 9—

THE PRESIDENT and President Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania pledged to promote closer cooperation and understanding for the mutual benefit of the peoples of the Philippines and Romania. The two heads of state exchanged pledges during the welcome ceremonies held at the Manila International Airport where the President and the First Lady led the official welcome for President and Madame Ceausescu, who are on a four-day state visit to the Philippines. In welcoming the visiting Romanian President, the President said the event marks the start of a new era for the further strengthening of the bonds of friendship and mutual understanding between the two countries which opened diplomatic relations only three years ago. The President said that with the visit, the two countries can now move into cooperation not only for mutual advancement and prosperity, but to advance the cause of peace and international understanding.

THE PRESIDENT and visiting President Nicolae Ceausescu of the Socialist Republic of Romania exchanged decorations in a ceremony held at Malacañang. The President conferred on the Romanian President the "Order of Sikatuna, rank of rajah," while the latter conferred on the former the "Steaua Republicii Socialiste Romania, Clasa I." The President also conferred the "Order of Gabriela Silang," on Madame Ceausescu while President Ceausescu likewise conferred the "Order of the 23rd August" award on the First Lady. The "Steaua Republicii Socialiste Romania, Clasa I" award represents the star of the Romanian Republic in solid gold. It is awarded to foreign heads of state who foster the promotion of international friendship and cooperation. The "Order of 23rd August" conferred upon the Philippine First Lady, is similarly made of gold and is conferred upon First Ladies of foreign heads of state. The award has been established to commemorate August 23, 1944, the day Romanian workers liberated their country from Hitler's war machine.

NATIONAL Grains Authority Administrator Jesus Tanchanco signed for the Philippine government an implementing contract for the supply of US \$1.5 million rice donation from Japan under the Kennedy Round Agreement. Co-signing in behalf of the Japanese suppliers, Mitsui, Nichimen, Ataka and Sumitomo, was assistant General Manager Juri Kudo of the Mitsui and Co., Ltd., Manila branch.

April 10—

THE PRESIDENT and visiting President Nicolae Ceausescu of the Socialist Republic of Romania briefed one another on the economy of their respective countries for the purpose of exploring possible areas where the two economies could complement each other to their mutual advantage. In the course of the briefings, the two Presidents witnessed the signing of a contract for the acquisition by the Philippine government of an oil drilling rig. The contract was signed by Geronimo Velasco, president of the Philippine National Oil Company, and Emilian D. Uleia, president-director general of Industrial Export, Bucharest, Romania. The President likewise expressed the hope that a similar agreement with Romania for the acquisition of equipment for the exploitation of the Philippines' rich geothermal power resources, would soon be finalized. Accompanied by their First Ladies, the two heads of state boarded the RPS "Aug Pangulo" on Pier 15 in Manila.

NATIONAL Grains Authority will collect irrigation fees which will be in palay form starting July 1 this year. The NGA will remit to the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) the money value of the total palay collected as fees from farmers all over the country. Under the revised rate of irrigation fees, a farmer will pay two-and-a-half cavans per hectare during wet season, and three-and-a-half cavans of palay per hectare during dry season. The revised system of collecting irrigation fees was signed by NGA Administrator Jesus Tanchanco and NIA Administrator Alfredo Juinio.

FOUR revised secretarial courses have been approved for implementation beginning school year 1975-76 by Secretary of Education Juan L. Manuel. The revised programs are the live-month non-credit courses in typing, stenography, and office procedures; one-year general clerical courses; two-year junior secretarial course; and the four-year bachelor of science in secretarial administration. Private Schools Director Julian B. Yballe said the Bureau of Private Schools would give schools currently offering six-month secretarial courses one year to prepare for the five-month non-credit course in typing, stenography, and office procedures; and the one-year general clerical course. The new five-month non-credit course is described as purely technical program consisting of at least 50 hours of practicum. It will be open to high school graduates, whether or not they pass college entrance examination.

MALACAÑANG has authorized the National Youth Council Philippines to conduct an educational, membership and fund drive from April 1 to September 30, 1975. Proclamation No. 1410, issued by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor Jr. for the President, said proceeds of the fund campaign would finance the First Asian Youth Cultural Festival, known as "KULTURASYA", to be held in Manila in December this year, and the NYCP's charitable, educational, civic and benevolent activities. In issuing the proclamation, the Executive Secretary called upon all citizens, professionals, military establishments, business and economic sectors, local government, institutions of learning and other groups, whether Filipinos or aliens, to contribute their share in the undertaking.

April 11—

PHILIPPINE export earnings for the first three months of 1975 totalled \$590,947,891, with sugar as the prime export product, Customs Commissioner Rolando Geotina reported. Basic and premium duties collected from the export trade amounted to P581.3 million. The top 15 export products and their earnings were: sugar, \$78,473,471; copper concentrates, \$24,972,510; coconut oil, \$18,696,526; logs, \$13,704,098; bananas, \$11,538,179; copra in bulk, \$11,365,750; molasses, \$4,825,967; handicrafts, \$3,203,387; abaca fiber, \$2,427,357; desiccated coconut, \$1,737,556 ; plywood, \$1,575,613 ; lumber, \$1,507,232; cement, \$1,404,135; copra cake expeller pellets, \$1,337,874, and chrome bearing iron ore, \$1,239,262.

April 12—

THE GOVERNMENTS of the Republic of the Philippines and the Socialist Republic of Romania formally laid the foundation for lasting cooperation with the signing of five documents in Malacañang. Signed by the President in behalf of the Philippines, and by President Nicolae Ceausescu for Romania, the documents were: 1) Joint Solemn Declaration; 2) Joint Communiqué; 3) Basic Agreement in Economic and Technical Cooperation; 4) Trade Agreement; and 5) Agreement on Scientific and Technical Cooperation. The President said that the documents not only constitute “pledges to international cooperation, but constitute a symbolic manifestation of the faith of the two countries in the future, despite tensions and actual wars that ravage many parts of the world.” Continuing, the President said that “the documents represent a promise to our peoples that we join hands in seeking to elevate the standards of living of the individual nations and countries,” and, at the same time, seek “to attain the greater goals of international peace and the establishment of one family of humanity.”

THE PHILIPPINES has begun a hard-headed reassessment of its security ties with, the United States, including the continued presence of American military bases, after the President had stated that developments in Indochina have compelled the government to review its policies on security and development. The President made the statement during a dinner hosted by visiting Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu, the first socialist head of state ever to visit the Philippines. As of April 1, three government agencies had been put to work on the question of the usefulness to the Philippines of the American military bases. In a recent meeting of the Joint Mutual Defense Board, the President directly asked the American panel to inform the Philippine government how useful the bases were to the United States, and for how long they would continue to maintain them in the Philippines. The Philippines, maintains a mutual defense treaty with the US which in theory says that an attack on the Philippines will be considered an attack on the US and will be instantly dealt with. Philippine officials today, however, doubt that such a proviso protects the country enough.

April 13—

THE PRESIDENT hailed the visit of President Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania to the Philippines as a very short but productive one. The President and the First Lady led the official sendoff for President and Madame Ceausescu and their party. In bidding goodbye to the Romanian president, the President said that “your visit has been too short but it was marked by a relaxed and free exchange of ideas which led to the most productive conversations and negotiations resulting in nine agreements.” The President said that the visit is historic because it opens the gateway to Philippine relationships with countries of Eastern Europe. Before boarding the plane, President Ceausescu expressed confidence that with the signing of the agreements by him and the President, the foundation for a lasting cooperation and friendship, particularly cooperation in the economic, technical, scientific and cultural areas, will have been laid. The Romanian President said that in establishing the foundation of lasting cooperation between Romania and the Philippines “we are also contributing to the cause of international collaboration.” He reiterated his invitation to the President and the First Lady to visit his country, saying “we are looking forward with great joy to receiving you in Romania as soon as possible.”

THE PRESIDENT and President Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania approved the contract previously entered into by the Philippine National Power Corp. and the Import-Export Enterprise of Romania. The two heads of state signed the contract shortly before the departure of President and Madame Ceausescu at the end of their four-day stay in the Philippines. Under the contract, the Import-Export Enterprise of Romania will supply the equipment and financing at concessional terms for a 50-megawatt thermal unit which, can be fired with, either coal or crude oil in Cebu. In approving the contract, the President said that it was another manifestation of collaboration between the two countries in economic matters. He also thanked President Ceausescu for the grant of the loan under concessional

terms. In response to the President, President Ceausescu urged the organization in the Philippines and in Romania of groups to expand economic, technical and scientific collaboration between the two countries.

Source: **Supreme Court Library**

Official Week in Review: April 14 – April 20, 1975

April 14—

THE PRESIDENT created the Farm System Development Corporation to promote and help farmers organize irrigation associations geared for the improvement of agricultural methods. He assured, through Presidential Decree No. 681, that these associations, together with other farm-related entities which similarly aim to improve farming, processing and marketing methods, will be given “every tenable support by the national government to make them effectively established and operationally stable. With an authorized capital stock of P800 million, the corporation has been authorized, empowered and directed to promote the organization of, and assist farmer associations, particularly irrigation associations, to achieve the objectives of hastening rural development.

STAGGERED working hours will be in effect for the duration of the summer season. The Office of the President issued Memorandum Circular No. 812-A prescribing the working hours from April 1 to June 15, inclusive, to give ample time to government employees for weekend visits to the province and to promote local tourism. Under the circular, heads of departments and of independent offices, as well as of provincial, city and municipal governments have been granted the discretion to group their employees into two to let these groups enjoy a three-day weekend alternately. The usual office hours (7:30 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., Mondays through Fridays) will be observed, except that the group scheduled for a three-day weekend will work only from 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Fridays and from 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Mondays. These working hours shall not apply to the offices in Baguio City, whether national, provincial or municipal, and to officers and employees engaged in field work.

April 15—

THE PRESIDENT ordered, through Presidential Decree No. 684, the formation of barangay youth organizations to give the young a medium through which they could express their views and opinions on issues of great significance. To be known as “Kabataang Barangay”, these youth organizations shall be formed in every barangay and will be composed of all residents who are less than 18 years old. In defining the youth organization, PD 684 stipulates that the affairs of the said organization shall be administered by a barangay youth chairman, together with at least six barangay youth leaders, all of whom shall at least be 15 years old but less than 18 years old. They shall be chosen by a barangay youth assembly from among its members at a meeting called for the purpose. The President saw the need of organizing the country’s youth in the result of the last referendum where they “congenitly displayed their zeal and capability to participate in the ventilation of vital national and local issues affecting their welfare and the future of their country.”

REASSESSMENT of security arrangements with other countries, the President said, is a matter of necessity for the Philippines and is not intended to embarrass anyone. The President made this statement during the call of the Class of 1975 of the National Defense College of the Philippines, who came to pledge “undying loyalty to the President, and “unswerving support” to his program of reforms, inferring to the United States, the President said “there is no hostility which motivates the reassessment,” adding it is “an inquiry on the part of a younger brother addressed to an elder brother on whom he depended, not because of especial relations, but because of written treaties and agreements.” The President emphasized that these written treaties and agreements were signed by the duly authorized representatives of government and duly ratified and confirmed by the respective Congresses of the Philippines and the United States.

LAND Bank of the Philippines has approved P13,259,050 worth of loans to LB bondholders and other clients from May 1974 to March 31, 1975. Land Bank President Basillio Estanislao said that most of the loans were granted to LB bondholders, whose lands were transferred to farmer-tenants by virtue of Presidential Decree No. 27. The projects for which the LB loans were granted were catfish culture, piggery projects, trucking, rice milling, hand tractors farming, infrastructure project, construction of truck and vehicle bodies, marble and metal craft, rubber footwear manufacturing and fishing. He said the LBP was also granting medium and long, term loans to finance industrial, agricultural and other types of projects. Priority areas in the grant of LBP loans are board of investment-registered industries, labor intensive projects, and export-oriented enterprises.

April 16—

THE PRESIDENT warned that developments in Indochina signify a patent change in the balance of forces in Southeast Asia which could lead to an increase in insurgency and widespread instability in this region. In a major foreign policy speech at the traditional annual reunion of the University of the Philippines Law Alumni Association, the President asserted that this change in the balance of forces would compel nations in the area to re-examine their problems on security which could result in new tensions in this part of the world. In his speech, the President recalled that in the past, the people have not been privy to behind-the-scenes discussions about security arrangements that vitally concerned them. "Under the New Society, I feel it is my sworn duty to take the people into my confidence because my predecessors, for reasons of state then obtaining, were compelled to withhold information from the people," the President said. "I believe that in view of the new situation in which we find ourselves, they must be told frankly and without equivocation what clarifications and safeguards we are seeking to ensure our national security," he added. The President further added that the future of RP-US relationship must be discussed as early as possible on the basis of complete reciprocity of interest. With the rapid developments in the region, the President said that more fundamental clarifications have to be made if the present basic RP-US relationship is to continue, particularly, he said, clarification on the problem of common defense against external aggression.

INFORMATION Secretary Francisco S. Tatad has urged local drug manufacturers to invest a part of their time and resources in programs that will improve the environment. Addressing the Chamber of Filipino Drug Manufacturers at Makati, Rizal, Secretary Tatad said the industry must continue to be aware that the very operations of medical care in the country today are transforming the lives of the people. He also said he believes that in common with the objective of dispersing the fruits of the cures of medical science, the industry must invest in programs to acquaint people of their health needs "to keep them away from hospitals and medicine." Secretary Tatad observed that in discussing how the goals of the Filipino drug manufacturers might be advanced and its business interests secured, one must speak of how fast the industry is catching up with the boon of medical science in the world and how bravely it penetrates the life of our society.

COMMISSIONER Misael P. Vera has ordered all regional directors and revenue district officers to stop all investigations, more particularly those on the 1974 returns, until further notice from his office. He said no authorization to investigate shall be issued without his specific approval and any authorization already issued by revenue district officers and regional directors were considered cancelled. Taxpayers were requested to report immediately to the commissioner any authorization served on them without his written approval. Commissioner Vera also announced he had created a special group of ranking officials in the national office to look into issuances of authorizations in violation of standing regulations and to submit a report immediately on the matter.

SPOUSES and dependents of American servicemen and civilians and employees working in US military bases in the Philippines are subject to documentary and science stamp taxes on the tax clearance certificates procured by them, regardless of whether the cost of transportation is borne by the US government. Revenue Commissioner Misael P. Vera issued the ruling to resolve a controversy between military bases authorities in Subic Naval base and the revenue district officer of Olongapo City. The BIR chief's ruling upheld the stand taken by Olongapo district officer Ladislao Firmacion that spouses and dependents of the US servicemen and civilians employed in US military bases were not exempt from the payment of documentary and science stamps.

April 17—

THE PRESIDENT received Datuk Lee San Choon, Malaysian minister of labor and manpower, who paid his respects to the President following his recent arrival as official guest of Labor Secretary Blas F. Ople. The Malaysian minister, who had visited the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and the UP in Los Baños, as well as the Development Academy of the Philippines, in Tagaytay, expressed confidence in the bright future of the country under the President's leadership. The President and the Malaysian labor official exchanged views on fast moving events in the region, particularly in Phnom Penh and Saigon, and expressed deep concern for the security of the region.

THIS year's summer rice harvest under Phase IV of the Masagana 99 program rose by 15 per cent or from 72 cavans per hectare last year to 82 cavans. According to Agriculture Secretary Arturo R Tanco Jr., the 82 cavans per hectare yield under the Masagana Phase IV "is a 100 per cent improvement over the measly 40 cavans per hectare a farmer got before inception of the Masagana 99 rice production programs in 1973 " Reports consolidated by the National Food and Agriculture Council (NF AC) from 28 provinces showed that more than 6.3 million cavans of palay were initially harvested from 76,520 hectares.

April 18—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the initial release of P6 million for the construction of the building for the School Economics of the University construction of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City. The President announced plans for the building at the closing session of the 10th Training Program in Development Economics, sponsored jointly by the University of the Philippines and the National Economic and Development Authority, at Maharlika Hall of Malacañang. The training program, which is similar to the training program at the Development Academy of the Philippines in Tagaytay, and others, seeks to strengthen the planning staffs of government agencies, regional, national and local by enabling participants to acquire the correct perspective in economic development and evaluation.

THE PRESIDENT directed Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile to promulgate rules and regulations to ensure the effective implementation of the decree penalizing the illegal trading and export of Philippine sugar. In Presidential Decree No. 686, the defense secretary was also ordered to require, if necessary, all sugar producers, millers, warehousemen, traders and other persons handling stocks of sugar to submit monthly reports under oath on the sugar actually being handled and traded by them. This, the President said, would enable the government to monitor sugar movements all over the country.

THE PRESIDENT announced he would call a meeting of the Foreign Policy Council to consider the various options available to the Philippines in view of developments in Cambodia and Vietnam. In a speech at the annual alumni homecoming and national convention of the UP Vanguard, Inc., the President said he intends to hold the meeting at Malacañang. The President said that he has also invited fellow members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to join hands in a study of the problems and to formulate regional solutions to them. Among the questions to be considered during his meeting with foreign policy advisers, according to the President, are: 1) If the RP-US Mutual Defense Treaty does not guarantee any defense of the country, is the Philippines going to discard the pact? 2) The taking over of US military bases in the Philippines, if necessary, and the change in administration of those bases; 3) The upgrading of the capability of the armed forces in order to maintain facilities for international protection; and 4) Possible establishment of a neutral zone in the general area to be known as Southwest Pacific Area.

CENTRAL Bank has liberalized further its policy regarding foreign investments in Philippine stocks. Through a memorandum issued by the Central Bank, the Monetary Board allowed the direct reinvestment of cash dividends and proceeds of sale of stock dividends accruing to foreign investors in other Philippine stocks traded in the local exchanges. The memorandum, in effect, amended another memorandum to authorized agent banks, dated August 9, 1974, which only allowed the direct investment in CB-approved Philippine securities under Circular No 365. This circular required the registration of foreign investors in local stocks with the CB.

April 19—

THE FIRST Lady, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, left for Jakarta on two important missions for the country and for the President. The First Lady was invited by Madame Suharto to attend the inauguration of *Mini Indonesia Indah*, the Indonesian version of *Nayong Pilipino*. The First Lady also brought with her a message from the President to President Suharto, regarding the advisability of holding a summit meeting, of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to discuss urgent matters, especially the latest developments in Indo-China. MALACANANG has created an inter-agency committee to evaluate and recommend a mode of mass transit for Metropolitan Manila. Memorandum Order No. 503 issued by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor named National Economic and Development Authority Deputy Director General Antonio Locsin as chairman of the

committee. The inter-agency committee shall evaluate and recommend alternative mass transit modes, the transport requirements or urban development and the development of satellite growth centers.

MONETARY Board has increased the loan value of refined gold bought by commercial banks from gold producer from 80 to 100 per cent. The loan is payable in one year. This Monetary Board action is contained in an advice sent to commercial banks. It amends Circular No. 401 which previously authorized commercial banks (gold dealers) with P1 billion assets and P100 million networth to buy and sell gold and extend financing to local gold producers. With the new circular, the primary gold producer will get an additional 20 per cent in credits for its gold output. Where before if the value of the producer's gold was P10 million, it could borrow from commercial bank gold dealer P8 million. Now, that producer can get P10 million. According to the CB the increase in loan value "may be regarded as an initial step towards the adoption of appropriate guidelines which were ordered by the President sometime in January this year, to accelerate an increase in gold production."

April 20—

THE PRESIDENT ordered that areas covered by the Leyte geothermal reservation be extended outside of its present boundaries to speed up the government's search for geothermal energy. The President added 73,265 more hectares to the previous 34,360 hectares of reservation established under Proclamation No. 1112. In issuing Proclamation No. 1412, amending Proclamation No. 1112, the President said that "subsequent studies conducted in the exploration area indicated that the probable geothermal reservoir extends outside of the boundaries established for reservation."

Source: Supreme Court Library

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1975). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 71(21), ci-cv

Official Week in Review: April 21 – April 26, 1975

April 21—

THE PRESIDENT appointed Judge Mariano V. Agcaoili of the Court of First Instance of Manila as associate justice of the Court of Appeals. He will take the place of Justice Ruperto G. Martin who was elevated recently to the Supreme Court by the President. One of the ablest judges in the Manila CFI, Justice Agcaoili has been dubbed “the fastest gavel among Manila judges in 1974.”

MONETARY Board has given rural banks broader powers and wider scope of operations by allowing them to invest in allied undertakings such as warehousing, processing mills, drying facilities and storage companies. Rural banks may make equity investments in companies organized for these undertakings provided that such business are for agricultural production or other agricultural purposes. However, the Central Bank laid down a set of guidelines covering the investment of rural banks in such allied undertakings. It shall not be allowed to invest in an allied undertaking if a stockholder or group of stockholders owning more than 20 per cent of the voting stock of the rural bank owns or controls directly or indirectly (within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity) 30 per cent or more of the voting stock of the allied undertaking, except as may otherwise be authorized by the monetary board.

HEALTH Secretary Clemente S. Gatmaitan underscored the need for a continuing process of updating and upgrading the competency of the country’s medical practitioners. Speaking before the graduating class of the UP postgraduate circuit course at Tacloban City, Secretary Gatmaitan said this continuous process is needed in view of the rapid and tremendous expansion of medical knowledge that resulted in major changes in the management of disease. He added this process could not only be a continuous education. The health secretary said it is in the light of this consideration that the department of health has always supported proposals on programs designed to provide continuing medical education. He said the department has already arranged for the holding of postgraduate courses, scientific meetings, seminars and similar activities in collaboration with various government and private agencies, including the training courses organized for specialty groups like anesthesiologists, radiologists, surgeons, dentists and other disciplines.

THE PHILIPPINES now occupies the ninth position among the world’s major flu-cured tobacco producers and is the fifth biggest flu-cured tobacco producer in Asia, registering a total production of 65.7 million pounds in 1974, according to the Philippine Virginia Tobacco Administration (PVTa). Quoting from the latest issue of the Foreign Agriculture circular, PVTa Chairman-General Manager Federico B. Moreno said that outside the United States, important upward trends in burley production are occurring in Italy, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Japan, the Philippines Argentina and Yugoslavia. The same publication, Moreno said reported a slump in the production of cigar tobacco as a result of a lower Philippine tobacco crop last year.

FOREIGN Corporations which enter into mining service contracts with local groups must pay the latter 60 per cent of the proceeds of production after deducting costs and expenses. This was the official ruling handed down by the Securities and Exchange Commission as it rejected the royalty scheme as basis for payment of the operation by a foreign firm of a Philippine mine. The ruling, unless reversed by higher authorities, becomes the implementing government policy for the exploration, development, exploitation and utilization of the country’s natural resources under the service contracts authorized by the new Constitution and Presidential Decree No. 151.

BOARD of Investments Chairman Vicente T. Paterno defended raw material producing nations’ aspirations to form commodity unions by saying that such organizations are advantageous to both producing and consuming nations. Brushing aside charges of some consuming nations that commodity unions are actually “cartels”, Chairman Paterno said, “I maintain that such associations (commodity unions) should be encouraged rather than dissuaded.”

THE PHILIPPINES is making a strong bid for the inclusion of most of its export products to the United States for duty-free treatment under the US Generalized System of Preference (GSP). Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. directed the Bureau of Foreign Trade to prepare a list of Philippine products for inclusion in the GSP. The additional products recommended for GSP eligibility considered of lead tobacco, coconut oil, cordage, abaca

placements and tablemats, tuna, fruit mixtures, fruit peels, pineapple juice, scrap tobacco, cigars and cheroots, lace net articles and other furnishings.

April 22—

THE PRESIDENT said that the transfer of political responsibility for the Muslim areas into Muslim hands is the most important solution initiated by the government in dealing with the Mindanao situation. The Chief Executive made this statement before some 400 officials of the Department of Education and Culture and superintendents of public, private and vocational schools, who called at Malacañang to renew their pledge of loyalty to the President and all-out support of the goals of the New Society. The President said he had created the Southern Philippines Development Administration to take the place of all the agencies involved in the rehabilitation and development of the South, such as the National Integration Commission, Mindanao Development Authority, Special Program of Assistance for Returned Evacuees (SPARE), and the Presidential Task Force for the Rehabilitation of Mindanao. He also said he had accepted the resignations of the governor of Sulu and governors of Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur. In place of the governor of Lanao del Sur, the President said he had appointed Brig. Gen. Mamarinta Lao. In addition, the President said he had relieved the mayors of Salvador, Sapad and Magsaysay, Lanao del Sur, who had abused their power by taking over Muslim lands. In this way, the President said, government offices will be run by Muslims themselves in the areas where they live.

JUSTICE Department ruled that an erring government officer or employee found guilty of administrative charges does not necessarily forfeit his right to retirement and other benefits so long as the penalty he incurs is less than dismissal or removal from office. Acting Justice Secretary Catalino Macaraig issued the ruling in response to a request for opinion made Agriculture Secretary Arturo Tanco Jr. The request concerned a government official who was administratively charged but who, during the pendency of the formal hearing against him, reached the compulsory retirement age of 65 years.

April 23—

CLIMAX of the Zamboanga Peace Conference was the meeting between the Filipino Muslim leaders and former rebel commanders at Malacañang on April 21, 1975. The highlight of the meeting was the declaration of the President that “henceforth, the responsibility and authority in Southern Philippines, particularly in the Muslim communities, shall be transferred and delegated to Filipino Muslims.” This is in accordance with the constitutional and New Society policy on local autonomy. In line with this pronouncement, the President announced that the eleven (11) regional divisions of the whole country under PD No. 224, dated June 22, 1972 shall be modified. Under this set-up, all the regional centers are in non-Muslim cities. The President ordered that two regions shall be organized, namely: 1) Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao and Sultan Kudarat as Central Mindanao region with the regional center at Cotabato City; and 2) Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Basilan, Zamboanga del Sur and Zamboanga del Norte as Southern Mindanao region with regional capital at Jolo, Sulu. The objectives of this regional re-organization is to group together economically contiguous areas in accordance with their cultural groups and historic associations. The establishment of regional centers in Muslim areas is to insure the development of the Muslim areas and greater national attention to local needs.

THE PRESIDENT called on the private sector to join hands with the government in providing the optimum level of medical care services for the people. The President issued the appeal in a speech read for him by Secretary Clemente S. Gatmaitan of Health, at the opening of the 68th annual convention of the Philippine Medical Association, at the University of Sto. Tomas. The President pointed out that when the reform program was launched to provide every man his measure of justice, peace and dignity, “we aimed not merely at the distribution of material benefits but of social benefits as well.” The President expressed confidence that jointly, the government and the private sector can accomplish more and that, therefore, the cooperation of the two sectors which has been successful in the past, shall continue for the sake of the country and the people.

SUSPENSION of the issuance of any titles or granting of any rights to any portion of land within the former naval reservation in the Ternate-Naic-Looc area in Cavite was ordered by the President because the initial survey reports show that the former US naval reservation, which was transferred to the Philippine government, has been

encroached upon by private claimants, some of whom have obtained titles. The President ordered a general review to be undertaken for the purpose of determining the validity of such titles and claims. Titles or rights obtained by fraud will be reviewed and proceedings undertaken for their immediate cancellation. The participation of any employee in any branch of the government shall be investigated and all the parties found guilty of fraud shall be prosecuted.

THE PRESIDENT returned the power to give appropriate examination for public school teachers to the Civil Service Commission by amending provisions of Republic Act No. 6040. He made the announcement before some 400 school superintendents and officials who made a courtesy call at Malacañang. Under Section 9 of R.A. 6040 of August 4, 1969, the Department of Education and Culture was given sole power to conduct appropriate examinations for public school teachers "with the assistance of the Civil Service Commission." Accordingly the president issued Presidential Decree No. 688 returning such power to the CSC by amending Section 9 paragraph 7 of R.A. 6040 which amended section 23 of R. A. 2260 "insofar as the teachers' examinations are concerned," and all provisions of other acts and decrees inconsistent with the provisions of the new decree. In issuing the decree, the President said the move was necessary "to give meaning and substance to Articles 11 (1) and (B) of the new Constitution. Besides, the President pointed out in the decree, the CSC has better facilities than the DEC, to give appropriate examinations for public school teachers.

THE PRESIDENT ordered the accommodation of an additional 300 qualified applicants for the National Integrated Study Grant for the coming school year. This increases the number of scholars under the scholarship program of the Commission on National Integration, from 4,000 to 4,300 for the school year 1975-1976 under Letter of Instructions No. 271 authorizing the increase in the number of CNI scholars. The President also directed that such grantee receive an allowance not exceeding P1, 500 yearly during the prescribed period of grant, or P150 monthly, exclusive of tuition and other school fees. The President directed the budget commissioner to release the necessary funds so that the LOI can be implemented immediately. The LOI underscores the importance which the President attaches to the extension of all available opportunity to deserving members of the cultural minorities to acquire the benefits of education so that they can become useful members of society.

FINANCE Secretary Cesar Virata abolished the special committee on claims for reward in the finance department and replaced it with an inter-agency committee. The creation of the new committee was embodied in Department Order No. 11-75 to facilitate the processing of reward claims in the department and the various bureaus and offices under it. Secretary Virata directed the old special committee on claims for reward to turn over all its records to the new inter-agency committee.

OFFICE of the Solicitor General said that aliens residing in the provinces will have to come to Manila if they wish to apply for naturalization decree. Judge Hugo R. Gutierrez Jr. of the OSG said the applicant's presence is necessary because he has to be interviewed by the processing officers. He is also required to affix his thumbmark and to swear and subscribe to all statements he makes in his application. The interview of provincial applicants will be given priority so that their stay in the city will not be unduly prolonged, Judge Gutierrez said.

BOARD of Investments (BOI) ruled that only BOI-registered knitting and textiles companies will be allowed by the Central Bank to import machineries and equipment. The ruling made by the investment body was an offshoot of a complaint filed with the Central Bank by Textile Manufacturers Association of the Philippines (TMAP). It petitioned the Central Bank to temporarily stop dollar allocations for local textile and knitting mills to prevent the entry into the country of used and new knitting machineries and equipment. It claims that "the industry is already suffering from overcapacity." The CB, acting on their petition asked the BOI to adopt the guidelines to be implemented by the CB regarding the dollar allocations of applicant textile firms.

April 24—

THE PRESIDENT proposed the formation of a continuing organization of Asian States, as a step to an integrated regional plan of development. The President advanced the proposal in his keynote address during the opening ceremonies of the Eighth Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. The President said such organization, which may be called the Organization for Asian

Unity or Organization of Asian States may operate on a broad scope and act as a guarantee that none shall develop at the expense of others, and that benefits shall be enjoyed by all. In his speech, he also set the tone of the meeting by suggesting that the ADB come up with a fresh new vision so that it will become an instrument of reconstruction and rebuilding of nations and the region.

PRESIDENT Suharto of Indonesia is anxious for an early ministerial meeting among members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) that can facilitate an ASEAN summit. This was the report of the First Lady to the President on her return from Indonesia where she attended the inauguration of the “Indonesia Indah” upon the invitation of the Indonesian First Lady, Madame Suharto. The President had taken advantage of the visit by sending a personal message to President Suharto proposing a summit meeting among the ASEAN heads of state in the light of recent developments in Indo-China and the rest of Asia.

April 25—

THE PRESIDENT met with the executive committee of the Foreign Policy Council in the light of recent developments in Asia. At the meeting which was held at Malacañang, the Foreign Policy Council reviewed the three existing military agreements between the Philippines and United States with particular emphasis on the bases agreement and recommended to the President that the *status quo* is no longer tenable in the light of the present realities. The Council, presided over by the President, received and discussed extensive studies from the Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of National Defense, and the Philippine Center for Advance Studies, all of which recommended several alternatives with respect to the bases agreement. The Council also agreed to widen its consultations with the various sectors of society including academicians students, youth, civic, and business groups. The President reiterated his statement that national survival dictates the urgent review of the agreements and the adoption of the only alternative that best serves the national interest. He expressed confidence that as an old ally, the US would not fail to appreciate the position of the Philippine government.

April 26—

THE PRESIDENT simplified the procedure for the transfer of unclaimed balances of ‘idle’ accounts in financial institutions to the government through Presidential Decree No. 679, which amends Act No. 3636. The simplification was made, among other things, to reduce the cost of publication in newspapers of general circulation of sworn statements of these unclaimed balance prior to their transfer to the government. The President noted that publication costs in the last few years have increased and sometimes more than the aggregate amount of the unclaimed balances to be escheated.

INFORMATION Secretary Francisco S. Tatad stressed the need for a suitable program of development to harness talents in science and technology for the country’s economic development. Secretary Tatad sounded this call during a speech at the symposium jointly sponsored by the Philippine Association of Physicists, the Mathematical Society of the Philippines and the Southeast Asian Mathematical Society at the Benilda Hall of the De La Salle College on Taft Avenue Manila. He said that the government, as an incentive, is giving active assistance to qualified mathematicians and physicists in order to develop a corps of scientists in the country. Secretary Tatad assured the representatives of the different science organizations that with the main thrust of the government in scientific endeavors, and through the mutual cooperation of both these organizations and the private sectors, scientists will contribute more to the growth, development and prosperity of the country.

Source: Supreme Court Library

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1975). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 71(22), cix-cxiii.

Official Week in Review: May 11 – May 17, 1975

May 11—

THE PRESIDENT authorized the construction of the Magat River multi-purpose Project in Isabela, through Presidential Decree No. 693, to bolster the government's food production and industrialization efforts in the province. Estimated to cost about P3.5 billion, the project was given an initial appropriation of P2.4 billion by the President out of the national budget. The foreign exchange component is \$160 million. PD 693 authorizes the President to borrow an amount not exceeding \$300 million to finance the foreign exchange requirements of the nine-year project. The decree also empowers the National Irrigation Administration to collect from the users of the irrigation dam such fees or charges as may be necessary to, among others, finance the continuous operation and maintenance of the projects, and recover within a reasonable period its financing and construction costs.

BUREAU of Internal Revenue has chalked up a record high collection of P5.8 billion for the 10-month period from July 1974 to April this year. Commissioner Misael P. Vera said this exceeded by P1.4 billion the collection for the same period last year. He attributed the increased collection to various government tax reforms, and the increased awareness of taxpayers and improved BIR collection efforts.

GARMENT export had the highest foreign exchange earnings last year among the non-traditional products shipped by export-oriented firms registered with the Board of Investment (BOI). Statistics released by the investment body showed that garments had a total export income of \$32,039 million in 1974, \$20,121 million or 169.1 per cent more than the preceding year's \$11.918 million. The export income accounted for roughly 22 per cent of the total export earnings (\$140,103 million) of non-traditional manufactures shipped by the BOI-registered companies. According to the BOI figures, the total earnings generated by the non-traditional export last year was 44.8 per cent higher than the \$96.790 million realized the previous year.

May 12—

SECRETARY of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata has directed the Bureau of Customs to facilitate the collection of P120,713,195.36 from 24 big business firms. The list of the accounts was submitted to Secretary Virata by Acting Customs Commissioner Pedro C. Mendoza. Acting Commissioner Mendoza said that arrangements have been made with some of the business firms for the payment in installment of their accounts with the bureau of customs. However, Commissioner Mendoza said that some of the accounts have been getting bigger in the past months due to non-payment or small payments by some of the companies while, at the same time, incurring more receivables with the bureau of customs. Secretary Virata said that the bureau should institute ways and means by which to effect immediate or substantial collections from the outstanding receivables.

OFFICE of the solicitor general extended the deadline for the filing of applications for naturalization by decree to June 11. The deadline was originally set for May 15, 1975. Solicitor General Estelito Mendoza, head of the three-man naturalization committee, said the President extended the deadline to enable applicants in the provinces to come up with the needed documents and other requirements. He said the Chief Executive was of the opinion that the May 15 deadline would not allow sufficient time for the committee members to process the applicants' papers.

May 13—

THE PRESIDENT reiterated the Philippine policy of inviting and welcoming foreign investments to participate in the country's economic development. He extended welcome to officials of Metallgesellschaft, a German steel conglomerate which plans to set up a local office, and Noritake of Japan which has entered into a P65 million joint venture for the manufacture of chinaware in the Philippines. The President assured them that it is the government policy to encourage investments and will extend all available support within the framework of the policies and laws of the country.

A \$5 MILLION Philippine government bank will be organized in the state of California to be known as the Philippine Bank of California, for the following objectives: 1) To tap the deposit potentials of the Filipino

community in the American West Coast; 2) To facilitate trade between domestic and West Coast firms; 3) To allow greater participation of the Philippines in international banking operations; 4) To establish in that area a financial entity with a Filipino identity and help develop solidarity between Filipinos here and abroad, and 5) to enhance our country's image internationally. In Letter of Instructions No. 279 issued by the President, he directed five government financial institutions to invest in the new bank, each to the extent of 20 per cent of the proposed initial authorized capital of \$5 million. These financial institutions are the Philippine National Bank, the Development Bank of the Philippines, the Land Bank of the Philippines, the Social Security System, and the Government Service Insurance System. Their individual subscriptions will be paid to the PNB which is charged with the establishment and organization of the new bank.

May 14—

REVENUE Commissioner Misael P. Vera disclosed that the government's tax amnesty program has netted close to P1.5 billion. He said the vigorous campaign initiated by the BIR in tax information and the lenient attitude of the government towards tax evaders contributed to this encouraging result.

PHILIPPINE Medical Care Commission called attention to the repeated failure of some private corporations to remit to the SSS the Medicare contributions of their employees. Dr. Pacifico E. Marcos, Medicare chairman, said many employees have complained to him against the practice. The complainants, he added, also denounced their employers for "investing their contributions in high-yield deposits in the money market." He said private corporations are not the only delinquents in turning over Medicare contributions of their employees to the SSS.

THE PRESIDENT directed Secretary Cesar Virata of Finance to look into the possibility of injecting more funds into the abaca industry revival program of the country. He issued the directive during the call of Josept N. Sbath, chairman of Polyres Ltd. and president of the Panamanian corporation helping the government to revive the industry in Davao. Mr. Sbath, who was accompanied by Ramon Arnaiz, informed the President that Col. Francisco Gomez of the Gomez Cellulose International Inc., has developed a high-yielding variety that promises to place the Philippines back to its position as the world's major abaca producer. He also lauded the abaca stripping machine invented by Col. Gomez, which, he said, could revolutionize abaca fiber precessing.

FOREIGN tourist visitor in Manila from January to April this year nave reached 184,199 arrivals representing a 47 per cent hike over the same period last year, the Department of Tourism announced. The biggest arrivals during the four-month period were Japanese, numbering 91,117. This represents an increase of 91 per cent compared with 47,673 arrivals during the same period last year. The next biggest arrivals were Balikbayans from overseas totaling 20,469, up by 25.6 per cent compared with last year's figure of 14,352.

May 16—

THE PRESIDENT issued three decrees providing for the proper exploitation and conservation of the nation's natural resources which he considers vital to the security of the Republic. He signed the decrees in the presence of a large delegation of ranking officials of the Department of Natural Resources headed by Secretary Jose Leido Jr. The delegation paid a courtesy call at Malacañang on the occasion of the department's first anniversary. The decrees issued by the President: 1) One providing for the rehabilitation of open and degraded lands through industrial forest plantations and tree farms, granting incentives therefor; 2) Another revising and consolidating all laws and decrees affecting fishing and fisheries so as to stimulate increased production of fish and at the same time ensure the wise utilization and conservation of marine resources; and 3) A third decree revising Presidential Decree No. 389, otherwise known as the Forestry Reform Code of the Philippines, so as to provide for the proper classification, management and utilization of lands of the public domain, and to maximize their productivity in order to meet the demands of an increasing population.

THE PRESIDENT ushered in a new era to systematize the construction and maintenance of farm-to-market roads by providing for better coordination between the national government and the local governments. Addressing the closing ceremonies of the 21st annual convention of the District and City Engineers League (DACEL) at Maharlika Hall in Malacañang, the President announced the issuance of two presidential decrees; namely: 1) Amending the

Department of Public Highways Act (P.D. No. 458) by creating the new Bureau of Barangay Roads; and 2) Amending the Special Highways Fund Act (R.A. No. 917) to provide a subsidy of 50 per cent of expected equipment rentals, whenever necessary; and the release of P2,500 per physical kilometer of existing feeder roads within the barangay areas, to be determined by the barangay council, without any counterpart release from the local government. The new Bureau of Barangay Roads, which is specifically charged with supervising the construction and maintenance of farm-to-market roads, in coordination with the barangay councils, will be headed by a director and an assistant director to be appointed by the President on recommendation of the secretary of public highways.

May 17—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the Fertilizer Industry Authority (FIA) to roll back retail prices of fertilizers by as much as 25 per cent. The substantial reduction in fertilizer prices will directly benefit both the foodcrop and export crop sectors under a newly-approved scheme which will cost the government about P350 million in direct subsidies for Fiscal Year 1975-76. The President's decision was described as "very timely" in view of the advent this month of the planting season for the main rice crop this year.

LOCAL canned meat processors and traders assured consumers that prices of canned meat and raw meat products will not be increased despite the hike in petroleum prices. The assurance was made during a meeting convened by Agriculture Secretary Arturo R. Tanco Jr., at the Department of Agriculture in Quezon City. The meat processors, led by Pure Foods Inc., said their substantial inventory of low-priced Australian beef will enable them to absorb higher fuel prices without increasing" the retail prices of canned meat products. The processors and traders, who control the sale of meat in the country, said that they have enough stocks to supply the country's needs for 12 weeks. They also said they are preparing a formal pledge to be presented to the President to the effect that they "will hold down retail prices of canned meat products at current levels for as long as permissible for the sake of consumers."

THE PHILIPPINES imported \$991 million worth of goods while it exported \$825,609,730, both figures representing the first four months of calendar year 1975. The \$164,613,125 difference apparently was caused by heavy imports, mostly capital goods for the country's infrastructure and industrialization program. These bureau of customs statistics were forwarded by Acting Customs Commissioner Pedro C. Mendoza Jr. Value of exported products last April amounted to \$234,661,839 with sugar as the number one export product with a combined value of \$90,147,493. Converted into pesos, the total four-month import value figures run up to P6.9 billion since monthly import bills amounted to an average of about P1.7 billion. Import value figures indicate that April registered the highest with P1.9 billion.

Source: Supreme Court Library

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1975). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 71(25), cxxvii-cxxx.

Official Week in Review: May 26 – June 1, 1975

May 26—

THE COUNTRY aims to build its own capabilities in development and security that will not depend on the temporary grace or favor of any other nation. This was stressed by the President in a speech read for him by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor at the Memorial Day services for World War II American soldiers at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial, Fort Bonifacio. The President said that the country's capacity for self-defense must be rooted in the bedrock of national will "constantly nourished by acts of self-reliance and self-sacrifice." No amount of military hardware or superior technology can take the place of the fighting strength that can derive only from self-reliance, the President pointed out. The President also said that the events in Indochina forewarn the other nations of Southeast Asia and that the time for self-reliance is at hand; that there can be no substitute for independence and need to master one's own destiny. Extolling the role of soldiers, the President said they are taught not to ask what they die for; "the presumption is that the political judgment which sends them to their deaths is infallible." He said soldiers are mere surrogates of the people who, in the last reckoning, must decide whether the cause they fight for is just and necessary. Recalling the heroism of American and Filipino soldiers in the last war, the President said that "we will not only venerate them but also learn from them and from their sacrifice." He said their graves are also signposts of history.

THE PRESIDENT held a long conference with Admiral Noel Gayler, commander-in-chief of the United States Armed Forces in the Pacific on the entire question of American bases in the Philippines and the whole range of U.S.-Philippine security arrangements. Accompanied to Malacañang by Ambassador William H. Sullivan, Admiral Gayler arrived in Manila in the course of an inspection tour of U.S. military installations in the area. The President has called for a reassessment of U.S.-Philippine security relations in the light of recent developments in Asia, particularly in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

THE PRESIDENT was informed by an American oil executive of the discovery of new geothermal resources in Laguna. Fred Hartley, the chairman-president of the Union Oil of California, reported to the President that if these resources could be developed properly, it could light up the whole of Luzon. The American executive informed the President of the drilling operations of his company in Tiwi, Albay and Los Baños, Laguna. According to Mr. Hartley, his company is in the process of drilling its third well in Los Baños and that the results are "very, very encouraging."

PHILIPPINE Medical Care Commission (PMCC) extended Medicare coverage to board members of government-owned or controlled corporations who are not members of either the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) or the Social Security System (SSS). Medicare premiums for board members concerned are to be paid by government-owned or controlled corporations wherein they are directors. The board secretary should certify that the board member is not a member of the GSIS or SSS. Dr. Pacifico E. Marcos, PMCC chairman, said that this extension of medicare coverage to another set of beneficiaries is the fifth action of this office on persons who are or were in one way or another connected with the government but who are not compulsory members of the GSIS.

May 27—

THE PRESIDENT inducted members of the National Commission on the Role of Women with the First Lady as chairperson, in a ceremony held at Malacañang. The President created the commission under Presidential Decree No. 633 in response to an appeal of the United Nations for member countries to put up their respective bodies to ensure the full integration of women for economic, social and cultural development at national, regional and international levels. Recognizing the significant contribution of Filipino women as citizens, homemakers, workers, and volunteers, as well as their increasing participation in the development of friendly relations and cooperation among nations, the President stressed the need for a body to review, evaluate and recommend measures to insure the full integration of women for national and international development.

MOBIL Petroleum Co. Inc. sold and assigned to the Philippine National Oil Co. three per cent of the shares of common capital stock of the Bataan Refining Corp. The agreement restructures the equity ownership of the Bataan

Refinery into 60 per cent PNOC and 40 per cent Mobil. The previous ownership was 57 per cent-43 per cent for the state-owned company. This restructuring of the BRC equity structure will enable it to solve problems associated with the expiration of parity and the Laurel-Langley Agreement affecting its private lands. The transaction involves the transfer of 33,540 shares of BRC from Mobil to PNOC at a price of \$1.187 million. Bataan Refining Corp. owns and operates the Bataan Refinery at Limay, Bataan which has a rated capacity of 110,000 bls/day. Signatories to the agreement were Geronimo Z. Velasco, president of PNOC, and Robert D. Wales as attorney-in-fact of Mobil Petroleum.

PERSONNEL of private schools, whether they hold teaching or non-teaching positions will start enjoying retirement benefits this year. Atty. Antonio Dumlao, officer-in-charge of the Bureau of Private Schools said the requirement for retirement plan in private schools was one of the reasons why the government is granting new increases in tuition fees.

PHILIPPINE National Bank has released P30 million as working capital for the textile industry. Benedicto Dacanay, executive secretary of the Textile Mills Association of the Philippines (TMAP) said that the amount is part of the P100 million set aside by the PNB to help finance the operation of the distressed textile industry. He said the P100 million being funded by the PNB will be secured by inventories of textile mills. The local textile industry, which has been undergoing difficulties since the oil crisis, will use the PNB loan for its operational expenditures. The amount will also prevent the industry from increasing its prices and laying off workers.

May 28—

THE PRESIDENT authorized the initial release of P50 million for setting up of four prefabricate plants that will produce schoolbuilding components in strategic places in the country and speed up the construction of badly needed schoolrooms. The four plants, which will be under the direct supervision of the director of public works, will be put up in Manila, Northern Luzon, Mindanao and the Visayas. According to Presidential Decree No 703 issued by the President, the prefab schoolbuilding components produced by these plants shall be paid from the allotments for the construction of schoolbuildings to the various district and engineering offices of the Bureau of Public Works. A schoolbuilding Components Trust Fund is established under the decree to be constituted from income derived from the operation of these plants. This fund shall be spent solely for the operation and maintenance of these plants, including the construction of buildings, acquisition of equipment, like motor vehicles which may be needed from time to time, salaries and wages of personnel, and other operating expenses.

May 29—

THE PRESIDENT took strong measures to strengthen the rural banking system in order not to endanger the success of the agrarian reform program. Reacting to reports that many farmers who secured loans under Phase 4 of Masagana 99 refused to pay their loans believing they were government dole-outs, the President announced during the opening session of the 22nd annual convention of the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines, at Maharlika Hall, that: 1) Farmer-borrowers who have no reasonable cause not to pay their loans will be referred to the secretary of national defense for necessary action; 2) Farmer-borrowers whose crops were destroyed by natural calamities or *force majeure* will be assisted by restructuring their loans for a reasonable period, during which the Central Bank will extend the necessary financial assistance to the rural banks in question; and 3) He will issue a decree transferring from the rural banks to commercial banks some of the burden of extending loans to agriculture.

MEMBERS of the Philippine delegation to the International Labor Organization Conference in Geneva called on the President for final instructions before leaving. Secretary Blas F. Ople, who heads the ILO delegation and is sole candidate for president of the ILO conference which is reserved this year for Asia, briefed the President on the agenda of the conference. Secretary Ople said the main items to be taken up at the conference pertain to international developments on rural and migrant workers. The labor secretary expressed particular concern for the welfare of migrant workers because, he said, there are up to now over 600,000 Filipino migrant workers in the United States, including those who have acquired American citizenship.

OFFICIALS of Husky Oil, headed by James E. Nielson, president of Husky Oil Ltd., who arrived recently to observe oil drilling operations east of Balabac, near Palawan, called on the President. Mr. Nielson informed the President that his party is looking into the possibility of helping in the development of the country, particularly in the cattle raising and coal mining industries. The President expressed gratitude for their interest in the country's economic development and voiced his hope that when they return from the oil drilling operations they will have some good news, the prospects for oil.

May 30—

THE PRESIDENT called for the fair and expeditious administration of labor justice in order to maintain social stability for the success of the New Society. He took time off from his pressing duties to administer the oath of office to the 72 labor arbiters of the National Labor Relations Commission, and emphasize the importance of honesty and impartiality in the performance of their work. He told the new appointees who will be the closest point of contract with the people to act independently according to their conscience, and assured them that they have nothing to fear as long as they perform their job correctly.

THE PRESIDENT underscored the need to forge closer economic partnership among members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as a means of opening up a bigger market base with these countries. In a speech read for him by Economic Planning Secretary Gerardo P. Sicat, the Chief Executive discussed before representatives to the 7th National Marketing Conference at the Hyatt Regency Hotel the mutually beneficial effects of such closer economic relations among ASEAN member countries. The Chief Executive emphasized the need for self-reliance upon the country's own resources and markets in partnership with its ASEAN neighbors in finding and maintaining better terms of trade. At the same time, the President called on the local marketing industry to adopt innovative and developmental marketing approaches that will foster the economic growth of the country.

May 31—

THE PRESIDENT will visit the People's Republic of China from June 7 to June 11 this year. The invitation for the visit was extended by Chairman Chu Teh of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and Premier Chou En-lai of the State Council of the People's Republic of China in a letter dated May 20, 1975. During the President's visit, questions of mutual interest to the Republic of the Philippines and the People's Republic of China will be considered at the highest level in a cordial and friendly spirit, reflecting the steady improvement in the relations between the two countries.

June 1—

THE PRESIDENT acted to ensure that the deadline for the submission of the final audit reports on the performance of local officials be met, with time to spare if possible. That deadline is August 31, 1975. In Letter of Instructions No. 281, he issued the following directions: 1) All agencies and instrumentalities of the government whose participation in this project may be asked for, should cooperate with the Performance Audit Team and its designated Regional and Provincial Audit Teams, and 2) Member departments of the Performance Audit Team shall assign thereto such personnel as may be deemed necessary and for this purpose shall respectively provide them with all the necessary facilities and underwrite all traveling expenses and per diems to be incurred by their personnel in performance of audit activities.

MORE funds will be made available for the government's social and economic projects this coming fiscal year with the abolition of all existing special and fiduciary (trust) funds. In Presidential Decree No 711 issued by the President, the operations and funding of these funds will be transferred to the general fund which shall maintain the funding of only those activities and functions of those funds which are, as determined by the National Economic and Development Authority relevant to the present social and economic plans. The President said that this transfer of the special and trust funds to the general fund will facilitate the implementation of social and economic programs and other government projects.

CUSTOMS Commissioner Rolando G. Geotina created a new customs office charged with regulating, controlling and coordinating complex container operation in the Port of Manila and other Philippine ports serviced by container-vessels. The new office was created in the wake of the fast increasing number of containers presently being landed in the port of Manila and other major ports of the country which is expected to hit the 75,000 container-per-year mark. Commissioner Geotina said that the office which shall be known as the Integrated Container Control Office will have six members.

Source: **Supreme Court Library**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1975). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 71(27), cxxxix-cxlii.

Official Week in Review: June 2 – June 8, 1975

June 2—

THE PRESIDENT approved the national budget for the general fund of the fiscal year 1976 amounting to P18,244,200,000, at a Cabinet meeting held at Malacañang. The new budget for the ensuing fiscal year is broken down to P10,995,200,000 for operating expenditures and P7,249,000,000 for capital outlays. The approved budget for the general fund outlays constitutes Part I of the entire national budget. Part II, the appropriations for public works, is still under consideration. The new general appropriations reflect an increase of P1,871,401,000 over that of the current final year; that is, an increase of P1710,826,000 for operating expenditures and P1,150,575,000 for capital outlays. In line with the desire of the President, a Special Development Activities Fund was created totaling P554,104 million, of which P92,657 million will be current operating expenditures and P461,447 million capital outlays. This increases capital outlays by P458 million; that is, from P6,691 billion in FY 1975 to P7.249 billion in FY 1976.

THE CABINET decided to prohibit any government office or agency from directly dealing with foreign government or offices offering assistance, financial or otherwise, without the approval of the Department of Foreign Affairs. The decision was made at a Cabinet meeting to eliminate the possibility of infiltration of government offices by foreign groups under the guise of aid.

CUSTOMS Commissioner Rolando G. Geotina created a new customs office charged with regulating, controlling and coordinating the complex container operation in the Port of Manila and other Philippine ports serviced by container vessels. The new office was created in the wake of the fast increasing number of containers presently being landed in the Port of Manila and other major ports of the country which is expected to hit the 75,000 container-per-year mark. Commissioner Geotina said the new office which shall be known as the Integrated Container Control Office will have six members. The customs port operation service head is officer-in-charge, while representatives from the Association of Customs Brokers, the Association of International Shipping Lines, E. Razon Inc., Customs Metropolitan Police Service and the customs piers and inspection division, sitting as members. He said that as constituted, the ICCO shall enforce customs policies, regulations and procedures related to container operation to ensure maximum efficiency inside and outside the port zones of the country in the handling of this revolutionary system of cargo operations.

June 3—

THE PRESIDENT announced that he has created a caretaker committee made up of members of his Cabinet which will take care of the routine affairs of state during his five-day state visit to the People's Republic of China. He made the announcement in his conference with ranking officials of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to whom he formally presented the members of the committee and whom he directed to extend full support to the committee in his absence. Malacañang, however, made no announcement of the membership of the committee, called the Executive Cabinet Committee, the body will be in constant touch with the President, who will be available for consultations, if necessary.

VARIOUS agencies of government were directed by the President to ensure that the cultural minorities be given all possible government assistance and that their rights be protected. The President issued the directives in the presence of about 70 tribal leaders from Palawan, Mindoro Oriental, and Mindoro Occidental, who came to pay their respects and pledge unstinted cooperation and support to the New Society. He pointed out that under Presidential Decree No. 719, the supervision, control and administration of all non-Muslim cultural minorities are directly under the Office of the President. He said that with this decree, he will be able to pay personal attention to the tribes throughout the country through Secretary Elizalde whom he has designated as his personal representative. The President, however, reiterated the government policy of giving the cultural minorities the choice of either joining the mainstream of national life, or of preserving their identities, customs and traditions.

CUSTOMS Commissioner Rolando G. Geotina said total collections of the bureau for the first 11 months of fiscal year 1974-75 has reached the P6.5 billion mark. He said that there are strong indications that the bureau will exceed

the collection goal of P6.7 billion by a wide margin this fiscal year. He said that customs collection machineries all over the country are training their efforts towards a P7 billion collection goal which is not far-fetched considering that the bureau averages P500 million per month.

TRADE Secretary Troadio T. Quiazon Jr., urged subdivision owners and developers to redirect their efforts towards the construction of low cost houses to make their role more meaningful in the country's development programs. He exhorted members of the Subdivision Owners Association of the Philippines (SOAP) to adopt housing schemes that cater to lower income earners instead of concentrating on the higher income bracket of the population. He was inducting officer and guest speaker during the induction rites for the directors of the SOAP. He said that there is a big opportunity for business even in low cost housing development because of the country's housing backlog and the increasing annual housing requirements.

June 4—

THE PRESIDENT emphasized the role of women in the program of national development. In a speech read for him by Secretary Carlos P. Romulo of Foreign Affairs, at the opening ceremony of the 29th anniversary of the Civic Assembly of Women of the Philippines (CAWP), the President expressed pride in the fact that when the United Nations declared 1975 International Women's Year, the Philippine was the first to make substantive contribution to this global program. Before the President's address, the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, was proclaimed as "Filipina Exemplar" and most worthy representative of Filipino womanhood during the International Women's Year. The award was conferred on the First Lady by the CAWP in recognition of her love for the country and people, unselfish dedication in serving others, and her abiding faith in God and the goodness of man.

AGRICULTURE Secretary Arturo R. Tanco Jr. said the government has adopted a no-nonsense policy and would apply the full force of the law to anyone caught sabotaging the full food production program. He issued the warning as he cited Presidential Decree No. 669 which imposes stiff on all crimes involving fertilizer diversion. He said that the decree now makes the crime of fertilizer diversion punishable by an imprisonment of from 15 to 20 years. The issuance of PD 669 also arose from reported channeling of fertilizer intended for farmers in Central Luzon into the black market.

NATURAL Resources Secretary Jose J. Leido Jr. said that the Philippines, which have emerged from its insular cocoon has removed the barriers of non-relation with the Socialist countries and the emerging nations of the third world. "In commercial relations, we do not distinguish the political or ideological orientation of other countries, Secretary Leido told an assembly of commercial attaches and analysts recalled from various Philippine posts abroad for a two-month seminar. "In the hard realities of international trade, the economic interest of the country is paramount," adding that the era of isolationism is long gone.

June 5—

THE PRESIDENT exempted cement from the payment of export duty, and also ordered the remission of duties paid on fuel oil used in the manufacture of export cement, in twin moves designed to cushion the impact of the recent oil price hikes on the cement industry. Through Executive Order No. 451, the Chief Executive excluded cement from the list of export products subject to duty. At the same time, he issued Letter of Instructions No. 282 addressed to Finance Secretary Cesar E. A. Virata, Industry Secretary Vicente Paterno and Customs Commissioner Rolando Geotina directing them to grant a duty drawback is a subsidy equivalent to the duty on the fuel oil used for the production of export cement. The President said that the moves are in line with the government's policy to fully use all industrial productive capacity and promote export of Philippine manufacturers to generate foreign exchange for the country.

MALACANANG has designated June 15 to June 21 as National Salesmen's Week to call public attention to the significant role salesmen play in the orderly distribution of the country's agricultural and industrial products. Proclamation No. 1393, which sets aside the week, says that salesmen act "not only as fulfillers of our wants and needs, but also as pillars in the economic stability of the country."

June 6—

ON the eve of his departure for Peking, the President issued Presidential Decree No. 730 granting permanent residence to 1,785 aliens who had entered the Philippines as non-immigrants, including overstaying Chinese nationals. These aliens are spared the requirement under earlier PD 419 to apply for immigrant visas with the Commission on Immigration and Deportation. According to PD 730, many of these non-immigrants have already married and borne families in the Philippines and there is need, for humanitarian considerations, to grant them permanent residence. They have been thoroughly screened by the National Intelligence and Security Agency. Still going on is the screening of aliens permanently residing in this country who have applied for naturalization as Filipino citizens by decree under the President's Letter of Instructions No. 270.

THE PRESIDENT authorized the release of P120 million for the reclamation of a 45-hectare portion of the Dagat-Dagatan lagoon, which covers parts of Navotas, Malabon, and the cities of Caloocan and Manila, enable the government to begin constructing low-cost housing in the area by 1976. The outlay will cover the cost of acquisition of construction equipment including motor vehicles. In Presidential Decree No. 706, the President said the area to be reclaimed is intended not only as a site for low-cost housing but also for the establishment of an industrial zone that will give job opportunities to its residents. Dagat-Dagatan is a relocation area where families affected by the Tondo foreshore urban renewal program will be resettled permanently.

The President received visiting U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Philip C. Habib. He impressed upon Secretary Habib the Philippine position on the RP-US security arrangements, as previously indicated to American officials, including U.S. Ambassador William H. Sullivan and Admiral Noel Gayler, commander-in-chief of the U.S. Armed Forces in the Pacific who was a recent Manila visitor. With the President during the call of Secretary Habib were Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor Jr. and Secretary of Public Information Francisco S. Tatad.

June 7—

THE PRESIDENT expressed the hope that he will return from his five-day state visit to the People's Republic of China with some concrete gains for the Philippines. In a statement shortly before boarding his plane at the Manila International Airport, the President said: "I leave today on a historic voyage to the People's Republic of China in the name of our people and in the pursuit of our highest national interest." Accompanied by the First Lady and their daughters Imee and Irene, the President took off for Peking at 10:30 a.m. On hand to give them a warm send-off were members of the Cabinet, members of the diplomatic corps, justices of the Supreme Court and large delegations from nearby provinces, cities and towns.

DEPARTMENT of Tourism and not the city of Manila has the authority to license, regulate, and supervise tourism-oriented business establishments, such as hotels, resorts, inns, motels, hostels, restaurants, and other related facilities and services which cater to foreign and domestic tourists. Justice Secretary Vicente Abad Santos has rendered this opinion in answer to a query raised by Tourism Secretary Jose D. Aspiras. Secretary Abad Santos said that with the approval of Presidential Decree No. 189, as well as its amendment, PD 259, the authority to classify, regulate, supervise, and license hotels and other tourism-oriented business establishments has been withdrawn from local governments.

FILIPINO women who become aliens by marriage and foreigners married to Filipino and Americans who have long resided in the Philippines may acquire Philippine citizenship by merely taking their oaths of allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines. This was disclosed by Solicitor General Estelito P. Mendoza, chairman of the special committee on naturalization. He said those who are interested in reacquiring Filipino citizenship do not have to file applications for naturalization by decree as provided for in Letter of Instructions No. 270. All they have to do, Solicitor Mendoza said, is to go to the Solicitor General's Office and take their oaths of allegiance.

June 8—

PRESIDENT and Mrs. Marcos visited a model commune in the city's outskirts to see if Chinese development plans and experience are adaptable to the Philippines. The First Couple motored 35 kilometers out of the city to visit the Red Star people's commune which boasts of 129 production brigades and a total population of 82,000. Started in 1958 the commune has 10,800 hectares planted to wheat, rice, maize, cotton, vegetables, and orchards and it has 200 hectares of fishponds. The commune produced a total of 51,000 tons of cereals in 1974, using mechanization and scientific farming. From the commune the President motored back to the city where he was shown an underground shelter as defense against sudden attack. Started in 1969, underground shelter construction for Peking millions is still being completed. The President expressed optimism over the visit after his meeting with Chairman Mao Tse-tung and Premier Chou En-lai.

Source: Supreme Court Library

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1975). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 71(28), cxlv-cxlix.

Official Week in Review: June 19 – June 25, 1975

June 19—

THE PRESIDENT received the pledge of support and loyalty of the Chinese community in the Philippines following the establishment of diplomatic relations between this country and the People's Republic of China. The pledge was given through the officers of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce Inc. who estimated that after the current mass naturalization of aliens in accordance with the President's Letter of Instruction No. 270, some 70 to 80 per cent of federation members would become Filipino citizens. The President emphasized, however, that there are only two choices of citizenship among the Chinese nationals in this country following normalization of relations with PROC. They can either become Filipino citizens or become citizens of the PROC. All other Chinese, the President stated, will have to be regarded as stateless aliens.

LIQUEFIED petroleum gas users get another breathing spell with the two-year extension of the duty-free importation of the fuel granted recently by the President. In Presidential Decree No. 727 signed June 5, the President amended earlier PD 333, which authorizes, among others, the LPG duty-free importation, pointing out that national interest requires that the gas should be made available at low prices to domestic consumers. The privilege, which has been extended up to June 30, 1977, was to have expired at the end of this month.

June 20—

THE PRESIDENT said that the bureaucrats in government should go down to the level of the barangays and serve as the link between the masses and the government. In a speech before the Bureau Directors Association Inc. (BUDIRAS) at the Philippine Village Hotel, the President pointed out that under the old society, the elective officials, particularly the legislators, were supposed to articulate the will of the people. "This must be altered under the present society and each and every bureaucrat should now be capable of dealing directly with the people and serve as a link between the executive machinery of the government and the masses," he said. The occasion was the closing rites of the 13th annual convention of the Budiras where the President was guest speaker.

PRIVATE sector was challenged by the President to support more effectively the nation's continuing struggle for self-sufficiency in rice and corn. In a speech delivered for him by National Grains Authority Administrator Jesus Tanchanco at the annual convention of the Confederation of Filipino Rice and Corn Associations at the Philippine National Bank Auditorium, the President urged the people to "stop thinking in terms of what the government can do for you but what you can do to help your fellow Filipinos."

THE CHIEF Executive conferred the Order of Sikatuna, rank of Datu, on Ambassador Nicolas Martin Alonso, outgoing envoy of Spain to the Philippines. In a citation read by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Ambassador Martin was awarded "for his services in the field of international relations, for having been a worthy spokesman of his government and people, and for having endeavored constantly to strengthen the friendly ties between Spain and the Philippines."

June 21—

THE PRESIDENT said that the Export Processing Zone in Mariveles, Bataan is a symbol of the determination of the New Society to push through its program of economic reforms and ensure the security of the nation. After conducting a two-hour inspection tour of the area and noting its amazing transformation from a barren countryside to a sprawling 375-hectare multi-million peso industrial complex in six years, the President said that the EPZ has become a dream come true. The EPZ is located on the central shore of Mariveles Bay. It is a modern, fully-equipped industrial estate where capital equipment, raw materials, spare parts and supplies may be imported tax free and customs duty free for use in manufacturing or processing finished products for export.

June 22—

INTEGRATED reception service for rebel surrenderers has been established in Mindanao to speed up the identification, processing and integration into society of some 4,000 former rebels. The system, established by order of the Office of the President, will help the ex-rebels channel their efforts to constructive endeavors. Under this program, rebel returnees shall be referred to Provincial Processing Centers, which shall be designated in each affected province. In these centers, they will undergo the normal briefing and will be asked to list down their grievances, if any. Six government agencies have been designated to coordinate efforts to help the former rebels rejoin civilian life; the Department of Agrarian Reform, the Department of Education and Culture, the Department of Labor, the National Manpower and Youth Council, and the Development Bank of the Philippines.

June 23—

THE PRESIDENT granted the privilege to hold residential lots to Americans who: 1) Formerly were Filipino citizens; 2) Become permanent residents of the Philippines; and 3) Have been residents of the Philippines continuously for at least 20 years. In Presidential Decree No. 713, the President pointed out that during the effectivity of the so-called “Parity Amendment” to the 1935 constitution, the United States citizens who were formerly Filipino citizens and other US citizens who have resided in the country for a long period of time, or have become permanent residents, have acquired in good faith private residential lands in the honest belief that they may continue holding the properties even after the expiration of the treaty. PD 713 allows these Americans residential lots not exceeding 5,000 square meters.

June 24—

LOS Baños which has become famous for its tailor-made high-yielding varieties of rice may soon be producing HYV’s of any number of other crops. To bring this about, the President created the Institute of Plant Breeding at the University of the Philippines at Los Baños, Laguna. Its primary aim is to develop new and improved varieties of important agricultural products in line with the government’s intensified food production efforts. With the establishment of the institute through Presidential Decree No. 729, the President expressed hope that “dramatic increases in productivity of our traditional crops will be made possible in improving plant species.”

June 25—

THE PRESIDENT pushed for a stronger Association of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN) to include communist countries, and the creation of a zone of peace and neutrality in Southeast Asia. In a speech read for him by Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile at the inauguration of a center for the veterans of the Philippine Expeditionary Forces to Korea, (PEKTOK) at Fort Bonifacio, Rizal, the President pointed out that times have changed and trade and diplomacy can now flourish between communist and non-communist states regardless of ideological differences.

THE PRESIDENT ordered the immediate arrest and detention of 21 persons who have pending cases of tax evasion or malversation. He issued the order even as he exhorted the officials of the Bureau of Internal Revenue to maintain the high standards of the office and to continue their efforts to increase tax collections. The Chief Executive issued the arrest order to the secretary of national defense upon the recommendation of BIR Commissioner Misael P. Vera.

THE PRESIDENT hailed the new trade agreement between the Philippines and Australia as another manifestation of increasing cooperation between the two countries. He was informed of the signing of the new treaty by Australian Minister for Overseas Trade Frank Crean who paid a courtesy call at Malacañang. The new trade agreement calls for the establishment of a joint RP-Australian commission to meet annually, alternately in each of the two countries, in order to advance the objectives of the agreement. According to Secretary of Trade Troadio Quiazon Jr., the new agreement shows the interest of both countries in the expansion of a two-way trade over a broader range of products and in increasing the level of suitable and constructive Australian investments in the country.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

Official Week in Review: July 11 – July 17, 1975

July 11—

THE PRESIDENT proposed a greater exchange of funds, goods and services between the Philippines and the Middle East countries. He voiced the proposal to Fawzi Sultan, managing director of the Bank of Kuwait, who paid his respects before departing, after attending the conference called by the *Financial Times* of London in Manila to assess the financial market in Southeast Asia. The Kuwaiti bank executive conveyed to the President his bank's desire to participate actively in the economic development of the country. "There should be more contact between Middle East countries and the Philippines," the President said, "especially as we move along in the exchange of funds and services. Some of our men and technologists are now working there and our new market is the Middle East."

THE PRESIDENT welcomed the plan of the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan to set up a liaison office in Manila early next year. "That would be a very wonderful idea," the President said when informed of the plan by Saburo Okita, president of OECFJ, who was accompanied by Ambassador Masao Sawaki. The President conveyed the gratitude of the Filipino people "for all the help and accommodations that Japan extended to us, especially in loans, the latest of which was signed by Ambassador Roberto S. Benedicto." Among the loans granted by Japan to the Philippines are those for the Export Processing Zone in Bataan, and the Manila Flood Control Program which will take years to complete.

THE PRESIDENT received John Fairfield Jr., vice president-international of the Stromberg-Carlson of New York, who submitted proposals of his company to put up a plant in this country for the manufacture of electronics telephone equipment for local and worldwide distribution. During his call, Fairfield reported that his company had started its Asian operations with Filipino engineers who help train Vietnamese, Thai and Laotian technicians in the installation of electronic telephone systems in their respective countries. A subsidiary of the General Dynamics Corp. of St. Louis, Missouri, one of the world's biggest suppliers of military equipment, the Stromberg-Carlson hopes to put up its communications equipment factory at the Export Processing Zone in Mariveles, Bataan.

July 12—

THE PRESIDENT is considering the establishment of a special fund for the preservation of the ecological balance and the preservation from further destruction to the country's marine and aquatic resources. During a surprise inspection tour of Laguna de Bay, the President directed Secretary Jose Leido Jr. of Natural Resources and Director Felix R. Gonzales of Fisheries to look into the feasibility of such a project and to pinpoint possible sources of fund. In the meantime, the President also directed the restocking of Laguna de Bay with bangus fingerlings and the demolition of abandoned and colorum fish-pens in the area to continue. The President made a surprise inspection of Laguna de Bay in view of the mass destruction of bangus reportedly due to overstocking and the matting of nets with filamentous algae which prevented the circulation of water which, in turn resulted in oxygen deficiency and "drowning" of the fish.

PERIOD from September 10 to September 21 this year has been declared by the President as the period for the Metropolitan Film Festival to encourage the people to appreciate Filipino cinema and make it part of their cultural life. The Chief Executive also created an executive committee, headed by the chairman of the Board of Censors for Motion Pictures to take charge of its observance. Through Proclamation No. 1459, the President gave the committee the authority to raise funds among all sectors of society including local governments which may donate their amusement tax shares to the MOWELFUND during the period. The festival's theme centers on the achievements under the New Society. The best picture will be conferred the "Dangal ng Bagong Lipunan" award.

July 13—

THE PRESIDENT authorized the conversion of Basilan City High School into a national high school to enhance the government's educational development program in that province. The Basilan City High School is the only public high school in Basilan province, serving both Christians and Muslims. Now called Basilan National High School, it

is provided by Presidential Decree No. 709 with an initial funding of P500,000 for its conversion, operation and maintenance during fiscal year 1975. Thereafter, such sums as may be needed for its operation and maintenance shall be included in the annual general appropriations measure. In addition to the sums appropriated, tuition fees of students shall accrue to the national high school for its operation and maintenance. All equipment, property, assets and liabilities of the city high school are transferred by PD 709 to the Basilan National High School.

July 14—

THE PRESIDENT announced the conclusion of a continuing crude oil supply agreement between the Philippines and Iraq. The conclusion of the supply contract was earlier reported to the President by Chairman Geronimo Z. Velasco of the Philippine National Oil Co., who had just arrived from the Middle East. The supply of high-quality Basrah crude oil from Iraq to the Philippines will commence immediately, the President added.

THE PRESIDENT received Dr. George Petrianides of the Gondard Company of Paris who proposed to set up automated compost plants in the Philippines as a means of solving the garbage disposal problem in this country, particularly in the urban areas, and at the same time produce cheap fertilizer with high agricultural potential. The Gondard method processes and recycles garbage and agricultural wastes to produce organic fertilizers which are better than chemical fertilizer because, according to the scientist, they stimulate the growth of healthful bacteria in the soil and improve the texture and chemical properties of the soil. The President referred the proposals to government technicians for study.

July 15—

THE PRESIDENT has approved a P22.399-billion national budget for fiscal year 1976 to back up a policy of dynamic flexibility and to serve as catalyst for the sustained growth and development of the economy. Bigger than the budget for the last fiscal year by P2.23 billion, the national budget, which was signed by the President last June 25, is designed to answer the need for intensified development efforts in the wake of a slowdown in economic activities and the recessionary pressures in developed countries.

July 16—

THE PRESIDENT launched an all-out war on drug abuse. The President's action was prompted by increasing citizen and government agency reports that high schools and colleges, particularly in the Greater Manila Area, have fallen under the grip of the menace. He enlisted the services of the youth, particularly the Kabataang Barangay, students, as well as teachers and the various law-enforcing agencies in carrying out a nationwide preventive educational and police campaign against drug abuse.

THE PRESIDENT put an end to years of violence and lawlessness along border localities in Bukidnon, Agusan, Davao and Cotabato as he granted amnesty to 19 tribal chiefs who had decided to come down from the hills and cooperate with the government. Datu Saligan Gawllan, over-all leader of the Matisalug tribal group whose disputes with settlers, ranchers and timber concessionaires had been held responsible for many of the killings and for the burning of houses in the localities, informed the President they had decided to surrender because they were convinced of the sincerity of the government to help them. PANAMIN Secretary Manuel Elizalde Jr., who was instrumental in the surrender of the tribe, reported to the President the trouble in the area had been brewing for more than 10 years. He said that the trouble between the tribe and the settlers involved disputes on land acquisitions and unscrupulous manipulations of both Christians and other tribal leaders.

THE PRESIDENT conveyed to Satoshi Sumita, president of the Export and Import Bank of Japan, the gratitude of all the peoples of Asia, who stand to benefit substantially, for the adoption of a new policy of granting direct loans to end-users by the Export and Import Bank of Japan. The loan will finance the establishment of the Agus II Hydroelectric Power Project in Mindanao, which is upstream of the Maria Cristina Hydroelectric Power Project.

PERIOD from November 2 to November 30 this year has been proclaimed by the President as Securities Industry Month, in connection with the holding of the First Asian Securities Industry Forum in Manila on November 10 to

November 16. At the same time, the President called on all government agencies concerned to help under the auspices of the Department of Trade and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

July 17—

GOVERNMENT employees who have become accustomed to securing free rides had better start digging into their pockets. The President through Letter of Instructions No. 296, prohibits all government officials and employees, including members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, from asking for or demanding, in any way, free or discounted international or domestic transportation of passenger or property from any foreign or domestic transportation company. Similarly, such airlines, shipping or land transportation companies are forbidden to grant or extend any free or discounted transportation as a result of such demand or request from any government official or employee. Exceptions to this order are cases: 1) When free or discounted transportation is expressly allowed by special law; 2) When there is prior written clearance from the President in the national interest; 3) When the trip is covered by a proper travel order and is related to or connected with the regulation of the operations of the airline, shipping and land transportation company concerned; and 4) When the element of emergency is present. The President stressed that a violation of this prohibition shall be cause for the dismissal from the service of the government official or employee involved. The objective, he said is to instill the proper concept of morality in the government service.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1975). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 71(33), clxxvii-clxxix.

Official Week in Review: July 18 – July 24, 1975

July 18—

THE PRESIDENT ordered government agencies to step up their relief and development operations in Mindanao as a means of bolstering the pacification campaign in the area. He met earlier with Ustadz Kasim Ismail, chairman of the Agama Court of Basilan and the two Zamboanga provinces, who informed him he was authorized by the central committee of the Moro National Liberation Front to determine the sincerity of the government in its current peace negotiations with rebel leaders. Ismail said he will help the authorities to persuade more than 2,000 armed followers under him to cooperate with the government in its effort to rehabilitate his Muslim brothers and develop their localities.

THE PRESIDENT flew to Palawan and inspected the sites for cattle breeding stations and one of the richest fishing grounds in the country, in connection with the food production program of the government. He said the government will take advantage of the currently depressed world prices of cattle to import breeding stock for distribution to private ranchers or government breeding stations, in order to improve the local stock. Accompanied by Secretary of Natural Resources Jose Leido Jr., the President also inspected one of the richest fishing grounds in the country. He directed the organization of the fishermen's cooperatives and the establishment of ice plants and food terminal stations where the catch could be shipped to other localities.

July 19—

INFORMATION Secretary Francisco S. Tatad warned the public that the Department of Public Information has not authorized or endorsed any publication to solicit advertisements in supplements for the observance of the 58th birthday anniversary of the President. He made this announcement in the wake of reports that certain publications are using the name of the DPI in soliciting advertisements for this purpose. In the letters to business firms, these publications supposedly enclose "self-explanatory DPI clearances."

July 20—

THE PRESIDENT exhorted the youth to accept their share of responsibility and participate more actively in the establishment of a New Society under a regime of justice and equality. Addressing the "sunrise graduation" of some 800 Kabataang Barangay leaders at the foot of scenic Mt. Makiling in Laguna, the President said that the New Society will be handed down as a noble legacy to the young but that this legacy would last only if they accepted their heavy responsibilities. "It is for this reason that I ordered the organization of the Kabataang Barangay in the more than 40,000 barangays all over the country, to serve as a vehicle for the participation of the youth in the building of a new nation," the President said. He was accompanied by son Bongbong.

July 21—

THE PRESIDENT led the nation in giving Prime Minister M. R. Kukrit Pramroj of the Kingdom of Thailand a red carpet welcome upon his arrival at the Manila International Airport for a four-day state visit to this country. At the airport to welcome the visiting Prime Minister were members of the Cabinet, justices of the Supreme Court, members of the diplomatic corps and other ranking civilian and military officials.

THE PRESIDENT, later in the evening, conferred on Prime Minister M. R. Kukrit Pramroj of the Kingdom of Thailand Order of Sikatuna, rank of Rajah, at ceremonies held at Malacañang. The decoration is the highest within the gift of the Philippine government conferred only on heads of state. President at the conferment rites were Foreign Secretary Carlos P. Romulo, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Chief Justice Querube Makalintal, Information Secretary Francisco S. Tatad, Finance Secretary Cesar Virata, Mons. Bruno Torpigliani, papal nuncio, and members of the visiting official entourage headed by Thai Foreign Minister Chatichai Choonhavan.

THE PRESIDENT called on Japan to take the initiative in helping the countries of Southeast Asia to be self-reliant, independent, and capable of standing on their own feet. He asked Japan to assume this role in this talks with Ikko Kasuga of the Japanese Diet. Head of the Fifth Democratic Socialist Party Mission of Japan to Southeast Asia, Kasuga called at Malacañang to pay his respects to the President. Pointing out that Japan is the foremost industrial nation in Asia and the third most active and prosperous industrial economy in the world, the President said it was his feeling that “Japan should take the initiative to help the nations of Southeast Asia to be self-reliant and independent and capable of standing on their own feet.”

THE PRESIDENT has done honor to Apolinario Mabini by declaring, under Proclamation No. 1464, that from now on July 23, the “Sublime Paralytic’s” natal day, shall be known as Mabini Day.” The same proclamation makes Wednesday, July 23, 1975, a special public holiday in Mabini’s native Batangas and the cities therein. The day is the 111th birthday of the hero who handed down ideals and principles which are now the nation’s treasured legacy.

July 22—

THE PRESIDENT and Prime Minister M. R. Kukrit Pramoj of Thailand discussed the insurgency problems in their respective countries, with particular emphasis on the entry of weapons possibly from Vietnam. At the start of their talks, which were held aboard the RPS “Ang Pangulo” en route to Corregidor, it appears from a briefing given by Prime Minister Kukrit that commercially traded arms were crossing Thai borders, not necessarily in the hands of communist elements but certainly in those gunrunners. On the Philippine side, the President disclosed to the visiting Prime Minister that the Philippine government is investigating reports of the possible landing of arms in this country from sources yet to be pinpointed. They discussed ways and means on how best to solve the gunrunning problem.

DIRECTOR Pedro G. Refuerzo of Animal Industry informed the President that the foot-and-mouth disease is on the decline in three provinces but is spreading to other provinces in Central Luzon. Director Refuerzo said that the animal disease is on the decline in Bulacan, Nueva Ecija and Pampanga, where a total of 8,905 healthy work animals were vaccinated, and 10,017 infected cases were treated since the beginning of this month. The BAI official predicted that the disease will simmer down, but warned that a few cases are being reported in Bataan, Zambales and Western Pangasinan, indicating that the disease is spreading to those provinces.

July 23—

THE PRESIDENT and visiting Prime Minister M. R. Kukrit Pramoj of Thailand strengthened the ties of friendship between the peoples of the Philippines and Thailand when they exchanged approaches to the problems common to their respective countries. Prime Minister Kukrit honored the President at dinner at Hotel Intercontinental in return for the state dinner given in his honor by the President and the First Lady at Malacañang. Addressing the dinner party following the brief remarks by Prime Minister Kukrit, the President said that in his conferences and consultations with the Thai Prime Minister, they have agreed that the threats that face the Philippines and Thailand are more internal and external and that the principal danger is subversion. He added that the key to the “indecisive military battles” is economic in nature, and that if plans for economic upliftment and modernization of their societies fail, “there will be no need for any organized ideology to threaten the established institutions.” The President disclosed that he and the Thai Prime Minister have the same answer to the problems of the economic systems of their respective countries. He said that in both countries, production is encountered by private initiative and distribution has a social focus. For his part, Prime Minister Kukrit expressed gratification to find sincerity and hospitality in the Philippines and was pleased to discover a “common will to abolish social injustice in our countries.” He went on to add that in the Philippines he has found blood relatives instead of friends.

THE PRESIDENT and Prime Minister M. R. Kukrit Pramoj continued their second day of discussions over matters of interest both to the Philippines and Thailand. In a press briefing, Information Secretary Francisco S. Tatad said that the conferences were agreed on three issues, namely: military bases, strengthening of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and close economic cooperation, in the field of economic cooperation, there was mutual agreement in the harmonization of agricultural and individual policies within the region, including the establishment of a customs union a foreign trade or exchange union.

July 24—

THE PHILIPPINES and the Thailand agreed to strengthen their “growing community of interest” by expanding cooperation between themselves and with other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). As an initial step their foreign ministries signed a Cultural Agreement leading toward a better and closer understanding of each other’s culture by means of exchange of book, films, and teachers, as well as visits of newsmen, writers and artists. The President and Prime Minister M. R. Kukrit Pramoj of Thailand then issued a Joint Communique reviewing the understandings reached between them during the latter’s four-day official visit to the Philippines.

Source: **Supreme Court Library**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1975). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 71(34), clxxxiii-clxxxv

Official Week in Review: July 25 – July 31, 1975

July 25—

THE PRESIDENT has issued Presidential Decree No. 752 permitting local governments to avail themselves of credit financing for priority projects or for emergency budgetary needs. It is the policy under the Decree on Credit Financing that any local government may resort to borrowings only if the local funds are insufficient to finance a socio-economic developmental project or to meet an impending financial a dislocation that may prejudice that dispensation of public services. The privilege is open to provincial, city, and municipal governments.

MEMBERS of the Australian Parliamentary Goodwill and Fact-Finding Mission were received by the President when they paid their respects following their arrival in Manila. Speaker Gordon Glen Dentorn Scholes, head of the delegation, informed the President that they had been to Pagadian City in the South to survey the work of development in the area, in which Australia is extending some assistance. Speaker Scholes said he was impressed by the steps being taken by the President to develop tourism and to create a favorable atmosphere for foreign investments in the Philippines. The President conveyed to the visiting parliamentarians the gratitude of the Filipino people for the help being extended by their government to the development of Mindanao. He said that because of the support of Australia, the government has been able to launch the massive development of Mindanao, convincing many rebels of the sincerity of the government and affecting their surrender.

July 26—

IN ANOTHER move to solve the serious housing problem, the President offered incentives to domestic corporations who would start low-cost housing projects for their workers. The President, through Presidential Decree No. 745, directed the Government Service Insurance System and the Social Security System to provide domestic corporations and partnerships with at least 300 employees with easy financing and credit terms under any or all of the following schemes: 1) Low interest rates; 2) Lengthening of repayments period; 3) Adoption of a graduated amortization scheme such that smaller amortizations are paid during the initial period of payment; and 4) Government subsidy of a portion of the interest payment; and 4) Government subsidy of a portion of the interest payment. The decree also stipulates that these corporations shall be allowed a reasonable margin of profit if lots and dwelling units are to be sold to their employees on easy installment terms if the dwelling units are to be leased to the workers on a monthly rental basis.

KIDNEY Center of the Philippines was inaugurated at the ABM Sison Hospital with a P1 million pledged contribution of the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, for its initial trust fund. Speaking at the inauguration rites Mrs. Marcos said the center “provides fresh affirmation of the compassionate efforts of the government and the private sector to give the people the dignity and protection that they deserve as human beings.” The First Lady showed her deep concern to the medical needs of the people when she first initiated the establishment of the Philippine Heart Center for Asia and the Cancer Center.

July 27—

CIGARET smoking will now be a much more expensive habit, as the President increased the specific tax rates on cigarettes based on their retail prices. To promote the use of native cigarettes, however, specially the cheap kinds favored by the rural folks, the tax rates for these have been decreased. On the other hand, locally manufactured cigarettes bearing foreign brand names under licensing agreements are required to pay 50 per cent additional tax. Under Presidential Decree amending Section 137 (b) of the National Internal Revenue Code, as amended, cigarettes packed in thirties are to pay, a lower level of tax than formerly. The same is not the case with cigarettes packed in twenties. They pay a progressively higher level of specific tax, depending on the retail price.

THE PRESIDENT promoted four engineers to positions ranging from acting assistant director to acting director in the various services of the Department of Public Highways. Their promotion was recommended by Highway Secretary Baltazar Aquino based on their ability, competence, efficiency and loyalty to duty, as well as an on the length of their services in the government. Promoted were Amado E. Bandelaria, acting assistant director, Project

Execution Service; Jaime S. Sarte, acting assistant director, Bureau of Construction and Maintenance; Laureano S. Mendiola, acting assistant regional director, and Nicasio T. Leoncio, acting director, Project Execution Service.

July 28—

THE PRESIDENT conferred the Golden Heart Presidential Award on Director Thomas C. Niblock of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for “invaluable service to the Republic” during the 1972 flood in Central Luzon, Director Niblock, who started as deputy to then Director Wesley Heraldson six years ago, is leaving for Washington together with his family. He will be replaced by Garnett Zimmerly, assistant administrator for the East Asia bureau of the USAID in Washington.

July 29—

THE PRESIDENT and Ambassador William H. Sullivan signed two loan agreements under which the United States Government will provide \$10 million to increase agricultural production and improve the living conditions of small rice and corn farmers in the Philippines. The first loan, totaling \$3.5 million, will be made available through the Farm Services Development Corp. in the development of small scale farmer-owned and managed irrigation systems. The second loan of \$6.5 million will be used to implement the Libmanan/Cabusao Integrated Area project, which is a part of the government’s Bicol River basin development project. Both loans are on concessional terms, with a 10-year grace period, payable at three per cent interest.

CATHOLIC Bishops Conference reiterated its agreement to the President’s basic policy that the government supports all family planning methods and that the choice of method be left to the conscience of individual users. The reiteration was made in the course of the courtesy call of newly elected members of the administrative council of the Rosales of Cebu, council chairman, the group sought to dispel doubts that although the Catholic church is in favor only of natural methods of limiting the size of families, it has no objections to the basic policy of the government to have the choice of method to individual couples.

July 30—

THE PRESIDENT requested the Romanian government through Bogdan Baltazar, Romanian charge d’affaires in Manila, to prepare an *aide memoire* on the expansion and intensification of the Philippine-Romanian trade and commercial exchanges. He made the request during the call of the local Romanian representative who conveyed to the President a message of gratitude from President Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania for the President’s expansion of concern for the victims of the recent flood in Romania. According to Baltazar, President Ceausescu has expressed the desire to import 50,000 tons of Philippine sugar for delivery from September 1975 to January 1976. In order to be able to pay for the sugar, the Romanian President offered to export to the Philippines agricultural machinery, tractors, four-wheel drive vehicles, and rolling stocks for the Philippine National Railways.

July 31—

THE PRESIDENT issued a decree appropriating P18,377,292,000 for development infrastructure projects. Presiding over a three-hour board meeting at the National Economic and Development Authority at Malacañang, the President also issued another decree creating the National Housing Authority and dissolving the existing housing agencies. In appropriating funds for public works, the President pointed out the need to increase the financing of some on-going and previously authorized projects to ensure their completion in view of increased construction costs brought about by circumstances beyond the control of the government and of changes in technical designs and requirements. In creating the National Housing Authority and dissolving existing housing agencies, the President emphasized that the magnitude of the housing problem of the country has grown into such proportions that only a purposeful, determined and organized mass housing development program can meet the need of Filipino families for decent dwellings.

Source: Supreme Court Library

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1975). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 71(35), clxxxix-clxli

Official Week in Review: August 8 — August 14, 1975

August 8—

THE PRESIDENT warned that the Filipino people will oppose with determination and with force, if necessary, any attempt on the territorial integrity of the Philippine Republic. He issued the warning during the 74th anniversary celebration of the Philippine Constabulary at Camp Crame, Quezon City, in the wake of confirmed reports of a foreign design to form a separate state out of Mindanao, Palawan, Sulu, tawi-tawi and Basilan with Sabah. In congratulating the PC on its anniversary, the President conveyed the commendation, the respect and recognition of the entire Filipino people “for the services you have rendered to our country and people.”

THE PRESIDENT created the Integrated National Police with the Philippine Constabulary as the nucleus and the integrated police forces of cities and municipalities as components. He signed the decree constituting the INP during the 74th anniversary celebration of the Philippine Constabulary at Camp Crame, Quezon City. The INP will be under director general, who is the chief of the constabulary, Maj. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos. The PC, however will continue to be one of the major services of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The decree also transferred the National Police Commission, chairman by Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, from the Office of the President to the Department of National Defense. The President said that the decree was prompted by the fact that the maintenance of law and order seemed to have met obstacles due to the fact that the local police forces were not professionalized and standardized and standardized, and not raised to the level expected of the man in uniform.

August 9—

PHILIPPINE trade with socialist countries increased by 82 per cent to \$53.02 million in the first six months of this year, the department of trade reported. Trade figures also show that the country's exports stood at \$14.7 million compared to imports of \$38.4 million. The department said the country's socialist trade partners, included the People's Republic of China, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Romania, Czechoslovakia, and Poland.

August 10—

TOTAL assets of monetary authorities during the first quarter of this year has reached P23.632 billion or an increase of P7.529 billion over the March 1974 total of P16.103 billion. On a comparative year basis, the total assets of the monetary authorities in 1974 of P21.383 billion increased by P6.446 billion over the 1973 asset of P14.937 billion. Monetary authorities are the Central Bank and any special funds or institutions exercising specialized central banking functions such as the stabilization funds, foreign exchange fund or other specialized foreign exchange banks.

August 11—

THE PRESIDENT extended the registration of births and deaths to December 31 this year in view of the lack of communications and other facilities needed to convey the importance of the census to the people, particularly in the Mindanao area. The original deadline, as set by Presidential Decree No. 651 issued last January 31, was March 17, or 45 days after the signing of the decree. In the mandatory PD 766, the President ordered the births and deaths occurring from March 17 to November 30 this year must be registered until December 31 “without any fine or fee of any kind.” Babies born after November 30 must be registered 30 days from birth without any fine or fee of any kind, by the attending physician, nurse, “hilot”, midwife, or hospital or clinic administrator, or, in their absence, by either parent or responsible member of the family or any person who has knowledge of the birth. On the other hand, deaths occurring after November 30 must be reported within 48 hours by the nearest responsible relative or any person who has knowledge of the death to the local health officer.

INFORMATION Secretary Francisco S. Tatad asked the Philippine printing industry to bid for the Southeast Asian market for its products and services as a way of ensuring the progress of the industry. Speaking at the 12th anniversary and induction of new officers of the Printing Industry Association of the Philippines, the secretary said Southeast Asia offers a rich potential for Philippine printers, provided they are local industry to develop a

publishing spirit. He said the industry ought to invest more money in the production of books and periodicals not only to stimulate business, but as its contribution to the development of ideas and thought in the New Society.

FORMER Ambassador John Addis of the United Kingdom to the Philippines was received by the President when he made a courtesy call at Malacañang. The former envoy to the Philippines, who was subsequently transferred to Peking has retired from the diplomatic service and is now a lecturer at Oxford University in London. During an exchange of impressions with the President on their China visits, the former envoy said that following his retirement, he returned to China to conduct an in-depth study of the country and its people and that he learned more during his 10 days' stay in Shantung than he did during the years he was ambassador in Peking. The President and Ambassador Addis showed interest in the new agricultural techniques which increase agricultural production by as much as 30 per cent, as well as the agricultural production by as much as 30 per cent, as well as the massive construction of irrigation systems which now allows cultivation of what was previously arid land, ambassador Addis was accompanied to Malacañang by architect Leandro Locsin.

August 12—

THE PRESIDENT cited the country's economic gains when he received a former United States Treasury official and the head of a religious sect from the United States who made a courtesy call at Malacañang. The Presidential callers were David Kennedy, former U.S. secretary of treasury, and Spencer Kimball, president of the Church of Christ of the Latter Day Saints. During their visit, the President traced for them the events leading to, and following the proclamation of Martial Law, and the progress thus far achieved in the country's program of reforms.

REVENUE Commissioner Misael P. Vera, enforcing, a long-standing provision of the tax code, ordered a crackdown on all land, air and sea transportation establishments both local and international, for non-payment of a two percentage tax on their gross monthly receipts. The crackdown is expected to raise at least P50 million in revenue for the government to finance its huge budgetary appropriations for national economic development programs.

August 13—

THE PRESIDENT administered the oath to members of the Council for the Welfare of Children and Youth which was charged with coordinating the implementation of all laws relative to the promotion of child and youth welfare. In inducting the council members, the President pinpointed that about 60 per cent of the 42-million population of the country are below 24 years old and that it therefore becomes necessary for government to orient its policies to meet the special problems of the young population. He stressed the need to coordinate the general as well as specific policies in various departments in order to support the objectives set for the young.

PHILIPPINE Legion of Honor, with the rank of commander, was conferred by the President on Rear Admiral Doniphan B. Shelton, commander of the United States Naval Forces in the Philippines. The President made the conferment in recognition of the American naval official's "meritorious and distinguished services to the Republic," as commander of the US Naval Forces and co-chairman of the RP-US Mutual Defense Board.

CREDENTIALS of Ambassador Carlos Alfredo Bernardes were received by the President as the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Brazil to the Philippines. In receiving the letters of credence of the new Brazilian envoy to the Philippines, the President said the Philippines, as one of the developing countries, will exert all efforts to promote the interests of other developing countries.

August 14—

MORO National Liberation Front told the President it has accepted the government's proposal for a ceasefire in Southern Philippines. The MNLF spokesman, former Judge Abdul-Hamid Lukman, saw the President at Malacañang and said the rebel group accepted the ceasefire proposal suggested by the Philippine government panel during conversations with the MNLF in Jedah, Saudi Arabia, in late January this year. Lukman, identified as legal adviser and chairman of the investigating and fact-finding committee of the MNLF central committee, was

accompanied in his call on the President by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor and Rear Admiral Romulo Espaldon, commissioner of Region 9.

THE PRESIDENT has extended for another 15 days the fuel subsidy given to certain segments of the transportation industry to keep the prices of commodities down and to help fight the effects here of the worldwide inflation. This was announced by Director General Gerardo P. Sicat of the National economic and Development Authority (NEDA) even as he revealed the general outline of a huge P35.5 billion infrastructure program to be implemented in four years. The fuel subsidy was extended to September 30 within which public utilities can operate under present transportation rates.

BUREAU of Public Works has appealed to the public to support the President's flood control program by refraining from dumping solid wastes or introducing construction which tends to obstruct the flow of waters along esteros and other waterways. The bureau also appealed to the general public to bear with the government for the duration of the implementation of its various projects. The bureau made this appeal as Greater Manila is facing flood problems during the rainy season.

Source: **Supreme Court Library**

Marcos, F. E. (1975). Official Month in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 71(37), cci-cciii.

Official Week in Review: August 15 – August 21, 1975

August 15—

THE PRESIDENT directed all government agencies and corporations to assist in the government's export promotion program to increase the country's foreign exchange earnings. He said the expansion and development of foreign trade has become a "principal channel in developing the Philippine economy" and should be given adequate support in view of the current global economic conditions. The President issued the call for a closer inter-government agency cooperation for the expansion of foreign trade negotiations in a speech during the graduation of 30 commercial attaches and analysts held at Malacañang. The President also directed all government agencies and corporations to extend assistance to the export promotion program of the government, now being undertaken by the Bureau of Foreign Trade.

August 16—

DEVELOPMENT Bank of the Philippines has granted a total loan of P168 million to projects falling under the small and medium scale industries for the two-year period from 1973 to 1974, according to Rodolfo Manalo, manager of the industrial projects department of the DBP. Total number of projects covered by the loan has been estimated by Manalo at 1,400. He said that the DBP would like more applications for loans from small-sized and medium-scale industry investors.

August 17—

THE PRESIDENT, through Presidential Decree No. 760, allowed the Philippine registration of foreigner-owned vessels under time charter or lease to Philippine nationals to boost the country's coastwise trade and meet the increasing demands of interisland cargo and passenger traffic. To this same end, the President issued PD 761, lowering the domestic capital ownership requirement for the registration of vessels to 60 per cent, amending Section 806 of the Tariff and Customs Code which requires that, for a vessel to be registered in the country, at least 75 per cent of its capital-stock must be owned by Filipino citizens. This same decree transfer the sole authority over the registration of vessels to the Maritime Industry Authority from the Philippine Coast Guard.

August 18—

BUREAU of Internal Revenue, taking the cue from the government position on American bases in the Philippines, moved to implement all national tax-laws inside these foreign military reservations with a view to collecting about P150 million in revenue. Revenue Commissioner Misael P. Vera directed Lauro Abraham, chief assistant in the office of the commissioner, to enforce Philippine tax laws, particularly those having to do with withholding taxes for bases' personnel and PX goods sold openly inside the military bases. Affected by the BIR move are Clark Air Force Base in Pampanga, Subic Naval Base and San Antonio Naval Reservation both in Zambales and Camp John Hay in Baguio City.

August 19—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the immediate investigation of alleged land grabbing in the Sampaloc Veterans Settlement in Tanay, Rizal. The President issued the order during the 29th anniversary reunion and convention of the Veterans Organization of the Philippines (VOP) and the Marking Fil-American Guerillas (MFAG), held at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang. According to Brig. Gen. Agustin Marking, some non-veterans have invaded the settlement and have been reported to seize large areas as big as 200 hectares each, to the prejudice of the veterans for whom the land was reserved. Alarmed by the report, the President directed General Romeo G. Espino, AFP chief of staff, who is president of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines (VFP), to investigate the matter immediately and to apply the full sanction of the law against the culprits.

August 20—

THE PRESIDENT announced a series of actions intended to increase Virginia tobacco production in the north and at the same time improve its position in the export market. He directed the Central Bank to make available to the Virginia tobacco growers an initial amount of P20 million through the rural banks, to help the farmers increase their production and enable them to construct more flue-curing barns. In order to improve the quality of Philippine Virginia tobacco, and promote its competitiveness in the world market, the President directed the Department of Health to stop the distribution of DDT insecticides in the tobacco-growing areas, to avoid toxic sprays that disqualify certain quantities of locally-grown Virginia tobacco from the export market.

DR. JAMAN S. IMLAN has been appointed and inducted into office by the President as acting president of the Mindanao Institute of Technology in North Cotabato. After the induction, the President directed Dr. Imlan to prepare the program for the university.

August 21—

THE PRESIDENT has extended for another month the fuel price support program to further help transport operators bear the prohibitive cost of fuel oil. In Letter of Instructions No. 306, the President extended to September 30 the program which, under earlier LOI 280 signed last May 15, was good only for three months.

PEOPLE of Mindanao were granted virtual autonomy by the President with the purpose of speeding up the development of the island and by restructuring the regional government set up and releasing P62 7 million for Region XI and Region XII. In a series of orders and directives the President: 1) Amended Presidential Decree No. 742, transferring from Region X to Region IX the province of Zamboanga del Norte and the cities of Dapitan and Dipolog; creating Sub-Regions IX-A and IX-B in Region IX; and providing for the appointment of assistant regional commissioners for the sub-regions: 2) Appointed former Judge Abdul Hamid Lukman as assistant regional commissioner for Sub-Region IX-A, composed of Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi; 3) Appointed Al Caluang as commander of the Paramilitary Force for Southern Look, Sulu; 4) Directed the Budget Commissioner to release P30 million to each of the regional commissioners for Region IX and XII for the construction and furnishing of the regional centers and the purchase of heavy equipment; and P1.35 million each for operating expenses for their offices.

THE PRESIDENT was lauded by officials of one of the world's largest copper producers, for affecting impressive changes and creating a very favorable investment climate in the Philippines. "We congratulate you for the very impressive changes being made," Dr. Milton Stern, vice president of Kennecott Copper Corp., one of the world's largest copper producers, said, "and for creating a very favorable investment climate." The President said he was gratified over the results of the reforms despite the world crises. He said that the Philippines has not fared as badly as other countries because "we have been able to strike a balance in order to avoid the erosion of our foreign exchange." The President exchanged views with his foreign guests regarding the business prospects, particularly for copper which is facing difficulties caused by low price, capital shortage, and stiff competition in the world market.

THE PRESIDENT ordered immediate suspension of the ejectment of bonafide tenants or lessees of agricultural and residential lands converted, or to be converted into subdivisions or commercial centers and establishments. He declared that moratorium through General Order No. 53 in the wake of reports that many owners of agricultural and residential lands converted or still to be converted into subdivisions have indiscriminately ejected their tenants or demolished their tenants' houses without orders from courts or other competent authorities. In his order, the President directed that all order for the ejectment of tenants or the demolition of their houses be hereby suspended "until further order" to prevent the spread of social problems and to "allow a humane solution to the problem."

Source: Supreme Court Library

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1975). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 71(38), ccvii-ccix

Official Week in Review: September 5 – September 11, 1975

September 5—

THE PRESIDENT granted absolute amnesty to about 350 former rebels of Basilan who came to pledge their cooperation and asked them to join hands with the government in the development of Mindanao, Sulu, Basilan and Tawi-Tawi. The former rebels were led by Sheik Abdul Hamid Camlian, adviser, financier and organizer of the Moro National Liberation Front, and his son Abdulla Camlian, commander and chairman of the military tribunal. Basilan Revolutionary Committee, and member of the MNLF Central Committee and Military Planning Board. Because of the importance of the event which led at the Malacañang Reception Hall, the President directed that “henceforth this hall be known as the “Hall of Unity and Brotherhood” of the Filipino people. The President also reiterated his pledge of utmost autonomy for the Muslims within the context of territorial integrity and sovereignty under the Constitution, adding that a substantial portion of the funds for development will be diverted to the Muslim areas.

THE FIRST Lady, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, arrived at the successful conclusion of a diplomatic mission entrusted to her by the President, which covered four countries in over a month’s time. In a brief nationally televised report, the First Lady outlined the results of her mission to make new friends while strengthening old ones for the country, to establish new markets and new prices for essential imports like oil, to conserve dollars, and to work with world leaders in the common effort to promote understanding, cooperation and peace among nations. On hand to meet the First Lady were high government officials including members of the Cabinet, and the immediate family headed by the President, and including children Imee, Ferdinand Jr., and Irene.

THE PRESIDENT administered the oath to Dr. Manuel S. Alba and Dr. Tito Mijares as deputy directors general of the National Economic and Development Authority, in ceremonies held at Malacañang. At the same time, the President designated Alba as chairman of the Tariff Commission and Mijares as executive director of the National Census and Statistics Office. The duo will hold these positions in concurrent capacity.

ENHANCEMENT, the President said, of labor-management relations is conducive to increased production which, he said, is one of the lasting foundations of peace and stability. Addressing participants to the 10-day Industrial Relations Symposium for Asian countries which just concluded in Manila, the President assured that the Philippine government supports all moves to promote industrial relations and congratulated the delegates for their contributions to world peace. Accompanied by Secretary of Labor Blas F. Ople, present president of the International Labor Organization, some 52 delegates from 19 Asian nations paid a courtesy call at Malacañang, prior to their return to their respective countries on the conclusion of their seminar. Justice Tan Boon Chiang, president of the Industrial Arbitration Court of Singapore, who responded in behalf of the delegates, thanked the President and the Filipino people for the congenial atmosphere with which the symposium was held and the “overwhelming” hospitality accorded them during their 10-day sojourn here.

September 6—

THE PRESIDENT directed all government offices and government-owned or controlled corporations receiving, programming or providing government subsidy to submit to the National Economic and Development Authority a status and evaluation report on any government subsidy they are currently handling. The Chief Executive issued Letter of Instructions No. 305 to this effect since the NEDA, being the highest economic policy-making body of the country, must regularly be informed on the different subsidy programs of the government with respect to the resource needs, the effectiveness and the duration of these programs. He said that the cooperation of all concerned agencies is “imperative” to obtain data for the “effective and rational policy formulation on government subsidies.” The status and evaluation report, according to the LOI, must be submitted within 60 days after the end of each fiscal year. And, also, interim reports shall be submitted whenever requested by the NEDA.

THE PRESIDENT authorized newspapers and other publications publishing judicial notices, public bidding advertisements and other similar announcements to increase their rates to not less than P10 per column inch but not more than 80 per cent of regular commercial display advertising rates. The old rates, as stipulated by Republic Act

No. 4569, was not more than P3 but not less than P2.50 per column inch. The President said that the rate hike, authorized through Presidential Decree No. 795, is needed "to enable newspapers and other periodicals to continue in their task of disseminating news to the people." At the same time, the President also directed, through PD 796, that persons engaged in the printing of any publication appearing regularly and having fixed prices for subscription and sale, and which is not published primarily for advertisements, be exempted from the payment of local taxes. PD 796 amends section 5 of the Local Tax Code.

THE PRESIDENT said that Filipino writers have made a meaningful gift and contribution, through the Palanca Literary Contests, to Philippine life in the past 25 years. In a speech read for him by Information Secretary Francisco S. Tatad at the Silver Jubilee of the Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature at the Little Theater of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, the President stressed that the awards are important milestones in the history of contemporary Philippine literature. These awards, the Chief Executive said, have served as a major impetus in the production of Philippine writing of high merit "as the contests gathered together the newest and most prestigious authors."

September 7—

THE PRESIDENT announced that the Philippines is engaged in an experiment in the local production of ballistic missiles in pursuance to its Self-Reliance Defense Program (SRDP). "The defense of the Philippines cannot be left to alliances with other countries," the President said as he witnessed the successful test-firing of locally produced missiles at the northern coast of Luzon. "We must assume that there will be contingencies where even the United States may not be ready to come to our assistance." Dubbed the "Bongbong" rockets, the missiles were fired some 10 to 12 kilometers into the sea from launchers mounted on a military vehicle parked along the shoreline. They constitute part of a mobile defense system against possible invasion from the sea or from the air.

September 8—

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady honored President and Madame Francois Xavier Ortoli of the Commission for the European Community at luncheon held at Malacañang. In offering a toast for the visitors, the President said they have come at a time when the Philippines is engaged in reforms in an effort to create a New Society. He said that Filipinos have to install a crisis government in order to meet a modern threat, to meet the problems of the modern world. In his response, President Ortoli assured the readiness of the European Economic Community to extend cooperation in the region. He said he is very much impressed with what he has observed in this country and expressed confidence that the Philippines will succeed in its efforts to give a better life for its people.

THE FIRST LADY said that women in the barrios, with all their virtues of modesty, fidelity, fortitude and industry, need more recognition and attention than what they are getting now so that their integration into the process of national development could be hastened. The First Lady made the observation in a speech during the 9th biennial conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. The First Lady deplored the situation in which thinking, especially in a developing country like the Philippines where the majority live in the rural areas, has become citified and urbanized. But she expressed confidence that this distorted perspective was a mere oversight and not because of deliberate neglect. She said she was glad to note that this tendency to neglect the rural areas is reversing and that government's orientation now is being focused on the countrysides. The First Lady extolled the Filipina's wholehearted acceptance of her role as the bearer, nourisher and cherisher of life, since she exercises crucial influence during the formative years of new generations, unlike her western sister who often "carp at her triangular role of homemaker, wife and mother."

September 9—

THE PRESIDENT received ranking commanders of the Moro National Liberation Front from the Lanao provinces who offered their services to the government in seeking a lasting solution to the peace and order problem in the Muslim areas in Mindanao. The group represents the first batch of MNLF commanders operating in the Lanao area, to return to the folds of the law. Other groups previously brought to Malacañang were from Sulu, Basilan, Zamboanga and Cotabato areas. Ustax Abdul Manan Gamor Amerol, supreme commander of the Gomra Unit who

headed this latest batch of surrenderers from Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte, said that they realized that they and their children have a better future in this country under the leadership of the President.

THE PRESIDENT ordered the acceleration of work for the construction of the National Power Corporation's geothermal plants in Tiwi, Albay and Barrio Bitin, Bay, Laguna. He issued the order following a briefing which indicated that geothermal resources may ultimately supply a major portion of the country's energy fuel needs. "I am encouraged by what I see," the President told newspapermen at Barrio Masiit, Caluan, where he also inspected a compact farming pilot project. "When the experts say that instead of merely producing 1,200 megawatts, it may produce much more, we have something that we should work on," the President said. He added that he will finalize all contracts with Japanese suppliers for generators for the geothermal plants and authorize the expenditure of funds for the Tiwi and Barrio Bitin geothermal projects which he would like to see accelerated.

September 10—

THE PRESIDENT called for a strong armed forces to guard against all eventualities including aggression in order to guarantee the sovereignty of the Republic when all efforts fail to promote peace and stability. He made the warning at the traditional loyalty parade and review given him in his capacity as commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, on the eve of his 58th birthday, at Camp Aguinaldo, in Quezon City. The President said the four major services, the Constabulary, Army, Air Force and Navy, have reached a level of efficiency which, while wanting in arms, forms a strong united front against perils to the Republic. Finally, the President urged the AFP to continue setting the example and model for the Filipino people in supporting the goals of the New Society.

September 11—

THE PRESIDENT took to the field, spent his birthday among the small farmers and fishermen in Central Luzon, and there held his first Cabinet meeting outside Malacañang in an effort to seek on-the-spot solutions to some of their pressing problems. After partaking breakfast with a farmer's family in Barrio Bonsuran, Pandi, Bulacan, the President convoked members of his Cabinet in a nearby mango groves during which among others, he: 1) Authorized the Land Bank to set aside an initial P2.4 million to be made available as loan to small farmers for the purchase of tractors (hand tillers) ; 2) Directed the release of P80 million for the construction of barangay roads all over the country to enable farmers to bring their produce to market areas; 3) Ordered the Philippine National Bank of the Philippines, the Amanah Bank, and other government financing institutions to pool their resources and make available P150 million as loans to small fishermen's cooperatives and for the establishment of 18 new ice and cold storage plants in strategic sections of the country; 4) Directed the cancellation of licenses of logging concessionaires who do not engage in reforestation, and for concessions in excess of 100,000 hectares, to cancel the excess; and 5) Authorized the release of P4.5 million for the establishment of rehabilitation centers, to hasten the recovery of surrendering rebels.

COCONUT industry was assured by the President of full support from the government and the political leadership because it is one of the country's basic industries. He gave the assurance during the distribution of the first 12 shares of stocks in the newly created United Coconut Planters Bank, at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang on the occasion of his 58th birthday. In his brief remarks, the President directed the Philippine Coconut Authority and the UCPB to see to it that the bank is utilized for the welfare of the small planters, and that the program of coconut hybridization be continued in order to improve coconut production.

EXECUTIVE clemency was granted by the President to 416 prisoners as part of the traditional observance of his birthday. The clemency cases include four absolute pardons, seven conditional pardons, 331 conditional pardons with parole conditions, and 74 commutations of sentence.

Source: Supreme Court Library

Official Week in Review: September 14 – September 20, 1975

September 14—

THE PRESIDENT declared that the compensation for private property acquired by the government for public use shall not exceed the market value declared by the property owner or such property value as determined by the assessor, whichever is lower. In issuing Presidential Decree No. 794, amending Section 92 of the Real Property Tax Code (PD 464), the President pointed out that the private land owners, anticipating expropriation, declare the value of their properties unreasonably high, which when based on the original provision, “often precludes the government from showing the true value of the property.”

THE PRESIDENT has approved P500, 000 to finance the requirements for implementing Letter of Instructions No. 287 and hasten the census of all veterans in the country. Under the LOI, the President directed the secretaries of the Departments of National Defense and Local Government and Community Development, and all other government agencies involved in the project, to update the list of veterans and their addresses. The President said the census is being conducted not only to establish a permanent roster of veterans but also to facilitate the distribution of certificates of stock of the Philippine Veterans Bank to the recipient veterans.

September 15—

THE PRESIDENT witnessed the signing of a final agreement to proceed with the construction and laying of a high capacity submarine telephone cable linking Okinawa, the Philippines and Hongkong at a cost of some US \$60 million. At the signing ceremony held at Malacañang, the President said he thought it best that he witnessed the important event, because, while the region already has communications via satellite, it is necessary not only for security purposes but also for the convenience of everyone that there be an alternate means of communicating with one another. The agreement covering construction and maintenance was assigned by M.H. Nieto, president of Eastern Telecommunications (Philippines) Inc. (ETPI); M. Itano, president of Kokusai Denshin Denwa (KDD) of Japan; and A. A. Willett, managing director of Cable and Wireless Ltd. of the United Kingdom.

September 16—

THE PRESIDENT received ministers from three neighboring countries and two groups of business executives who made separate courtesy calls on him. Received by the President were: 1) Dr. Mochtar Kusumaatmadja, minister of justice of Indonesia, who was accompanied by Justice Secretary Vicente Abad Santos; 2) Minister of Commerce Tongyod Chittavira of Thailand, who was accompanied by other Thai dignitaries and Acting Trade Secretary Mario Reyes; 3) Minister U Ye Goung of Agriculture and Forestry of Burma, who came with Agriculture Secretary Arturo R. Tanco Jr., 4) Heads of the various Wrigley Companies in Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Hongkong, Taiwan, Singapore and the Philippines, headed by William Wrigley, president of Wrigley company of Chicago; and 5) Officials of the Caltex Oil Company, led by Frank Zingaro, vice president of Caltex International.

ALL GOVERNMENT officials and employees in the Greater Manila area were required by the President to attend the ceremonies at the Luneta commemorating the third anniversary of the New Society. In Memorandum Circular No. 865, signed for him by Acting Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, the President said that since the event underscores the people’s commitment to preserve the nation’s integrity, “it is imperative that the ceremonies commemorating the occasion be witnessed and participated in by the aforementioned officials and employees.”

September 17—

PHILIPPINE house which will bolster an aggressive export drive of the government in the United States West Coast will be established in San Jose, California, in January next year. The memorandum of agreement setting up the House was signed by Trade Secretary Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. and the Philippine House’s president, Mrs. Azucena E. Tomas. The agreement provides that the Philippine House will serve as the government’s marketing agency in the area for Philippine-made products.

September 18—

THE PRESIDENT expressed the gratitude of the Filipino people to World Heavyweight Champion Muhammad Ali and challenger Joe Frazier, for choosing Manila as the site of their title match. The President and the First Lady received the protagonists in what has been billed a “Thrilla in Manila,” when they jointly paid their respects to the first couple.

INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund has granted under its 1975 oil facility a loan of US\$115 million to the Philippines. Added to the present Philippine international reserves of \$1.70 billion, the IMF loan will boost reserves to \$1.825 billion and strengthen the foreign exchange resources of the country. Normally, the repayment period for the loan would be seven years at an interest rate of 7-3/4 per cent per annum, which is more favorable than present commercial rates.

September 19—

THE PRESIDENT announced the beginning of a “sweeping, complete and exhaustive” reorganization of the government to eliminate those who have violated the public trust and reward those who have performed their duties with distinction, courage and dedication. In a report to the Nation on the third anniversary of the New Society, the President spoke of men of wealth and position in government who have failed popular expectations and asked the people to join him in a commitment to do battle against these enemies of the Republic. Government Offices affected by the reorganization were the Commission on Audit, Department of Finance, Department of National Defense, Department of Public Works, Department of Public Highways, Commission on civil Service, Department of General Services, Department of Agriculture, Department of Natural Resources, the Board of Examiners, the Department of Trade, and the Judiciary.

September 20—

INFORMATION Secretary Francisco S. Tatad stressed the need for government communicators to effectively communicate to the people the messages of the national reform program. This task has become more urgent he said, in the wake of the President’s announcement of a sweeping clean up of government. Addressing participants in the conference of the National Association of Government Communicators at El Grande Hotel, Paranaque, Rizal the DPI head said this task is “addressed primarily to the communicator of the message of government because it is the communicator who perceives the weight, validity and acceptance of that message.”

Source: Supreme Court Library

Marcos, F. E. (1975). Official Month in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 71(42), ccxix-ccxxx.

Official Week in Review: September 22 – September 28, 1975

September 22—

THE PRESIDENT issued a decree setting in motion the integrated development of agriculture, natural resources, infrastructure and social services in underdeveloped areas, especially the Mindoro Integrated Rural Development Project. In his decree, the President: 1) Named Agriculture Secretary Arturo R. Tanco Jr. as chairman of the six-man Cabinet Coordinating Committee for Integrated Rural Development Projects; 2) Created the Executive Committee for the Mindoro Integrated Rural Development Project (MIRDP), headed by Natural Resources Secretary J. Leido; 3) Appointed Carlos Sales of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) as Project Director; and 4) Released P1.5 million from the Special Activities Fund for the initial operations of the MIRDP office in Metropolitan Manila, under the direct supervision of the Executive Committee.

UNDERSECRETARY Reuben R. Canoy of Information called attention to the need for media men to learn to speak the language of development if they are to become effective “catalysts of change.” He said the realities of our time require us to reject the American concept of a neutral or adversary media. He also noted that prior to the new social order media degenerated into escapism, into “a journalistic supermarket that offered a little of everything for everybody.” The imposition of guidelines for media since 1972 is an attempt to make it responsive to its role in national development, he explained. To be truly effective, Undersecretary Canoy emphasized, a national communications strategy must be the kind that is evolved from the awareness of existing condition in the country. His speech was read for him by Felipe Villaluz before the closing session of the government communicator’s seminar at Parañaque, Rizal.

September 23—

The PRESIDENT emphasized the vital role of the civil service in guaranteeing the continuity not only of the government but of the race and the nation even in the absence of effective leadership. In his speech on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Philippine Civil Service at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang, the President described the Civil Service Commission as a constitutional body, free and independent of any other power. It must act with initiative, and without much pushing from the Office of the President or any other body, including the judiciary, the President added. The President said the commission under Chairman Jacobo Clave must upgrade the merit system to develop an authentic professional service and institute effectiveness and integrity in performance through the development of positive attitudes among the public servants. In conclusion, the President congratulated the SCS for its 75 years of existence which, he said, “is evidence of the stability and reliability of the system, irrespective of its weaknesses and deficiencies.”

RESIGNATIONS on nine ranking customs officials were accepted by the President and a list of 64 customs employees separated from the service on various counts was announced. Said employees who were separated from the service were guilty of dishonesty and grave misconduct to long and unexplained absences. The highest ranking officer of the Bureau of Customs will automatically assume the duties of the commissioner of customs, in a temporary capacity, it was also announced. That officer is Pedro Mendoza, customs deputy commissioner. He takes over from Commissioner Rolando Geotina whose resignation was accepted by the President on September 19.

September 24—

THE PRESIDENT underscored the urgent need for Asian countries to promote themselves as one tourism region. He emphasized this point in a speech read for him by Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor at the closing session of the Asia and Australasia Hotel and Restaurant Association convention. Tourism is one of the best media for achieving such unity and exposure because it affords direct observation by a visitor of a people’s life and culture through immediate and personal experience, the President said. He said the success of the tourism industry in the Philippines as well as in other countries is the outcome of the close collaboration between the government and the private sector. By its nature, tourism is a cooperative undertaking, he said. He stressed, however, the need to professionalize the industry and to economize and utilize to the fullest the use of existing resources.

THE PRESIDENT accepted the resignation of 18 ranking Bureau of Internal Revenue officers effective September 25, 1975. An additional 114 other government employees were laid off today in the continuing massive cleanup going since September 19. Of this additional list, 94 are from the BIR and include 32 examiners and 14 collectors. There are also 20 customs employees in the new list. This is on top of the 73 customs officials and employees whose separation was also announced. Unless otherwise indicated their separation is as of September 19. While this purge is going on, military officers are being assigned to various government offices, Malacañang announced. Their function is to safeguard government records and property left by those officials and employees ousted in the purge. The military officials are not taking over any offices, it was stressed.

THE PRESIDENT declared October 8 to October 14 of each year "Standards Week" under the auspices of the Philippine Bureau of Standards, Department of Trade, through Proclamation 1327. The declaration coincides with proclamation of October 134 of every year as "World Standards Day" by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) of which the Philippines is an active member. In the proclamation signed for him by Acting Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, the President underscored the "continuing need to instill standards-consciousness among producers and especially consumers in order to hasten the attainment of national development goals."

September 25—

THE PRESIDENT administered the oath to National Irrigation Administrator Alfredo Juinio as acting secretary of public works, transportation and communications in a ceremony held at Malacañang. At the induction, the President said that Secretary Juinio retains his position as NIA administrator in a concurrent capacity, "pending further arrangements."

THE PRESIDENT extended welcome to the Jaycess International to hold their Congress in Manila in November of 1977. The President expressed support for the holding of the Jaycees International Congress to Ivan Bumsted, JCI secretary general, who made a courtesy call at Malacañang. The JCI official informed the President that during his brief stay in the Philippines, he has been much impressed by the progress achieved by the New Society, particularly in the rural areas. The President replied that under the New Society, most of the funds of the government are now channeled to the rural areas. In conclusion, the President lauded the Philippine Jaycees for being very active in civic works.

THE PRESIDENT continued to tap young technocrats for top government posits which has been left vacant when the President started cleaning the government last September 19. Appointed by the President were: 1) Associate Justice Francisco S. Tantuico of the Court of Appeals, as chairman of the Commission on Audit, vice Ismael Mathay Sr., retired; 2) Associate Justice Efren I. Plana of the Court of Appeals, as acting commissioner of internal revenue, replacing former Commissioner of the budget, vice former Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco, who is past the retirement age; and 4) Acting Finance Secretary Alfredo Pio de Roda, as acting commissioner of customs, vice former Commissioner Rolando G. Geotina, resigned.

September 26—

THE PRESIDENT appointed 21 professionals as chairman and members of six examining boards, completing membership in three of the boards. Six were appointed to the Board of Medicine, six to the Board of Accountancy and three others to the Board of Civil Engineering completing all three boards. Two members each were named to the Boards of Mechanical Engineering, Deck Officers, and Engine Officers. There are 32 examining boards altogether, 25 of which have three members. Five others have five members each and two have six members each.

September 27—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the separation from the service for various causes, of 1,151 government employees belonging to the rank and file, pursuant to Letter of Instructions No. 309. The separated workers, who had been recommended by their respective heads of departments and agencies for separation, belonged to the Department of

Public Works, Transportation and Communications, Department of Public Highways, Department of Agriculture, Department of Natural Resources, and the Board of Transportation.

THE FIRST LADY, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, arrived from New York after another successful diplomatic mission for the Philippines. The First Lady was sent by the President to New York last September 19, to address, on his behalf, the current 30th regular session of the United Nations General Assembly. In her report to the nation upon setting foot at the Manila International Airport, the First Lady said that the Philippine statement she read “committed the Philippines squarely in support of the proposed courses of action and objectives laid down in a resolution adopted by the U.N. General Assembly in a preceding special session. The President and his mother, Doña Josefa Edralin Marcos, led the official welcome for the First Lady, which included high government officials including members of the Cabinet and the judiciary, as well as chiefs of diplomatic missions.

September 28—

FORMER British Prime Minister Edward Heath and his party arrived from Hongkong for a three-day visit to meet the President and discuss with him “major questions on world affairs.” He was met at the Manila International Airport by the First Lady, daughter Imee, and British Ambassador Alexander Turpin. The former British prime minister came on the invitation of the First Lady and will be staying as personal guest of the First Couple. The First Lady said she had met Mr. Heath when he invited her to No. 10 Downing street during Mr. Heath’s term as a prime minister.

Source: Supreme Court Library

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1975). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 71(43), ccxxxviii-ccxxxvi.

Official Week in Review: September 29 – October 5, 1975

September 29—

THE PRESIDENT ordered every government department, agency and office to conduct at least a yearly audit of the performance of its officials and employees in coordination with the Civil Service Commission. This is one of five directives which the President issued in line with his efforts to streamline the civil in the light of the current government cleanup. The other moves taken by the President to improve the quality of the civil service were: 1) A directive to all department and agency heads and the chairman and members that will eliminate red tape in the government; 2) A directive to establish a civil service staff in each department, bureau, office, agency, government owned or controlled corporation, and local government to serve as liaison between all government offices and the CSC; 3) A directive to the above-named government agencies to establish more extensive and intensive continuing program for employee development at all levels; and 4) A directive to the CSC chairman, the education secretary and the Development Academy of the Philippines president to constitute themselves into a committee to work out a program of award for deserving public servants.

THE PRESIDENT approved the request of Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile for an indefinite leave of absence, and will assume the post of defense secretary in acting capacity. This will be the fourth time that the President will be acting defense secretary.

THE PRESIDENT ordered the Congressional Accounts Liquidation Office (CALO), Office of the President, to take over the administration of the Congressional Employees Homesite, otherwise known as the House Employees Homesite Administration (HEHA) in Caloocan City. At the same time, he also designated the HEHA barangay chairman as the resident administrator of the homesite. Through Presidential Decree No.801, the President directed the general services secretary and the director of building and real property management to immediately transfer and deliver to the CALO, through the barangay chairman, all records, properties, equipment, cash balances, appropriations and other funds of the homesite. He also ordered the Presidential Assistance on Legal Affairs, upon the recommendation of the barangay chairman, to execute deeds of conveyance in favor of qualified lot awardees covering the lots of the homesite upon full payment.

September 30—

THE PRESIDENT hailed the opening of the Nutrition Center of the Philippines Building in Makati, Rizal, as part of the New Society's investment in the human person, those who live today and those to be born tomorrow. The President inaugurated the NCP Building, assisted by the First Lady, and former Prime Minister Edward Heath of the United Kingdom, who was a special guest. In her brief remarks, the First Lady said that the NCP will be called upon to dedicate its efforts and resources to the three million children between the ages of six months and six years who are undernourished and malnourished.

THE PRESIDENT directed the government's primary financial institutions to refinance and restructure existing loans to poultry and hog raisers, in one of a series of moves designed to revitalize the floundering poultry and hog industry. At the same time, he instructed the National Grains Authority and the Food Terminal Inc., in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, to purchase in bulk local and imported feed ingredients, feed supplements, drugs and other biologicals needed in hog and poultry production. The Chief Executive also ordered the FTI, in coordination with the DA, to provide annual purchase contracts for small and medium poultry and hog raisers at support prices. These directives were contained in Letters of Instructions Nos. 321, 322, and 323 which issued by the President to be implemented immediately.

THE PRESIDENT, while on a routine inspection in Mindanao and Sulu to personally assess the progress of the pacification campaign in the area, met with the MNLF contingent which hijacked a Japanese ship and 108 other rebels who decided to surrender upon learning of the President's presence in the locality. At the meeting which was held at sunrise, the President reiterated his policy of uniting all Filipinos, Muslim and Christian; to give the fullest autonomy to the Muslim areas within the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity, and to develop Mindanao as much as other parts of the country. The 38-man rebel group which hijacked the Japanese log carrier *Suehiro*

Maru, held the crew members hostage and demanded a million-peso ransom, finally agreed not only to release the vessel and the hostages, but also to surrender with their firearms.

October 1—

THE PRESIDENT personally congratulated Muhammad Ali and presented him with Presidential Trophy for his convincing technical knockout victory in the 14th round over challenger Joe Frazier at the Philippine Coliseum in Quezon City. Earlier, at Malacañang, the President announced over the radio that he had ordered the World Heavyweight Championship bout to be covered live by local television and radio stations through Channel 4 and Channel 7.

JUSTICE Secretary Vicente T. Abad Santos ruled that aliens are prohibited from employment in any capacity, in any corporation, engaged in particularly nationalized activities. In a letter to Chairman Constante Fariñas of the National Development Company, V.T. Abad Santos said that the election of officers of the Batangas Land Company whereby an alien was elected vice president was brought to his attention in the light of the provisions of the Anti-Dummy Law. The question about the propriety of electing an alien as vice president of the realty corporation was raised. "It is my opinion that while PD No. 715 allows aliens to be elected as directors of corporations engaging in partially nationalized activities, the prohibition in Section 2-A of the Anti-Dummy Law against the employment of aliens in any capacity i.e., control or non-control positions, still remains and is applicable even to the alien directors who represent the alien stockholders in the corporation," Sec. Abad Santos ruled.

EXPORTS of sugar-based products, one of the fastest growing sources of dollar receipts, amounted to P451,805.47, or about P3 million, from July to September 15, 1975. This was gathered from the list of export clearance applications approved by Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. The clearance system under the department of trade was established to effectively implement government policies on trading and pricing of sugar. The clearance system was also considered necessary to monitor the export of sugar-based commodities. Secretary Quiazon said the sugar-based commodities, the latest in the list of the country's non-traditional exports, were shipped to the United States, Japan, Hongkong, Singapore, Spain and Canada.

October 2—

THE PRESIDENT approved a memorandum of understanding between the Philippine government and the Sony Corporation of Japan for the progressive local assembly and manufacture of portable color cassettes and video tape recording systems. The memorandum was signed by the First Lady in behalf of the government and by Akio Morita, president of Sony Corporation, in a ceremony held at Malacañang. In authorizing the First Lady to sign for the government, the president said that the cassettes and the video tape recording systems will be utilized principally to disseminate information to the rural areas, in connection with the nutrition campaign which is one of the projects of the First Lady. The President said that the cassettes and VTR systems to be assembled and manufactured here will also be used in educational drive in support of economic development projects of the government.

THE PRESIDENT swore in Governor Angel L. Limjoco Jr. of the Board of Investments as commissioner of the Securities and Exchange Commission in a concurrent capacity. Gov. Limjoco took his oath in the presence of the First Lady and the Limjoca family. Gov. Limjoco replaced former Commissioner Arcadio E. Yabyabin, whose resignation was accepted by the President last September 19, together with those of SEC executive Officer Luis Lara and Senior Executive Assistant Gregorio Catapang.

LEGION of Honor, degree of officer, was conferred by the President on J. Paul Austin, chairman and chief executive officer of Coca Cola Co. for his outstanding service during the liberation of the Philippines from the Japanese occupation forces in 1944. The citation stated that as lieutenant commander of the United States Navy in a motor torpedo squadron, Austin served with distinction in support of US invasion forces in Leyte and in Northern Luzon and contributed significantly to the successful operations of the joint Philippine American forces in the early liberation of the Philippines.

October 3—

J. PAUL AUSTIN, chairman and chief executive officer of Coca-Cola Company on a three-day sojourn in the Philippines made a sentimental visit to the Ilocos where he served for some time as naval officer during World War II. He was accompanied by Deputy Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, in behalf of the President, in helicopter-hops along the Ilocos coast, where he reminisced on historic events which happened some 31 years ago. Governor Elizabeth Marcos-Keon of Ilocos Norte, a sister of the President, led the folks from the provinces of La Union, Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte in welcoming Austin and Secretary Reyes.

October 4—

THE PHILIPPINES has been accepted as a full observer-member of the 22-nation Association of Latin American and Caribbean Sugar-Exporting Countries, thus formalizing the loose affiliation which resulted last June after the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, met in New York with the member-nations' representatives to the United Nations. Together, the members of the bloc, which includes Cuba, control 70 per cent of the world's sugar exports. Still the Philippines' top export, sugarcane earned P765-million for the country last year, during which the Philippines ranked 10th among the world's top sugar producers.

October 5—

CENTRAL BANK said that the integrated agricultural financing scheme and the financial-technical assistance by the CB and the rural banks have boosted the countryside development program. CB Gov. Gregorio S. Licaros discussed this scheme in a report to the President, saying "it will contribute substantially to the national food production efforts, ease difficulties and in general improve living standards in the rural areas." The IAF plan, described as a credit supervised scheme, is now being pioneered by the Rural Bank of Mexico (Pampanga) which has initiated new approaches in credit and technology applications.

Source: Supreme Court Library

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1975). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 71(44), ccxxxix-ccxlii.

Official Week in Review: October 7 – October 13, 1975

October 7—

THE PRESIDENT appointed 11 new judges to six key cities. Appointed judges in the following city courts were: 1) Quezon City: Fernando V. Gorospe Jr., assistant fiscal of Manila and former chief of the Commission on Elections' Law Enforcement Department; Perfecto A. S. Laguio Jr., law professor and municipal judge of Las Piñas, Rizal. 2) Pasay City: Mariano V. Lacsamana, assistant fiscal of Manila and former legal officer of the Civil Aeronautics Board. 3) Caloocan City: Filemon M. Mendoza, auxiliary city judge of Caloocan City and corporate legal counsel of Design Center Philippines, 4) Carlos C. Ofilada, former CFI Clerk of Court of Manila and presently Assistant City Fiscal of Quezon City. 5) Iloilo City: Cornelio G. Lazaro, provincial fiscal of Guimaras and former municipal judge; Leonardo E. Lozano, legal consultant of the League of Municipal Mayors of Western Visayas; Simplicia S. Medina, CFI branch clerk of court of Iloilo and member of the Bar since 1957. 6) Mandaue City: Temistocles Boholst Jr., law professor and practitioner since 1957. 7) Surigao City: Salvador C. Sering, city fiscal of Surigao City and former municipal judge, and Diomedes M. Eviota, member of the provincial board of Surigao del Norte and private law practitioner.

THE PRESIDENT appointed 37 more professionals as chairmen and members of 12 examining boards in the Professional Regulation Commission. This makes a total of 58 professionals appointed and 18 examining bodies reconstituted since the President declared all 32 examining boards vacant last month.

CONSULTATIVE Group for the Philippines recommended additional foreign aid of at least P600 million for 1976, while it pledged support to the continued efforts of the Philippine government to promote rapid growth and employment in agriculture and industry, and the expansion and diversification of exports as a means of strengthening the country's balance of payments. The World Bank's European office in Paris reported that the Philippine policy, which was summarized in the President's message to the Group, "received support from the meeting." The fifth meeting of the Consultative Group for the Philippines was held in Paris last October 1-2, under the chairmanship of the World Bank. The Philippine delegation was led by Secretary Cesar Virata of Finance.

MALACANANG released the names of 120 government employees included in the previously released listings since the purge started September 19, but who were no longer in the service prior to the purge or were reorganized out of the service on July 1, 1975. Of the 120 employees, 98 were from the Department of Finance (the Bureaus of Internal Revenue and Customs), 11 were from the Department of Trade, 9 were from the Commission of Audit, and one each came from the Department of Justice and the Department of Social Welfare.

THE PRESIDENT congratulated Erbito Salavarria for his successful defense of his world flyweight boxing crown (NBA version) in a 15-round bout with challenger Susumu Hanagata of Japan in Yokohama. His message follows in full: "Your success defense of the World Flyweight crown in a memorable fight secures your claim to boxing fame and brings immense honor and pride to us in the Philippines. You have shown the boxing world that the tradition began by our celebrated Filipino champions is very much alive and will continue for many long years. On behalf of our people, on my own as well as on behalf of Mrs. Marcos, I sent you warmest congratulations and all best wishes for a happy homecoming."

October 8—

THE PRESIDENT urged the nation to adopt stronger and stricter oil conservation measures in the face of the recent increase in the price of oil. He said oil conservation should help alleviate a balance of payments deficit which is expected to hit about \$350 million this year, much of it in payment for the country's oil requirements. The President called upon the Bureau of Customs and the Bureau of Internal Revenue and all government-collecting agencies to redouble their tax-collecting efforts to increase domestic resources.

THE PRESIDENT expressed the hope that the friendly relations between the Philippines and Poland, one of the Socialist countries in Eastern Europe, will continue to grow. The President told Ambassador Zdzislaw Regulski of Poland, who made a farewell call prior to returning in Poland, that the Philippines welcomes the normalization of

relations with all friendly countries regardless of race, creed or ideology. In response, Ambassador Regulski said that it is the desire of his government to maintain closer relations with the Philippines and that it is contemplating establishment of a permanent embassy in Manila in the near future.

THE FIRST LADY, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez-Marcos, underscored the importance of the National Museum Planetarium in the life of the people in this space age. Addressing a huge crowd which attended the inauguration of the PLANETARIUM at Rizal Park, the First Lady said it will complement what is read in books about the heavenly bodies, like the planets, and other marvelous object of creation. She also added that the PLANETARIUM can help develop a working knowledge of the heavenly bodies so the people will "better understand and appreciate our minuteness and place in the Universe."

October 9—

THE PRESIDENT received officials of Triumph International, Germany's largest garment manufacturers, who called to invite him to inaugurate the firm's local factory sometime in March or May next year. Gunther Spiesshofer, president of the company, informed the President that his company had brought in five million Deutschmarks to set up the factory in the Food Terminal compound in Makati. It is now partially operating with 400 workers. Once in full production, the local factory, which manufactures women's apparel and bras and underwear, will employ 1,000 workers and will be exporting \$5 million worth of garments yearly. It will be the biggest factory of its kind in the Asian region. The President assured the industrialist that the government welcomes foreign investors and that it will extend all the necessary encouragement and support for their expansion.

MALACANANG released a second list of 35 government employees included in the previously published listings of separated employees but who were no longer in the service when the purge started September 19, or had been reorganized out of the service on July 1, 1975. The new list of names includes 14 from the Department of Agrarian Reform, 10 from the Department of Public Works and Communications, from the Department of Natural Resources, and 2 from the Department of Agriculture.

INDUSTRY Secretary Vicente T. Paterno underscored the need for increased processing of local raw materials into finished products for export—to enhance the industrial development program of the government. At the same time, he called for the development of non-traditional export products in the countryside to help reduce unemployment and underemployment. Secretary Paterno spelled out these measures as determinant factors for economic development in a speech delivered before the national conference on the New International Economic Order and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD IV) at the Ateneo de Manila University. Secretary Paterno, concurrently chairman of the Board of Investments, said the government in pursuing its industrial development program, is giving the priority to the processing of commodities which the country is exporting as raw materials. He said the government is engaged in national programs, foremost of which are the processing of traditional export products into finished goods.

THE GOVERNMENT finalized plans to restrict the exportation of molasses to assure the continuing supply for local end-users, particularly the small poultry and livestock raisers. During a meeting with feed-millers, government officials and representatives of the livestock industry, the conferees also agreed to take steps aimed at rationalizing the manufacture and local distribution of feed ingredients such as pollard and bran. Three government agencies—the National Grains Authority, Department of Trade and Department of Agriculture—proposed measures by which the outflow of molasses to the international market can be controlled to meet domestic requirements.

CENTRAL Bank required all non-bank financial intermediaries performing quasi-banking functions to publish their respective consolidated balance sheets (financial conditions) on a quarterly basis. In a circular letter, dated October, the CB ordered investment houses and financing companies to publish their balance sheets in a newspaper of general circulation within 30 days after the end of each quarter: March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31. The implementation of the new requirement for non-bank financial institutions is part of the overall plan of the CB to keep a closer tab of operation of investment houses and some financing companies engaged in quasi-banking.

October 10—

THE PRESIDENT called for the concentration of the national effort on more specialized lines in order to increase agricultural production. Addressing officials of the Organization for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement (International) and its local chapter, who sought to establish an agricultural training center on a 50-hectare parcel of public agricultural land, the President advised the OISCA officials to consult with the proper government officials concerned so that their plan will be integrated with the rural development programs, and the national effort not dissipated. He also pledged government support to the OISCA projects, provided that there be coordination not only with respect to the basic policies but with the actual implementation of plans.

THE PRESIDENT appointed a law dean, a former immigration commissioner and three city judges as associate justices of the Court of Appeals, leaving seven more vacancies in the 36-seat collegiate court. Those appointed are 1) Prof. Delfin Flandez Bataca; 2) Samuel Reyes; 3) Judge Vicente G. Ericta; 4) Judge Lorenzo Relova; and 5) Judge Vicente M. Santiago Jr.

October 11—

THE PRESIDENT made a total of 31 new appointments to the judiciary, upon recommendation of the Supreme Court and the Department of Justice. Of the appointments, 27 are for the Courts of First Instance, three are for the Circuit Criminal Court, and one is for the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court.

THE PRESIDENT appointed Lazaro R. Banag Jr. associate commissioner of the Professional Regulations Commission and named ten other professionals to reconstitute four more examining boards. Banag takes the position vacated by Jose A. R. Melo, who was recently promoted to commissioner of civil service. Twenty-two out of the 32 examining boards under the Professional Regulations Commission have by now been reconstituted. All positions in the 32 boards were declared vacant by the President last September 19.

October 13—

THE PRESIDENT appointed 10 new Court of First Instance judges, on top of 27 other CFI judges that the President named last week. These appointments reduce to 50 the number of vacancies still existing in the CFIs. The latest appointments follow: 1) Oscar C. Fernandez for Narvacan, Ilocos Sur, Branch II; 2) Regino Veridiano II for Olongapo City, Branch I; 3) Inocencio Maliama for San Jose City (Nueva Ecija), Branch VIII, a new created sala; 4) Jose H. Tecson for Manila, Branch V; 5) Alfredo V. Cruz Jr., for Manila, Branch XXIX, 6) Celso L. Magsino for Pasig, Rizal, Branch XX; 7) Alfredo V. Granados, for Puerto Princesa City; Branch 1; 8) Antonio C. Inalaya, for Balayan, Batangas, Branch III; 9) Alejandro R. Leopando, for Cotabato City, Branch II; and 10) Felintriye G. Saulog, for Sindangan, Zamboanga del Norte, Branch IV.

THE FIRST LADY, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez-Marcos, officially welcomed the delegates to the Third Asian Composers League conference at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. She, at the same time, lauded the conferees for endeavoring to develop an art with which Asians have lived so intimately for centuries. She explained that the Philippines is now striving “as never before” to discover, understand and develop its own music. In this connection, she cited the various institutions and interments to promote music appreciation in the Philippines, such as the Cultural Center of the Philippines, Music Promotion Foundation and many others, designed not only to serve the Filipinos but to promote understanding with the rest of the world. In closing, the First Lady wished the conference success not only in resolving their own problems but in helping unite the peoples of Asia and in the cause of peace, progress and freedom for all mankind.

Source: Supreme Court Library

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1975). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 71(45), ccxlv-ccxlviii.

Official Week in Review: October 14 – October 19, 1975

October 14—

THE PRESIDENT granted complete and absolute amnesty to the leaders and followers of the Blaan tribe in Davao del Sur and the Talaandig tribe in Bukidnon who surrendered to him unconditionally in Malacañang. At the same time, the President took steps to protect them from possible reprisals, enable them to recover their ancestral lands, and promote their economic well-being. Headed by Datu Kaamulan of the Talaandig tribe and Datu Kalibo who represented his ailing father, Datu Dumalao of the Blaan tribe, about 45 former rebel leaders from the two major hill tribes in Mindanao, comprising about 300,000, formally surrendered with their arms to the President. The surrenders pledged their personal loyalty and unconditional support to the President and the present administration, saying that they fought only for their rights and their ancestral lands which had been taken away from them.

RURAL banks with total outstanding rediscounting obligations against supervised credit papers which are already in excess of the new rediscount ceilings for supervised credit, may still avail of the Central Bank financing for the Phase VI of the Masagana 99 rice production program. The CB amended its existing guidelines for the rediscounting by rural banks of loan papers under the supervised credit scheme. The relaxation will enable rural banks which already exceeded the rediscount ceilings fixed by the CB to participate in the financing of the Masagana 99 (Phase VI) and other special cash food production program.

THE PRESIDENT received Gov. Daniel J. Evans of the State of Washington, who paid his respects before returning home from a brief tour of Southeast Asia. During his brief talk with the President, the Washington executive expressed the desire to promote Washington-Philippine trade, particularly in the importation of copper concentrates and Philippine plywood. The President told him that one of the basic policies of the Philippines in its economic development program is the promotion of the country's foreign trade.

October 15—

THE PRESIDENT welcomed back to the folds of the law five rebel leaders from Maguindanao and Siasi, and granted them complete amnesty together with their followers. Four commanders of the Moro Bangsa Army; namely: Commander Labuyo (Laureano Mobadon), Commander Cabili (son of Datu Mando Sinsuat), Commander Bebot (Bebot Ayub), and Commander Danny (Sadik Abubakar), with about 130 followers, pledged their loyalty to the President, and turned over 14 assorted firearms, including one Browning automatic rifle, two FAL automatics, seven Armalites and three .45 cal. revolvers.

October 16—

THE PRESIDENT met with his fiscal policy advisers for two hours in order to obtain an overview of the entire economic, financial and infrastructure development situation in the country. He called the meeting to assess the possible effects of the government reorganization, the removal of many export fees, and the improvement of the tax collection machinery so as to provide government projects with necessary funding. While the President saw the need for cutting down on government expenditures, due to an expected deficit of P4.4 billion, the President emphasized that the government must go on with its housing, agricultural and fisheries production programs. He said that these problems are very urgent because they involve not only economic but even social and political implications.

CENTRAL BANK warned anew the public against transacting business with unlicensed operators—disguised as money market traders or agents of corporations (quasi-banks) authorized to engage in money market operations. This was the third time this year that the CB came up with a warning following report on the increasing number of people having been victimized by individuals posing as money market traders.

October 17—

JAI-ALAI buffs and the “Skyroom” habitués can smile again. The President through Presidential Decree No. 810, granted a 25-year franchise to the Philippine Jai-Alai and Amusement Corporation, a new corporation, to operate and maintain a fronton for *basque pelota* (popularly called “jai-alai”), pointing out that the game, being of international renown, is important to the country’s tourist industry and tourism program. The new firm is headed by Ramon J. Alegre outgoing general manager of the old Jai-Alai corporation.

THE PRESIDENT said that he will fill up the five remaining vacancies in the Court of Appeals as soon as possible, to speed up the disposition of cases and lessen the burden on the present members. He made this statement after inducting into office the five new CA associate justices; namely; Justice Delfin Flandez Batacan, Samuel Reyes, Vicente G. ERICTA, Lorenzo Relova and Vicente M. Santiago Jr. With the appointment of these five new justices, there are actually only five vacancies to be filled, inasmuch as two vacancies are held in reserve for Commissioner Plana and Chairman Tantuico. The President expressed the hope that the filling up of the vacancies will not only speed up the disposition of cases but lessen the burden on the present justices.

CESSATION of military operations in Lanao del Sur was ordered by the President together with the immediate replacement of the military contingents in the area with Constabulary troops, preferably a mixture of Muslims and Christians. His order was sent to Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile in an effort to ease the tension in the area. The assignment of the PC was in response to suggestions by residents. General Romeo Espino, AFP chief of staff, confirmed immediate implementation of the President’s order.

October 18—

THE PRESIDENT appointed five more Court of First Instance judges, in addition to 37 other CFI judges he named recently. With these appointments, the number of vacancies existing in 357 CFIs has been reduced to 45. The latest appointments are: 1) Bienvenido Vera Cruz for Nueva Ecija, Branch II, with station in Cabanatuan City; 2) Hector C. Fule for Cavite City, Branch III; 3) Ramon Mabutas Jr. for Iba, Zambales, Branch II; 4) Bonifacio Caddae Jr. for Tuguegarao, Cagayan, Branch V; and 5) Josue Bellosillo for Iloilo, Branch VII, with station in Iloilo City.

The President sought the early return of some 2,000 Christian and Muslim evacuees who had left Wao, Lanao del Sur, at the height of military operations so that they could be rehabilitated. He directed the Philippine Constabulary to take the necessary steps to help the evacuees return to their farms, following the pledge given by Mama Basak and eight of his lieutenants to help maintain peace and order in the area. Basak’s group is the third batch of former rebels to come during the week to Malacañang to pledge loyalty to the President and support to the New Society.

October 19—

THE PRESIDENT directed the building of a comprehensive national bibliography based principally on published and printed materials which shall be legally deposited in certain designated libraries. Such published and printed materials, from government as well as private sources, shall be provided free of charge by their printers or publishers, as follows: two copies to the National Library and one copy each to the University of the Philippines Main Library, University of the Philippines Library at Cebu City, the Mindanao State University, and the Cultural Center of the Philippines Library. Covered by the order are books, under which term are included all printed literary works, musical arrangements, catalogues, periodicals, government publications, prints, photographs, drawings and other graphic arts, maps, plans, charts and tables, and all supplements thereto. Excluded are legal documents, printed forms, trade circulars, timetables, and other commercial documents. These rules take effect three months after October 18, 1975, the date of approval of Presidential Decree No. 812, the Decree on Legal and Cultural Deposit. The decree declares that the acquisition, organization and preservation of a nation’s intellectual and cultural heritage is a prime duty of the state, and direct the preservation of published and printed materials for posterity.

BOARD of Pharmacy was reorganized by the President by appointing its chairman and two other members of the board. Those appointed were Dr. Esperanza Castro Palting, chairman; Prof. Fernanda B. Tanco and Mrs. Yolanda S. Oporto, as members. Of 32 examining boards, 13 have been completely reorganized. They have been partially reconstituted.

THE PRESIDENT conferred the Legion of Honor, degree of officer, on Capt. Alfredo Domingo of the United States Air Force, for outstanding service to the Republic of the Philippines. Capt. Domingo assisted in training the personnel of the Presidential Security Command and in procuring for its security devices, weapons and equipment to upgrade its protective capability.

OVERSEAS Employment Development Board (OEDB) called on all Filipino immigrants to register anew with its immigrant workers department before filing their applications for passports at the Department of Foreign Affairs. OEDB Executive Director Salvador P. Bigay made the appeal as he reiterated that no Filipino immigrant will be allowed to leave the country without first registering with its offices. Director Bigay explained that after resignation, a “blue card” will be issued to immigrants for submission to the DFA in securing their passports and other travel documents. He said the OEDB had sought the assistance and cooperation of the DFA, the commission of immigration and deportation, and the Manila International Airport authorities in implementing the immigrant registration requirement as embodied in the Labor Code.

Source: Supreme Court Library

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1975). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 71(49), ccvii-ccix.

Official Week in Review: October 21 – October 27, 1975

October 21—

THE PRESIDENT directed Secretary Conrado Estrella of Agrarian Reform and asked Acting Chief Fred Ruiz Castro of the Supreme Court to institute a drastic restructuring of the Court of Agrarian Relations. The President, speaking over a nationwide radio-TV hook-up from Malacañang, on the third anniversary of Presidential Decree No. 27 (Land Reform Code), said that the Court of Agrarian Relations should be so radically restricted that it will free the agrarian dispute proceedings from procedural constraints that are conducive to delay and inordinate expenses.

THE PRESIDENT, while instructing Secretary Conrado Estrella of Agrarian Reform to restructure the Court of Agrarian Relations together with Acting Chief Fred Ruiz Castro, also issued two presidential decrees: 1) PD 815, prescribing penalties for the unlawful ejectment, exclusion, removal or ouster of tenant-farmers from their landholdings; and 2) PD 816, providing that tenant-farmers/ agricultural lessees shall pay the leasehold rentals when they fall due and providing penalties for failure thereof. Following his address, the President distributed the first 100 “Emancipation Patents” to the first 100 land reform farmers who had fully paid for their rentals and amortizations.

THE PRESIDENT issued Letter of Instructions No. 327 extending until the end of the year the fuel price support program, in line with the government policy to provide socialize transport fares for mass commuters. The fuel price support program, initiated under LOI 280, was first extended for three months, until September 30, under LOI 306. This new three-month extension under LOI 327, running from October 1 to December 31, 1975, is the second. The support program consists of a special assistance of 11 centavos per liter of regular gasoline and 6.60 centavos per liter of automotive diesel fuel, accorded to bus and jeepney operators, owners of rice and corn haulers registered with the National Grains Authority.

October 23—

NATIONAL Housing Authority was made operational by the President by inducting into office the acting general manager and the acting board chairman of the NHA. He inducted Brig. Gen. Gaudencio Tobias as acting general manager, and Secretary Alfredo Juinio of Public Works, Transportation and Communications, as acting chairman. In his brief remarks after the induction, the President said their appointments “emphasize the importance of the policy which gives priority to the housing program even when the reassessment of projects showed a deficit in the expenditures of government.”

THE PRESIDENT inducted into office four newly appointed judges of the court of first instance and a woman judge of the juvenile and domestic relations courts. Inducted by the President were: 1) Judge Oscar C. Fernandez of the court of first instance, Branch IV, Narvacan, Ilocos Sur; 2) Judge Hector C. Fule of the court of first instance, Branch III, Cavite City; 3) Judge Felix V. Barbers of the court of first instance, Branch XXXIII, Manila; 4) Judge Bonifacio Cacdae Jr. of the court of first instance, Branch V, Tuguegarao Cagayan; and 5) Judge Ma. Rosario Q. Losa of the juvenile and domestic relations court, Naga City.

THE PRESIDENT has moved to check the upsurge of crimes involving illicit drugs, swindling, robbing and murder by placing these under the exclusive jurisdiction of military tribunals. Pointing out that these crimes cause “physical, social, moral, economic and other forms of dislocation and imbalance,” the President issued General Order No 54, directing the military courts to take over the jurisdiction of the following: 1) All cases involving violation of the Dangerous Drugs Act (Republic Act 6425), except those with respect to mere users or victims of drug abuse, unless they are at the same time charged with other violations of the said law; 2) All cases involving swindling (estafa) as defined and penalized under Articles 315, 316, 317 and 318 of the Revised Penal Code, as amended, when committed in large-scale or by a syndicate; 3) All cases involving robbery when homicide and/or physical injuries, shall have been committed, or when such robbery shall have been committed in band or syndicate; and 4) All cases involving murder, whether consummated, frustrated or attempted, when committed by a band or syndicate. At the same time, he issued Presidential Decree No. 818, increasing the penalties of swindling (estafa) committed by means of bouncing checks.

October 24—

THE PRESIDENT created a committee to consider various petitions for reconsideration from government officials and employees who were separated from the service on September 19 and to conduct a review of all the cases of these officials and employees. The creation of the committee was contained in Administrative Order No. 370, by which the President gave the committee jurisdiction over the cases of all the officials and employees included in the September 19 list, except those who were appointed by him. The committee is composed of Justice Undersecretary Catalino Macaraig, chairman; Civil Service Commissioner Jose A.R. Melo and Assistant executive Secretary Ronaldo B. Zamora, members.

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady inaugurated the 16-story Philippine Veterans Bank on Bonifacio Drive, which the President described as the “answer to the carrying need of all Filipino veterans for support from the government.” The President was guest speaker while the First Lady cut the ceremonial ribbon and unveiled the marker for the building. Addressing the over 427,00 veterans throughout the country, the President urged them to use it.

October 25—

EXPERIMENT to grow cotton in the country was a great success. This was declared by Agriculture Secretary Arturo R. Tanco Jr. during an extemporaneous speech in the business prospects conference held recently. He said that 1,000-hectare experimental cotton planting area in San Fabian, Pangasinan yielded favorable results. He said that the successful experiment meant that the country could embark in a wide-scale planting of cotton. The country imports some \$35 million worth of cotton every year.

October 26—

EXPORT earnings from coconut products during the first 10 months of the year dropped by 28.3 percent compared to the same period in 1974. The United Coconut Association of the Philippines (UCAP) said export earnings from coconut products during the period reached \$393,146,240: down by \$154,551,899 compared to the 1974's \$547,689,139. Export volume totaled 1,438,590 tons (in various products and measured in copra terms) and is 64.4 percent larger than the 875,472 metric tons exported during the same period in 1974. However, coconut oil continues to be the top dollar earner of the industry with a 10-month income (1974 bracketed) of \$188.659.163 (\$350,338,820) on a volume of 472,317 (363,526) metric tons, UCAP said.

October 27—

THE PRESIDENT approved a request by the federation of Metropolitan Manila barangay captains to conduct consultations on city-wide problems including the quality of local leadership. In effect, the President approved the people's demand for participation in the evaluation and solution of problems related to vital and essential city services as well as city and municipal administration. The approval was given in the light of the apparent failure of city and municipal governments in Greater Manila to solve problems related to flood control, garbage disposal, transportation, and other essential services.

Source: Supreme Court Library

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1975). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 71(50), ccxiii-ccxv.

President's Week in Review: November 1-3, 1975

President's Week in Review: November 4-10, 1975

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

November 4—

THE PRESIDENT called on the private sector to participate actively in the affairs of the government, particularly in the implementation and preparation of plans and programs. He made the appeal before some 150 local officials and business leaders from Metro Manila, at the Malacañang Heroes Hall, during a follow-up meeting of the one held last Friday when they presented resolutions for the First Lady to assume the managership of the city. Noting that the conflict of interest may prove to be a deterrent in some cases, the President said he is ready to "waive the conflict of interests provisions of some laws to allow the private sector to actually participate in government, not only on consultative basis but actually and for indefinite periods until the planning and programming is finished." He also called on the barangays to participate in the control of violations of law by the citizenry. He also asked the local media to inform the people of their respective individual and community responsibilities because the citizens' negligence of their community responsibilities has always been the bane of government organizations not only in the Philippines but throughout the world.

THE PRESIDENT administered the oath to Mrs. Maria Rocio A. de Vega, widow of Presidential Assistant Guillermo C. de Vega, as chairman of the Board of Censors for Motion Pictures. Mrs. de Vega succeeds her late husband who was concurrently chairman of the board.

November 5—

THE PRESIDENT directed all Cabinet members, bureau directors, top military officers and local government officials to phase out their big cars and use smaller ones in line with the government's fuel conservation program. He issued an appeal to the private sector to avoid or minimize the use of heavy cars which are considered gas guzzlers. Earlier, the President directed Secretary of Finance Cesar Virata to study the possibility of imposing higher taxes on heavy cars. He also instructed the Land Transportation Commission to consider the possibility of imposing higher taxes on heavy cars.

SIX-man oil mission from the People's Republic of China arrived for a series of talks on oil-related matters of interest to both countries. The mission, headed by Chao Mao Chun, was welcomed at the Manila International Airport by their counterparts in the Philippine National Oil Co. led by Chairman Geronimo Z. Velasco.

THE PRESIDENT granted complete and absolute amnesty to about 120 former rebels from Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur, who returned to the folds of the law and pledged to convince their comrades who are still up in the hills to return to a life of peace. The former rebels, part of about 400 who planned to personally pledge their support to the President in Malacañang, were led by Hadji Razul Tarotokan of Lanao del Norte and Macud Santican of Lanao del Sur, and their respective district commanders.

November 6—

THE PRESIDENT administered the oath of office to the First Lady as the first manager or governor of the commission-type of government for the Greater Manila area. The induction was held amid the prolonged cheers of thousands of barangay leaders, mayors vice mayors council-men and industrialists from the four cities and 13 municipalities comprising the area. These leaders of cross-section of GMA population gathered at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang to hear the decision of the First Lady.

DEGREE of Doctor of Fine Arts, honoris causa, was conferred on the Duke of Gloucester by the University of Sto. Tomas School of Fine Arts and Architecture at the UST School of Medicine Auditorium. Fr. Leonardo Legaspi, UST Rector, performed the investiture ceremony and personally conferred the degree to the Duke before a large audience of students and faculty members.

November 7—

METROPOLITAN Manila Commission is a public corporation to be administered by a chairman or governor and a vice chairman or vice governor, who shall act as general manager and deputy general manager, respectively, with three commissioners or board members, one for planning, one for finance and one for operation. the President, in signing into effect Presidential Decree No. 824 creating the Metropolitan Manila Commission, also declared that Metro Manila's four cities and 13 municipalities shall continue to exist "in their present form," unless inconsistent with the decree. He also ordered that, until December 31 this year, city and municipal councilors shall become members of the "Sangguniang Bayan which he ordered created for each city and municipality.

November 8—

THE PRESIDENT said the packaging industry must devote its attention to the production of materials cheaper to both manufacturers and consumers if it wants to maintain its foothold in the economic life of a developing country. At the same time, he advocated increased research into new packaging techniques that will produce "the package that truly reflects the real virtues of the product." The President made these observations in a speech read for him by Information Secretary Francisco S. Tatad at the World Packaging Congress at the Philippine Village Hotel. He concluded that from the Philippine experience, the growth of industry does not solely derive from learning Western techniques and tools. "We feel that we must develop also inwardly if we are to really grow, and this means that even our products and the packages in which they are encased must reflect ourselves," he said.

THE PRESIDENT has imposed stiff penalties for improper garbage disposal in line with the government's renewed effort to rid Greater Manila of unsightly litter and health hazards. In Presidential Decree No. 825, the President decreed a penalty of imprisonment or a fine of not less than P100 nor more than P2,000, or both at the discretion of the court or tribunal, upon any person who shad litter or throw garbage, filth and other waste material in public places. The decree also orders all educational institutions, public or private, commercial and industrial establishments, residential houses, public conveyances and all other establishments of any kind, to undertake the cleaning of their own surroundings their yards and gardens as well as the canals, roads and street in their immediate premises. Under the penalty provision, if the violator is a corporation, firm or other corporate entities, the maximum penalty shall be imposed upon the president, manager, director or whoever is responsible for its operation.

November 9—

RURAL electrification program of the government gained headway with the lighting up of 10 towns and 13 barrios in Ilocos Sur, thus driving away "the darkness that had enveloped these areas for so many years." Deputy Executive Secretary Roberto V. Reyes, speaking at the energization ceremony in Santiago, Ilocos Sur, lauded the Ilocos Sur Electric Cooperative Inc., not only for lighting up the barrios and towns but also "for lighting up the hearts of the rural folks." The ten towns lighted up by the ISECO were: Salcedo, Burgos, Magsingal, Nagbukal, San Juan, Sto. Domingo, San Idelfonso, San Vicente, Sta. Catalina and Sinait.

November 10—

THE PRESIDENT reiterated his policy to unite all Filipinos irrespective of race or religion as a means of facilitating the economic development of the nation. In his talks with the latest batch of top commanders of the More- National Liberation Front at Malacañang, the President said: "I want every Filipino irrespective of race or religion to be able to stand up in dignity and say he is the equal of any man." Thirteen top MNLF commanders from South Cotabato called at Malacañang to personally present to the President their pledge of cooperation and loyalty to him and to the Republic. They also presented to the President their personal firearms as a token, they said, of their sincerity.

THE PRESIDENT took steps to promote the health and well-being of people in rural areas through direct medical assistance. In Letter of Instructions No. 334, the President directed Secretary of Health Clemente S. Gatmaitan to establish and maintain a schedule of rural visitations and to assign competent health personnel in the rural areas. Similarly, he ordered the health secretary to require rural visitations and to see to it that no health personnel assigned to any particular area should collect his salary, unless he presents a certification signed by the barangay captain or

his representative attesting that he had rendered medical service in their area. The President issued LOI 334 after receiving reports that “some of the rural areas throughout the country have been neglected, one way or the other, of direct medical assistance.”

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: November 11-17, 1975

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

November 11—

THE PRESIDENT suspended the effectivity of the capital gains tax on stock transactions for a period of four months, up to May 1 of next year, in order to study it further. The suspension of the tax was met with a thunderous applause by about 400 delegates and observers from 26 countries, now holding the First Asian Securities Industry Forum at the Philippine Village Hotel. In announcing the suspension of the capital gains tax, at the opening session of the FASI forum at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang, the President expressed the hope that the four-month suspension will improve the local securities market.

PHILIPPINE Navy and the Department of Local Government and Community Development were directed by the President to provide transport facilities and other needs of participants in the Kabataang Barangay Leadership Training in Negros Occidental and Cebu City. In Letter of Instructions No. 335, the President ordered Rear Adm. Hilario Ruiz and Secretary Jose A. Roño to coordinate on the total listing of participants, the schedule of training seminar, including time of departure or arrival.

PHILIPPINE House will soon be established in Brussels, Belgium, to promote Philippine cultural, economic and political interests in that part of the world. A project of the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, the Philippine House in Brussels will be the latest of these national establishment set up in accordance with Presidential Decree No. 487, which authorizes the establishment of Philippine Houses abroad. The Philippine House will be at 229/247 Avenue Louise where most of the major government and European Economic Community (EEC) authorities converge.

November 12—

THE PRESIDENT hailed the Philippine Marine Brigade for its contribution in the government's efforts to bring about national unity and to seek dignity and equality for every citizen of this country. In a speech before officers and men of the brigade who were observing the 24th anniversary of its founding, the President said that the nation today is engaged in a revolution that intends to return dignity and equality to every human being. "And thus, when you go to battle, you fight for these ideals," the President said. "You fight not only for your country but for the ideals of every human being who seeks decency and dignity."

THE FIRST Lady paid homage to the nation's artists saying that "art is the strongest binding force of a nation and the artist is its most committed and its most effective citizen." Keynoting the opening of the "Alay kay Botong" art exhibit at the Rizal provincial capitol in Pasig, where the works of only natives and residents of Rizal province are featured, the First Lady also gave tribute to national artist and "dear friend" Carlos "Botong" V. Francisco as "exemplar of the joining of artistic endeavor to community development."

November 13—

THE PRESIDENT ordered a more aggressive and widespread information campaign to indoctrinate the masses on the oil and energy conservation program. At a meeting of the board of the National Economic and Development Authority at Malacañang, the President directed the Department of Public Information and the Philippine National Oil Co. to draw plans on how the local governments, the barangays, department of education and other government agencies could assist in the dissemination of conservation measures.

THE PRESIDENT administered the oath to three ranking officials of the department of agriculture, in a ceremony held at Malacañang. Inducted were Miguel Melgar Zosa, as assistant secretary of agriculture; Salvador E. Escudero III, as director of the Bureau of Animal Industry; and Domingo F. Panganiban, as director of the Bureau of Plant Industry.

November 14—

THE PRESIDENT expressed the gratitude of the government and the people of the Philippines to the People's Republic of China for the continuous supply of crude oil by the PRC to the Philippines. He conveyed the Filipino people's gratitude to the PRC at the signing of an agreement by the two countries to continue with the oil supply to the Philippines. The agreement was signed by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, who initiated the oil negotiations with the PRC, on behalf of the Philippines, and Chao Mao Chun, managing director of the China National Chemical Import and Export Corp., who heads the PRC oil Mission to the Philippines.

THE PRESIDENT called on all members of the Moro National Liberation Front still hiding in the hills to return to society and to help build a strong and united Philippines. He sounded the appeal even as he granted full and complete amnesty to about 240 former rebels from Southwestern Mindanao, who had come to Malacañang to pledge their unconditional support to the New Society. The former rebels, nine of whom are foreign trained under 11 commanders, came from Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, Sulu and Basilan, bringing with them their firearms consisting of high powered rifles including AK-47, G-1, M-16, M-14, BAR's and carbines.

INDUSTRIALISTS and manufacturers were called upon by the President to join the government in the conservation program and to diversify their products and markets. The President sounded the call in the wake of increased prices of oil, during the Silver Jubilee Convention of the Philippine Chamber of Industries at Makati, Rizal. He said this savings is vital because of the imbalance in the country's balance of payments, with an expected deficit of \$800 million, in addition to the expected P4.4 billion budgetary deficit. He warned that if the country is forced into further expenditures, inflation might take place and the one who will suffer most will be the wage and salary earners. The President assured them that the political leadership has faced up to the crisis in the past and will now face this crisis and continue to progress with the same momentum "we have initiated in the past."

THE PRESIDENT administered the oath to the newly elected officers of the Association of Asian-Pacific Securities Administrators in a ceremony held at Malacañang. Inducted were officers elected by delegates from 28 countries attending the First Asian Securities Industry Forum. The first organization of its kind in the world, the association unanimously elected Manila as the site of the secretariat's headquarters. The association was organized to promote the healthy development of the securities industry in the region.

November 15—

THE PRESIDENT issued a decree changing the names of the provincial, city and municipal boards or councils into Sangguniang Bayan and increasing their membership so as to include representatives from the local Katipunan Ng Mga Barangay, the Katipunan Ng Mga Kabataang Ba-rangay and other sectors of the population. He signed the decree amid the cheers of provincial governors, city mayors, KB and KKB heads on the provincial and city levels, who converged at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang from all over the country to present him with resolutions petitioning for the representation of the barangays in the local legislative bodies.

THE PRESIDENT directed all departments, agencies and offices of the government, as well as all barangays, to appoint an energy conservation officer. He issued the directive in pursuance of the all-out drive launched earlier to conserve fuel in an effort to offset the increased cost of crude oil which the country imports. In his directive, the President told all energy conservation officers to be principally in charge of monitoring compliance with the directive, and to get actively involved in the nationwide propagation of educational and information materials on the conservation drive. He also directed the conservation officers to devise the most convenient system of reporting the wasteful use of energy and non-compliance with conservation measures so that appropriate official action could be instituted.

November 16—

WORLD market sales of sugar-based commodities, one of the latest groups of non-traditional products, hit the monthly level of \$1 million in October. Based on the records of the department of trade, total exports of sugar-based commodities for October amounted to \$1,274,394.97. The sales volume for October is \$823,000 more than the

combined sales from a three-month-period from July to September this year. The sugar-based commodities were shipped to the United States, Australia, Canada, Denmark, Guam, Hongkong, Japan, Singapore and Taiwan.

November 17—

THE PRESIDENT through Letter of Instructions No. 337, returned to local officials the authority to call upon the local police for the enforcement of laws and maintenance of peace and order in their respective areas of jurisdiction. Under Presidential Decree No- 765, which integrated the local police forces throughout the country, the operational and administrative control of local officials had been transferred to the Integrated National Police, with the Philippine Constabulary as the nucleus.

THE PRESIDENT received officials of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), who took up with him the various Philippine projects financed by the World Bank. Burke Knapp, IBRD executive vice president, who was scheduled to see the President, could not make it owing to illness, but Bernard R. Bell and Richard A. Cambridge met with the President and Finance Secretary Cesar Virata. The IBRD officials said that the World Bank is anxious to give support to programs aimed at improving living conditions among the urban poor, like the First Lady's project in the Tondo Foreshore, or Dagat-Dagatan area. They were assured by the President that the project will be the best of its kind as it is based on a thorough study oh human settlements. He explained that the Philippines is the first country to conduct such a study on human settlements.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: November 18-24, 1975

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

November 18—

THE PRESIDENT conferred the Presidential Golden Heart Award on a German philanthropist whose generosity in terms of talent, services' and funds helped the medically indigents in the Bicol Region and the victims of calamities in Luzon. Recipient of the award is Dr. Dietrich W. Luppá, president of Gemeinschaft Zur Forderung Sozial-Medizinischer Stiftungen, a charitable foundation of West Germany. In the citation read by presidential aide Maj. Arturo C. Aruiza, the President cited Dr. Luppá for his dedication to the humanitarian cause as exemplified by his various acts of charity. In accepting the award, Dr. Luppá expressed gratitude to the President and pledged to do his best to continue helping the medically indigent people of the Philippines.

THE PRESIDENT hailed the arrival of the table tennis team from the People's Republic of China as another step in strengthening the friendly ties between the PRC and the Philippines. Yen Hsin, president of the All-China Sports Federation, Hopei Branch, and head of the delegation, speaking through an interpreter, thanked the President and the Filipino people for the very warm reception and hospitality accorded to them.

November 19—

THE PRESIDENT, through Presidential Decree No. 828, created the Office of the Court Administrator in the Supreme Court to assist the high court in the exercise of its administrative supervision over all courts. Under the new Constitution, the power of administrative supervision over all courts has been transferred from the Department of Justice to the Supreme Court as provided in Article X, Section 6, of the Charter. To be headed by a court administrator and assisted by three deputy court administrators, these administrators shall have the same ranks, privileges, and compensations and qualifications as those Of the presiding justice and associate justices of the Court of Appeals, respectively.

INFORMATION Secretary Francisco S. Tatad said the Chinese language press has become a potent force in strengthening understanding and interaction among Asian peoples. Speaking at the 8th annual general meeting of the Chinese Language Press Institute at Hilton Hotels, Secretary Tatad said the Chinese press throughout Asia "no longer reflects the insularity of the Chinese community from the rest of Asian societies." Stressing there is in Asia a "thirst for regional communion," he urged those in communications to build "the real infrastructure for meaningful communications and contact among all the peoples of Asia."

November 20—

THE PRESIDENT directed the Philippine National Oil Co. (PNOC) to assume responsibility for undertaking a comprehensive program for the development and use of the country's coal resources in line with the government's policy of exploring and exploiting energy sources others: than fuel oil. In Letter of Instructions No. 339, the Chief Executive ordered PNOC Chairman Geronimo Velasco to undertake initially the following: 1) Survey industrial and power companies using fuel oil and determine the market for coal among such companies; 2) Estimate the additional capital required to effect a change of fuel requirement in these companies partially or wholly from fuel oil to coal and workout with the Development Bank of the Philippines feasible financing plans for such conversion; 3) Submit a comprehensive report to the President on the above matters together with the policy recommendations relating to the development and procurement of domestic coal, financing to be made available to companies converting to coal usage, and coal importations to increase domestic supply.

THE PRESIDENT ordered two guidelines under which domestic corporations starting low-cost housing projects for their workers may avail themselves of the incentives offered by the government. In Letter of Instructions No. 338, the President specified that: 1) the interest rates on loans granted the employee borrower shall not exceed six percent per annum, and 2) the repayment period shall be 25 years. LOI 338 is a follow-up of Presidential Decree No. 745,

which directed the Government Service Insurance System and the Social Security System to provide domestic corporations and partnerships with at least 300 employees easy financing and credit terms.

THE PRESIDENT expressed gratifications over the sending of a 12-man buying mission to the Philippines by the Canadian Importers Association, and the arrival of an investment survey team of the Girard Trust Bank of Philadelphia. Addressing the Canadian buying mission headed by Peter J. Dawes, director of foreign trade of the Canadian Importers Association, the President said their arrival is “gratifying because the Philippines has a trade imbalance of \$40 million with Canada.” The Canadian mission is in Manila to meet with Filipino industrialists and exporters on purchasing arrangements covering a wide range of products represented by the mission.

November 21—

THE PRESIDENT received a high level fact-finding mission from West Germany headed by Karl Moersch, minister of state for foreign affairs. The German mission arrived from Australia in the course of a two-week tour of Asian capitals, including Peking, designed to strengthen West German relations between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the European Economic Community (EEC). In the course of an hour-long discussion, Minister Moersch assured the President that when he returns to Bonn he will convince more German investors to come to the Philippines.

November 23—

THE PRESIDENT is the keynote speaker of the first national symposium on good government which starts tomorrow at the Ramon Magsaysay hall, SSS bldg., Quezon City. Jointly sponsored by the Civil Service Commission and Focus Philippines, the theme of the three-day meet is, “Greater Citizen Involvement in Good Government.” According to Chairman Jacobo C. Clave, the undertaking is in line with the CSC’s efforts to upgrade the performance of the civil service and to strengthen the ties between the people and the administrative machinery.

November 24—

THE PRESIDENT called for the reformation of the entire administrative machinery in order to successfully implement the program of national transformation. The President was guest of honor at the opening day of the symposium on good government sponsored jointly by the *Focus Philippines*, a nation-wide circulated magazine and the Civil Service Commission, at the Social Security System building in Quezon City. The President pinpointed three areas in which the reformation of the government can be done; namely: 1) Reordering and streamlining of the entire machinery of government; 2) Upgrading of the managerial skills in the government service; and 3) The rank-and-file.

THE PRESIDENT ordered the release annually of P100 million to the Philippine National Railways (PNR) until its capitalization shall have reached the P1.5 billion authorized under Presidential Decree No. 741. The President issued the order, subject to the availability of funds, during the 83rd anniversary celebration of the government railroad firm at its shops in Caloocan City. In his brief remarks during the celebration, the President said that the PNR and the Manila Transit Corporation will form the heart of the Integrated Transportation System for the Metro Manila area.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: November 25 - December 1, 1975

President's Week in Review: December 2-8, 1975

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

December 2—

THE PRESIDENT has temporarily delegated the functions of the defunct Executive Office among the incumbent presidential assistants pending the appointment of the five presidential assistants whose positions were created under Presidential Decree No. 831. Through Letter of Inductions No. 3.12, the President directed: 1) Presidential Executive Assistant Jacobo C. Clave to exercise the powers and functions normally performed by the former executive secretary, including authority to sign corresponding official communications; 2) Presidential Assistant Juan C. Tuvera to exercise the powers and functions normally performed by the former deputy executive secretary and the assistant executive secretaries, including authority to sign corresponding official communications; and 3) Presidential Finance Adviser Cesar A. Dumlao to exercise powers and the functions involving budget and financial matters heretofore performed by the deputy executive secretary, including authority to sign corresponding official communications.

THE FIRST LADY, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, is scheduled to arrive tomorrow after 17 days of official business abroad. The First Lady departed for the United States on November 16 to fulfill several engagements and to transact business in her capacity as newly appointed governor of Metropolitan Manila. In the United States, the First Lady inaugurated an exhibit on "The Filipina: Past and Present" at the Philippine Center in New York City in observance of International Women's Year which ends soon. She later on proceeded to Washington D.C., where she was one of the keynote speakers at the International Population Conference Inc. She spoke on "Population and the Quality of Life."

December 3—

CHAIRMAN of the Board of Liquidators, Dr. Gaudencio Garcia, informed the President that the compromise agreement between the Board and the Mindanao Realty Corp., which was reported in the newspapers three days ago, was negotiated and concluded pursuant to a directive issued by former Executive Secretary Ramon Diaz, dated April 7, 1965, under the Macapagal administration. Under the said agreement, the government agreed to sell to the corporation certain parcels of land, with a total area of about 68 hectares, located in Davao City. These parcels of land are sometimes referred to as the Tadao Nambu estate, because of the fact that these lands used to be owned by a certain Tadao Nambu before the outbreak of the Second World War. The agreement became the focus of public attention recently because of the alleged move of the MRC to eject the families who are now occupying the lands in question which was brought to the attention of the President by some local officials in Davao.

THE FIRST LADY arrived bearing the World Bank's promise of "full support" for new loans being sought for Metropolitan Manila's comprehensive urban development program. Expressing satisfaction over the results of her hectic 17-day sojourn that took her to the United States, Spain, England and Brussels, she said that she felt "we have laid some groundwork for the tasks ahead of us, especially in my new responsibility as governor of Metropolitan Manila." The President led the Cabinet members, other high-ranking national, local and military officials and wellwishers, in welcoming and congratulating her.

December 4—

THE PRESIDENT received the letters of credence of Ambassador Cleofe Elgorriaga Liquiniano as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Spain to the Philippines. In receiving the credentials of the new envoy of Spain, who succeeds Ambassador Nicolas Martin Alonso, the President expressed regret over the death of Generalissimo Francisco Franco, "the man who has probably done more for Spain than any other person in her history." In response to the gratitude of the new Spanish envoy over the fact that the death of Generalissimo Franco and the crowning of King Juan Carlos de Burbon of Spain evoked "special echo in the hearts of the President, the First Lady, and the entire people of the Philippines," the President said; "The historic ties that bind our countries and the excellent relations that have consistently existed between us cannot but produce such a response."

December 5—

CHIEF Justice Querube C. Makalintal of the Supreme Court will retire on December 22, his 65th birthday, pursuant to Article X, Section 7, of the Constitution. In a letter to the President, the chief justice said he was not taking advantage of one of the transitory provisions of the Constitution (Article XVII, Section 10), which says that “the incumbent members of the Judiciary may continue in office until they reach the age of seventy years.”

December 6—

THE PRESIDENT and visiting United States President Gerald R. Ford held their first talks at Malacañang. No announcement was made after the talks which lasted 45 minutes in the Music Room of the Palace. Escorted by the President and the First Lady, the Fords, together with daughter Susan, arrived at Malacañang at 6 p.m. at the head of a long motorcade from the Manila International Airport.

December 7—

THE PRESIDENT and U.S. President Gerald R. Ford declared that the alliance between the Philippines and the United States is not directed against any country but is intended to preserve the independence and promote the welfare of their two peoples while contributing to peace and progress to all. In a joint communique issued upon the termination of President Ford’s state visit to this country, the two heads of state said they considered the military assistance pact entered into by their countries on August 30, 1951 had enhanced the defense of both countries, strengthened the security of the Pacific region and contributed to the maintenance of world peace. They agreed however that negotiations on the subject of United States use of Philippine military bases should be conducted in the clear recognition of Philippine sovereignty and that there should be an early review of the steps necessary to conclude the negotiations through the two panels already organized for the purpose.

December 8—

THE PRESIDENT through Letter of Implementation No 29 dated December 5, 1975, directed the Budget Commission to take over a number of budgetary functions which had heretofore been referred by the Commission to the defunct office of the executive secretary This is in connection with Letter of Implementation No. 28 placing the commission under the Office of the President.

INFORMATION Secretary Francisco S. Tatad underscored the need for “a scientific response to national problems,” in a speech at the opening ceremonies of the third annual celebration of Atomic Energy Week at the Philippine Atomic Energy Commission in Diliman, Quezon City. Citing the PAEC exhibit of breakthroughs in nuclear research as impressive, Secretary Tatad observed there is a growing scientific community in the country today, and this community, he stressed, may well “propagate the scientific culture that we speak of and believe to be necessary to accelerate national progress.” The President has declared that the period from December 7 to 15 Atomic Energy Week, to stress the role of atomic energy research for peaceful use in national development.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: December 9-15, 1975

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

December 9—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the Board of Transportation to set aside its order abolishing the boundary system in jeepneys and buses but authorized a continuing review of this question by the Department of Public works and the Department of Labor. He acted to stabilize the public transportation situation in Metro Manila on recommendation of Governor Imelda Romualdez-Marcos after conferring with Labor Secretary Blas F. Ople and BOT Chairman Cesar de Guzman.

PHILIPPINE National Oil Co. (PNOC) has formed a special task force to study and formulate the implementing program for the use of native coal as a substitute for imported fuel oil. PNOC Chairman and President Geronimo Z. Velasco created the task force in line with Letter of Instructions No. 330, directing the PNOC to undertake a comprehensive program for the development and use of the country's coal resources. The special task force is composed of technical men from PNOC, Petro-phil Corp. and the Philippine National Petroleum Center.

December 10—

THE PRESIDENT urged the Philippine National Red Cross to review-its priorities and decide how it can reach more people and serve them more effectively by making full use of the new incentives and new institutions in the New Society. While praising the PNRC for its numerous achievements, the President suggested that it expands the scope of its less spectacular but more pervasive programs, preferably through the country's 42,000 barangays. The President's speech was delivered for him by Dr. Pacifico E. Marcos, chairman of the Philippine Medical Care Commission, on the opening day of the two-day PNRC Biennial Convention at the Philippine Village Hotel.

INFORMATION Secretary Francisco S. Tatad called upon civic and government agencies to become "not only informative but also educational in their mission" as this is "the easiest way to democratize education." Speaking before the First National Convention of the United Nations Association of the Philippines at the Centro Escolar University auditorium, Secretary Tatad also urged for "conscious" government planning which "must now take cognizance of women as a potent part of our human resources and which must respond to the women's challenge with appropriate measures." He added however that the objective is to see the day when 'all planning in favor of Women as a special group will be left behind in favor of planning that takes for granted the tact that "women are not different from men, and must be treated without prejudice to their gender."

December 11—

THE PRESIDENT launched the Energy Conservation Movement, a nationwide effort by the private sector in response to the Chief Executive's call for energy conservation. About 1,200 officers and members representing some 70 participating industrial, trade, civic, professional, media, and consumer organizations from Manila and the provinces witnessed the launching at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang. Organized last November 26 with Meralco Chairman and President Emilio Abello as head, the Movement aims to generate public awareness of the urgent need for energy conservation and efficient fuel utilization; to promote sustained involvement in the Movement by energy users; to establish energy conservation guidelines and standards; and to encourage energy conservation through a system of incentives and sanctions.

THE PRESIDENT received Judge William S. Thompson of Washington D.C., secretary-general of the World Peace Through Law Center (WPTLC), who made a courtesy call at Malacañang. Judge Thompson congratulated the President for the impressive changes brought about by the New Society and informed him that the organization and its affiliates plan to hold the 8th World Law Conference in Manila in August, 1977. The President endorsed the plan and suggested that the WPTLC official get in touch with the Secretary of Justice, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and the Integrated Bar Association of the Philippines.

THE PRESIDENT granted general amnesty to another batch of 302 former Muslim rebels from the Southwest Command, who had decided to return to the folds of the law and help in the building of the New Society. In granting general amnesty to the returnees from Sulu, Basilan, Tawi-Tawi, Zamboanga del Norte and Zamboanga del Sur, the President directed Rear Admiral Espaldon to organize them into self-defense units, after processing them in order to determine how they can be of help.

THE PRESIDENT received the delegation from five Asian countries participating in the Second Asian Youth Gymnastic Championships to be held at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum from December 12 to December 14. In welcoming the youthful athletes, ranging from 14 to 20 years old, the President voiced the hope that they will help promote the brotherhood of man through friendly rivalry in the Held of sports.

PROFESSOR Roberto Lim was inducted into office by the President as president of the Philippine Aerospace Development Corporation. He was formerly connected with the Philippine Airlines, and teaches at the Asian Institute of Management.

THE PRESIDENT streamlined 11 agencies and transfer 34 others from the Office of the President to various agencies of the government. The streamlining contained in Letters of Implementation Nos. 30 to 43 is in line with Presidential Decree No. 830, which gives "flexible and continuing authority to the President to restructure the Office of the President."

THE PRESIDENT assured full government support for gymnastics, saying that it is one of the country's sports that "should be developed." In his brief address opening the Second Asian Youth Gymnastics Championships at the Rizal-Coliseum, the Chief Executive said he was personally welcoming the youthful delegates from five Asian countries "to demonstrate the interest of the government" in the development of the sport. The participating countries include the People's Republic of China, Hongkong, Japan, Korea, Kuwait and the Philippines.

December 12—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the full-scale development of the Kalinga region by creating the Kalinga Special Development Region and appropriating an initial amount of P3 million for the purpose. He issued the presidential decree creating, and appropriating funds for, the KSDR in the presence of over 130 Kalinga leaders headed by Vice Governor Tanding Odiem of Kalinga-Apayao, who had come to pledge full support and cooperation to the administration. Under the decree, the President will have direct supervision and control of the KSDR through the Presidential Assistant on National Minorities (PANAMIN). Covered by the development program are the towns of Lubuagan, Tinglayan, Tamidan and Pasil, in Kalinga-Apayao.

SENIOR executives of the 10 Asian airlines belonging to Orient Airline Association, were received by the President shortly after the opening of their meeting at the Philippine Village Hotel. In receiving the airline executives, the President thanked them "for the cooperation you have always extended to us." The President, at the same time, expressed the hope that they had no problem as far as the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) is concerned.

December 13—

THE PRESIDENT has transferred the Professional Regulation Commission from the Office of the President to the Civil Service Commission to give himself time "to concentrate on policy formulation and executive decision-making." The PRC has supervision over the various boards of examiners, 31 of which have already been reconstituted. The directive, contained in Presidential Decree No. 8119, transferring administrative supervision of the commission from Malacañang to the CSC, is in line with the government's efforts to streamline the bureaucracy, as enunciated in PD 830. It brings to 35 the number of offices transferred from the Office of the President to other government agencies, aside from 11 others which were abolished the other day.

THE PRESIDENT issued Presidential Decree No. 840 reorganizing Basilan province by abolishing Basilan City and moving the capital seat to the municipality of Isabela. Also abolished were the towns of Pitas and Tapiantana. These measures remedy the earlier subdivision of Basilan into political units of a size and number not complementary to

the size of the area. The purpose of PD 840 is “to effect a more viable political status for the province, and to render its territorial partition more responsive to the peace, rehabilitation and total development of the area.”

MUSLIM pilgrims have expressed their gratitude and appreciation to the President and the military authorities for the successful conclusion of the 1975 pilgrimage to Mecca. Shei Yacob Ismi and Capt. Ara Bada, officer-in-charge and vice-president respectively of the Tawi-Tawi group, conveyed their thanks on behalf of the 130 pilgrims from Tawi-Tawi, Basilan, Sulu and Zamboanga in a telegram sent to the Mecca Task Group Commander.

December 14—

THE PRESIDENT underscored the government’s policy of encouraging the development of sports in the country. Interviewed by Channel 13 sports announcer Joe Cantada during the Second Asian Youth Gymnastics Championships concluded at the Rizal Memorial Stadium, the President announced that he is organizing the Department of Sports and Youth Development, of which he is acting secretary, and is due to appoint two undersecretaries and several assistant secretaries of the department. He said he intends to use precisely “a lot of funds that are awaiting us” for the development of athletics throughout the country.

December 15—

LOCAL Government Secretary Jose A. Roño declared that government employees, including those in government-owned or controlled corporations, are disqualified from membership in the Sangguniang Bayan.

He said the Department of Local Government and Community Development opted not to allow these employees to represent any sector in the Sangguniang pending resolution of some legal questions.

THE PHILIPPINES was granted a loan of \$1,255,000 (50 million Belgian Francs) by the Belgian government. The loan agreement, the fifth granted by Belgium to the Philippines was signed by Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Romulo and Belgian Ambassador to the Philippines Louis Vandenbrande at the Department of Foreign Affairs. The loan is repayable in 20 annual installments, the first installment will be on December 31, 1985, after a grace-period of 10 years. The Philippine government shall pay interest at the rate of two percent annually on the balance due on the loan from date of availment. The proceeds of the fifth loan, according to Secretary Romulo, will be utilized for the procurement of medical instruments and other equipments for Metropolitan Manila hospitals, the Cotabato Provincial hospital and the Zamboanga General hospital. Improved public health services of the government would therefore be made available to the people of the less developed areas of Mindanao.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: December 16-22, 1975

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

December 16—

The PRESIDENT granted a package of benefits to labor in order to improve the living conditions of the country's 14 million workers and their dependents. Before a gathering of officials and members of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP), the recognized national labor coalition, the President at Malacañang: 1) Amended Presidential Decree No. 823 by restoring to labor the right to strike in non-vital industries; 2) Ordered a general increase in pay of government workers, from about five to 25 percent of their present rates, effective January 1, 1976; 3) Guaranteed a 13-month annual pay, instead of the ordinary 12-month pay, for all workers receiving less than P1,000, effective fiscal year (January to December) 1976; and 4) Created a Rural Workers Office in the Department of Labor.

The PRESIDENT ordered the adoption of a Compensation Scheme for members of the Career Executive Service upon recommendation of the Career Executive Service Board. The Career Executive Service which was created under Presidential Decree No. 1 (Integrated Reorganization Plan) is intended "to form a continuing pool of well-selected and development-oriented career administrators who shall provide competent and faithful service." The Career Executive Service Board, on the other hand, as directed through Letter of Instructions No. 146, formulates rules, standards and procedures covering the CES, particularly the compensation of the members of the service. The order of the President is contained in Presidential Decree No. 847.

The OFFICE of the President announced that the National Parks Development Committee was not among the offices abolished by the President last December 11. Jacobo C. Clave, presidential assistant, said the committee shall continue and remain under the Office of the President. He explained that the committee was inadvertently included in the list of 11 offices abolished under the Office of the President.

The PRESIDENT proclaimed Friday, December 26, a special public holiday. For government workers, this means a four-day holiday stretch, starting from Thursday, December 25 (Christmas Day) and ending on Sunday, December 28. For workers in private firms, it would appear that Saturday, December 27, may be a holiday or not depending upon the decision of each individual private establishment with their employees.

NATIONWIDE energy audit is being conducted among all private industries with annual consumption of at least P1 million worth of fuel or electricity to establish basic information about consumption level of these industries. The energy audit requirement was contained in a directive issued by Secretary Vicente T. Paterno of the Department of Industry pursuant to the provisions of Letter of Instructions (LOI) No. 328. This LOI directs, among others, the Department of Industry to require major energy users to formulate comprehensive energy conservation programs.

SOME 10,000 orphans and school children were treated to a rare spectacle of songs and dances dubbed "Pamasko 75" at the Folk Arts Theater of the Philippines. Topping the colorful presentation was the annual distribution of food and gift bags, traditionally known as "Maligayang Pasko 75" an annual project of the First Lady. To the children's delight, no less than the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, was on hand to distribute the gifts.

December 17—

The PRESIDENT has ordered the implementation of salary increases for government positions covered by the Wage and Position Classification Office (WAPCO) of the Budget Commission. The order includes government positions under the Career Executive Service. At the same time, the President has directed the secretary of national defense and the budget commissioner to study and recommend on the level and structure of compensation of military personnel, including disability benefits.

The PRESIDENT laid down three basic guidelines for public works engineers to follow in fulfilling their role in the New Society. In a speech read for him by Public Works Secretary Alfredo Juinio before the delegates to the Bureau of Public Works Association of District Engineers convention at the Philippine Village Hotel, the President reminded them that in the construction of public works and infrastructures, the following should be observed: 1) Priorities should be given to the needs of the barangays and the common people; 2) Manual labor should be availed of particularly in rural areas to provide employment, whenever possible; and 3) The engineer's commitment to service rather than to personal gain should be personally affirmed.

INFORMATION Secretary Francisco S. Tatad underscored the need for more responsible writers. Speaking at the Literary Awards ceremony at the Philippine College of Commerce Cultural and Sports Center, the secretary urged a kind of writing that will instill into both the writer and the reader, today and tomorrow, a love for the good that exists in man, in society, and in the country. A writer, the secretary said, must exercise responsibility in the choice of a particular point of view as he interprets human nature and events. His writing becomes a part of the effort that builds a nation, the secretary added.

December 18—

The PRESIDENT conveyed the appreciation of the Filipino people and its government to the First Asian Ecumenical Congress for having "closed the gap that had separated individuals and communities by reason of their differences in faith" and for having "given much to the cause of human reconciliation and brotherhood." Speaking at the closing ceremonies of the four-day congress, the President, upon the request of the delegates, ordered the issuance of a Presidential proclamation designating October 15 to October 22, 1976, as Asian Interfaith Week, and also authorizing the Asian Ecumenical Interfaith Movement, through its *ad interim* Asian Interfaith Council, to conduct a nationwide fund-raising campaign through cultural activities.

The PRESIDENT has ordered that the guaranteed 13-month annual pay, instead of the ordinary 12-month pay, for all workers in private employment receiving less than P1,000 a month, shall be effective immediately. Clarification was made by Presidential Assistant Juan C. Tavera who said that the regulations implementing this order are being drafted by the Department of Labor and will be announced in due time.

PETROLEUM Board has signed a new oil drilling service contract calling for a seven-year five-well drilling program offshore of Northwest Palawan to be started on January 15, 1976. Petroleum Board Chairman Geronimo Z. Velasco signed the contract with an international consortium consisting of three foreign companies and five local firms, including the Philippine National Oil Co. The 14th oil contract so far awarded since the enactment of Presidential Decree No. 87 (Oil Exploration and Development Act of 1972), the latest agreement was negotiated by the Philippines-Cities Service Inc., as operator, which committed to spend \$14 million.

The PRESIDENT has issued Proclamation No. 1523 declaring December 26 and 27 (Friday and Saturday), this year as special public holidays. The proclamation supersedes a previous proclamation to the effect that only December 26 (Friday) is a special public holiday. In issuing the proclamation, the President took account of the fact that it will not prejudice the public interest.

December 19—

The PRESIDENT said that the Philippines considers the People's Republic of China as a model for all developing countries. Accepting the credentials of Ambassador Ke Hua, the first PROC envoy to the Philippines, the President observed that the PROC has reorganized her government and made it truly her own, revived her economy from chaos and destruction and has disciplined her people as good and loyal citizens of a free country. The new envoy, on the other hand, congratulated the Filipino people for having a glorious tradition of combating imperialism and colonialism and for having achieved, he said, positive results in their struggle to defend state sovereignty and safeguard national independence and economic rights and interests.

The PRESIDENT and the First Lady officiated the kick-off ceremonies for "Maligayang Pasko '75" at the Malacañang Park. The First Couple saw off 26 army trucks containing almost 15,000 Christmas packages for

distribution to indigent families of the Metropolitan Manila barangays. The Christmas packages were taken to 17 distribution centers in the Metro Manila area and in four resettlement areas in Carmona, San Pedro, Dasmariñas and Sapang-Palay. Distribution of gift bags will also be made in the provinces.

Mrs. IMELDA Romualdez Marcos, Metropolitan Manila governor, named Land Transportation Commissioner Romeo Edu to take charge of improving traffic conditions in the area and said she wanted visible results within a week. Meeting with transportation officials to discuss the integration of Metro transport facilities, Mrs. Marcos gave priority to taking action on traffic as an immediate problem that affects everyone and every sector, including the economy.

The PRESIDENT expressed the gratitude of the Filipino people to the delegates of the 2nd Philippine-American Convention on Comprehensive Community Medicine for their offer of help to the sick of the country during their call on the President at Malacañang. The delegation included 150 “Balik” physicians who came here from the United States to exchange medical expertise with local physicians and to visit their relatives.

The PRESIDENT ordered the closure of books of accounts of all government agencies as of December 31, 1975 and December 31, 1976. This closure order is in addition to the regular closing of books on June 30, 1976. At the same time, the President directed the Budget Commission to review agency financial requirements and to submit a budget covering Calendar Year 1976. The President’s directive in Letter of Instructions No. 348 is in preparation of the implementation of a Calendar Year budget for 1977 as provided for in Presidential Decree No. 777, which makes the fiscal year and the calendar year to coincide beginning 1977.

December 20—

The PRESIDENT announced the organization of the National Games Commission to supervise all aspects of the operation of games of chance in order to insure public protection and to encourage the continuous inflow of tourists as well as open a new source of income for Metro Manila. The commission is composed of three commissioners. It shall have control and supervision over all games of chance in the Philippines. For the time being, however, horse racing and Jai Alai are excluded from its jurisdiction pending the issuance of further orders in the reorganization of government offices and agencies. The Philippine Racing Commission and the Games and Amusements Board are thereby also excluded.

The PRESIDENT ordered the creation of a Standing Committee on the Procurement of Drugs and Medicines and the inclusion of the economic planning secretary in the Standing Committee on the Procurement of School Books. The President also directed the budget commissioner to incorporate as part of the budget process the preparation of an annual equipment procurement program for each agency to ensure a comprehensive evaluation of agency equipment needs in the light of government financial capability. The directive contained in Letter of Instructions No. 347 is “to ensure the maximum effective usage of the limited government resources available for the procurement of equipments, school books, and drugs and medicines.”

December 21—

The PRESIDENT ordered the Secretary of the Department of National Defense to computerize procurement in the Armed Forces of the Philippines as a means of controlling its funds and to control expenditures in its existing projects. This is the first step towards effective control in the procurement of supplies in the government. There is an increase in the volume and cost of every classification of supplies and equipment needed by the AFP. In some instances, this has resulted in the doubling of budgetary requirements for on-going and continuing projects of the government.

December 22—

The PRESIDENT cautioned against haste and called for care and prudence in the move towards a parliamentary form of government. He also warned against political agitation that can only retard the attainment of the government’s objectives. Addressing the nation on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Armed Forces of the

Philippines, at Camp Aguinaldo, the President also vowed to pursue the policy of self-reliance both in the military sense and in the economic development of the country.

The PRESIDENT has given another three-month extension to the fuel price support program, saying that “it is essential that the fuel price support for certain designated transport and other industries be continued for reasons of national policy.” In Letter of Instructions No. 349, the new expiration date is March 31, 1976. This is the third time the assistance program, which was first effected through LOI 280, was given a three-month extension. The first was through LOI 306, it expired September 30, and the second, under LOI 327, December 31, expiration date.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: December 23-31, 1975

President's Week in Review: January 1-7, 1976

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

January 1—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the intensification of relief operations for the flooded areas in the Bicol region. He issued the order at an emergency session of the National Disaster Control Center at Malacañang. At the meeting, the President called for a coordinated relief effort under the First Lady, who has taken over personal supervision of the dispatch of relief supplies to the flood sufferers. He also directed: 1) The immediate reconstruction and repair of all washed-out bridges along the Pan-Philippine Highway in order to bring about an early restoration of transportation facilities between Manila and the Bicol region; these facilities had been cut for one week; and 2) That railway lines damaged by the flood waters in certain parts of Quezon and Camarines Sur be immediately repaired and to dispatch trains carrying passengers and relief supplies between Manila and the region.

January 2—

THE PRESIDENT directed members of his Cabinet to participate more actively in the solution of local problems and to undertake studies on how their respective departments could be involved in the further development of the barangay as a political unit of government. Presiding over a meeting of his Cabinet at Malacañang, the first meeting for the new year, the President pointed out that the bureaucracy has created a situation where most members of his official family have no direct contact with the people who, he said, are the source of sovereign power. He stated that 1976 is the year the government had set in which the top agenda is the full and complete development of the barangay concept.

COMMISSIONER Teodulo C. Natividad has been appointed by the President to the position of acting chairman of the National Police Commission, effective January 1, 1976. A two-term congressman, lawyer, qualified expert on questioned documents, and a military man, Natividad holds both the Distinguished Conduct Star and the Distinguished Service Star.

THE PRESIDENT received United States Senator J. Bennett Johnston (D-Louisiana), who paid his respects following his arrival at Clark Air Force Base in Pampanga on the first leg of an Asian observation tour. During his 45-minute call, the U. S. Senator exchanged views with the President on the recent visit of President Gerald Ford, peace in Asia and the Pacific, the effects of the energy crisis and drop in prices of sugar and minerals.

January 3—

THE PRESIDENT has relaxed the rules governing the temporary registration of foreign-owned vessels to Philippine nationals for domestic trade use by allowing all charter parties to be temporarily registered and also by reducing the effectivity and validity of the charter or lease from not less than five year to one year. Previously, those allowed to be registered by the Maritime Industry Authority (Marina) included only vessels under time charter. In Presidential Decree No. 866 amending PD 760, the President directs that the word "time" be deleted from the original decree's title and body, saying that the term is "too technical and restrictive as to exclude other forms of charter parties." The new decree is designed to give "a certain degree of flexibility to the charterer or lessee in the use of the vessel."

January 4—

THE PRESIDENT has created the Philippine Convention Bureau (PCB) to promote the country not only as tourism destination but also as world center of gatherings and conventions. Created under Presidential Decree No. 867, the PCB will have its main office in Metro Manila. The PCB will be managed by a convention director whose primary duty is to oversee its operations. He shall serve as the PCB chief executive officer prescribed by the Board of Governors and shall sit in the board as an ex-officio member. The new decree also provides for the creation of the Board of Governors, which shall be the policy-making body of the PCB.

January 5—

THE PRESIDENT inducted into office Justice Fred Ruiz Castro as chief justice of the Supreme Court. The President expressed belief that under the guidance and leadership of the new chief justice, “that prestige, that good repute and that good judicial statemanship will continue.” In accepting the position, Chief Justice Castro pledged to “try to deserve the faith the President has placed in me as chief justice of the Supreme Court, and also try to deserve the faith of the entire nation.”

THE PRESIDENT repealed all provisions of charters, laws or decrees exempting any branch, agency, subdivision or instrumentality of the government, including government corporations, from Civil Service Law and rules, in a move to strictly enforce the Civil Service provisions of the Constitution. In Presidential Decree No. 868, he ordered that all government positions which have been previously exempt from Civil Service and Wage and Position and Classification Office (WAPCO) rules be placed under the Civil Service Commission. Moreover, he declared that all positions which have been declared professional, confidential or technical by any government agency, are now be subject to the Civil Service Law and rules. The move, the President said, is designed to curb the growing demoralization of government employees who have expressed their resentment against an emerging class of WAPCO and CSC-exempt employees.

January 6—

THE PRESIDENT announced that the police organization will eventually be predominantly civilian. The police are at present integrated with the Philippine Constabulary, a segment of the armed forces. He made the announcement during the oath-taking of former Congressman Teodulo C. Natividad as chairman of the National Police Commission, at the Hall of Unity and Brotherhood in Malacañang.

January 7—

THE PRESIDENT assured foreign governments that the Philippines hopes to continue to strengthen her relations of cooperation, friendship, and understanding with every nation and country of the world. He gave this assurance in the exchange of toast with Mons. Bruno Torpigliani, papal nuncio and dean of the diplomatic corps, during the traditional New Year reception of well-wishers in the Hall of Unity and Brotherhood of Malacañang, “To those who seek friendship with the Philippines,” the President said, “I can only say that the Philippines hopes to continue to strengthen relations of cooperation, friendship, and understanding with every country of the world.”

PROFESSIONAL basketball games and other professional games were placed by the President under the supervision and regulation of the Games and Amusements Board. The move in Presidential Decree No. 871 is designed to ensure the integrity of professional games and provide protection to the participants. The GAB orders, rulings and decisions on matters connected with or arising out of basketball may be appealed to the office of the President within three days from receipt of the appealed order, ruling or decision. The decision of the Office of the President is final.

THE PRESIDENT cleared 425 names which had been included in a purge list of about 2,000 names issued last September 19, 1975 under Letter of Instructions No. 309. Those cleared are as follows: 1) Career officials reinstated as of the date their resignations were accepted, 9; 2) Exonerated, with immediate reinstatement, 204; 3) Exonerated, with penalty of suspension from September 19 until date of reinstatement, 89; 4) Employees already out of the service before September 19 but whose names were erroneously included in the purged list, 123.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: January 8-14, 1976

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

January 8—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the setting up of rural postal circuits to speed up delivery of mail matter and provide postal service to the greatest number of rural folk. Through Presidential Decree No. 869, amending Section 5 of Republic Act No. 3590 (Revised Barrio Charter), as amended, the President directed the postmaster general or his authorized representative to group all contiguous barrios and sitios beyond five kilometers from a regular post office of a city or municipality, not served regularly by letter carriers, to form rural postal circuits. A rural postal circuit will have a postal center which will be located in the barangay community center of the barangay most accessible to all the barangays and sitios within the circuit. It will be manned and attended to by the barangay treasurers of the contiguous barangays where the circuit is established.

THE PRESIDENT ordered guidelines issued in connection with the reinstatement of 294 officials and employees under two administrative orders, Nos. 377 and 378, dated December 27 and December 28, 1975 respectively. Under the guidelines, the 204 officials and employees listed under A.O. 377, along with the 90 officials and employees listed under A.O. 378, are to be considered suspended without pay from the date of their separation from the service to the date they report back to duty. Only the nine graduates of the Career Executive Service Development Program, cited under A.O. 375, are to be considered reinstated to their positions effective as of the date their respective resignations were accepted.

January 9—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the proceeds from all sales of land reclaimed from Manila Bay to be turned over to the special fund created for the infrastructure needs of Metropolitan Manila. He issued the order during the turnover of the P1 million proceed from the initial week's operation of the floating casino by officials of the Manila Bay Enterprise, to the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, in her capacity as governor of Metro Manila. The immediate requirement for the program is P234 million, of which P141 million has already been released during the first two years, while P92 million has yet to be generated from, the general revenue which includes the floating casino.

GOVERNOR Gregorio S. Licaros of the Central Bank was sworn in by the President for an extended term after the completion of his first six-year term. The extension of Licaro's term is in recognition of his successful stewardship of the government financing institution during a series of economic crises which faced not only the Philippines but the other countries of the world as well.

THE PRESIDENT presided over a board meeting of the National Economic and Development Authority and held preliminary discussions on the proposal of oil companies to increase the prices of fuel in view of a recent decision of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to jack up oil prices. Expressing particular concern over the impact of the proposal on the nation's workers and consumers, the President invited barangay leaders to participate in the discussions. No decision was made at the meeting. The President directed Chairman Ponciano G. A. Mathay of the Oil Industry Commission and NEDA Director-General Gerardo Sicat to get together and formulate their final recommendations.

January 10—

THE PRESIDENT, through Letter of Instructions No. 359, reiterated that the Presidential Assistant on National Minorities (PANAMIN) is the sole agency authorized to operate within the proposed Chico Dam 4 in Kalinga-Apayao province. He made this reiteration following reports that certain persons "are representing themselves as having been authorized by former Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor to act for and on behalf of the President or the government." In the LOI, the President directed all military authorities to arrest any individual who takes any action within the area or in relation to it under pretense of having authority from him.

THE FIRST Lady, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, ordered the implementation of a garbage management system for Metro Manila that included plans projected up to the year 2000. Divided into two parts—an immediate action program and a long-range program—the system covers garbage storage, collection and disposal systems for Metro Manila. Also envisioned in the scheme is a recycling of refuse into cooking gas, construction materials, soil conditioners, fiberboard raw materials, fuel and handicrafts by 1980.

BUDGET Commission recently set deadlines for the submission of agency and principal budgets. Under Budget Circular No. 255, the commission set February 13 as the last day for the submission of principal special budgets, and March 31 for the submission of supplemental special budgets. Submissions after the set deadlines will be returned without action, according to the commission. The new deadlines will enable more effective fiscal planning to be undertaken.

January 11—

STATE Council of the People's Republic of China has accorded the agreement of the Chinese government to the nomination of Governor Benjamin Romualdez as Philippine ambassador to Peking, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs. The ambassador flew to Peking to be on hand for the mourning activities for the late Premier Chou En-lai. He carries with him a letter from the President to Chairman Mao Tse-tung of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party. His ambassadorial appointment is in addition to his duties as governor of Leyte.

January 12—

THE PRESIDENT ordered that importation of refined petroleum products be allowed only to the extent that it is economical and supplemental to any decline in the domestic production. The President's directive in Letter of Instructions No. 360 is in line with the government's energy conservation program. To ensure that importation of refined petroleum products does not exceed national demand, the President directed that: 1) The duty-free importation of liquified petroleum gas under Presidential Decree No. 333, as amended, be allowed only when such importation is made by the Philippine National Oil Co. or by duly authorized PNOC persons or entities and only to the extent of the volume it authorizes; 2) No importation of refined petroleum products including but not limited to gasoline, kerosene, diesels, liquified petroleum gas, fuel oil, aviation turbo fuel and aviation gas, by any person or entity be allowed without prior clearance by the PNOC; and 3) No foreign exchange availments in payment for any importation of refined petroleum products not conforming to the above-stated requirements be authorized by the Central Bank of the Philippines.

AMBASSADOR Benjamin Romualdez, newly appointed ambassador to the People's Republic of China, represented the Philippines in paying last respects to the late Chinese Premier Chou En-lai. Accompanied by members of his staff, Ambassador Romualdez paused for silent prayer in front of the urn containing the ashes of the late Premier which was on a dais inside the Cultural Palace of the People in Peking's Forbidden City. The Filipinos were received by high ranking Chinese officials including Vice Premier Hua Kuo Feng and Foreign Minister Chiao Kuan-Rua.

January 13—

PRESIDENTIAL Assistant on National Minorities (PANAMIN) has dispatched two medical and relief teams to Palawan to attend to the needs of the victims of the disaster-stricken area. These teams were the first to reach the field. According to PANAMIN's initial report, 990 patients have been treated, an undetermined number of patients were airlifted to Manila and members of the team rushed to Puerto Princesa to buy more rice to feed refugees who keep pouring in from nearby barrios. The PANAMIN reported that 16 were killed and 14 others were still missing in four of the barrios affected by storm "Sisang," which hit Bicol, the Visayas, and Palawan last December 28-29. These barrios are Malihod, Bulalakaw, Marangas and Bono-Bono.

FUEL price support program of the government has cost P14 million as of November 30, 1975, and will cost P33.4 million by March 31, 1976, when the third extension of the program ends. The government believes that this amount has been well spent for the benefit of the low-income public, in the form of lower fares than would have been

possible without the subsidy, and lower prices of prime commodities borne by the nation's carriers. The figures, released by Antonio del Rosario, executive director of the Philippine National Oil Co., show that from May 16, 1975 until November 30, 1975, the subsidy totalled P14 million, of which four private oil companies—Caltex, Mobil, Shell and Getty—shouldered the rest.

January 14—

THE PRESIDENT created a committee to rationalize, develop and modernize transportation and traffic systems in Metropolitan Manila. Through Administrative Order No. 379, the President designated Land Transportation Commissioner Romeo F. Edu committee chairman. Col. Antonio Abaya, commanding officer of the Philippine Constabulary Highway Patrol Group, Director Fernando Montes of Region IV, Department of Public Highways, and Director Gregorio Cendana of the National Media Production Center were named co-chairmen for enforcement, engineering and information, respectively.

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady, the latter in her capacity as honorary chairman of the Caliraya Development Commission, received in behalf of the Philippine government the \$1.5 million Japanese Memorial Garden in Caliraya from the government of Japan. The memorial garden, a project of the Philippine-Japan Society undertaken jointly by the National Power Corporation and the Japanese Embassy since 1972, was turned over by former Japanese Minister Nobusuke Kishi, president of the Caliraya Memorial Garden Construction Committee, and Health and Welfare Minister Masami Tanaka. In explaining the rationale for the construction of a shrine to former enemy soldiers on Philippine soil, the President said the shrine “is a reminder of the price of error and the price of War.”

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: January 15-20, 1976

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

January 15—

THE PRESIDENT directed the national effort towards producing alcohol from local materials economically, as a substitute for gasoline. In a meeting with local scientists and researchers, the President ordered a feasibility study prepared on the conversion of such materials as banana, water lily, rice hull, bagasse, and sawdust which are thrown away as waste, into alcohol. The President said that if alcohol can be produced economically, it can help alleviate the costly use of gasoline for motor vehicles.

THE DEATH of Prime Minister Tun Abdul Razak of Malaysia “leaves a great void in the lives of the people to whose welfare he had devoted his entire life,” the President said in a message sent to his Majesty, Tuanku Yahaya Petra ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Ibrahim Yang Di-Pertuang Agung. In a separate message to Prime Minister Datu Hussein Bin Onn in Kuala Lumpur, the President mourned Razak’s death and at the same time congratulated the new prime minister’s assumption of his high office.

THE PRESIDENT received the officials of the CommerzBank of Frankfurt, West Germany, who paid their respects following their arrival on a business survey three days ago. Engelbert Dicken, managing director of the bank, said that he is looking into the possibility of expanding the bank’s investments in the industrial sector. He also expressed confidence in the increasing business and industrial activity in the Philippines, and the infrastructure projects which need large amounts of foreign funding.

NEW set of officers of the Philippine National Red Cross were sworn in by the President at Malacañang. At the same time, the President issued an order authorizing the PNRC to conduct its 29th Annual Membership and Fund Campaign from January 16 to April 30, this year. The President took occasion to extend the gratitude of the entire people to the PNRC and its corps of workers, officers and volunteers for the charitable and humanitarian work they have been rendering to the country and people. Inducted by the President were Maj. Gen. Romeo C. Espino, chairman; Fernando E. V. Sison, vice-chairman; Mrs. Adelina S. Rodriguez, secretary; Mrs. Dolores Sison, assistant secretary; Romeo Villonco, Treasurer. Brig. Gen. Jonas Victoria, assistant treasurer; and Generoso Jacinto, counselor.

January 16—

THE PRESIDENT arrived at Malaysia to pay his last respects to the late Malaysian Prime Minister Tun Abdul Razak. He and the members of his party were met at the Kuala Lumpur Subang Airport by top Malaysian officials headed by MalicKaavasagam, minister of communications, members of the local diplomatic corps and officials of the Philippine embassy headed by Ambassador Yusul Abubakar.

THE PRESIDENT met with Singapore Minister Lee Kuan Yew and Thailand Prime Minister Kukrit Pramoj and drew up a four-point agenda for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit meeting scheduled next month in Bali, Indonesia. The meeting was set at the Kuala Lumpur Hilton’s Royal Suite during a luncheon hosted by the President at which the foreign ministers of the three ASEAN nations were also present. The proposed agenda was not divulged to media, pending approval by the heads of state of Malaysia and Indonesia, the two other leaders.

January 17—

THE PRESIDENT signed Presidential Decree No. 875, extending commissary and PX privileges to the members of the Integrated National Police—thus fulfilling a commitment he made together with the First Lady last week. By this decree, all purchases made by members of the INP through a commissary and PX systems shall be free of all

taxes, duties and other charges prescribed for similar commodities under existing revenues, other laws, ordinances and regulations.

January 18—

COORDINATING Committee in charge of implementing Letter of Instructions No. 287, census of veterans, met to thresh out problems in the distribution of census forms and Philippine Veterans Bank certificates of stock to veterans. At the meeting, Mariano Aureus, VFP secretary general, reported to Brig. Gen. Protacio R. Sotto (ret.), overall coordinator of the committee, that of the 500,000 PVB certificates of stock, only 145,761 have thus far been distributed, since recipients of the rest of the certificates of stock could not be located. Aureus noted that there are still some barangay heads who are not well-informed of their role in the implementation of LOI 287. Col. Noe Andaya, Office for Civil Relations Chief, requested the full participation of the media in the dissemination of information regarding the census.

January 19—

THJS PRESIDENT directed all government offices involved in development planning to prepare two types of development plans. These are: 1) A medium-term plan covering a period of 10 years, and 2) A long-term or perspective plan up to the year 2000. This was contained in Letter of Instructions No. 363 addressed to all heads of departments and managing heads of the Maritime Industry Authority, the Philippine Ports Authority, the National Power Corp., the National Irrigation Administration, the National Electrification Administration, the Metropolitan Waterworks Sewerage System, the Local Water Utilities Administration, the Export Processing Zone Authority, the Laguna Lake Development Authority, the Philippine National Railways and all offices, agencies and instrumentalities, including government-owned or controlled corporations involved in development planning. In the LOI, the President ordered that such development plans be submitted to the National Economic and Development Authority within 60 days from the issuance of the directive for evaluation, coordination and integration.

THE PRESIDENT announced the policy of lowering the average age level of the Filipino soldier and encouraged the recruitment of eager young men into the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Speaking at the fifth anniversary celebration of the Presidential Security Command (PSC) at Malacañang Park, the President said, “the policy of the armed forces is to lower the average age of the Filipino soldier.” The President also continued the policy of allowing PSC officers and men to be assigned to combat duty, especially on volunteer basis, in order that they may not get rusty thereby clearing opportunities for promotions and decorations.

THE PRESIDENT has created the position of undersecretary for civil relations in the Department of National Defense for effective coordination of the programs and activities of military and civilian agencies especially in matters affecting local projects and developments. This brings to three the number of undersecretaries in the defense department. The others are the undersecretaries for home defense and for armmunitions. The creation of the new position is provided for by Presidential Decree No. 876.

January 20—

THE PRESIDENT met with provincial governors and city mayors at the Heroes Hall of Malacañang to clarify issues raised in the organization of the Sangguniang Bayan. The meeting, which was requested by the local executives, is a prelude to the holding of the first meeting of the Katipunan ng mga Sangguniang Bayan at the Folk Arts Theater tomorrow, during which occasion the President will deliver his Constitution Day address.

THE PRESIDENT has made eight major appointments in the Department of Education and Culture, pursuant to its reorganization plan as recommended by Education Secretary Juan Manuel. Appointed were: 1) Narciso Albarracin as undersecretary of Education and Culture; 2) Dr. Liceria B. Soriano as director of the Bureau of Elementary Education; 3) Cipriano S. Saga as assistant secretary; 4) Tomas C. Brual as assistant director of the Bureau of Higher Education; 5) Mateo M. Sanchez as director, Region II; 6) Ambrosio Mendoza as assistant director, Region II; 7) Demetria Pujante as assistant director, Region VII; and 8) Francisco B. Apilado as assistant director, Region XI.

January 21—

THE PRESIDENT announced” the creation of a Sangguniang Pambansa to be organized with the advice of the Katipunan ng Mga Sangguniang leaders and other representatives of the various sectors of the national community. He made the announcement before some 3,000 delegates from all over the country to the first convention of the National Federation of Sangguniang Bayans held at the Folk Arts Theater, Roxas Blvd. The President announced the organization of the Sangguniang Pambansa in response to a request of the convention for the creation of a legislative advisory council. He said that the Sangguniang Pambansa shall exercise advisory powers on legislation and that it is his intention to build it up so that it may continue to perform the functions of a National Assembly during; the period of Martial Law.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: January 22-28, 1976

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

January 22

THE PRESIDENT has authorized the signing of a new service contract for oil drilling operations offshore west of Palawan with a consortium of companies. The new contract, the 15th to be concluded by the government with private companies, calls for a three-well drilling program for the first two years, and one well yearly up to the seventh year, with the first well scheduled to be drilled "on or before April this year. The operations will cost \$8 million the first two years and \$23 million the remaining five years, or a total of \$31 million for the entire seven years, covering 1.5 million hectares of utilized concessions.

THE PRESIDENT swore in former Rep. Carmelo Z. Barbero of Abra as undersecretary for civilian relations of the department of national defense. In his brief remarks at the induction, the President explained the need for a third undersecretary in the department, in addition to Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol for home defense and Undersecretary Isabelo R. Castro for munitions. He said the new position was created at the instance of Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, and in line with the policy of strengthening military civilian relations and at the same time strengthening the morale, spirit and unity in the armed forces.

January 23

THE PRESIDENT urged public officials to continue the drive to clean up the ranks of the corrupt and undesirables, even as he congratulated the National Grains Authority for work well done. Addressing about 100 key officials and regional and provincial managers of the NGA which has branches in 77 cities and towns, during their call at Malacañang, the President said: "Whatever program, no matter how many speeches you deliver, if the man who implements them, meets the people face to face, and works out details, does not have the proper motivation, enthusiasm for so long, those policies are bound to fail."

SHIPPING industry was given by the President a much-needed shot in the arm by releasing P200 million to the National Development Company (NDC) for the construction, purchase, or acquisition of interisland vessels. This amount is to be appropriated out of any funds in the National Treasury not yet appropriated or from loans which may be contracted for the purpose. Under Presidential Decree No. 878, these interisland vessels will be sold, leased, or chartered to persons, associations or corporations engaged in Philippine interisland shipping. However, only citizens of the Philippines or associations or corporations with 60 percent capital may qualify to this support

THE PRESIDENT named members of the Performance Evaluation Committee (PEC) in 30 offices to conduct a government-wide evaluation of the performance of officials and employees. Under Letter of instructions No. 365, the PEC, which shall be under the overall coordination of the Civil Service Commission in accordance with LOI 320, is intended "to develop efficient and dedicated government personnel and to improve the quality of public service."

THE PRESIDENT ordered the division of Region No. 4 of the administrative field organization of various government departments and agencies into Region No. 4 and Region No. 4-A. The move in Presidential Decree No. 879 was made following petitions of the Katipunan ng mga Sangguniang Bayan that Metropolitan Manila be considered a separate region for the administrative field organization of the various government offices. Thus divided, Region No. 4 continues to cover the four cities and 13 municipalities comprising Metro Manila as embodied in PD 824, with regional center either in Manila or Quezon City. Region 4-A, on the other hand, shall comprise the towns of Rizal not included in Metro Manila, and the provinces of Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Quezon, Aurora (sub-province), Marinduque, Mindoro Oriental, Mindoro Occidental, Romblon and Palawan, and the cities of Batangas, Cavite, Lipa, Lucena, San Pablo, Tagaytay, Trece Martires and Puerto Princesa.

OFFICE of the President reminded all public officers of their obligation to file new statement of assets and liabilities covering calendar year 1975 within this month. Presidential Executive Assistant Jacobo C. Clave issued the reminder through Memorandum Circular No. 890 as he pointed to the provision of Sec. 7 of Republic Act No. 3019

(otherwise known as Anti-Graft Law), as amended by Presidential Decree No. 677 requiring every public officer to file with his department head a statement of assets and liabilities “within 30 days after assuming office, and within the month of January every year thereafter, as well as upon his resignation or separation from office.”

January 25

THE PRESIDENT has increased the daily subsistence allowance of patients in Armed Forces of the Philippines hospitals and dispensaries from P6 to P8 to upgrade the quality and quantity of food for military personnel confined in AFP hospitals. Through Presidential Decree No. 880, the President ordered a subsistence allowance of “not more than P8 per day” for each military patient, including direct dependents of officers and enlisted personnel as defined by AFP regulations, indigent veterans as determined by the secretary of national defense, and detainees when confined or hospitalized in AFP hospitals. The allowance shall not be granted as cash ration to concerned personnel, according to the decree.

January 26

THE PRESIDENT received two top foreign officials, one of them a United States official on population policies, and the other, the director general of the International Air Transport Association (IATA). Received by the President were Ambassador Marshall Green, the state department coordinator for population, and chairman of the US Government Inter-agency Committee on Population Policy; and Knut Hammarhjold, IATA director general.

THE PRESIDENT authorized the withdrawal, without prepayment of taxes and duties, of fabric and textile materials manufactured in the Export Processing Zone at Mariveles, Bataan, in a move to expand foreign markets of Philippine products and avert domestic unemployment. The Presidential directive is addressed to the Board of Investments, the Bureau of Internal Revenue, Bureau of Customs and the Embroidery and Apparel Board.

January 27

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady left for Singapore with the assurance to the Filipino people that the three-day state visit would be used “not only to strengthen our friendly ties with a good neighbor, but also to enlarge our experience in working out solutions to our national as well as regional problems.” The President is scheduled to consult with Singaporean Prime Minister Lea Kuan Yew on the agenda of the ASEAN summit at Bali, Indonesia next month.

January 28

THE PRESIDENT expressed belief that the organization of the ASEAN may prove to be the turning point in the history of Southeast Asia. Replying to the queries during the press conference at the Mandarin Hotel, the President said he hopes that the ASEAN will rise as the method by which border differences could be settled. “That is why we feel that the ASEAN is so crucial, that it may be the turning point in the history of Southeast Asia,” he said.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: January 29 - February 3, 1976

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

January 29—

THE PRESIDENT predicted that the summit meeting among the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations will go through next month as scheduled in Bali, Indonesia, and, that the conference had a "great percentage of possibility" of attaining its objectives. Reporting to the nation upon returning from a three-day state visit to Singapore, the President said that the continued pre-summit consultations among the ASEAN heads of state have clarified points on which there were certain ambiguities in the viewpoints of some of the ASEAN leaders.

THE PRESIDENT and Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew share the view that the big world powers could play a positive and constructive role in the development of Southeast Asia "based on the principles of mutual benefits, non-interference and respect for sovereignty." This was contained in the joint communique by the two heads of government shortly after the President left Singapore for Manila after a three-day state visit.

January 30—

THE PRESIDENT conferred the Philippine Legion of Honor on an Indonesian top naval officer "for eminently meritorious and distinguished service" toward strengthening the ties, of friendship between his country and the Philippines. The award, with the degree of Commander, was conferred by the President on Admiral Radin S. Subyakto, Indon navy chief of staff, in a ceremony at; Malacañang attended by top military and navy officials of the two countries.

THE PRESIDENT received the executives of the Philadelphia National Bank (PNB), who made a courtesy call before leaving after having attended the opening of their regional office in Makati, Metropolitan Manila. The PNB officials who called on the President were G. Morris Dorrance Jr., chairman; and Roland K. Bollard and Michael P. Heavens. During the brief meeting, the President expressed his gratitude for the assistance the BANK has been giving the Philippines through the Central Bank and the Philippine National Bank in the field of credit and financing.

January 31—

THE PRESIDENT announced the signing of the first government-to-government contract for the supply of crude oil from Saudi Arabia. The agreement was the result of oil missions earlier sent by the President to Saudi Arabia, capped by the visit in March 1975 of the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, and that of Chairman Geronimo Velasco of the Philippine National Oil Co. last June. The agreement insures an adequate and continuous supply of crude oil to the Philippines and will replace the previous contract with Exxon which will expire middle of 1976.

February 1—

THE GOVERNMENT moved to cut by 30 percent the importation of carton boxes which would mean a P12 million annual savings in foreign exchange for the country. This would also "definitely bail out the local pulp and paper manufacturing industry from life present depressed situation," according to the Pulp and Paper Manufacturers Association of the Philippines (Pulpapel). The proposed 30 percent cut in the importation of carton boxes is equivalent to a volume of 25 million boxes, a level expected to place to full utilization of the capacities of local pulp and paper plants. The proposal was made by Industry Secretary and Board of Investments Chairman Vicente T. Paterno, basically designed to create a market for producers of corrugating medium and liner board boxes.

February 2—

THE PRESIDENT proposed a new economic system for the Third World as an instrument for cooperation and development. To institutionalize the “Group of 77,” the Chief Executive suggested the conversion of the body into a Third World Economic System (TWES) based on the principle of collective economic self-reliance as animated by the proposition that “those who have less in international trade should have more in developmental aid.” The President, however, stressed that this economic system should not be used as an instrument of confrontation but as a vehicle for cooperation in trade and development.

THE PRESIDENT administered the oath to Leopoldo M. Abellera, government corporate counsel, as associate justice of the Court of Appeals. Following the induction held at Malacañang, the President announced the temporary designation of Justice Abellera as chairman of the Board of Transportation, vice Cesar de Guzman, who, the President said, will continue in the BOT as one of the commissioners.

February 3—

THE PRESIDENT has moved to regulate tax-free importations made by government agencies, including government-owned or controlled corporations, “to reduce foreign exchange spending and to protect domestic industries.” To implement the import Control, the President, through Presidential Decree No. 882 signed January 30, directed the creation of an Inter-agency Committee with the finance secretary, or his representative, as chairman, and the industry secretary, the National Economic and Development Authority director general, the Central Bank governor, and the Customs commissioner, or their respective representatives, as members. This committee, the President said, shall review and approve all government tax-free importations subject to the conditions in PD 882.

THE PRESIDENT has authorized the secretary of health to regulate the labeling, sale and distribution of hazardous substances, other than food, drugs and cosmetics to safeguard public health and safety through Presidential Decree No. 881. The secretary of health, however, can promulgate rules exempting substances, for good and sufficient reasons, from full compliance with the labeling requirements and if compliance is impracticable or is not necessary for the adequate protection of public health and safety. Said presidential decree penalizes violators with imprisonment of not less than six months and one day, but not more than five years, or a fine of not less than P1,000, or both, at the discretion of the court, upon conviction.

FOREIGN Secretary Carlos P. Romulo was elected President of the third ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The election of Secretary Romulo, who heads the 33-man Philippine delegation, was in observance of the ministerial meeting’s tradition. The meeting, now being held for the first time in Asia, has always elected the head delegate of the host country as president of the meeting.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: February 5-11, 1976

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

February 5—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the immediate creation of a common fund for an integrated commodities program by offering the first subscription of \$50 million to start such fund. He said the \$50 million pledge, which constitutes about one-fourth of the total export receipts of the Philippines last year, was "a modest share of a developing country in bringing about the establishment of the common fund." The common fund is part of an integrated commodities program currently under discussion at the third ministerial conference of the Group of 77. The President's pledge was seen as the first concrete manifestation of the Philippine proposal to institutionalize an economic system in the Third World.

THE PRESIDENT was presented with resolutions by Muslim religious leaders expressing their gratitude for government policies beneficial to Muslims and belying reports that religion is involved in the Mindanao conflict. The resolutions were presented by Ustadz Abdul Gani Yusop, chairman of the Southwestern Mindanao Muslim Religious Board Inc., who headed a delegation of religious leaders at Malacañang. Another resolution also offered the services of the group in all matters affecting Muslims here and abroad.

THE PRESIDENT gave the go-signal for an exhibition of the products of the People's Republic of China in Manila in October of this year. The exhibition, which will be the first to be held in the Far East, is designed to further cement "existing relations and to expand trade ties between the People's Republic of China and the Philippines. In his remarks following the signing of the memorandum of agreement between the two governments for the holding of the exhibition, the President pointed out that the promotion of RP-PRC trade is one of the basic objectives of the new Philippine foreign policy.

ALL officials and employees of the Bureau of Customs were enjoined by the President to perform their tasks scrupulously and honestly in order to collect the rightful amounts of revenues due the government. Noting the sharp drop in customs collections due to the decline in demand and prices of exports, the President told key customs officials who made a courtesy call on the occasion of the 74th anniversary of the bureau, that one of the principal targets of the democratic revolution is the elimination of graft in the government.

THE PRESIDENT approved the plan of two American doctors to extend their program of controlling tropical diseases in the Philippines. After hearing the plan of Dr. Kenneth Warren, professor and head of department of geographic medicine at Case Western University and Dr. Edwin M. Lerner II, of the President Wood Memorial in Washington, D.C., the President explained: "You have brought me the best news I heard in many years." Dr. Warren has worked on leprosy in the Philippines for 28 years while Dr. Lerner, on the other hand, has been working on schistosomiasis (snail fever) for the last 20 years in Brazil, West Indies, and Africa.

February 6—

THE FIRST Lady, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, announced that the Egyptian government has agreed to send an exhibition of Egyptian antiquities to Manila next October in conjunction with the holding here of the International Monetary Fund general meeting. Mrs. Marcos made the announcement after receiving and conferring at Malacañang with Dr. Gamal Mokhtar, first undersecretary of state in the Egyptian Ministry of Culture and president of the Organization of Egyptian Antiquities. Dr. Mokhtar was accompanied to the Palace by Philippine Ambassador to Egypt J. V. Cruz.

THE PHILIPPINES' pledge of \$50 million to the common fund for an integrated program for commodities was described as a very effective and substantial proof of the genuine and great interest of the country in the cause of the Third World. Former Secretary General Manuel Perez Guerrero of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), who was conferred the Order of Sikatuna, rank of datu, by the President, said there is nothing more important today than to put the integrated commodities program on the move. For that matter the

Philippines did not only give the example for others to follow but “has given life, to what, up to now, is a project in the minds of men.”

THE PRESIDENT conveyed, through Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Romulo, the profound sympathy of the Filipino people to Guatemalan President Kjell Laugerud for what has been described as the “worst series of earthquakes to have hit Guatemala in that country’s entire history. The tremors reportedly left behind between 2,500 to 3,000 persons dead, with more still being dug up from the ruins. Thousands more were reported missing.

February 7—

THE PRESIDENT promised to personally turn over to the Fourth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Nairobi in May the Manila Declaration of Program of Action of the Group of 77. He made this promise in response to the unanimous resolution of the 700 delegates to the just concluded ministerial Conference of the Group of 77 at the closing ceremonies at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

February 8—

“TODAY, the duty and responsibility of every domestic government is to redress the radical imbalances in the distribution of values among its citizens, either by redistributing wealth or by providing special services and creating opportunities to help the less fortunate,” Supreme Court Justice Felix Q. Antonio told faculty members and students of Silliman University at its convocation. This, he explained, is the underlying philosophy behind the President’s grand plan and program of a democratic revolution—a peaceful revolution through law, which ushered in a whole range of political, social and economic reforms for the country; the ultimate objective of which is the equitable sharing of the bounties of life among all to ensure the fullest development of our economic and social well-being and; human dignity. This closely hews to the concept of welfare state of the modern progressive countries, Antonio said.

February 9—

THE PRESIDENT called on the private sector to participate actively in the vigorous implementation of the Philippine foreign economic policy. Following a two-hour meeting with members of the Cabinet, economic advisers and Philippine envoys stationed in various posts abroad, the President: 1) Instructed the National Economic and Development Board to get the economic policy program operational after its next meeting; and 2) Asked his economic advisers to submit names from the private sector who can be tapped to participate in exports promotion, whether as officers of the government or as active participants. He found it necessary to review the foreign economic policy after having received many inquiries and offers: to buy Philippine export products such as sugar and coconut products, from foreign representatives who attended the recently concluded ministerial conference of the Group of 77.

THE PRESIDENT congratulated the Philippine Navy for its important contributions, not only to peace and security, but also to the economic, social and political development of the country. In a speech delivered at the 37th anniversary of the navy, the President noted the navy’s splendid performance, in support of the pacification drive in the south, the significant gains scored in its anti-smuggling operations, and its civic action projects in connection with efforts to bring the government closer to the people. He also lauded the navy for its relief operations conducted in conjunction with other government agencies which, he said, undoubtedly alleviated the suffering of the people in areas hit by natural calamities and disasters. At the anniversary rites held at the new gymnasium of the navy at the PN reservation in Fort Bonifacio, Rizal, the President gave out a total of 22 decorations to PN officers and enlisted men for exceptional gallantry in the field, as well as to civilians for their valuable contributions in the enhancement of the organization.

February 10—

THE PRESIDENT is seriously considering of issuing a decree authorizing Filipinos who have acquired American citizenship the right to own real estate for home use in their country of origin. He promised some 150 members of

the Association of Philippine Practicing Physicians in America, who paid their respects, that “without changing citizenship you may be allowed to exercise certain sovereign rights, including the acquisition of real estate for home use.” The President; however, pointed out that should this materialize, not only the 12,000 Filipino doctors in America but over 50,000 Filipino Veterans who have acquired American citizenship but would like to come back, will be directly benefited. He made the promise upon request, of the Filipino “balikbayan” doctors who expressed the desire to come back and spend their retirement in the Philippines.

THE PRESIDENT decreed penalties for any person engaging in the salvage of vessels, wrecks, derelicts and other navigation hazards or of cargoes in sunken vessels without the required permit from the Philippine Coast Guard of the Bureau of Customs. Through Presidential Decree No. 890, the President ordered that violators shall be punished with a fine of not less than P100 nor more than six months imprisonment or both, at the discretion of the court, upon conviction. At the same time, the President issued LOI 371 amending paragraph 4 of LOI 263 to empower the secretary of defense to approve permits issued by the said agencies instead of the President.

THE PRESIDENT ordered the establishment of a marketing scheme, under the Masagana 99 and Masaganang Maisan programs, to ensure loan repayments and, at the same time, enable the farmer-borrowers under the said programs to dispose of their farm produce at favorable prices. The move, contained in Letter of Instructions No. 372, requires farmer-borrowers to deliver a portion of their harvests equivalent to their loan obligations to designated National Grains Authority warehouses for storage, to be purchased by the NGA or sold to others at market prices at the farmers’ option. The proceeds of the sale shall in turn be credited to the respective loan accounts of the farmers with rural banks, the Philippine National Bank or the Agricultural Credit Administration.

February 11—

THE PRESIDENT formally approved the contract for the supply of and services for the country’s first nuclear power plant which will be set up in Bataan. In approving the contract, the President reiterated the government’s determination to reduce the country’s dependence on fossil-powered generators by exploiting its hydroelectric and geothermal energy sources, and by setting up nuclear power plants. The letter agreement was signed at Malacañang by National Power Corporation General Manager Conrado D. del Rosario and Gordon Hurlbert, president of Westinghouse Electric Corporation, in the presence of the President and United States Ambassador William H. Sullivan.

THE PRESIDENT warned against complacency and relaxation in an effort to improve the life of the poor and illiterate. Addressing about 30 outstanding coeds from various schools and colleges in Metropolitan Manila, who called at Malacañang, the President said the people must not relax in the face of an enemy which is more dangerous than the enemy the country faced during the war years. Commending the coeds for their active role in alleviating the plight of the poor and the illiterate, the President said that he had issued Proclamation No. 1529 proclaiming February 7 to February 14 as Love Bank Week in recognition of their role in bringing about the change and transformation of society.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: February 12-18, 1976

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

February 12—

THE PRESIDENT expressed the hope that the signing of a trade agreement between the Philippines and Poland would mark the beginning of continued exchanges and further strengthen the friendly relations between the two countries. The agreement with Poland is the third such agreement entered into by the Philippines with Eastern European countries. The first was with Romania which was concluded during the state visit here of Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu in April last year and the second with Bulgaria concluded a month later. Headed by Tadevsz Zylkowski, Polish deputy minister for foreign trade and shipping, members of the trade mission paid a courtesy call at Malacañang prior their return home.

February 13—

CENTRAL Bank warned tour operators, travel agencies and hotels not to make unauthorized conversion into pesos of foreign currencies brought into the country by visiting tourists. The CB warning embodied in a circular-letter addressed to the covered establishments, was prompted by complaints from a number of hotels that, in several instances, visiting tour groups were often found already provided with pesos when they check in at their hotels. In the circular letter, the CB also required that conversion of foreign currencies into pesos by tour operators, travel agencies and hotels licensed as foreign exchange dealers must be done inside the premises of their respective offices. The CB also prohibited foreign tour guides, escorts and other unauthorized personnel of said tourism-oriented establishments from dealing in foreign exchange.

FINANCE Secretary Cesar Virata turned down moves to increase the fees for sealing and licensing of weights and measures collected by local governments. Proposals have been made for the increase of the fees and that the licensing and calibrating of the weights and measures are to be conducted by an agency of the national government. In turning down the proposal, the secretary said the hiked fees would greatly affect a substantial portion of those using scales or measures commonly used by market vendors.

February 14—

THE PRESIDENT and Secretary General Kurt Waldheim of the United Nations finished their round of discussions while on a flying trip to Corregidor, Mt. Samat and the Export Processing Zone in Bataan. In a press conference aboard the *RPS Ang Pangulo*, off Talaga Beach, Bataan, the UN official told newsmen "he was very deeply impressed with the social progress" he saw in the Philippines. Secretary General Waldheim paid special tribute to the Population Center, the Heart Center, the Nutrition Center and other pet projects of the First Lady in Manila and in the provinces.

THE PRESIDENT ordered the intensification of the campaign to eradicate a dreaded disease as he issued a decree reconstituting the National Schistosomiasis Control Commission into the Schistosomiasis Control Council. The President gave the order to Health Secretary Clemente S. Gatmaitan after inspecting the Schistosomiasis Control Pilot Project (SCPP) in Palo, Leyte. In creating the council whose membership will be limited to Cabinet and sub-Cabinet level, the President seeks to reharne the agency for the well-spelled out responsibility of formulating and, carrying out an integrated and comprehensive program for the control of schistosomiasis in the country.

February 15—

THE PRESIDENT directed that attendance of Kabataang members in the performance of their official duties and activities shall automatically be credited to their academic requirements and compulsory training in school. He signed the directive at the "sunrise" graduation exercises for 1,200 youths who underwent a five-day Kabataang Barangay leadership seminar on Mt. Makiling, Laguna. The President directed that the time spent by KB members

in legitimate governmental activities shall be credited to their compulsory training in schools, such as the Youth Development Training (YDT), Citizens Army Training (CAT), Reserve Officers Training Course (ROTC), or Women's Auxiliary Training Course (WATC). Another KB activity listed down by the President in Letter of Instructions No. 37S that will offset the absences of KB members in schools is the KB leadership seminar conducted by the Department of Local Government and Community Development. This shall automatically be credited to their academic or YCAP time.

February 16—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the discontinuance of the Spanish Mortgage System of land registration and the use of Spanish land titles as evidence in land registration proceedings to stop fraudulent transactions, conflicting claims and litigations arising from Spanish titles or grants of dubious origin. Under Presidential Decree No. 982, the President gave all holders of Spanish titles, or grants six months from February 16, 1976 to register their lands under Act No. 496 (the Land Registration Act); otherwise, these lands shall be considered as unregistered lands and their Spanish titles cannot be used as evidence of land ownership in any registration proceedings under the Torrens System. The decree also provides for the registration of all instruments affecting lands under the Spanish Mortgage Law to be recorded by virtue of Section 194 of the Revised Administrative Code, as amended by Act 3344, within the six-month period. This law prescribes the system of registration of instruments affecting unregistered lands.

February 17—

THE PRESIDENT warned that the government is determined and prepared to preserve the stability of the country at all costs. He sounded the warning during the graduation rites of the Class '76 cadet of the Philippine Military Academy held at Ft. Del Pilar, Baguio City, which coincided with the 71st anniversary of the founding of the PMA. The President asserted that the government is ready to check any campaign against the government thereby preventing the buildup of insurgency and dissidence. Addressing the PMA cadets, the President asked them to renew their commitment to uphold the law, and to be imbued with the spirit of moral regeneration and to dedicate their lives to the betterment of the country.

February 18—

THE RECENT round of salary increases being given to about 512,000 employees in the government service is going to cost the national treasury P256.6 million a year. Acting Budget Commissioner Jaime C. Laya pointed this out in a three-page report to the President which also stated that the amount does not include salary benefits given to those in the military and the integrated police. The salary hikes were ordered by the President last month and made effective January 1, this year. Commissioner Laya said that the teaching position has the biggest slice with P103.2 million, followed by the professional, scientific and related categories of positions which take in P93 million. Craft, labor, clerical and sub-professional positions account for P57.6 million, and the smallest share goes to the Career Executive Service with P2.8 million.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: February 22-28, 1976

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

February 22—

THE PRESIDENT left for the first summit meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Bali, Indonesia, "to construct a permanent structure of regional development." In a departure statement, the President said that, together with the heads of state of Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand, they will be meeting on urgent regional problems, "on which it is in our healthy interest to consult with one another in the region."

February 23—

SOME 479 members of the New People's Army returned to the folds of the law in Gamu, Isabela, because they were convinced that the government is sincere in its reform program. The surrenderee, who had formed themselves into Barrio Organizing Committee (BOCs) of the NPA, come from 22 barrios of Ilagan and Naguilian, Isabela. They surrendered to Isabela Governor Faustino Dy.

February 25—

THE PRESIDENT expressed elation over the signing of the three documents (the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation, the Declaration of ASEAN Concord, and the Communique) by the heads of the ASEAN member-countries during the just-concluded Association of Southeast Asian Nations first summit meeting. He expressed the hope that "these will continue to be charters of peace and economic progress for all of Southeast Asia." Reporting to the nation shortly after his arrival at the Manila International Airport, the President explained how the treaties will affect the daily lives of Filipinos.

February 26—

PHILIPPINE Legion of Honor, rank of commander, was conferred by the President on General Ro Jae Hyun, army chief of staff, and, concurrently, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces of Korea. The President conferred the award in recognition of General Ro's "eminently meritorious and distinguished service" to the cause of regional peace and security.

THE PRESIDENT amended the Land Transportation and Traffic Code (RA 4136), as amended by Presidential Decree No. 843, by prescribing registration fees for private motorized two and three-wheelers, exempting certain motor vehicles from such fees, and extending the deadline for the installment payment of truck registration fees.

February 27—

THE PRESIDENT increased by P2 per kilogram the present minimum prices of locally grown Virginia leaf tobacco due to higher production costs and to ensure the economic well-being of local Virginia tobacco farmers. Under Presidential Decree No. 897, beginning March 2, 1976, the start of the Virginia tobacco trading, no person, corporation, partnership or association shall buy locally grown Virginia leaf tobacco per kilogram at prices lower than the following: Grade A-P7, Grade B-P6.50, Grade C-P6, Grade D-P5.50, and Grade E-P5. The Philippine Virginia Tobacco Administration (PVTa) shall determine the description of each grade.

February 28—

THE PRESIDENT said that economic development, to be acceptable under the New Society, must be utilized as an instrument of social justice. Addressing about 200 senior business executives from 24 countries who had just concluded their meeting under the auspices of the Stanford Research Institute, the President explained that the new society is a marriage of two systems and that "while we cling to the capitalist line that progress is due primarily to

private initiative, we believe property should be regulated and should not be “utilized to brutalize people who have less in worldly goods.” This is, the President added, the basic concept of land reform and all the other reforms which permitted the tenants and the laborers to attain the dignity and the decency to which they are entitled.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: March 1-9, 1976

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

March 1—

THE PRESIDENT exchanged decorations with King Hussein of Jordan in Malacañang. He conferred the ancient order of Sikatuna, rank of rajah, on King Hussein and the Order of Gabriela Silang on Queen Aliah. King Hussein, on the other hand, conferred on the President the Grand Collar of Al'Hussein Bin AH, named after the King's grandfather who led the Arab revolution against the Ottoman Emperor during World War I. The King also announced that his government will confer on the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, the Abnahdah (meaning renaissance), one of the highest decorations of the Kingdom of Jordan. The conferment rites were held at the dinner, tendered by the President and the First Lady, in honor of the King and Queen of Jordan and their party.

BUDGET Commission announced that it will release this week, specifically, March 5, checks representing salary differentials under Budget Circular No. 256 of some 10,000 teachers in Manila. BC 256 is the implementing circular of Letter of Instructions No. 345, which directs the implementation, effective January 1, 1976, of the salary increases resulting from the WAPCO salary survey.

March 2—

THE PRESIDENT appealed to all states in Asia to help preserve peace and to attend to the development of their respective economies to improve the living standards of their respective peoples. He made the appeal in a brief interview with- newspapermen at the VIP Kiosk of the Manila International Airport shortly after he and the First Lady led the official send-off for King Hussein and Queen Aliah of Jordan who departed for Sydney, Australia. "Instead of this word war, they should now participate in the effort to develop our respective economies; any deficiency, weakness, failure or frustration on the part of any country in Southeast Asia will affect everyone whether they belong to ASEAN or not," the President said by way of commenting on the North Vietnam statement calling for the overthrow of all non-communist governments.

THE PRESIDENT created a Waterways Recovery Committee to accelerate the government's flood control programs for Greater Manila. The Recovery Committee, formed through Letter of Instructions No. 376, is charged with the function of recovering rivers, creeks, esteros, drainage canals and other similar waterways in Greater Manila which: have been illegally filled up. The committee is composed of the justice secretary as chairman, and of the public works secretary, the solicitor general, the Land Registration commissioner and director of lands, as members.

THE FIRST Lady, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, said that the recent visit of King Hussein and Queen Aliah of Jordan will usher the cultural exchanges and trade relations between the Philippines and Jordan. In a brief talk with newspapermen at the VIP Kiosk of the Manila International Airport after seeing off the King and Queen; of Jordan, the First Lady said she had discussed with Queen Aliah about the promotion of cultural exchanges, while the President took up with the King the establishment of trade relations with Jordan.

THE PRESIDENT ordered the immediate investigation of the charges filed against the president of the Philippine College of Commerce to determine if there is any basis for his suspension. According to the presidential directive, Solicitor General Estelito Mendoza is directed to investigate the administrative complaints lodged by PCC professors and employees against Isabelo T. Crisostomo, PCC president.

March 3—

THE PRESIDENT has created, through Administrative Order No. 381 an executive committee, to take charge of the planning and execution of commemorative activities for the 34th anniversary of the Fall of Bataan and the Fall of Corregidor. Bataan fell April 9, 1942, and Corregidor May 6, 1942, to the Japanese. Designated chairman of the

committee are Defense Undersecretary for Civil Relations Carmelo Z. Barbero and Gen. Romeo C. Espino, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

March 4—

THE PRESIDENT strengthened the organizational group of the Budget Commission by creating two positions of deputy commissioner and forming a new office within it. He effected this in Presidential Decree No. 899 to enable the commission to perform its functions and responsibilities more effectively and “to cope with the substantial growth of the national budget under the new society.” The two deputy commissioners include one for budget operations and accounting, and another for management improvement and compensation and position classification administration. They are career administrators.

THE PRESIDENT gave more power to the Commission on Audit by signing Presidential Decree No. 898, completely reorganizing the constitutional commission. The COA is authorized to implement its reorganization within one year, until March 3, 1977. The decree is held significant because it will immeasurably insure the independence of government auditors in the exercise of their auditing functions, decentralize auditing operations and drastically rearrange the personnel structure.

GUATEMALAN government was presented by the President 1,000 tons (20,000 cavanos) of Masagana 99 rice as a donation of the Philippine government to the earthquake victims of that country. The donation was turned over at Malacañang by the President to Leoncio B. Monzon, honorary consul of Guatemala in Manila, who expressed the deep gratitude of the government and people of Guatemala for the generous donation.

PROFESSIONAL Regulation Commission (PRC) was directed by the President to require all successful examinees of the medical and nursing board examinations to present duly signed certificates of completion of the six-month rural training program as a prerequisite to their registration with the PRC. According to Letter of Instructions No. 377 addressed to the PRC commissioner, the certification shall be issued and signed by the officer or head of hospital or office under whom the successful examinee has undergone rural health service. The move was designed “to ensure the effective implementation of the rural training project required by Department of Health under the Rural Health Practice program,” the President added.

PHILIPPINE delegation to the ASEAN Economic Ministers meeting in Kuala Lumpur to be held on March was constituted by the President and at the same time, laid down the policy guidelines for the delegation. The President named Director General Gerardo Sicat of the National Economic and Development Authority and Industry Secretary Vicente Paterno, as chairman and co-chairman, respectively, of the delegation.

March 5—

THE PRESIDENT acted to fill in the country’s shipping needs for international trade by creating, through Presidential Decree No 900 the Philippine National Lines (PNL). The creation of the PNL came about as a result of the failure of the Philippine shipping companies “to expand and modernize their fleets due to the heavy capital requirement, despite incentives granted by the government,” according to PD 900.

THE PRESIDENT lauded the reassessment of Philippine-Australian trade policies by a group of businessmen in the wake of the imbalance in trade between the two countries, and in relation to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Addressing about 70 Filipino and Australian businessmen who paid their respects to him in Malacañang the President conveyed the Filipino people’s gratitude “for your efforts to correct this all-important subject of imbalance not only in trade but in the balance of payments between our countries.” The businessmen belong to the Philippine-Australian Business Cooperation Committee chairmanned by Jovino S. Lorenzo, who is also conference chairman-and the Australian-Philippine Business Cooperation Committee led by Leslie Bullen, conference vice-chairman.

March 8—

THE PRESIDENT has created a legal service in the Department of Public Highways to provide legal service and support to all its bureaus regions and field offices. The creation of the DPH unit in Presidential Decree No. 902, which amends PD 458, as amended by PDs 548 636 and 702, was made in view of the magnitude of work and responsibility of the department, as well as the wide scope of its operations. The newly-created legal service shall be headed by a director for legal affairs assisted by an assistant director for legal affairs, to be appointed by the President upon recommendation of the public highways secretary.

THE PRESIDENT called for the rational management of the country's land resources in order to insure an adequate food production for the rapidly expanding population. Addressing the opening session of the National Conference on Human Settlements, at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang, the President said that private property is respected but that since the country has a "finite source, it must be planned and managed for the general welfare." He also took the occasion to call on the citizenry to participate actively in the human settlements program because, he said, it is not a mere policy of government but a plan of action for the mass of the citizenry.

THE COORDINATE Committee in charge of implementing Letter of Instructions No. 287 known as census of veterans, set April 15 as the deadline for the submission of veterans' accomplished census forms to their respective barangay chairmen. This was announced during a recent meeting of the committee at the Office for Civil Relations Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

March 9—

THE PRESIDENT paid tribute to the late Dr. Jose P. Laurel Sr., as the very gospel and incarnation of truth who loved his people. In his brief remarks in Pilipino on the commemoration of the 85th birthday of the late President of the Republic at the Laurel, tomb in Tanauan, Batangas, the President said that Dr. Laurel's place in history is secure. In order to perpetuate the memory of the late Dr. Laurel, the President named the 150-kilometer highway from Sto. Tomas to Nasugbu, via Batangas City, as "President Jose P. Laurel National Highway."

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: March 10-31, 1976

President's Month in Review: April, 1976

OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

April 1—

THE PRESIDENT launched what he had earlier described as a “broad national sweep” of local government officials by terminating the services of four city mayors and nine provincial governors. Those separated from office included Mayors Norberto Amoranto of Quezon City and Marcial Samson of Caloocan City.

THE PRESIDENT keynoted the formal inauguration and start of the three-day conference of the Federation of Asean Shippers Council (FASC) with delegates from Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines in attendance.

CONSTRUCTION of the 675-Kms. Central Luzon road projects under the second International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) loan package is now 65 percent complete.

April 2—

THE PRESIDENT has created a new shipping body to assist Philippine shippers get cheaper rates and adequate vessels for overseas trade, by appropriating P250.000 to defray initial operating expenses by the newly created booking and cargo consolidation center.

THE PRESIDENT received the credentials of the non-resident ambassador of Sri Lanka, Greece and Afghanistan. The envoys were Ambassadors Bernard P. Telakaratna of Sri Lanka, Jean C. Cambiotis of Greece and Ali Ahmad Popa of Afghanistan.

THE PRESIDENT accepted the resignation of one more city mayor and immediately named his successor. He accepted the resignation of Mayor Pedro Espina of Surigao City and inducted into office Constantino Navarro, Jr., as the new city mayor.

April 3—

SUPREME Court has asked all lower courts to submit quarterly accomplishment reports as part of the efforts to bring about more efficient management of the courts.

AUDIT Commission Chairman Francisco S. Tantuico appointed 22 eligible persons in his first move to professionalize his office. He said that a large number of the new appointees have had extensive experience in private auditing firms.

April 4—

THE FIRST Lady today took initial steps to clean-up the unsanitary mess existing in 17 slaughterhouses in the Metro Manila area.

ACTING Finance Commissioner Efren I. Plana said the government is open to suggestions regarding the revision of the present income tax system, particularly the scheme of exemptions.

INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund announced that important measures were taken to help the Philippines meet its balance-of-payments difficult ties. The IMF has agreed to a borrowing by the Philippines of the equivalent of \$89 million special drawing rights.

April 5—

METRO Manila Governor Imelda Romualdez Marcos said that the Metropolitan area would have to be expanded further to include Tagaytay City and Sangley Point, Cavite. She said that the 165-square-kilometer area of present Metro Manila would be insufficient to cope with the development of the metropolis.

MAJ. GEN. Fidel V. Ramos, Constabulary chief, announced the reassignment of key personnel in various PC commands. The PC chief, who is also director general of the Integrated National Police (INP), said the reassignments were in pursuance with the Armed Forces' policy on rotation.

COMMISSION on Audit notified the Bureau of Internal Revenue that 17 new auditors had been assigned to check on BIR collections in all regions.

April 6—

DEPARTMENT of Foreign Affairs withdrew an exequatur for an American consular officer who had reportedly "manhandled" on February 23, a Filipina applying for a visa to the United States. The DFA notified the US embassy of the action in a "note verbale."

NATIONAL government will take over from city and municipal governments the payment of the government's share of insurance premium of all members of the Integrated National Police to the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

CHINA and the Philippines have agreed to set up a trade committee through which the two countries could exchange a wide range of products starting this year.

METRO Manila Governor Imelda Romualdez Marcos has recommended to the President the acquisition of a 2,500-hectare site for the "total human settlement" which she plans to build not too far from the central business districts of Metro Manila.

April 7—

THE PRESIDENT was informed by an American business executive about his firm's intention to enter into a joint venture with a local firm for the manufacture of telephone and PABX equipment for both the domestic and export markets. The official, Francis J. Dunleavy, is concurrently the president of International Telegraph and Telephone (ITT) New York.

OPERATORS of public utility vehicles in Metro Manila proposed the creation of a Department of Transportation that would integrate all modes of public transportation: land, air and water.

BUREAU of Internal Revenue released energy tax rates on sports cars, the most expensive models of which will be assessed at P13,000, including the registration fee.

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady will preside at the dedication ceremonies of the P12-million National Arts Center at Mt. Makiling today in the presence of Filipino artists and foreign guests.

April 8—

A TWELVE-man Filipino panel left for Hongkong en route to the People's Republic of China as official guests of the Chinese government. The mission headed by Finance Secretary Cesar Virata, will meet with China's Minister of Finance and the governor of the Bank of China.

April 9—

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady led the nation in commemorating the 34th anniversary of the Fall of Bataan. Center of the nationwide celebration was Mt. Samat in Pilar, Bataan, where the beleaguered defenders of the peninsula made their fierce but futile stand against the Japanese invaders in 1942.

PHILIPPINE government accepted the nomination of Aber Abdel Kander Shammont as the first ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the Republic of the Philippines.

THE PRESIDENT temporarily took over the reign over the Department of National Defense as Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile flew to Washington to join a Philippine panel in talks on the revision of the Philippine-American military bases agreement.

April 10—

THE PRESIDENT cited the significance of Bataan in Philippine history—that it was the first battle that really welded together the Filipino nation. It was at Mt. Samat, the President said, that some 5,000 soldiers died in a last ditch stand before the peninsula finally fell into the hands of the enemy.

SUPREME Court released the list of 903 circuitized courts and the names of municipal judges retained and assigned to preside over them. Chief Justice Fred Ruiz Castro said that of the original 1,090 municipal judges in the country, only 860 will be retained.

CENTRAL Bank Governor Gregorio Licaros reported to the President that the country's economy after the first quarter of 1976 is now definitely on the recovery trend and the outlook for the major exports now appears much brighter than anticipated.

April 11—

UNITED States and the Philippines were set to begin formal negotiation on the continued use of US military bases in the Philippines. The talks are expected to lead to an agreement that would grant the Philippines clear title to the giant US naval base at Subic Bay and the Air Force Base at Clark Field.

TRADE study mission dispatched by the government of Japan to the ASEAN countries will arrive today for a four-day visit to confer with Philippine representatives from the government and private sector on export of major commodities.

DELEGATION of the USSR-Philippine Friendship Society which arrived yesterday said the Soviet people view with keen interest the expected state visit of the President to their country sometime this year.

April 12—

THE GOVERNMENT will put an estimated P4 billion into the countryside this year to finance food production programs which have now been reoriented toward the export market. Funds for the programs represent 25 percent of all loanable funds which have been earmarked by commercial banks for agriculture loans under Presidential Decree No. 717.

DIRECTOR Salvador Escudero III of the Bureau of Animal Industry announced that the government will regulate the establishment and operation of livestock markets in the country in an effort to develop the marketing system in the livestock industry.

April 13—

THE PRESIDENT enlisted the aid of the military in the continuing crackdown on corrupt and inefficient public officials. He met with top leaders in Camp Aguinaldo and asked them to submit to him a list of undesirable civil servants.

THE PRESIDENT signed a decree modifying the existing local tax structure in Metro Manila and creating four treasury and assessment districts in the area.

THE PRESIDENT directed the Energy Development Board to execute a production sharing contract with Philippine Overseas Corporation-the first local oil company to convert its concessions in the western Cagayan Valley areas into a service contract pursuant to PD 782.

April 14—

THE PRESIDENT was informed by a delegation from the Soviet Union who called on him that the USSR is backing the aspiration of the ASEAN for the establishment of the region as a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality.

THE United States and the Philippines formally opened in Washington negotiations on a new agreement to cover the two giant US military bases in the Philippines.

THE DEPARTMENT of Health has revised its rural health practice program to bring the benefits of the project to the people in rural areas.

April 15—

THE PHILIPPINES has virtually abrogated all military agreements with the US with Foreign Secretary Carlos P. Romulo's declaration in Washington, D.C., that the Philippines is "not encumbered by provisions of any subsisting military agreements between our two governments."

THE PHILIPPINES extended recognition to the People's Republic of Angola. The President sent a cabled message to this effect to Dr. Agostinho Neto, the Angolan head of state.

April 16—

THE PRESIDENT announced that he would convene the regional "Sangguniang Bayan" next week, possibly for the purpose of drawing up the membership of the "Sangguniang Pambansa."

April 17—

LOCAL Government Secretary Jose A. Roño reminded provincial governors, city and municipal mayors outside Metro Manila to prepare their budget in conformity with PD 777 changing the fiscal year (July 1 to June 30) to a calendar year (January 1 to December 31).

THE GOVERNMENT program designed to accelerate the transformation of the barangays into self-reliant and progressive communities through- construction of barangay roads, went into effect today.

BUREAU of Public Works announced that the dredging of the silted Cotabato river and the construction of dikes to save 127,000 hectares of agricultural lands in the Muslim areas of Cotabato from perennial flooding, will start soon.

April 18—

THE PRESIDENT acted to remedy the alarming draught conditions in many areas in the north and other parts of the country, by ordering the preparation of an integrated nationwide program for the impounding and conservation of water.

BUREAU of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources said it was taking steps to curb illegal fishing allegedly perpetuated by some owners of big fishing boats and fishermen from neighboring countries.

THE PRESIDENT extended his congratulations to Hua Kuo-feng, newly designated premier of the People's Republic of China.

April 19—

PREPARATIONS are underway in labor, management and government sectors for the crucial conference in Baguio next week which is expected to make a decision on whether the minimum wage is to be increased and to what extent.

BOARD of Transportation said that all operators of interisland shipping lines may now apply for certificates of public convenience with the agency.

THE PRESIDENT has launched a scholarship program for qualified government personnel, which will enable them to pursue graduate studies in public administration. The program will be open to all government employees in the career service

MORE than P1.5 billion will be loaned out to farmers starting next month under Phase VII of the Masagana 99 rice production program which covers some 1.3 million hectares in 62 provinces, according to an announcement from the National Food and Agricultural Council (NFAC).

April 20—

DEPARTMENT of Education and Culture's (DEC) regional office for Metro Manila and Southern Tagalog provinces organized two million youth whose age ranges between 10 and 15 years old in the regions into "barangayettes" or "munting barangays". The project was conceived primarily to organize the young people into a compact group of citizens who can serve as "instruments of change in the character of Filipino people."

THE PRESIDENT said he would set-up an office for environmental protection—a department or commission—to implement the five-year integrated anti-pollution program.

April 21—

DEPARTMENT of Local Governments and Community Development announced that some 1,600 provincial and city Sangguniang Bayan members in the country's 13 regions will meet simultaneously in their respective regional capitals on Monday to discuss the composition of the legislative advisory council.

April 22—

THE PRESIDENT, acting on the recommendations of a three-man special naturalization committee, issued Presidential Decree No. 923 granting Filipino citizenship to 4,136 aliens. The issuance of the new decree brings to 6,938 the total number of aliens granted Filipino citizenship by decree.

SECRETARY Baltazar Aquino of the Department of Public Highways signed an order suspending 20 DPH officials and employees in Misamis Oriental after they were charged with overpricing, receiving bribes and other acts in connection with an ongoing P407.5 million road project.

April 23—

SECRETARY Jose Leido, Jr., of the Department of Natural Resources said that despite the 40 percent drop in the foreign exchange earnings from copper, the country will proceed with the plan of establishing copper smelting plants.

PRICE Stabilization Council (PSC) expanded its probe into alleged irregularities in the production and sale of laundry soap to include all brands of bar soap, detergents and toiletries.

April 24—

THE PRESIDENT called on the exporter of the country to work harder to lift the economy from its balance-of-payments deficit. In this connection, he was hopeful that the country would overcome its economic difficulties and wipe out its deficits in foreign trade and balance of payments.

EDUCATION Secretary Juan Manuel issued a directive requiring private colleges and universities in Metro Manila to admit only as many students for the first semester of schoolyear 1976-77 as they did in the first semester of 1975-76.

METRO Manila city and municipal mayors and barangay coordinators met to pave the way for a smooth and orderly meeting of the metropolitan regional Sangguniang Bayan on Monday, April 26.

April 25—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the organization of regional Sangguniang Federations in the 12 regions of the country including Metro Manila. He issued Presidential Decree No. 925 creating a federation, to be known as the Pambansang Katipunan ng mga Sangguniang (PKS), in each of the 12 regions.

THE THREE-day national tripartite conference on wages, income and employment policies opened today, with both labor and management holding on to their earlier stand on the issue of raising the minimum wage.

BUREAU of Internal Revenue announced that effective this year, all personnel of the offices and bureaus under the Department of National Defense will be subjected to the withholding tax law.

April 26—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the setting up of a cotton gin to process some \$4.7 million worth of cotton each crop season. In his directive the President said the installation of the high capacity cotton gin in San Fabian, Pangasinan, will help reduce the country's annual cotton imports amounting to about \$70 million.

THIRTEEN regional Sangguniang Federation in various parts of the country, including Metro Manila met simultaneously to discuss, among others, the composition of the Sangguniang Pambansa which will serve as legislative advisory council.

ECONOMIC Planning Secretary Gerardo P. Sicat said it would be untimely to alter the minimum wage structure considering the present economic situation.

April 27—

REGIONAL Sangguniang Federations all over the country gave the President a free hand in selecting members of the Sangguniang Pambansa or the legislative advisory council.

April 28—

NATIONAL tripartite conference on wages, income and employment agreed to recommend a raise in the minimum wage as early as possible but left the decision to the President on how much the increase should be.

THE PHILIPPINE government accepted the nomination of Ambassador Filip Tomulescu as the first ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Socialist Republic of Romania to the Philippines.

April 29—

THE PRESIDENT and US Ambassador to the Philippines William H. Sullivan signed a loan agreement providing \$10 million for the development of secondary feeder roads and bridges in the Bicol region. The loan will be used to construct or improve 450 kilometers of roads and 1,078 linear meters of bridges in the provinces of Camarines Sur and Albay.

DEPARTMENT of Local Governments and Community Development (DLGCD) directed 289 elective officials to answer immediately administrative charges filed against them by concerned citizens in their respective areas.

April 30—

FOREIGN Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Romulo stressed the need for greater effort among members of ASEAN in their approach toward the European Economic Community.

CONRADO del Rosario, general manager of the state-owned National Power Corporation (NPC), said the government intends to take over power-generating plants of all electric firms in the country.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Month in Review: May, 1976

OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

May 1—

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady left this afternoon on a journey that will span two worlds—first, to London, England, as official guests of Queen Elizabeth, and then on to Nairobi, Kenya, in East Africa where the President will voice the economic aspirations of the world's developing countries at the fourth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

THE PRESIDENT led in the observance of Labor Day today at the Maharlika Hall in Malacañang. He touched on the recommendation of the recent national tripartite conference on wages, income and employment for “an early upward revision of the statutory minimum wage without prejudice to other adjustments.”

ACTING Chairman Francisco S. Tantuico Jr., of the Commission on Audit fielded eleven teams of top auditors to evaluate the performance of the various government offices in eleven (11) of the 13 regions of the country.

METRO Manila Governor Imelda Romualdez Marcos inaugurated the Plaza Moriones minipark and called it “a symbol of the constant-smuggle to infuse beauty and humanity into this long-neglected but much beloved section of the city.”

May 2—

THE PRESIDENT set the minimum wage at P10 a day, effective yesterday, for non-farm workers in Greater Manila. He said it is P9 a day for non-farm workers outside Greater Manila, P7 for agricultural workers in plantations and organized agriculture and P6 for all other types of farm workers.

THE PRESIDENT directed the Philippine National Oil Co. and its affiliates and subsidiaries to increase their crude oil tonnage capability by hiring tankers. Through LOI 400, he also ordered them to negotiate and execute contracts of sub-charters with the oil companies for the transport of the latter's crude requirements to the country.

THE COMMISSION on Audit issued guidelines on the granting of honorarium, incentives, fees and other extra compensations to government officials and employees.

May 3—

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady arrived in London for a three day visit on official invitation of Queen Elizabeth. Their children, who are at school in Britain—Ferdinand Jr., Irene and Imee—were in London to meet them.

DEFENSE Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile lauded the Philippine Air Force (PAF) on its 41st anniversary, and said, there is a sustained need to strengthen and solidify further the capabilities of our nation and people to cope with the continuing threats to national security.

May 4—

THE PRESIDENT finalized arrangements with Britain for a \$200-million loan, which would enable the Philippines to tide itself over in the face of an expected continuing adverse balance of payments position until 1978. The loans have been negotiated with two consortiums of banks, including British financial institutions.

THE PRICE Stabilization Council (PSC) recommended the inclusion of toilet soap, detergent and school supplies under price control to provide price protection to consumers.

May 5—

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady met with Prime Minister James Callaghan and exchanged views with the British leader on the international situation, particularly on Asian problems. The British official wished the President success on his mission to Nairobi, Kenya where he will present the Manila Declaration and Program of Action before the fourth session of UNCTAD which opens May 5 and ends May 28.

CIVIL Service Commissioner Jacobo Clave hinted that government employees may soon be allowed to practice their profession or engage in business pursuits after office hours.

THE BOARD of Transportation authorized a 25 per cent increase in fare rates for passenger buses, jeepneys and taxi cabs.

May 6—

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady arrived in Nairobi, Kenya, where they were warmly welcomed by Vice President Darap Mol, on behalf of President Jomo Kenyatta, UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim and UNCTAD Secretary-General Gamani Corea. With his arrival, the President begins the mission entrusted him in Manila last February by the Group of 77 composed of 110 of the world's less-developed and developing countries.

OPERATORS of passenger buses, jeepneys and taxicabs in Metro Manila pressed for a 50 per cent increase in fares, claiming that the 25 per cent authorized hike "is not sufficient to make operations viable."

THE PHILIPPINES has recognized and has re-established diplomatic relations with the government of Democratic Kampuchea (Cambodia).

May 7—

THE PRESIDENT, acting as the spokesman of the 110 member nations of the: Group of 77, called upon the world's dominant powers to renounce their desire for national advantages. The President said it is now time "to proclaim an end to all unequal relationships, which developing countries have had to accept as previous possession, protectorates or colonies."

BOARD of Transportation said not all operators of passenger buses, jeepneys and taxicabs were authorized to charge the 25 per cent increase in transport fares. The BOT said those authorized are members of the BOAP MMTOA, ATOMS, the Federation of Jeepney Operators and the Jeepney Operators Inc.

INSURANCE companies involved in the compulsory insurance scheme for, all motor vehicles are agitating for increased premium rates after an alleged loss ratio of 81.25 per cent in 6 months.

May 8—

THE PRESIDENT has designated the period May 16 to May 22, 1976 as "Budget Consciousness Week" to stress the need for efficiency in fiscal operations in the government service to help achieve the development goals of the New Society.

PRICE Stabilization Council (PSC) called back the prices of cooking oil and school pads and notebooks by as much as 10 per cent. Trade Secretary and PSC Chairman Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. said the new retail prices will take effect today all over the country.

ACTING Revenue Commissioner Efren I. Plana said he had not authorized any agent of the Bureau of Internal Revenue to investigate the 1975 income tax returns.

May 9—

THE PRESIDENT will hold talks with India's Prime Minister Indira Gandhi during a 4-hour stop-over on their way back from Nairobi where he and the First Lady attended the UNCTAD conference.

LABOR Secretary Blas F. Ople released the rules and regulations governing the implementation of the statutory minimum wage rates for workers in some establishments. Under the rules, all national government workers are covered by PD 928 which took effect this month.

NATIONAL GRAINS Authority started selling its rice stocks by as much as 20 centavos lower than the P2.10-per kilo ceiling price.

THE COMMISSION on Elections was presented a proposed electoral code tailored to the parliamentary system of government. The code also provided strong measures against poll irregularities. It was presented by a special committee that drafted the proposal.

May 10—

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady left Nairobi, Kenya and were due back to Manila after a brief stop-over at New Delhi, India for a dinner conference with Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

FARMERS and millers in western Visayas and Mindanao warned that any rollback in prices of rice and corn will discourage producers and thus hamper the multi-billion peso food sufficiency program of the government.

NATIONAL Treasurer Gregorio Mendoza said the government has programmed P33 million for the payment of some 377,000 backpay claimants under RA 897.

May 11—

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady arrived last night from a successful 9-day trip abroad which assured the country of concrete benefits in the immediate future.

NATIONAL Secretariat of the Katipunan ng mga Sanggunian will submit to the President the results of the convention held last April 26 by the regional Sanggunian Bayan assembly.

BOARD of Transportation released a partial list of Metro Manila fare rates covering various routes to clear up confusion created by the recent hike in transport fares.

May 12—

THE PRESIDENT announced his acceptance of an invitation to make an official visit to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics starting May 81. Actually, the official invitation came from the USSR Presidium, the Supreme Soviet and the Soviet government. It was expected that the President's forthcoming trip to the Soviet Union will result in the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Russia.

PRICE Stabilization Council (PSC) rolled back prices of evaporated and condensed milk by 10 centavos per 14-ounce can, with the new ceiling prices to take effect immediately.

LAND Transportation Commissioner Romeo Edu asked public transport operators to see to it that their drivers are physically and mentally fit to make long distance trips.

May 13—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the arrest of all transport operators charging more than the authorized 25 per cent fare increase. He issued the order in the wake of complaints against the reportedly rampant over charging of fares, particularly in Metro Manila and Southern Tagalog region.

THE PRESIDENT directed the Price Stabilization Council to maintain current controlled prices of prime commodities and to reduce them further if conditions warrant.

FEDERATION of Petroleum Dealers of the Philippines proposed that the Oil Industry Commission (OIC) close all gas stations in Greater Manila on Sundays to save dealers from extra light, water and man power bills.

May 14—

THE PRESIDENT, seeking to promote a better life for the people, created the Human Settlement Commission. At a joint meeting of the Cabinet and NEDA, the President called for the liberation of communities from blight, congestion and hazards and for the promotion of their development and modernization.

THE PHILIPPINES has presented to the Seventh Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference a program of reconciliation for solving the Muslim problem in the country.

A TOTAL of 242 private schools all over the country have been authorized to hike their tuition and other fees in school year 1976-77.

May 15—

THE PRESIDENT opened the doors of colleges and universities to all poor but deserving Filipino students through a "Study Now, Pay Later Plan." The -program starts this school year. It will be initially funded with P50 million to be shouldered equally by the Social Security System (SSS) and the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS). The said amount will go directly to the Educational Loan Fund (ELF).

THE PHILIPPINE government has invited Islamic conference Secretary General Amadoj Karim Gayo to visit the southern Philippine islands to inspect the reconciliation efforts there between Muslims and the government.

May 16—

THE PRESIDENT issued a decree suspending the age restrictions on membership in the "Kabataang Barangay" organization thus enabling some 42,000 incumbent KB chairmen to continue in office.

May 17—

THE PRESIDENT credited the 4-H Club workers with the production of some P84.4-million worth of food crops, livestock and poultry and with numerous home beautification, sanitation and community garden and seed projects throughout the country.

LABOR Ministers of the ASEAN began a three-day conference to map out a program of action in the field of social development. The meeting would also forge a common position among the ASEAN labor ministers on issues to be raised at the 61st International Labor Conference and the World Employment Conference in Geneva in June.

May 18—

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady offered a vision of a better life to the underprivileged by unveiling the model Kapitbahayan Project in Dagat-dagatan, Navotas, Rizal. The model project will initially house 562 families from Tondo in a 5.79 hectare area.

May 19—

ASEAN Labor Ministers Conference adopted a 7-point program designed to promote the region's social and economic development.

THE PRESIDENT told a large delegation from Tawi-Tawi he hoped to set up industries in that province to rehabilitate its economy.

THE GOVERNMENT mobilized the students, farmers and barangay leaders in an intensified drive against rat infestation which threatens this year's main crop in Central Luzon.

May 20—

THE PRESIDENT declared a state of calamity in areas ravaged by typhoon "Didang" as he mobilized all government agencies for round-the-clock relief operations. Declared as calamity areas were Quezon province, Bicolandia and Metro Manila which were hardest hit by the floods and torrential rains spawned by the storm.

May 21—

METRO Manila Governor Imelda Romualdez Marcos mobilized 1,834 barangays in Metro Manila and authorized the release of calamity funds to help flood victims in the four cities and 13 municipalities.

TWO METRO Manila stores were padlocked for alleged overpricing, while about 20 taxicab and jeepney drivers were apprehended ore alleged trip-cutting and fare over-charging.

May 22—

THE PRESIDENT asked developing countries to exert their united influence to prevent a confrontation among the great powers. In a speech read for him by Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile before the Command and General Staff College in Fort Bonifacio, the President also-spelled out the Philippine policy of non-alliance.

THE PRESIDENT stressed the interdependent relation between government and media, defining the role of each when he inducted and played luncheon host in Malacañang to the new board of directors of the National Press Club.

May 23—

METRO Manila government launched a concerted cleanliness and sanitation drive in its four cities and 13 municipalities to help prevent an epidemic of disease common after floods

SOME 13.7 million students are expected to enroll in all educational levels all over the country this school year, according to the DEC. This represents an increase of about 530,610 over last year's enrollment of about 13.2 million.

May 24—

THE PRESIDENT announced the suspension of all work and classes in affected areas today, even as he expressed fears that continued rains might flood the entire Pampanga basin brought about by typhoon "Didang."

May 25—

THE PRESIDENT expanded the areas covered by the state of calamity to the entire Luzon, from Batanes to the southern most tip of Bicolandia. He also expanded the list of socialized commodities to include such basic items as candles, matches, canned goods, mongo, fresh fish and others.

PRICE Stabilization Council pegged maximum retail prices of nine more basic commodities effective today to curb profiteering and price manipulations.

May 26—

THE PRESIDENT rolled back maximum retail prices of five of nine basic commodities temporarily placed under price control. In his directive, the President said the new prices will take effect today and will be in force for the duration of the national state of calamity.

May 27—

THE PRESIDENT launched a P5-billion program to solve two problems at the same time. The program calls for the construction of catch basins in strategic places throughout the country. These are aimed at solving the flood problem and at the same time store water for irrigation, power, drinking and other household purposes.

AGRICULTURE Secretary Arturo R. Tanco Jr. said damage to rice and corn and vegetable crops in Central Luzon as a result of typhoon "Didang" was placed at P85 million. He said some P4 million worth of certified rice seeds will be sold at half price to Luzon rice farmers whose crops were hit by the floods.

May 28—

THE PRESIDENT has asked for a postponement of his scheduled visit to Moscow. However, the advance group advised against any postponement. In other developments, the President ordered the cancellation of forest concessions not helpful to the economy as well as of sawmills in Metro Manila and Central Luzon not directly supplied by legal concessions.

UNDERSECRETARY of Foreign Affairs Jose D. Ingles called on the RP-US mutual defense board to work under a partnership based on sovereign equality and mutual respect for each other's dignity and territorial integrity. He voiced the appeal during the 18th anniversary meeting of the defense board at the United States embassy in Manila.

May 29—

THE PRESIDENT directed an investigation into the drainage mess which was believed to have spawned the recent flood in Metro Manila at the height of typhoon "Didang." At the same time, he ordered that those responsible for the faulty drainage be prosecuted.

May 30—

THE PRESIDENT left for Moscow to enter into formal diplomatic relation with the Soviet Union. He was set to confer with the top men of the Kremlin, an event without precedent, since no head of state yet has met with the three leaders simultaneously.

THE PRESIDENT presented decorations to an Air Force lieutenant and two civilians, one of whom drowned, for going beyond the call of duty to save lives of people endangered by floods.

May 31—

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady arrived in the Soviet town of Khabarovsk today on his way to Moscow for an official visit to Russia. Among those who accompanied the Philippine's first couple were members of the Cabinet and mass media members.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Month in Review: June, 1976

President's Month in Review: July, 1976

President's Month in Review: August, 1976

President's Month in Review: September, 1976

President's Month in Review: October, 1976

President's Month in Review: November, 1976

President's Month in Review: December, 1976

President's Month in Review: January, 1977

Official Month in Review: February 1 – February 28, 1977

February 1—

THE PRESIDENT was congratulated by Datu Senu Abdul Rahman of Malaysia for the success of the peaceful settlement of the Mindanao conflict exchanged views on the threat of subversion and insurgency in both Malaysia and the Philippines. Datu Rahman is the secretary general of the United Malaysia National Organization (U.M.N.O.) of which Prime Minister Hussein Onn is the president. He was accompanied by Ambassador Abdul Hamid bin Pawanchee at Malacañang.

THE PRESIDENT referred to the board of trustees of the Marcos Foundation a proposal to set up a chair at the prestigious Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University in Medford, Mass., US. The proposal was submitted to the President by Nihal W. Goonewardene, a Sri-Lankan who is directing the school's Asia Pacific teaching fellowship program based in Manila.

SIR Lenox Hewitt, who headed the Qantas officials who called on the President, took occasion to congratulate the President for the rapid progress of the country, and informed him of the heavy influx of Australian tourists to the Philippines this year. He paid that he was in Manila four years ago and that he was impressed by the building boom and economic development after the short period of four years.

THE PRESIDENT was informed that the Amoco-Salen group, in joint venture with a number of Filipino companies, will drill two more wells at the Reed Bank west of Palawan, at a total estimated cost of \$12 million. Encouraged by the results of *Sampaguita I* well which had yielded oil condensates and gas shows during the third quarter of last year, the group intends to start drilling operations as soon as possible, probably on the first week of April.

February 2—

THE PRESIDENT permanently placed the administration, maintenance and development of national shrines under the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) of the Department of National Defense. He also abolished three offices and integrated them into the PVAO. Abolished were the Veterans Claims Settlement Staff and the National Shrines Commission of the DND, and the Philippine Veterans Administration under the Office of the President. The President's actions, effected through Presidential Decree No. 1076, amend Part XII on Education and Part XIX on National Security of the Integrated Reorganization Plan.

BASA Air Base Community College was transformed by the President into the Philippines Air Force College of Aeronautics (PAFCA), and widened its curriculum to include post graduate courses. The move, through Presidential Decree No. 1078, was in line with the Constitutional Policy to "establish and maintain a complete, adequate and integrated system of education relevant to national development goals."

THE PRESIDENT conferred the Order of Sikatuna, rank of datu, on outgoing Ambassador Sri Bima Ariotedjo of Indonesia. The award was conferred on the Indonesian envoy in recognition of his outstanding service in the field of international relations during his three and one-half years tour of duty in the Philippines.

THE PRESIDENT welcomed the 25-man mission from the Centre European de Cooperation Internationale (CECI) as a vital step in promoting relations between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the European Economic Community (EEC). In receiving the members of the mission, headed by Diomedé Catroux of France, vice president of the CECI, the President said the ASEAN, in their attempt to disperse sources of investment, look toward the FEC. with which official negotiations have been started, as well as with the respective member governments.

THE PRESIDENT received a pledge for a donation of 100 schoolbuildings from the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce. In accepting the donation, the President said he will ask the Department of Education and Culture and the Department of Public Works, Transportations and Communications for recommendations but that

priority will be given to the distressed, areas, particularly in Mindanao, in selecting the sites for the schools. The donation was pledged by the new officers of the Federation, led by Leonardo Ty, president, during their call at Malacañang to pledge support and loyalty to the goals and programs of the New Society, particularly in the development of trade, commerce, industry and tourism.

February 3—

THE PRESIDENT called on media to discard its adversary role and to assume a complementary, role to government in the general effort at national development. He sounded this call when he addressed about 100 provincial publishers and editors ending their first three-day seminar sponsored by the Publishers Association of the Philippines Inc. (PAPI). He pointed out that “while the government and media used to play competitive roles that belonged to the past they must now be principally complementary as, partners in national development.”

THE PRESIDENT praised the country’s youth, saying that the nation is constantly nurtured by their achievements and that every year more of them are serving with even greater distinction. In a Malacañang ceremony honoring the “Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM),” a yearly selection made by the Philippine Jaycces, the President cited the achievements of the young as a testament of a time in national history which he called ‘a period of change and challenge’ and a “time to build and to grow as a nation.”

February 4—

THE PRESIDENT called attention to the country’s trade deficit with the Hungarian People’s Republic and, called on Hungary to increase imports from the Philippines to correct imbalance. He spoke during the presentation of credentials of the new Hungarian ambassador to the Philippines, Peter Kos, in a ceremony at Malacañang. From January to November 1976, the two countries had a total trade volume of \$53,044 with Philippine exports totaling \$3,883 against imports of \$48,161, leaving the Philippine with a trade deficit of \$44,278.

THE PRESIDENT received the top officials of Hilton International for Pacific and Australia who called on him at Malacañang following the end of their sales meeting in Manila. Kenneth Moss, vice president for East Asia and Australia and head of the group, described Manila as “suddenly” ahead of the times” in terms of hotel accommodation. Although some of the new hotels, said would find business hard and within a couple of years, the idea of building new hotels will prove to be a good one in the long run.

February 5—

MEDICARE Commission defended a recent decision to limit its benefit to legally dependent children from age 20 to 17, and to parents who are 60 years old and above. Dr Pacifico E. Marcos, Medicare chairman, said the limitation which took effect February 1 had to be done to save the Medicare program from eventual destruction.” He said that for the past two years, because of the program’s expansion and the rampant abuses committed against the health insurance system by doctors and hospitals, the commission had been dipping into its reserve funds to settle its obligations to claimants.

February 6—

THE PRESIDENT received assurances of continued support by Saudi Arabia of efforts toward a peaceful settlement of the Mindanao conflict. The assurances were conveyed to the President by Sheikh Abdul Waha Abdul, Minister of Pilgrimage and Endowments of Saudi Arabia, who paid his respects at Malacañang following his arrival on a four-day visit to the Philippines.

February 7—

THE PRESIDENT prodded the Bureau of Customs to continue its “cleansing process” and contribute more to the effort at national development, particularly by supporting the export promotions program. Congratulating the entire

customs personnel on the 75th anniversary of the Philippine Customs Service for carrying on the most meaningful reforms and innovations during his years of leadership, the President said “our people owe it a well-deserved tribute for the way in which it has sought to transform itself into a strong and dynamic bureau.”

THE PHILIPPINES has told its ASEAN allies it expects the present negotiations in Tripoli to put a final end to the Mindanao problem. In a letter to Indonesia President Suharto, the President thanked Indonesia for its role in providing a moderating influence within the Islamic Conference, particularly during the early stages of the Mindanao conflict. The President is believed to have sent similar communications to the other leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, namely, Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore.

February 8—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the preparation of a viable housing program to meet the growing demands for housing among the population. He issued the order at a two-hour board meeting of the National Economic and Development Authority at Malacañang during which various pressing national problems were discussed. He also directed the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and the Social Security System (SSS) to help finance the housing program, and instructed Brig. Gen. Gaudencio Tobias (ret), chairman of the National Housing Authority, to set up model housing communities and to encourage the private sector to participate in the program.

THE PRESIDENT directed the Professional Regulation Commission to work out the interrogation of the dental profession so that properly organized, it may help government place at the disposal of the “lowest members of our society” the benefit of good dental care. Addressing the opening of the 8th Asian Pacific Dental Congress at the Philippines International Convention Center, the President cited efforts to expand dental services to areas where medical services are more needed.

LOCAL Government Secretary Jose Roño was directed by the President to submit to him the results of the informal consultations with the barangays on the date and the manner of elections for members of the *Batasang Pambansa*. The results of the survey would serve as a basis for government leaders to work out the schedule and the manner for the elections, the President told newsmen in an interview at the Philippine International Convention Center, shortly after addressing the 8th Asian Pacific Dental Congress.

FIRST Lady and Metro Manila Governor, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, said historical redemption is the task facing the leaders participating in the current training course for the development of Mindanao. She spoke at the opening ceremonies for the course at the Philippine International Convention Center. She told the participants who are described as the “cream” among former members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), that they must fight and conquer injustice, backwardness, indifference and ignorance to build a new world, in the spirit of brotherhood between Muslims and Christians.

February 9—

THE PRESIDENT created two separate and independent towns in Tawi-Tawi to accelerate the development and rehabilitation of the province. Created through Presidential Decrees No. 1086 and 1087 were the towns of Lañguyan and Sapa-Sapa. Their creation will not affect in any manner the legal existence of Bongao, South Ubian and Tandubas towns.

THE PRESIDENT has formed an inter-agency committee to evaluate the design and monitor the implementation of the Manila-Bataan Coastal Road Project. Under Letter of Instructions No. 504, the committee shall be composed of the chairman of the Human Settlements Commission (HSC), as chairman, and the secretary of the Department of Public Highways, as co-chairman. The HSC shall also be the project’s coordinating agency. Among the project’s main concerns are to decongest the area, fill up shallow areas of the bay, bring access to fishing grounds and complete the major thoroughfares of Manila.

February 10—

THE PRESIDENT took steps to achieve greater economy in government operations by directing all heads of departments, bureaus, offices and agencies, including government-owned or controlled corporations to initiate, develop and implement a National Cost Reduction Program. In Letter of Instructions No. 506, the President formed committees to monitor the implementation of the program. These are the National Cost Reduction Committee (NCRC) and the Departmental Cost Reduction Committee (DCRC).

THE PRESIDENT said Saudi Arabia is a country that has been helpful to the Philippines both “in time of crisis as well as in time of plenty.” In an exchange of toasts held at luncheon given at Malacañang in honor of Sheikh Abdul Wahab Abdul Wase, visiting Saudi Arabia master of pilgrimage and endowment, the President recalled that during the difficult days of 1974, Saudi Arabia had accommodated this country in its oil supply and other problems connected with energy crisis. In his response, Minister Wase assured the President that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia considers the Philippines with “love and sentiments.”

THE PRESIDENT conferred the ancient Order of Sikatuna, rank of Datu, on Sheikh Abdul Wahab Wase, minister of pilgrimage and endowment of Saudi Arabia for “his invaluable assistance to achieve lasting unity and cooperation among Christian Filipinos and their Muslim brothers.”

THE PRESIDENT conveyed to King Hussein of Jordan his deepest sympathy and those of the Filipino people over the sudden death of his wife Queen Alia. Queen Alia died in a helicopter crash near Tafileh in South Jordan yesterday, while she was on her way to inspect a hospital there. Queen Alia accompanied her husband, King Hussein on a 2-day visit here last February. They were house guests of the President and the First Lady.

February 11—

THE PRESIDENT announced the holding of a plebiscite on February 21 in 13 provinces in Mindanao to determine which of them would like to belong to the proposed Southern autonomous region. The announcement was made following a meeting with members of the Cabinet, the joint military council and some civilian leaders at Fort Bonifacio.

BUDGET Commission announced that the deadlines for submission of principal and special supplemental special budgets for the current year are February 23 and July 31, respectively. In a letter circular, Budget Commissioner Jaime C. Laya asked all departments and agencies of the government to submit these budgets on time to accelerate the closing of national accounts.

February 14—

THE PRESIDENT presided over the *Batasang Bayan* in a special session to pave the way for the establishment of regional autonomy throughout the country before the election of members of the *Batasang Pambansa*. He, therefore, called on the *Batasang Bayan* and the people, in general, for counsel in framing the vital measures “so crucial to the reform and development of our national life, always guided by what is urgent, what is right and what is proper for our people and for our country.” He declared the session open at about 11 a.m. after a three-hour pre-session caucus with the 127 members of the *Batasang Bayan*.

THE PRESIDENT has expanded by 400 hectares the land area of Luna town in Kalinga-Apayao to cope with the town’s fast-growing population. Luna has a total area of about 65,540 hectares inhabited by 11,307 people, according to 1975 census statistics. It lies in the northern foothills of the Cordillera Mountains, bounded by rice fields and high mountain ranges. The presidential directive is effected through Presidential Decree No. 1088.

February 15—

THE PRESIDENT urged private communities to work hand in hand with government in promoting greater consciousness of the need to develop science and technology. In a speech read for him by Chairman Melecio Magno of the National Science Development Board (NSDB) at the opening of the Asian Training Course for Public

Understanding of Science Technology and Environment at the Philippine International Convention Center, the Chief Executive stressed the need for promoting wide public understanding of science, technology and environment to make sensible use of them for human ends. The regional seminar is being hosted by the Philippine government.

DOÑA Josefa Edralin Marcos distributed awards to this year's exemplary working youths in simple ceremonies at the Maharlika Hall in Malacañang. In her inspirational talk, Doña Josefa told the working youths to consider their awards as challenges towards achieving more significant and better things in life. The awards consisted of a plaque and P1,000 for each awardee.

February 16—

THE PRESIDENT moved up from February 21 to March 17 the holding of a plebiscite in the 13 provinces in the South called to ascertain the provinces that will compose the proposed Muslim autonomous region. He made the announcement during a speech before the closing session of the National Conference on Town Planning, Housing and Zoning at the Philippine International Convention Center.

THE PRESIDENT publicly acknowledged the debt of gratitude the Filipino people owe Libya and the Islamic Conference for their initiatives in effecting ceasefire and peaceful negotiations in Mindanao. He expressed the Filipino people's gratitude in the presence of chiefs mission during the 38th anniversary celebration of the Philippine Navy aboard the RPS 777, off Pier 15.

THE PRESIDENT called on the Philippine Navy to update and revise its plans for the next 20 years to keep up with the changing political, economic and international climate. During the ceremonies commemorating the 38th anniversary of the Philippine Navy aboard the RPS 777 at Pier 15, the President urged the navy to adopt a three-point plan, as follows: 1) Pursue vigorously the development of surface defense, including acquisition of a modern defensive system capable of deterring aggression; 2) Develop capability in the detection of subsurface and surface intrusions into Philippine territorial waters through medium-range maritime patrols supported by fast surface watercraft; and 3) Prepare plans for a modernized naval logistics system designed to cope with the expanded inventory requirements and plans that include shipbuilding, ship repair and maintenance.

February 17—

THE PRESIDENT signed a letter of instructions adopting the Pambansang Bagong Nayon as a national project and paved the way for the instruction of a series of housing projects throughout the country. The project will be a nationwide replication of the "Bagong Nayon" project of the First Lady Bo. Kamias, Antipolo, Rizal. The project will be undertaken by the National Housing Authority (NHA) in joint venture with the local governments.

THE PRESIDENT said he would review the appointments of regional directors who have failed to coordinate with local officials in the implementation of government programs. Speaking before the closing session of the Conference on National Planning Housing and Zoning at the Philippine International Convention Center, the President stressed that regional directors should serve as "bridges" between national and local officials.

February 18—

THE PRESIDENT received the credentials of the new Indonesian ambassador to the Philippines. Air Marshal Soedarmono, at presentation rites held in Malacañang. In his remarks, Ambassador Soedarmono pledged to reinforce the existing treaties of mutual understanding between the two countries and widen their areas of collaboration.

THE PRESIDENT received separately the members of the Danish Gymnastic Team and officers of the Summer Institute of Linguistics, who paid their respects at Malacañang.

February 19—

THE PRESIDENT approved a new building code designed to “fully conform with the developmental goals and infrastructure program of the government.” In Presidential Decree No. 1096, he said the adoption of the new building code which would embody an “up-to-date and modern technical knowledge on building design, construction use occupancy and maintenance, becomes imperative in the face of the country’s stepped-up economic and physical development, coupled with urbanization and population growth.” The new code, which will be known as “An Act to Ordain and Institute a National Building Code of the Philippines.”

THE PRESIDENT transferred the registration of all mining instruments and documents from the registers of deeds to the regional offices of the Bureau of Mines. The move, contained in Presidential Decree No. 1093, which amends certain sections of PD 513, is to update the proper recording and safekeeping of mining instruments and documents registered under Commonwealth Act No. 137, as amended.

February 20—

THE PRESIDENT has issued Presidential Decree No. 1090 designed to help the fruit exporting industry by allowing conditional duty-free importation of ready-made corrugated boxes for fruit exports for 10 years on a declining basis. Heretofore, local box importers had to pay 100 per cent *ad valorem* duty on all containers, pursuant to Sec. 105 (m) of the Tariff and Customs Code, as amended by PD Nos. 34 and 326. In issuing the decree, which further amends Sec. 10 (m) of the Tariff and Customs Code, as amended, the President noted that while the country is now in a position to make and supply on competitive terms and quality a substantial portion of the carton box needs of local fruit growers and exporters, local pulp, paper and box makers are not yet in a position to fully supply these needs.

February 21—

THE PRESIDENT said that the City of London Conference can serve as an economic bridge between the developing and the developed nations of the world. Opening the City of London Conference at the Hotel Intercontinental in Makati, the President asserted that the intermediary role of the world’s commercial institutions like the City of London Conference “can be a powerful force for the peaceful readjustments of the economic and political relationships of the nations of the world.” The Rt. Hon. the Lord Shepherd, leader of the British delegation expressed in behalf of the British government and the European Economic Community, their “firm support for all the efforts of Southeast Asia to seek strength, peace and prosperity through united action.”

February 22—

THE PRESIDENT included all importations in connections with the construction and operation of new sugar mills as among those exempted from taxes until June 30, 1980. In issuing Letter of Instructions No. 508 the President said the move would “further enhance the government policy of providing an incentive and assistance in the production and processing of sugar for the welfare of the national economy.”

THE PRESIDENT welcomed the sending of a select group of Filipinos to London to help promote closer cooperations between the Philippines and the United Kingdom. The sending of the Filipino group was suggested to the President by Lord Shepherd and Lord Denman who called at Malacañang to pay their respects to the President.

February 23—

THE PRESIDENT discussed with a group of bankers the proposed *Kalayaan* hydroelectric project in Laguna. The plan calls for tapping the waters of Laguna de Bay to generate electricity for Metro Manila and surrounding areas. It will involve pumping the water from the lake into Lake Caliraya, which has an elevation of some 1,000 meters. Richard C. Hall, president of Orion Pacific Ltd. and head of the group, called on the President at Malacañang in connection with Orion’s offer to finance the project, estimated cost of which is \$60 million.

POWERS of the Philippine Racing Commission (PRC) were broadened by the President by abolishing the Jockeys and Horse Trainers Injury, Disability and Death Compensation Board and transferring its functions to the PRC. Also

ordered transferred to the PRC, under Presidential Decree No. 1095, is the Jockeys and Horse Trainers Compensation Fund. The President's action is in pursuance of PD 420 which gives the PRC exclusive supervision and control over every aspect of the conduct of horse-racing, including the framing and scheduling of races, the construction and safety of racetracks, the allocation of prizes, and the security of racing.

February 24—

THE PRESIDENT cited the “dramatic gains” of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations a year after the Bali Summit and pointed to the tasks and challenges the organization faces in the years ahead. He made this observation when he addressed a special session of ASEAN foreign ministers marking the first anniversary of the Bali Summit at the Philippine International Convention Center. Later on, he witnessed the formal signing of the ASEAN Preferential Trading Agreement by the foreign ministers of the five member-nations of ASEAN.

THE FIRST LADY and Metro Manila Governor, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos urged the media people to be more conscious of their roles to avoid misunderstanding of their opinions. In an address before the Kapisanan ng mga Broadkaster sa Pilipinas at the Philippine Plaza Hotel, she pointed out that mediamen have to be conscious of their views, words and thoughts because they influence people. They should “enlighten and not to deceive, to clarify and not to confuse, to guide and not to distort,” the First Lady stressed.

THE PRESIDENT declared the first week of March every year as “Thrift Bank Week” to focus attention on the active and vital role that thrift banks are playing in economic development. Under Proclamation No. 1618, the President designated the Chamber of Thrift Banks to take full charge of the celebration of the occasion and called upon its membership to participate in projecting its meaningful significance.

February 25—

THE PRESIDENT tapped 59 former Muslim rebels for positions of leadership and responsibility in order “to speed up the development of Mindanao, Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi. At the closing rites of the Second Leadership Training program for the Development of Mindanao held at the Hall of Unity and Brotherhood of Malacañang the President directed: 1) Civil Service Commission Chairman. Jacobo C Clave to take the necessary steps, to grant second grade civil service eligibility to those who had completed the training; 2) Members of the Cabinet to look for positions in their regional offices where the trainees, most of whom are college graduates, may fit in; 3) Local administrators such as the regional commissions, provincial governors, city and municipal mayors, and others, to select from the trainees those fitted for positions of responsibility, both administrative and executive; and 4) The secretary of national defense and chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to immediately qualify and commission all the trainees who desire to be commissioned into the AFP, and to require them to undergo the necessary training.

February 26—

THE PRESIDENT quieted the fears of the population on the adverse effects of the recent oil price increase on the national economy, saying that this increase can be sufficiently absorbed and is nowhere in the magnitude as the effects of the energy crisis in 1974. Addressing the conference of the Rotary International, District 380, at the Philippine International Convention Center, the President said, “The problem posed by the new price increase is significant, but it is by no means overwhelming. We should be cautious about over-acting.”

February 27—

THE PRESIDENT directed the Philippine Air Force, the Philippine Army, and the Philippine Constabulary to locate appropriate areas all over the country to be proclaimed as military reservations. Under Letter of Instructions No. 510, the President likewise ordered the Philippine Navy to locate appropriate areas all over the country to be proclaimed as naval reservations, under the administration of either the Philippine Navy or the Philippine Coast Guard. This is in line with the program of improving the national security and increasing administrative efficiency, the President said.

February 28—

THE PRESIDENT issued a decree raising the age limit for officers and members of the *Kabataang Barangay* from 18 to 21 to broaden the age coverage of the organization and to encourage the participation and involvement of a larger number of youth in KB activities. He signed the decree before some 142 delegates to the first constitutional convention of the KB who called at Malacañang to present a copy of a proposed KB constitution approved at their three-day convention in Camp September 21st Movement on Mt. Makiling in Laguna.

Source: **Supreme Court Library**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1977). Official Month in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 73(15), xli-xlix.

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March 1—

THE PRESIDENT called on both parties in the Tripoli conference to exercise the highest form of statesmanship to achieve the autonomy for the 13 provinces and 10 cities in the South in accordance with the Constitution. He sounded the appeal during his speech at the 72nd Commencement exercise of the Philippine Military Academy in Baguio City. He said that new problems have cropped up in the second round of talks in Tripoli, even as he lifted the effects of martial law in 13 provinces covered by the April 17 plebiscite to allow “an open, free and honest plebiscite.” But the President said he was still optimistic that the talks between representatives of the Philippine government and of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), with the help of the Libyan President Moammar Khaddafy, will lead to final solution to the centuries-old problem in the South.

BANKS, investments houses and other financial intermediaries performing quasi-banking functions were required by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) to report all the profits or yields they paid to money market investors. In a ruling, the internal revenue body upheld the opinion of the Central Bank that deposit substitutes or money market investments are not “deposits” as defined by existing laws, and the disclosure to the BIR of the profits or interest they earned is not prohibited contrary to the claim of the banks.

March 2—

THE PRESIDENT said that the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) had fallen back to its original demand for the creation of an independent Muslim state in the South. This position of the MNLF leadership, the President said, was contained in a cable to him by Libyan President Moammar Khaddafy. He said, “this virtually threw back the Tripoli negotiation to where it started last February 5” while being interviewed by newsmen at the 18th hole of the Baguio Golf and Country Club which he birdied for a 5 over par 67.

THE PHILIPPINES has accepted the nomination of Kiyohisa Mikanagi as the new ambassador of Japan to the country. He will replace Ambassador Masao Sawaki. Mikanagi is at present the executive director of Japan International Cooperation Agency.

LAND Bank of the Philippines (LBP) extended P1.98 billion in guarantee coverage on rice, corn and other feed grains production loans as of December 31, 1976. The guarantee coverage scheme is under the Agricultural Guarantee Fund (AGF) which is administered by Land Bank. The agricultural guarantee operations of LBP cover loans for Masagana 99, Masaganang Maisan and loans covered by the Third Central Bank-IRBD Rural Credit Program.

March 3—

THERE will be no increase in the prices of the petroleum products until the oil stocks bought at the old prices are exhausted by mid-April economic planning secretary Gerardo P. Sicat said. In a speech before the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, he noted that adjustments in the prices of oil products will have to be made as a result of the recent decision of oil producing countries to raise prices of crude oil by 5 and 10 per cent. He did not mention, however, by how much local fuel prices will go up.

March 4—

THE PRESIDENT directed the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Integrated National Police to go after criminal elements in the ceasefire area, whether or not they belong to the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) or any other armed rebel group. Designed to maintain peace and order in the 13 provinces covered by the tentative agreement in Tripoli last year, the President’s action is contained in a Letter of Instructions No. 513.

March 5—

THE PRESIDENT announced that the current negotiations in Tripoli, Libya, to end the Mindanao conflict have been recessed to a later date. He made the announcement shortly after he arrived from Palawan where he made a surprise visit and, authorized the release of P300,000 to boost the fishing industry in the coastal towns of that province.

THE GOVERNMENT has awarded its first coal operating contract to Jabpract Mining and Industrial Corp. (JINICO) and Coal Exploration and Management Corp. (Coalmanex). The firms' official and Energy Development Board Chairman Geronimo Z. Velaso signed the contracts recently. The contract is a conversion of the coal claims of Jinico and Coalmanex.

CENTRAL Bank said that thrift banks need not extend credit to farmers and other direct producers of farm crops to "increase their participation in agricultural credits." They can lend a portion of their allied funds for the agricultural sector to related activities involving the processing, storage, marketing of farm products, agricultural implements and tools, other farm inputs.

March 6—

A COLLECTIVE marketing system intended to accelerate the growth of small-and-medium-scale industries will be put up this year by the government. Trade Secretary Quiazon said under this project the government will try to help solve problems of small businessmen, particularly in their financial difficulties.

March 7—

THE GOVERNMENT sought the participation of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) in ending violations of the ceasefire agreement in Mindanao. The National Security Council, headed by the President, met for three hours at Malacañang and discussed violations of the ceasefire as agreed upon the representative of the Philippine government and the MNLF in Tripoli last year.

THE PRESIDENT authorized the Commission on Elections to deputize members or units of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, including the ROTC units and the Integrated National Police, and government officials and employees in the March 17 plebiscite. The authorization was contained in Letter of Instruction No. 515 to insure free orderly and honest voting in the plebiscite in Southwestern Philippines.

THE PRESIDENT ordered the intensification of a campaign to increase trade with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. He gave the order on the basis of a report submitted to him by the first Philippine trade mission to that country. Led by Fred J. Elizalde, the mission informed the President that the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, which initiated the mission, plans to set up a Vietnam desk under the leadership of the Philippine International Trading Corp. The President assured the members of the group that a Vietnamese mission would be welcome anytime.

THE PRESIDENT accepted the resignation, effective immediately, of 18 Bureau of Customs employees, including four examiners, for violations of the Tariff and Customs Code. He also directed the prosecution of the customs employees together with 20 private individuals.

THE GOVERNMENT has temporarily banned new investments in petrochemical projects—pending the formulation of a national policy on the industry. The Philippine National Oil Co. and the Board of Investments are working out the draft of such a policy.

March 8—

THE PRESIDENT conveyed to Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu his sympathy and those of Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos and the Filipino people over the sufferings caused by the earthquake that struck Romania and

other Eastern European countries the other day. He also expressed his heartfelt condolence to the families of the earthquake victims who according to estimates, may number about 4,000 dead and countless others wounded.

FIRST Lady and Metro Manila Governor Imelda Romualdez Marcos paid tribute to Jose P. Laurel as the man who gave the President "justice and the right to be born again." The President was an unexpected but greatly cheered for his presence as the First Lady spoke during the observance of the 25th anniversary of the Lyceum of the Philippines and the 86th birth anniversary of its founder, Dr. Jose P. Laurel. She was conferred the Jose P. Laurel award by Lyceum president Sotero H. Laurel at the Lyceum quadrangle in Intramuros "in recognition of her outstanding performance as First Lady of the Land... exemplifying the capacity of the Filipino woman to fashion for herself a more meaningful role as nation builder" and her "ardent espousal of Man-centered projects."

PHILIPPINE National Bank (PNB) has approved two financing schemes to help the sugar industry which is currently suffering from depressed prices. Panfilo Domingo, PNB president, said that the PNB will issue 180-day bankers' acceptances amounting to P500 million to provide inventory financing for sugar stocks. The acceptances, or bank drafts evidencing indebtedness, are expected to be sold to institutional investors at 14 per cent annual interest. He also disclosed that the PNB is also seeking approval from the Central Bank for a plan to issue P250 to P300 million in commercial papers to restructure the maturing obligations of sugar mills.

March 10—

THE PRESIDENT announced that the government will adopt a mailed-fist policy in dealing with the reported violators of the ceasefire agreement in the South, including the civilian supporters of the rebels. He stressed that the full force of the law will be applied on all violators, including members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). However, he expressed his determination to exhaust all avenues to prevent an eruption of another full-blown war in the South.

THE FIRST Lady and Metro Manila Governor, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, left anew for Tripoli, Libya, on a crucial mission to save the ceasefire in the South and prevent the eruption if hostilities. While in Libya, the First Lady is expected to contract President Muammar Khaddafy to persuade him to use his good officers in salvaging the stalemated peace negotiations between the Philippine government panel and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

March 11—

EXPORT prices for coconut products have been steadily going up recently and the coconut industry, which earned \$555.3 million in exports last year, is now confident that earnings this year would substantially be higher despite an anticipated 15 per cent drop in production due to deficiency in rainfall in 1976. Based on an annual comparison, the prices of coconut products in January this year already exhibited significant increases. Copra prices went up by 73 per cent; coconut oil, 59 per cent; copra meal, 13 per cent; and desiccated coconut, 91 per cent.

March 12—

SOME 400 breeder cattle and carabaos will be distributed in a few days by the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) in a move to uplift the living conditions of displaced sugar workers in Negros Occidental. According to BAI Director Salvador Escudero III, the program is one of several measures adopted by the government in the wake of depressed conditions in the country's sugar industry.

DEPARTMENT of Education and Culture issued stern warning to private schools against the collection of reservation or advance fees for the registration of students next school year. Dr. Pablo T. Mateo, Jr., director of the DEC regional office No. IV which includes Metro Manila, reminded private schools that disciplinary measures would be taken against them for violation of the prohibition on the early collection of schiil fees.

March 13—

THE FIRST Lady, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, arrived in Tripoli, Libya for talks with Libyan head of state, Moammar Khaddafy. She will discuss with Khaddafy the southern Philippines Moslem problem following the breakdown in the Tripoli peace talks between Manila government officials and the Moro National Liberation Front.

THE PRESIDENT has created an executive committee to take charge of the planning and implementation of activities commemorating the 35th anniversary of the Fall of Bataan on April 9. Creation of the committee, embodied in Administrative Order No. 400, was approved by the President on recommendation of Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile and Ambassador Juan L. Gacad of the Philippine Veterans' Affairs Office (PVAO). Chairman of the committee is Defense Undersecretary for Civilian Relations Carmelo Z. Barbero who headed the Philippine panel in Libya for the peaceful solution of the Mindanao conflict.

March 14—

THE PRESIDENT has accepted the resignation of four more customs employees, bringing the number of those purged to 22 since the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) started its probe on syndicated smuggling at the waterfront. The acceptance of the resignation of the four was relayed to Finance Undersecretary Alfredo Pio de Roda, Jr., concurrent acting customs commissioners.

March 15—

THE PRESIDENT announced the postponement of the referendum-plebiscite in the 13 southwestern provinces in Mindanao for April 21 upon the recommendation of the Philippine panel in Libya headed by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos.

March 16—

THE PRESIDENT rescheduled the plebiscite to April 17. The plebiscite had been called to determine whether the people in Regions 9 and 12 and Palawan, Davao del Sur and South Cotabato want to have them merged into one autonomous region.

THE PHILIPPINES can now avail itself of Arab petrodollar funding for development projects. The Kuwait government has approved a \$17.5 million Philippine government bond sale in London while Saudi Arabia has granted a \$19.5 million loan for electrification in Cotabato.

March 17—

THE GOVERNMENT took steps to solve water problem in Metro Manila and Luzon. It announced plans to construct water supply projects worth P3 billion. A six-man panel headed by Ambassador Eduardo Z. Romualdez will leave for Washington to negotiate with the World Bank a \$20-million loan to improve and expand the five water districts in the country.

THE GOVERNMENT laid the groundwork for the active participation of Filipino diplomatic officials in the information and exports promotion campaign. Meeting a group of Filipino diplomats assigned to North America, the President said that in most foreign governments, including France, the foreign affairs department constitutes one of the principal arms in the export promotion program. He also enjoined them to coordinate with the public information department. He also appealed to them to conduct themselves in the performance of official duties not only with intensity and commitment to the New Society but also with more finesse.

DR. SAMUEL Lefract, an American industrialist, informed the President that he is "fully convinced" that there is a huge deposit of gas and oil in the Philippines. During his call on the President at Malacañang, he said this is the reason he is looking into various investment opportunities here, particularly in the field of gas and oil. The businessman, who owns the Lefracts Gas and Oil Organization based in Tulsa, Oklahoma, said his company will participate in the search for gas and oil as well as sources of geothermal power in the country.

March 18—

SECURITIES and Exchange Commission (SEC) prohibited the use of money market placements as paid-up capital of new corporations. SEC Chairman Angel Limjoco, in a circular, ruled that only cash in bank, whether current or savings, and properties which may be used and actually needed by the company in its operation may become part of the initial paid-up capital. Chairman Limjoco explained that the paid-up capital must be readily available to the company anytime it is needed for legitimate corporate purpose. Money market placements may not be readily available because of maturity constraints.

SUGAR, the Philippines' top dollar earner, is staging a comeback in the world market. From a low of 7.25 US cents per pound posted in early January, the price of sugar in the world market has now risen to 9.13 US cents.

March 19—

THE PRESIDENT appointed Regional Commissioner Simeon A. Datu-manong governor of Maguindanao.

CENTRAL BANK will not allow commercial banks to link up with rural banks as a means of expanding agricultural credit. CB Governor Gregorio S. Licaros Sr. said the proposal is not feasible, and will only over-extend the credit exposure of most commercial banks.

March 20—

EDUCATION Secretary Juan L. Manuel ruled that a school may cease operations only after all students already enrolled have finished their course. The ruling sustained the protest of some parents against the plan of St. Theresa's College in Manila to close by 1980.

FOREIGN Secretary Carlos P. Romulo demanded from Filipino diplomats absolute loyalty to the Philippine Republic and belief in the New Society and its goals. Speaking at an "appreciation dinner" he tendered in honor of Philippine ambassador and principal foreign service officers assigned in Canada and the United States, Secretary Romulo said no Filipino diplomat, in all good conscience, can represent the Philippines abroad if he does not believe in the New Society and in its processes and goals. "You must believe or you must get out of the foreign service," he stressed. "There are no two ways about it."

March 21—

THE PRESIDENT remained optimistic that there will be a peaceful settlement to the Mindanao conflict. Speaking at the 10th anniversary of the Government Arsenal in Barangay Lamao, Limay, Bataan the President said that the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos is still in Tripoli, Libya, "trying to seek a peaceful solution to the Mindanao conflict." Notwithstanding the deadlock, the President said, he is still hopeful that, with the help of Khaddafy, a peaceful solution to the Mindanao problem will be arrived at.

THE NATION observes the 108th birth anniversary of Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, leader of the Philippine Revolution and first President of the Philippine Republic, with simple ceremonies at the Aguinaldo shrine in Kawit, Cavite.

THE government has no plans of increasing the number of participants in the progressive car manufacturing program. BOI Chairman Vicente T. Paterno said the present PCMP composition will remain the same.

March 22—

THE PRESIDENT enlisted the participation of mass media in the governments' water conservation program. Through Executive Order No. 480, the President required all sectors of mass media to set aside time and space to broadcast and publish information and education campaigns to the government's water conservation program. The

order is in anticipation of the critical water shortage in the Metro Manila area which already saw a reduction in the supply of the area's daily water requirement by 8 per cent.

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue clarified its proposal to abolish the requirement of filing income tax returns for certain taxpayers. The BIR said that under the law, a person who earns P1,800 or more during a taxable year is required to file an income tax return. This is true even if the taxpayer has claimed, as deductions items of exposure which make him not subject to any tax at all. The reason is that a claim of deduction for income tax purpose is always a matter of proof and it is not for the taxpayer to determine with finality that what he claimed as deductible items should be allowed. Whether an item of deduction is legally deductible or not must be determined after the examination by the BIR examiners.

March 23—

THE PRESIDENT met with the National Security Council following reports from the First Lady in Tripoli that tentative agreement had been reached for a peaceful solution of the Mindanao conflict. No announcements, however, have been made pending a full report from the First Lady who is expected back in Manila shortly.

THE PRESIDENT ruled that tenants of dwelling units and lots paying not more than P300 a month cannot be evicted if the only reason is the personal use of the property by the lessors or their families. The clarification is contained in Memorandum Circular No. 970 issued by Presidential Assistant for legal affairs Ronaldo Zamora by authority of the President.

March 24—

THE PRESIDENT set at P30.4 billion the total national budget ceiling for Calendar Year 1978 as he issued guidelines in the preparation of the fiscal outlay. The budget target for next year is P3.4 billion more than the current appropriation. Getting the lion's share are economic development and social services. The President issued the guidelines in simple ceremonies during which budget officials submitted to him the 1977 budget, documents and a report on the preparation of the 1978 outlay.

THE PRESIDENT issued a series of directives to ease the power and water shortages, particularly in Metropolitan Manila. The directives were issued during a four-hour meeting at Malacañang with some Cabinet members and ranking officials of the National Power Corp., the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage system and the Department of Public Works.

THREE government lending institutions were ordered by the President to set aside a combined P15 million fund to finance the government's "Study Now, Pay Later" plan. The lending institutions—Philippine National Bank, the Development Bank of the Philippines and the Land Bank of the Philippines—have been directed to set aside P5 million each from their investment portfolios for education loans under the plan.

PHILIPPINE mineral reserves have not been fully tapped, says Natural Resources Secretary Jose Leido Jr. Only 4.8 per cent of its total mineral reserve has been explored and developed so far. Fully expiated, these reserves can easily generate the foreign exchange needed for the country's industrial development.

March 25—

THE PRESIDENT disclosed the details of the peace formula on the Mindanao conflict agreed upon by him and President Moammar Khaddafy of the People's Socialist Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. Details of the formula, expected to end the fighting between government troops and members of the Moro National Liberation Front, were contained in a report of the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, to the President and the National Security Council. The First Lady's report on her mission to Libya confirmed a breakthrough for a peaceful settlement of the Mindanao problem.

The President ordered the observance of a daylight saving time program throughout the country starting March 28. In an executive order, the President directed that local time will be advanced one hour starting midnight of March 27 and will continue until midnight of June 7, 1977. The President enjoined all offices, business establishments, commercial houses and stores, factories and all enterprises, both public and private, to cooperate with the program. He said the Energy Conservation Movement of the Philippines will monitor results of the measures to generate maximum conservation in power and energy consumption.

CENTRAL Bank Monetary Board, the government's highest policy making body on money and credit matters, ordered the closure of General Bank and Trust Co. (Genbank) because of bankruptcy. The closure took effect as of the close of the commercial bank's business yesterday. It was the third private commercial bank so far ordered closed by the CB. The first two were the Continental Bank, in 1974 and Overseas Bank of Manila before the declaration of martial law.

AMBASSADOR to Kenya Mauro G. Baradi has been accepted as the first Philippine envoy to Ethiopia, the Department of Foreign Affairs disclosed. Baradi's residence, however, will be in Naibori, Kenya. Baradi has also been accredited to Somalia with which the Philippines established diplomatic relations recently.

March 26—

THE PRESIDENT issued a proclamation declaring autonomy in 13 provinces in Southwestern Philippines. He described it as a major step towards bringing peace in the region. He also created a provisional regional government in the area of autonomy covered by the tentative agreement reached in Tripoli last December. The twin-moves, undertaken during a meeting of the National Security Council at Malacañang, were in pursuance of the agreement between him and President Moammar Khaddafi of the People's Socialist Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

THE PRESIDENT acted to facilitate maintenance of local roads and bridges. He issued Letter of Instructions No. 519 adopting a more efficient system of allocating and releasing funds to local governments, and Presidential Decree No. 1108 improving the procedures for funding local road and bridge maintenance.

March 27—

CENTRAL Bank Governor Gregorio Licaros Sr. reported that the country posted a \$20 million balance of payments surplus during the first three months of this year compared to the same period in 1976. He attributed this to the improved performance of the export sector and the recovery of the economies of the country's trading partners.

March 28—

KABATAANG Barangay members all over the country were asked to scrutinize the contents of the proposed KB constitution before they vote on it on May 1. The KB national secretariat also directed its 42,000 units to set up forums for free debates among their members on the provisions of the proposed charter. The instructions were conveyed by top barangay youth leader as thousand of copies of the proposed youth charter were distributed for the nationwide information drive.

SOME P439 million worth of gasoline is wasted every year as a direct result of congestion in the streets of Metro Manila, according to the Department of Public Highways. This figure was based on an estimated average loss of two liter a day by some 400,000 equivalent passenger car units—or a total loss of P1.2 million a day at P1.50 per liter. Highways Secretary Baltazar Aquino said this is the immediate problem which the P15-million Metro Manila Traffic Engineering and Management Project (MMTEAM) will try to tackle.

March 29—

THE PRESIDENT said that the autonomy proposed under the Mindanao peace formula for the 13 provinces in Southwestern Philippines will not result in the dismemberment of the Republic. This assurance was given by the

Chief Executive during the marathon “Pulong-Pulong Pambansa” television-radio program during which he elaborated on his recent moves to attain peace in the region.

ESTIMATED total revenue of the government from taxes and duties on export and imported items is placed at P23.9 billion, up by roughly 18.3 per cent of P3.4 billion from 1976’s P20.2 billion income.

March 30—

THE GOVERNMENT stepped up disbursement of some P18 million in loans to farmer-cooperatives for the purchase of fan implements. Administrator Teodoro C. Rey of Farm Systems Development Corporation (FSDC) said his agency’s loaning program is part of the President’s directive calling for accelerated farm mechanization in agricultural land. Some P3.5 million of P18 million in loans had been released to farmer-cooperatives as of February this year, Administrator Rey said. Fund for the farm mechanization program comes from FSDC’s regular budget.

March 31—

COUNTRY’S international reserve has risen to \$1.4 billion during the month of March from the comparative level of \$1.1 billion on 1976, Central Bank statistics disclosed. The increase in international reserves was apparently bolstered by earnings from sugar exports which have been shoeing steady recovery since the opening of the year.

Source: **Supreme Court Library**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1977). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 73(17), lv-lxiii.

President's Month in Review: April, 1977

OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

April 1—

THE PRESIDENT ordered government departments, bureaus, offices and agencies, including government-owned and controlled corporations involved in statistical activities, to coordinate and integrate their statistical activities to improve the present system. Under Letter of Instruction No. 521, the President underscored the necessity of coordination and integration of these activities to improve capabilities in generating data and information for planning exercises, policy formulation and decision-making and for measuring the progress and impact of plans and projects.

April 2—

COMPOSITION of officers of the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy (PMMA) was changed by the President. Under Presidential Decree No. 1110 which amended Sec. 4 of Republic Act No. 3680, the President declared a need to change the composition of officers of the institution by providing for a. more active, positive and effective participation of the Maritime Industry Authority (Marina). In signing the decree, the President stated that the administrator of Marina shall be ex-officio chairman of the board.

April 3—

THE PRESIDENT said an offer was sent out inviting 15 leaders of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) to become members of the preparatory committee of the provisional government for the area of autonomy in southern Philippines. The President, disclosing this during a four-hour meeting of the National Security Council, said individual replies are now being awaited by the government.

April 4—

THE PRESIDENT announced the extension to April 21 of the enrollment for summer courses for public school teachers in Baguio City, in order that, teachers from the South who may be needed in the April 17 referendum-plebiscite, may have time to enroll. Enrollment for summer courses for public school teachers in Baguio City is scheduled April 17-18. A considerable number of these teachers come from the plebiscite areas. The extension order came in the course of the four-hour National Security Council meeting called by the President.

April 5—

THE GOVERNMENT has advised all foreign embassies in Manila that it would welcome diplomatic observers in the 13 Southern Philippine provinces on referendum day, April 17. Notice concerning this was sent out to the embassies by the department of foreign affairs.

AMBASSADOR Knut Fridolf Granstedt presented to the President his letters of credence as the new ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Sweden to the Philippines. Following the ceremony, the President also received Foreign Minister Adolfo Molina Orantes of Guatemala who paid his respects and conveyed the gratitude of his government and people for the expressions of sympathy of the Philippines to his country following the disastrous earthquake last year which rendered about one million people homeless.

THE PRESIDENT has directed government financing institutions to coordinate among themselves and with the Construction & Development Corporation of the Philippines (CDCP) in the planning for the Financial Center at the Manila Cavite Coastal Road and Reclamation Project. Under Letter of Instructions No. 526, he instructed the

Development Bank of the Philippines, the Philippine National Bank, the Government Service Insurance System, the Social Security System and the Land Bank of the Philippines to coordinate with the CDCP regarding their building, construction and development plans in order to achieve a rational, integrated, central and total planning for the development of the Financial Center.

April 6—

THE PRESIDENT flew to Northern Luzon where he checked the progress of the pilot plant for nationwide mini-development projects designed to uplift the living conditions in depressed sections of the country. Launched last January during the last visit of the President and the First Lady, the project is part of the, implementation of the First Lady's "Compassionate Society" program. The new project calls for the organization of cooperatives among unemployed or marginal farmers to engage in fishing, cattle-raising, the growing of trees, backyard gardening and other such productive endeavors.

April 7—

THE PRESIDENT flew to Baguio City from Northern Luzon where he looked into the progress of the installation of a \$100,000,000 communications project designed to boost the communication system between the Philippines and other Southeast Asian countries. Being built by the Eastern Telecommunication (Phils.) Inc., the project is being put up on a five-hectare area in the town of Curimao on the western coast of Ilocos Norte. The project consists of terminal linking this country by submarine cable with Hongkong and Okinawa, and then with Singapore and eventually with the rest of the member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

April 9—

THE PRESIDENT and the highest representatives of the United States and Japan in the Philippines pledged a three-nation effort to promote peace and to lessen prospects of another war. The pledges were given during the "Reunion for Peace" rites in which veterans of Bataan in the United States Armed Forces, the Philippines, and their former adversaries in the Japanese Imperial Army trekked back to Bataan to attend the commemoration of the 35th anniversary of the fall of that bastion of democracy to the Japanese.

THE PRESIDENT appealed to the public, including operators of factories and other industrial plants to cut down on electric consumption in order to ease the power shortage. He sounded the appeal during his visit at the Bataan Thermal Plant following the ceremonies commemorating the 35th anniversary of the Fall of Bataan at the Dambana ng Kagitingan on Mt. Samat.

April 10—

BANGLA Desh has asked the Philippines to join a high level mission to review agricultural problems of that country. The President was reported to have assigned Agriculture Secretary Arturo R. Tanco Jr., to the mission on "special request by Bangla Desh because of the secretary's background and experience in the agricultural sector of a developing country in Asia."

SECRETARY of Education Juan L. Manuel warned anew former Chinese schools offering optional language arts this summer and next school year to use only Chinese textbooks duly approved by his office. He warned that his office may revoke the permits of some of these schools for non-compliance with existing regulations.

April 11—

THE PRESIDENT flew to Cagayan de Oro City to inspect the nation's most extensive project to date—the P1.6 billion plant of the Philippine Sinter Corp., owned wholly by Japan's giant Kawasaki Steel Corp. He also inspected the adjoining port, watching huge shovels scoop up 30 tons of Brazilian iron ore per drop from a giant carrier. The

port is the third largest in the world. The two bigger ones are in Brazil and Japan. Visiting the city for the first time since 1971, the President called the sintering plant and the new port kick-off point for the development of Mindanao.

THE PHILIPPINES and Singapore have agreed to establish a two-way complementation program for the manufacture of diesel engines. The complementation program calls for the manufacture by one country of diesel engines models and component which the other country cannot produce efficiently and competitively. Singapore is the site of the regional diesel engine manufacturing.

April 12—

THE PRESIDENT ordered that the voting areas for the April 17 referendum-plebiscite be sealed off from all poll violators. In his directive, he said all armed men, whether from the Armed Forces or the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) should stay away from the polling places. He disclosed the safeguards in a “pulong-pulong” with the people who assembled at the compound of the South Command (Southcom).

April 13—

THE PRESIDENT has granted a 30-year franchise to the Construction and Development Corp. of the Philippines (CDCP) to operate, construct and maintain toll facilities in the North Luzon Expressway from Balintawak to Carmen, Rosales, Pangasinan, and the South Luzon Expressway from Nichols, Pasay City, to Lucena, Quezon. The CDCP is a private construction company which has provided financing to various government infrastructure projects. Among its completed projects are the Manila North and Manila South Expressways. Authorized through Presidential Decree No. 1113, the franchise includes the right to collect toll fees for the use of the two expressways. The toll fees will be at such rates as may be fixed or authorized by the Toll Regulatory Board created under PD 1112.

April 14—

THE PRESIDENT assured Metro Manila residents of the end of brownouts, but urged a wiser use of water because of the possibility of shortage in the future. Meeting about 1,000 officials of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) on the occasion of its 13th anniversary, the President announced the Pantabangan hydroelectric plant in Nueva Ecija to be fully operational. This will contribute to an additional 100 megawatts of electric power in Central and Northern Luzon and irrigate 83,000 hectares of farmland in Nueva Ecija.

THE PHILIPPINES and Australia signed a cultural agreement which, among other things, provides for the exchange of professors, scholars, journalists, artists and representatives of social, educational and scientific institutions. Australian Foreign Minister Andrew Peacock, signed on behalf of his country. Foreign Secretary Carlos P. Romulo represented the Philippines.

THE GOVERNMENT announced the signing of a new crude oil supply agreement between the Philippines and Saudi Arabia, the No. 1 exporter of petroleum in the world. The contract guarantees the Philippines 20,000 barrels of crude oil a day, which is twice the 10,000 barrels a day provided for in 1976.

THE PRESIDENT required every able-bodied citizen, starting from the age of 10, to plant a tree every year for five consecutive years. Issuing a decree, the President provided penalties for those who violate this order. Under the decree, violators are disqualified from acquiring public lands, holding public office, from graduating if a student, or from practising his profession if a professional and from acquiring licenses, leases, permits, franchise and other privileges. The decree was signed at the closing ceremonies of the Bureau of Forest Development at Malacañang.

April 15—

THE PRESIDENT thanked foreign governments for sending observers to help maintain the freedom of voting as a basic and fundamental prerequisite in the referendum-plebiscite in 13 southern provinces on Sunday. He pointed out

that the government had invited foreign observers “with the object of maintaining the freedom of choice or of voting, which is a basic and fundamental prerequisite to the entire proceedings accepted by all parties.”

THE PRESIDENT expressed his desire for the expansion and balancing of trade between the Philippines and Abu Dhabi of the United Arab Emirates. As a start, the Philippines would have to buy some of its crude oil requirements from Abu Dhabi to help erase the \$7.5 million trade deficit the Emirate incurred with the Philippines in 1976, he said. He stressed this point upon receiving the 14-man trade mission from Abu Dhabi which called on him and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, at Malacañang.

THE PRESIDENT ordered the allocation and the immediate release of P50 million for the purchase of drilling rigs and equipment needed by the Philippine National Oil Co. (PNOC) and its subsidiaries in their geothermal drilling operations. The President’s action is in line with the policy of developing self-reliance in energy through the development and exploitation of indigenous energy resources, like geothermal resources. The order is contained in Letter of Instructions No. 531.

April 16—

THE PRESIDENT assured full government support for the establishment in Misamis Oriental starting this year of the most modern coconut chemical complex in the world. To cost P226 million, the plant will also be the largest in the world, outside of Japan. The project is intended to broaden and diversify the markets of home-grown coconut products and increase local dollar earnings through the export of higher-value products.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS Undersecretary Manuel Collantes said the holding of the April 17 plebiscite in the south gives the Philippines a chance to show to the world that “we can solve our international problems under an atmosphere of peace and freedom.” He reiterated the government’s invitation to all embassies in Manila and a! Islamic states to send representatives to observe the balloting and counting of votes. He made the reiteration of invitation at the regular luncheon-meeting of the Rotary Club of Makati West.

April 17—

PERSONS who have no income or whose income is below P1,800 are no longer required to file an income tax return every year. This requirement was abolished by Presidential Decree No. 1117 signed by the President upon the recommendation of Acting Revenue Commissioner Efren I. Plana. Persons who earn an annual income of P1,800 or more but file exempt returns because their personal exemptions and deductions claimed are more than their income in one year, however, are still required to file an income tax return every year, the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) stressed.

CENTRAL BANK is determined to restrict further the flow of investible funds into the money market. A CB circular, being prepared by CB officials, seeks to impose strict conditions on the practice of banks and investment houses of commingling or pooling trust funds and fund portfolios in their care for investment in the money market.

April 18—

THE PRESIDENT said that no matter what happens with its problems in the south or in the fight against subversion, the Philippines will remain America’s “strongest ally in this part of the world.” This assurance was given by the President to members of the American congressional mission, headed by Rep. Lester Wolff (D-New York), who called on him at Malacañang. He also asked the group to convey to President Jimmy Carter that “our people stand committed to the principle of human rights.” He also said there is permanence in the nature of Philippine-American friendship because there is still a big and deep reservoir of goodwill towards American among Filipinos.

April 19—

THE PRESIDENT suspended indefinitely the scheduled income tax on capital gains arising from stock market transactions. Presidential Decree No. 1116 nullifies effectivity of PD No. 779 imposing the capital gains tax on stock sales. He said the old decree “might adversely affect trading in shares of stocks.”

THE GOVERNMENT is expected to launch this year a nationwide fish financing scheme patterned after the on-going Masagana 99 rice production program. The fish financing program, which will have an initial allocation of P110.2 million, will be implemented by the Central Bank as soon as the proposed guidelines covering the scheme are approved by the Monetary Board. The financing scheme, sources disclosed, is tied up with the five-year fish development program which will be funded by a total budget of P1.6 billion.

April 20—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the organization of all bus operators in Metro Manila into associations not less than the present four. Under Letter of Instructions No. 552, each association or consortium should have not less than 200 operating units. With the increase of these cooperative-type associations to not more than 10, the chronic transportation problems in the city is expected to ease.

AMBASSADOR Moustafa Dreiza presented his credentials to the President at Malacañang as the first envoy of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the Philippines. In receiving the new envoy, the President said the government and people of the Philippines are deeply grateful to Libyan President Muamar Khaddafy for his role in the solution of the Mindanao conflict. The peaceful settlement of the conflict will lead to ultimate peace and prosperity not only in the South but in the entire country as well, the President added.

STARTING next year, there will be only one residence certificate required of every adult resident of the country. The President had issued Presidential Decree No. 1118, consolidating residence tax certificates “A” and “B” into just one certificate. The President said the consolidation of these two into one certificate will save printing costs for the government.

April 21—

THE PRESIDENT urged developed countries to join the fight against global poverty and economic insecurity through reforms in the international economic system. He made the appeal in a speech at the opening of the 10th annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC).

OIL Industry Commission (OIC) and the Board of Transportation (BOT) announced increases in oil prices and transportation fares. The two government agencies made the announcements following a meeting with the President in Malacañang. The Oil industry Commission ordered an average price boost of 10 centavos for every liter of oil products, while the Board of Transportation granted an increase of 30 per cent for bus and jeepney fares and seven for taxi fares.

SPECIAL Fund of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has granted the Philippines a \$9-million loan for development projects. Dr. Ibrahim P.I. Shibata, director general of the OPEC Special Fund, called at Malacañang to inform the President about the approval of the loan. The loan will not bear any interest and is payable in 20 years. Only a surcharge of .75 per cent will be imposed.

DEPARTMENT of Foreign Affairs warned travel applicants not to pay more than the passport fees prescribed by the foreign office. The warning was issued because of reports and complaints received from travelers, that they had paid large sums for their exit permits and passports. The Department of Foreign Affairs said a passport applicant who pays more than the required amount runs the risk of being implicated in illegal acts to obtain travel permit and passport.

April 22—

THE PRESIDENT ordered increases in salary and emergency allowances for national government employees and private company workers, respectively, to help them keep pace with the cost of living. The 10 per cent across the board increase for government workers receiving less than P600 a month is provided for in Letter of Instructions No. 533. The P60 across-the-board increase in the emergency allowances of private company workers is embodied in Presidential Decree No. 1123, both taking effect on May 1, 1977.

THE PRESIDENT announced a breakthrough of global significance in the fertilization and hatching of bangus eggs artificially by a team of Filipino and foreign scientists at the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (Seafdec). The success of the experiment was made known to the President by Natural Resources Secretary Jose J. Leido Jr., Director Felix Gonzales of the Bureau of Fisheries, Dean Domiciano Villaluz and Dr. Quiterio Miravite, chief and executive director, respectively, of the Seafdec Aquaculture Department.

THE PRESIDENT gave a 20-centavo-per-liter discount on regular gasoline used by small fishermen so that they can cope with the increase prices of gasoline. The price discount, contained in Letter of Instructions No. 534, will be extended to small fishing boats (below three gross tons) for up to a maximum of 500 liters monthly per boat. The boats should be duly registered with fishing cooperatives as of April 22, the LOI stipulates.

April 23—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the intensification of efforts to enforce price control regulations and to supplement the steps he has taken to enable the citizens to absorb the impact of the increase in oil prices. In this connection, the President ordered through a letter of instruction directing the Price Stabilization Council (PSC), the Metrocom, and all other agencies concerned to intensify the socialized pricing program. The LOI bolsters the measures already taken upon orders of the President.

THE PRESIDENT opened the door to enlistment in the armed forces to qualified draftees and trainees and at the same time announced an upgrading program to prepare retirees for civilian life. He announced the twin moves during the mass induction in Malacañang of 24 AFP officers as brigadier generals and three as commodores as of last April 1. "It is now the policy of the government to enlist qualified trainees and draftees who have been fighting in Mindanao and other fronts," the President announced.

CENTRAL Bank took steps to insure the collection of the loan advances which were used for lending under the Masagana 99 and other supervised credit schemes. In a circular letter addressed to all rural banks and the PNB, the CB required the bank to sue in court or initiate court proceedings against persons "who have misrepresented themselves as farmers in order to obtain production loans under any supervised credit program." The loan advances are normally backed by the promissory notes which the rural banks and the PNB get from the borrowers and which they (rural banks and PNB) present to the CB.

NINETEEN insurance companies have invested the amount of P53.054 million in various socio-economic projects of the government in March, 1977. This was recently announced by Finance Secretary Cesar Virata.

April 24—

PHILIPPINE inflation rate could be reduced this year if food production is given added boost, says Labor Secretary Bias F. Ople. Food production hike could push down prices, benefitting the lower-income sectors of the population who use up to 62 per cent of their income for food items.

April 25—

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady, Metro Manila Gov. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, left for Tokyo, Japan for a four-day state visit which, he said, "has far and wide implications to our national development and growth and to the cooperation and harmony within the Asian region." In a brief departure statement at the Manila International Airport, the Chief Executive said that urgent bilateral, regional and international questions require him to hold

consultations which Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda of Japan. Among the matters to be taken up by the President in his round of talks with Premier Fukuda are the revision of the bilateral Treaty of Amity, Commerce and Navigation which expired last January 1 and the expanded economic cooperation between the two countries.

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady were honored by Prime Minister and Mrs. Takeo Fukuda at welcome ceremonies held at the spacious courtyard of the Akasaka Palace. Also at the rites were the visiting couple's daughters Imee and Irene, members of the Cabinet and other Philippine government officials who accompanied them in their current state visit to Japan,

THE PRESIDENT has released P10 million for this year's annual insurance coverage of some 400,000 barangay officials all over the country. The insurance coverage is required under Republic Act No. 4398, as amended by RA 5756. Local Government Secretary Jose Roño said that the President ordered the release of the amount before he left for Japan.

April 26—

THE PRESIDENT was assured by Japanese Prime Minister Taken Fukuda the Japan would undertake mere imports from members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to correct trade imbalances with some of them. The President and Prims Minister Fukuda held the first of two conferences at the Akasaka state guesthouse.

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, visited the Philippine pavilion of the 12th Tokyo International Trade Fair, Thousands of Japanese and foreign visitors gathered at the Philippine pavilion to observe Philippine Day at the 20-hectare Harumi permanent fair grounds. The Philippine Day observance was also highlighted by the visit to the pavilion of Crown Prince Akihito.

April 27—

THE PRESIDENT stressed the basic need for a readjustment of the Entire economic relationship between Japan and the Philippines in order to conform more closely to the vital interest of both countries. Thi3 Statement was made by the Chief Executive in a luncheon speech before Japan's economic leaders at the Hotel Okura, Tokyo. The President was on his second day of official visit in Japan.

April 28—

LAND Transportation Commission collected a total of P215,002,893 in 1976, making it the third biggest revenue collecting agency in the government after the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs. Commissioner Romeo F. Edu said the commission collected a total of P1,498,839.44 on fines and penalties alone from 228,432 traffic violators.

April 29—

THE PRESIDENT returned to Manila from Japan where ha had just concluded a 4-day official visit describing it as "most timely and proper as well as very fruitful" not only for the Philippines but also for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). He reported to the nation the Japanese government's commitment to strengthened RP-Japan relations through arrangements for transfer of technology, Japanese assistance to Philippine industries and measures to correct the trade imbalance between the two countries.

April 30—

THE PRESIDENT revealed his fruitful state visit in Japan which led to the signing of loan agreement between the Philippines and Japan. Actually, he brought with him a package of loan and grants amounting to \$25 million from the Japanese government to finance impact projects in the Philippines. The loans, entered into by the government and the Overseas Economic Fund of Japan, will finance the Cagayan integrated agricultural development project, the

Abulong river hydroelectric project in Kalinga-Apayao, and the Cagayan and the South Superhighway interchange. In addition to the loan, the Japanese government granted a \$300,000 aid for the improvement in milling and post-harvest techniques in two pilot farms in Mindanao and Leyte. The new loans bring up to \$180, million the total loans extended by Japan to the Philippines since 1971.

SOME 4,250,000 sugar workers will soon get their sugar amelioration bonuses directly from local branches of the Philippine National Bank, labor secretary Bias F. Ople said. He said the labor department and the PNB have agreed to change the procedure in the payment of the bonuses by allowing the workers to withdraw their bonuses from the bank's branches. Under Presidential Decree Nos. 671 and 788 establishing the social amelioration program in the sugar industry, the government collects P1.10 as sugar stabilization fee for every picul of sugar produced. Of this, P0.67 is given directly to the workers as cash bonuses. P0.27 to finance socio-economic projects for the workers, P0.10 as fund for the Sugar Industry Foundation, Inc. and P0.10 as working fund of the office of the labor secretary in implementing the program.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: May 1-7, 1977

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

May 1—

THE PRESIDENT paid homage to labor by issuing seven presidential decrees and letters of instructions to shore up the labor movements during a two-hour Labor Day program at the Philippine International Convention Center. Speaking before a fully-packed PICC, the President stressed the dignity and importance of labor in national development as he also announced the promotion of at least 33 officials in the Department of Labor on the basis of demonstrated performance in the service to workers. To further emphasize his concern for labor and in response to the appeal of the workingmen, the President likewise ordered the tri-sectoral committee to study the feasibility of giving P60 monthly or two pesos a day allowance to those receiving more than P600 but not more than P1, 000 in the private sector. He had earlier issued a directive granting the same benefits to workers in the private sector receiving P600 and below, effective immediately.

CENTRAL Bank required all commercial banks that have not complied with the minimum paid-in capital requirement of P100 million to raise additional capital of P5 million for every additional banking units that they may organize within the Greater Manila area or its fringes. And for every additional banking offices, except money shops and saving agencies, they may set up outside of the Greater Manila or its fringes, the additional capital they are required to raise for each unit is P2 million. The new guidelines are designed to ensure that banks setting up additional banking units are adequately capitalized and that the establishment of the additional units will not impair their financial capabilities.

May 2—

THE PRESIDENT lauded the Philippine Air Force (PAF) for performing its role as a uniting force and said that, like the rest of the defense system, it will continue to receive top priority in the development efforts. He made this statement during the 42nd anniversary celebration of the Philippine Air Force at Nichols Air Base.

May 3—

THE PRESIDENT said he would cling firmly to the machinery of peace in spite of provocations from the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) in choosing to ignore provisions of the Tripoli agreement and the Marcos-Khaddafy agreement. He would renounce war as an instrument of national policy withstanding new provocations in the form of MNLF demands which no self-respecting nation could entertain. The President spoke before a special session of the Batasang Bayan to which were invited members of the diplomatic corps, provincial governors and city mayors, members of the mayor's league, members of barangays and Kabataang Barangay and social and civic organizations. It was held at the Philippine International Convention Center.

AMOUNT of loans that bank directors, officers, stockholders, and related interests may obtain from their banks was further restricted by the Monetary Board when it amended Circular No. 357 recently. In a still-unnumbered circular, the Central Bank (CB) prescribed additional restrictions for the, grant of loans by banks to their directors, officers, stockholders and related interests. Sources of the CB said the additional regulations were the offshot of the closure of the General Bank and Trust Co. where loans to directors, officers, stockholders and related interests were found to have exceeded the allowable ceilings under existing regulations.

May 4—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the allocation of funds to the Provisional Government in the South to speed up rehabilitation and reconstruction as well as the development of the autonomy area. The Provisional Government was created pursuant to the policy of the national government to grant wider local autonomy not only in the South but also throughout the country. It was organized under the supervision of the Department of Local Government and

Community Development (PLGCD) in behalf of the President of the Republic. The President's order, among others, was issued to Budget Commissioner Jaime C. Laya during the four-hour meeting with Cabinet members and provincial and municipal officials from Regions IX and XII led by Commissioner Simeon Datumanong.

THE PRESIDENT took steps aimed at strengthening the hand of authorities concerned in dealing with the causes of fires, not only in the Metropolitan Manila area but throughout the country. As a preventive measure, the President also ordered the removal of all fire hazards in the community like inflammable materials or combustible parts of buildings and other constructions that are likely to cause fires. To protect the people from further harm, he also ordered that, henceforth, all persons with a criminal record of having committed arson be listed by the police and the military.

THE PRESIDENT has exempted the Asia Foundation Inc. from the payment of various taxes and other fees in recognition of its humanitarian efforts and to enable its continued operations in the country. Through Presidential Decree No. 1127, the foundation is exempted from payment of gift, franchise, specific percentage, real property taxes and all other taxes, duties and fees. Non-Filipino citizens serving on the staff of the foundation's grants are also exempted from the payment of income tax on salaries and stipends in dollars, received solely and by reason of services rendered under the foundation's programs.

May 5—

TWO foreign diplomats spoke highly of the Philippines' active role in efforts to promote the interests of developing countries, to democratize relations among nations, and to establish a new international economic order. The comments came from Ambassador Abdo Othman Mohammed of Yemen and Ambassador Jokas Brajovic, first resident ambassador of Yugoslavia to the Philippines, who were both received by the President at Malacañang.

GOV. IMELDA Romualdez Marcos directed a reduction in the electrical consumption of the four cities and 13 towns in Metro Manila by at least 50 per cent. She also directed the action officers of Metro Manila to draw up guidelines to curb power consumption for outdoor advertising, which had been identified as one of the biggest users of electricity. The crackdown against the extravagant use of electricity was prompted by the findings that many local government units in the area continued to waste electricity despite serious fuel shortage facing the country.

May 6—

DEFENSE Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile reiterated in Sulu that the government will retain its policy of attraction in Southern Philippines despite the setback in the recently-concluded peace negotiations between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front. Speaking at the 41st foundation anniversary of the First Infantry "Tabak" division of the Philippine Army in Bustos Jolo, Secretary Enrile said the government is willing to accommodate all rebels and those found violating the Constitution and territorial integrity of the Republic. He emphasized the Presidents' policy stating that the guns of the armed forces "will not be used against anybody, unless there exists sufficient provocation."

GOVERNMENT agencies engaged in education, training and employment agreed to give Muslims in Southern Philippines wider opportunities and abolish discrimination. The decision was taken in a joint meeting of the National Board of Education and Youth Council (NMYC) at the Manila Hotel. Labor Secretary Blas F. Ople, who presided over the meeting, said the agencies present—specially the education, labor and science departments—agreed to give Muslims more chances for vocational and technical-training, as well as room in all manpower development centers.

May 7—

THE PRESIDENT created five new towns in Lanao del Sur to accelerate the pace of development and ensure peace and order in that province. Created separately through Presidential Decree Nos. 1131 to 1135 are the towns of Marogong, Calanogas, Buadiposo-Buntong, maguing, and Sultan Gumander.

DEPARTMENT of Trade has approved the standard specifications for lump charcoal from wood as guide for producers, exporters, importers and consumers. Trade Secretary Troadio T. Quiazon Jr approved the specifications on recommendation of the Philippine Bureau of Product Standards and the Philippine Standards Council. He said the standards aim to establish the grades of wood charcoal, the density requirements heating value and carbon, volatile matter and moisture contents.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: May 8-14, 1977

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

May 8—

THE PRESIDENT received Nicholas Tourinillon, director of Definco Ltd., a financing and banking firm with headquarters in Connecticut, USA. Tourinillon briefed the President on the extent of his organization's investments in this country and said his firm specializes in commodity loans in the form of industrial plants and heavy equipment such as tractors, bulldozers, heavy duty trucks and cranes. He was accompanied to Malacañang by retired Brig. Gen. Tranquilino Paranis and Prank Vargas Jr., both vice presidents of Asia Corp.

"CASES of industrial or occupational cancer caused by chemical pollution is rising, while the government's detection and investigating facilities are sadly wanting," Labor Secretary Blas F. Ople said. However, he said that a letter of instructions recently signed directed the establishment of an occupational health and safety institute which delivers to our hands a weapon to cope up with this worsening situation." He made these observations as he directed the Bureau of Labor Standards and the Secretariat of the Employees Compensation Commission to take immediate steps to constitute the Center of Occupational Safety and Health.

May 9—

THE GOVERNMENT has allocated P138.8 billion to fund agricultural credit for the calendar years 1977 to 1982 of which 50 per cent would come from government banks, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) disclosed. The remaining 50 percent would come from private banks. The 1977-1982 agricultural budget, according to the NEDA, rescues government's share of agricultural credit from 52.1 percent in 1977 to 50.1 percent in 1978 and to 49.3 percent in 1979. The government share in 1980 will be 49.7 percent until 1981, and finally to 49.6 per cent in 1982.

INFORMATION Secretary Francisco S. Tatad advised the blind to organize themselves into a united "talent and skill" force that can offer organized specialized services. He addressed some 400 participants in the First Metro Manila Conference of the Blind at Pius XII Center. The integrated effort considered the establishment of workshops to be supported by the private sector and this will help the blind develop skills applicable to industry and the arts, the Secretary added. At the same time, he called upon social agencies and private groups engaged in humanitarian service to consolidate efforts toward this endeavor.

May 10—

THE PRESIDENT named 17 new fiscals for five cities and three provinces in Mindanao to boost the government's drive to give amnesty to Muslim rebels. Of the new appointees, four were named city fiscals of the cities of Pagadian, Surigao, Cotabato and Dipolog, while two others were designated as provincial fiscals of North Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat.

TRADE Secretary Troadio T. Quiazon, Jr., urged that adequate and economic shipping services be developed to expand trade between Southeast Asian countries. For economic cooperation among member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to be implemented well, he said, it is necessary to have a sufficient number of vessels of suitable types efficiently operated which charge reasonable freight rates. The trade secretary made the remarks during the courtesy call of two officials of the Netherlands Maritime Institute (NMI) who are undertaking a project study of the shipping requirements of intra-ASEAN Trade, including other countries in the sub-region.

May 11—

THE PRESIDENT ordered strict implementation of government fixed prices for basic commodities and the pay increases for low-income employees in both the government and the private sector. He expressed concern, over the immediate implementation of these two measures, as well as four other related price increase cushioning directives, by issuing Letter of Instructions No. 535-A. Other measures ordered implemented are: 1) Establishment of special transportation fares for Students; 2) Expansion of the Metro Manila Transit Corporation's fleet of buses to better serve the mass commuters in Metro Manila; 3) Reduction in the tariff rates for tires, tire threads, inner tubes and tire flaps from 50 per cent to 30 per cent ad valorem, pursuant to Executive Order No. 484; and 4) Establishment of a 20-centavo special discount per liter on regular gasoline used by small fishing boats belonging to duly registered fishing cooperatives, pursuant to LOI 534.

THE PRESIDENT started a major revamp in the Bureau of Customs with the relief of Alfredo Pio de Roda Jr. as Customs commissioner and Pedro C. Mendoza Jr., as deputy commissioner. Named to Pio de Roda's post was Col. Ramon Farolan, who is military supervisor of the Manila International Airport custom intelligence and quarantine section. Port of Manila Customs Collector Cesar Dario took over Pedro Mendoza's post.

THE PRESIDENT ordered the military to strictly observe the ceasefire agreement in Mindanao despite the breakdown in the negotiations between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). This was disclosed by Defense Undersecretary Carmelo Z. Barbero who also said that the President has directed military field commanders to go after armed men found violating the truce. The government is taking the diplomatic initiative by sending Foreign Secretary Carlos P. Romulo, Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile and Solicitor General Estelito Mendoza to Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Ceylon, Jeddah and other countries to explain to these foreign governments how the Manila peace talks were deadlocked and to assure them that the Philippine government truly desires to find a solution to the Mindanao problem.

TRADE Secretary Troadio T. Quiazon Jr., urged Filipino fruit exporters to Canada to concentrate on the exportation of tropical fruits despite the protectionist attitude" adopted by the Canadian government in the importation of canned fruits and vegetables. The import restriction does not augur well for export of Philippine canned vegetables in Canada. But this does not affect the market for exotic fruits which Canada cannot produce locally due to environmental requirements, the secretary added.

May 12—

THE PRESIDENT thumbed down any increase in the price of rice and corn in the foreseeable future, and instead granted a package of incentives to encourage cereal production. In rejecting a petition for a price increase for these staples, he pointed out that rice is an index commodity. Any price increase of rice would trigger a chain reaction, causing the prices of other essential commodities to soar. These moves were announced by the President during his address to the delegates of the 23rd annual national rice and corn convention at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC).

UNITED States and the Philippines signed an agreement for the US sale of \$13.2 million worth of unmanufactured tobacco on concessional terms. Peso proceeds generated by the sale of the tobacco to the Philippine end-users will be used in such self-help priority projects as food production and marketing, grain storage facilities, small-scale irrigation, fish production and nutrition.

TRADE Secretary Troadio T. Quiazon Jr., directed provincial, city, and municipal chapters of the Price Stabilization Council (PSC) to prosecute all violators of the Price Control Law. In a circular sent to all chapter heads, the secretary said ceiling prices for basic commodities should be enforced strictly as ordered by the President.

May 13—

THE PRESIDENT appointed a new undersecretary of education, charged with the non-formal education of some five-million out-of-school youth. Named to the newly created position of undersecretary of education was Dr. Felicita G. Bernardino. At the same time, the President: 1) Authorized a 10.4 per cent salary increase for city and provincial superintendents of schools; 2) Approved the appointment and promotion of 13 other senior officials of the

Department of Education and Culture (DEC); and 3) Announced that the teachers are the only groups of government employees who will be getting a triple salary adjustment this year.

THE PRESIDENT ordered the court martial of a Metrocom officer and “others who are identified and may be involved or charged” in the alleged maltreatment of a woman detainee. He also directed the release of detainee Trinidad Gerilla, who was allegedly maltreated during her detention. Ordered court martial was 1st Lt. Eduardo S. Matillano and such members of his group who handled the initial interrogation of the detainee.

THE PRESIDENT, through Presidential Decree No. 1140, suspended for another year the implementation of a decree regulating cockfighting which would require cockpit operators to comply with zoning requirements in cities and towns. PD 1140 amended Presidential Decree No. 449, which took effect May 9, 1974, giving cockpit operators three years, or up to May 9, 1977, to move to sites which are in accordance with zoning laws.

SALARIES of 90 government prosecutors and 770 provincial and city fiscals throughout the country were increased by the President. His order is contained in Presidential Decree No. 1137, which will be effective July 1.

May 14—

THE PRESIDENT granted a three-year grace period to 78 distressed rural banks to give them time to stabilize. This concession was given on the condition that they give the same three-year grace period to Masagana 99 farmers who are in arrears. The President issued the directive at the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Rural Bankers Association at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC).

THE PRESIDENT has appointed the chairmen of the 12 regional development councils (RDC) who will be in charge of coordinating development programs and projects all over the country. Named were: 1) Commissioner Simeon Datumanong, Region 12 (Southwestern Mindanao); 2) Davao City Mayor Luis T. Santos, Region 11 (Southern Mindanao); 3) Cagayan de Oro City Mayor Concordio C. Diel, Region 10 (Northern Mindanao) ; 4) Rear Adm. Romulo Espaldon, Southern Commander chief, Region 9 (Western Mindanao); Samar Gov. Edilberto A. del Valle, Region 8 (Eastern Visayas); 7) Iloilo Gov. Conrado J. Norada, Region 6 (Western Visayas); 8) Catanduanes Gov. Vicente M. Alberto, Region 5 (Bicol Region); 9) Laguna Gov. Felicisimo San Luis, Region 4-A (Southern Tagalog Region); 10) Bulacan Gov. Ignacio Santiago, Region 3 (Central Luzon); 11) Isabela Gov. Fautino N. Dy, Region 2 (Cagayan Valley); and 12) La Union Gov. Juvenal K. Guerrero, Region 1 (Ilocos).

INTERNAL revenue collections for the first four months reached P3.721 billion, an increase of P686.518 million or 22.62 per cent over the collections made during the same period last year, according to Acting Revenue Commissioner Efren I. Plana. In a memorandum report to the President Commissioner Plana said collection for April amounted to P1.579 billion compared with P1.358 billion for the same month last year. The amount represents an increase of P224.4 million or 16.30 per cent, Commissioner Plana said.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: May 15-21, 1977

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

May 15—

THE PRESIDENT authorized the provisional government in the South to enlist the help of all government offices operating in the autonomy area in the conduct of its operations. In Letter of Instruction No 639 the President authorized the provincial government to ask for the 'detail of personnel from Regional Commissions 9 and 12, the national government agencies operating in the region, the various local government units the Southern Philippines Development Authority (SPDA) and other government-owned and controlled corporations in the region. He said the basic salaries of the detailed personnel will be shouldered by their mother agencies.

ELEMENTARY students of government public schools will be provided free textbooks starting this school year. This was announced by Undersecretary of Education Narciso Albarracin and Dr. Waldo Perfecto, executive director of Education Projects Implementing Task Force (Edpita). Undersecretary Albarracin also said that under the textbook program, elementary school students will be provided textbooks "free for the entire school year on a loan basis." This means that every student would be required to return the book to the school at the close of the school year.

TRADE Secretary Troadio T. Quiazon Jr., said the government will cancel licenses of business establishments selling smuggled or untaxed goods. According to Secretary Quiazon who is also chairman of the Price Stabilization Council (PSC) and the Fair Trade Board (FTB), revocation of licenses "is an effective way of discouraging entry of untaxed goods which deprive the government millions of pesos in revenues."

May 16—

THE PRESIDENT exhorted the youth of Southeast Asia to participate actively in the development of the region through collective action. "I believe that our countries really want change and that they are served by governments fully committed to change and, capable of making change and development," he said. It was the same spirit of reform, he said, which animated the struggle for independence now infusing the struggle for modernization and development. The President made the remark in a speech keynoting the ASEAN Youth Seminar Workshop at the Philippine International Convention Center.

THE PRESIDENT has created the position of assistant secretary for personnel management and development in every executive department. As provided for under Presidential Decree No. 1138, the assistant secretary shall discharge the following functions and duties: 1) To advise the secretary on personnel planning, management, and development matters in the department, the bureaus and agencies under it; 2) To carry out the government's personnel management and development programs so as to improve this, quality of the public service; and 3) to act as the department's principal liaison official and the Civil Service Commission, the central personnel agency of the government.

May 17—

THE PRESIDENT recited grim statistics of death, illness, and illiteracy among the poor nations' children at the opening of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) meeting at the Philippine International Convention Center. "The urgency of this conference does not derive from any new problem lately tossed upon the world. The problem is old, and we have looked at it, examined it, and debated it for such a long time now. But greater resolve is needed now to arrive at far-reaching solutions," the President said.

DEPARTMENT of Natural Resources was directed by the President to undertake a more systematic program to protect the country's natural resources. Stressing the need for greater consciousness to conserve natural resources, the President said "the importance of our natural resources to our life cannot be over emphasized." In his speech

during the inauguration of the National Resources Management Center, (NRMC), which coincided with the third anniversary of the Department of Natural Resources, the President also urged the DNR to work out short-term, medium-term and long-term programs.

THE PRESIDENT accelerated the government's road-building program by ordering the immediate release of all funds allocated to towns and provinces for the construction and maintenance of barangay and farm-to-market roads. He gave the order during a speech after cutting the ceremonial ribbon to open the 59.9-kilometer North Luzon Expressway extension which traverses the flood-prone ricefields from Buroi, Balagtas, Bulacan to Dau, Mabalacat, Pampanga.

DEVELOPING countries in Asia with huge labor surplus have cheated themselves, of job opportunities and better income distribution by blindly adhering to the capital-intensive approach bodily lifted from the context of highly developed and labor-short countries, labor secretary Blas F. Ople said. In a speech delivered for him by labor undersecretary Amado Inciong, Secretary Ople urged professionals "schooled in Western text books and value systems" to reexamine what they have learned in school to make their learning more relevant to the needs of the country.

May 18—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the creation of two offices under the Department of Public Highways to coordinate the implementation of foreign-assisted projects in the country. He gave the order during a speech before the delegates to the 23rd annual seminar-convention of the District and City Engineers' League of the Philippine at Maharlika Hall. The new offices created are the Major Roads and Integrated Roads Development Office which will handle projects funded by the International Bank for Rehabilitation and Development (IBRD) and the Arterial and Rural Roads Development Office which will oversee projects funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

INFORMATION Secretary Francisco S. Tatad called on the developing Asian countries to start relying on their own media for their needs because the Western press in Asia is on the decline. Secretary Tatad keynoted the first regional conference on development communication, planning and policies in Asia at the Philippine International Convention Center. He attributed the mood not only to any animosity consciously cultivated by governments in the region but to national convictions that find expression in the desire of the developing countries to bring about their own development.

BUDGET Commission was directed by the President to analyze the expenditures of the various government departments. He issued the directive in view of what he described as the unusually huge expenses of the Department of Public Highways (DPH) on machinery and their maintenance. The Budget Commission analysis, he said, will be based not only on the department surveys but also on field reports. .

THE PRESIDENT welcomed the plan of the World Veterans Federation to hold its next General Assembly meeting in 1979 in Manila. He was informed by Wm. Ch. J. M. Van Lanschot, who called on him at Malacañang.

May 19—

THE PRESIDENT said the government will continue to keep open the door to peaceful negotiations in Southern Philippines despite the demand of the Moro National Liberation Front (NMLF) for "total independence." This decision was arrived at in a meeting by the President with the enlarge Military Council at Fort Bonifacio. Assessing the overall Mindanao problem, the President and the council agreed to extend full support to the efforts to maintain the ceasefire in the region. It was also decided that the government will accelerate the reconstruction and development program for the region.

PHILIPPINE exports hit \$827,218,479 in the first four months of 1977. This showed a \$187,095,688 increase over figures in the same period last year. Customs collection for the period also reached \$185,037,310 proceeding from basic export duty amounting to \$171,345,646,000 and premium duty of \$12,691,664. A Bureau of Customs

spokesman said since January, the country's export trade has been increasing steadily indicating positive signs of recovery from the deficits of the past year brought about by worldwide recession and inflation.

May 20—

THE CHIEF Executive announced the appointment of four new justices of the Supreme Court raising its members to 14, leaving only one vacancy. He made this announcement in a keynote speech before the first annual convention of the third house of delegates of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines at the Manila Hilton. Named associate justice of the SC were: Justice Secretary Vicente Abad Santos, Judge Advocate Gen. Guillermo Santos, Court of Appeals Justice Ramon Fernandez and La Union Gov. Juvenal Guerrero. At the same time, the President said "reports reaching the Islamic Conference (IC) meeting in Tripoli that the government has no peaceful intentions in Mindanao are completely false." He was reacting to a report submitted to the conference by the IC Secretary General Amadou Karim Gaye that the Philippine government "has no concern to reach a final solution" to the secessionist problem in the South.

THE PRESIDENT presided over a joint meeting of the National Economic and Development Authority and the chairmen of the various Regional Development Councils all over the country in order to effect better coordination in the implementation of development plan on the national, regional and local government levels. A relatively new approach in the government's development program, regional development aims at involving national, local and regional officials in planning as well as project implementation. The meeting resulted in the institution of measures in decentralizing development planning and also laid the ground work for the emergence of a viable coordinating government machinery at the regional level.

FINANCE Secretary Cesar Virata has ruled that kerosene dealers should pay the delivery van tax in all provinces, cities and municipalities where they are making deliveries. He issued the ruling following an inquiry by a kerosene dealer in Metro Manila who requested clarification on whether he should pay the delivery van tax in places other than the municipality where he maintains his office and warehouse.

May 21—

THE PRESIDENT approved the priority plans for investments, export and public utilities to help accelerate the country's economic growth Recommended by the Investment Coordinating Committee of the National Economic and Development Authority, the plans conform with the development plans of the government. Approved by the President are the 10th Investment Priorities Plan (IPP), the 8th Export: Priorities Plan (EPP) and the 3rd Public Utilities Priorities Plan (PUPP). In its recommendation, the Investment Coordinating Committee said that the financial requirements of the plans had been estimated by the Board of Investments for the calendar years 1977 to 1980 and beyond.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: May 22-31, 1977

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

May 22—

THE PRESIDENT said a special committee will be formed to review and approve plans and designs for new buildings, whether public or private. He disclosed this plan in his remarks at the inauguration of the new building of the bulletin Today in Intramuros. According to the President, the task of the committee will be to stress the relevance of architectural designs of proposed buildings to Filipino culture and character, as well as to the historical backgrounds of the place where they are to be built. The committee will be directly under the Office of the President and will have among its members Metro Manila Gov. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, the public works secretary and architects and builders.

ALL heads of departments, chiefs of bureaus and offices and local governments were authorized by the President to send at least two but not more than five lawyers as their representatives to the forthcoming Manila World Law Conference. These participants shall be on official time, and allowed reasonable expenses for transportation, per diems, as well as seminar fees, chargeable against the released appropriations of their respective office. The Manila World Law Conference scheduled on August 21 to 26 is expected to provide a forum for forging workable solutions based on the rule of law encompassing transnational corporations, legal services to the poor, human rights, international finance and securities regulation, administrative law, foreign trade and investments, legal education, congestion of cases in courts, law of the sea, environmental law, intellectual property law and others.

TRADE department is urging the domestic wood industry to protect the Philippine share—through technological innovation—in the US ply wood market by developing and incorporating safety features into plywood exported to the United States. The department said if local plywood cannot be made totally fire resistant, at least it should be retard-ant to some extent. The government's concern involves the prospect of losing part of the American market for plywood now held by Philippine exporters. The crux of the matter is the growing concern in the US to include Class A flame spread for walls, ceilings, bedrooms and corridors in homes.

May 23—

THE PRESIDENT said the problems of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) need ASEAN solutions. He stressed this point when he met participants of the First ASEAN Youth Seminar-Workshop who called on him at Malacañang. At the same time, he pledged his support and that of the government, and placed at toe disposal of the ASEAN youth all the resources that might be of help to them.

REHABILITATION and development of the south went into full swing with the announcement that P225 million more had been released, by the National government for various priority projects. Local government Secretary Jose A. Roño said the President has authorized the release of this amount to hasten completion of community development projects in the area of autonomy. The President earlier released to the provincial government P35 million for the construction of barangay roads, school buildings, health centers, artesian wells and small communal irrigation systems.

May 24—

THE PRESIDENT announced that he was convoking the National Security Council to undertake a preliminary assessment of the Mindanao peace efforts in the lights of the stand taken by the Eighth Islamic Conference in Tripoli, Libya. The President in an interview with newsmen at Mt. Makiling, disclosed he had directed the military to maintain their positions in accordance with the ceasefire agreement of last December 23 which was signed in Tripoli between a government panel and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

FIRST Lady and Metro Manila Governor Imelda Romualdez Marcos cited the many benefits of tourism, adding that the element of a “happy, smiling people,” was an essential ingredient in its development. For one, tourism has helped spur the Filipino search for identity, she said in a keynote speech opening the fifth session of the Pacific Asian Congress of Municipalities at the Philippine International Convention Center.

THE GOVERNMENT started a five-year tourism program with a total investments requirement of P1.832 billion expected to generate tourist receipts of P6 billion. The President gave impetus to the program by approving a tourism incentive priorities plan which will be concentrated in four regions of the country. These, are Region I—Ilocos Sur, Benguet and La Union; Region 4—Cavite, Laguna, Batangas and Quezon; Region 4-A—Metro Manila and Region 9—Zamboanga del Sur.

THE GOVERNMENT is recovering excess coconut oil subsidies given oil millers and unremitted levies on copra and husked nuts which the Commission on Audit (COA) has found to be worth P178.09 million. According to a report of the Philippine Coconut Authority, (PCA) auditor to the COA, P19.06 million has been collected from 17 of the 28 oil milling companies whose subsidy claims and levies have already been audited. With the collection of the P19.06 million, the government has still to recover P159.02 million.

May 25—

THE PRESIDENT signed Proclamation No. 1641 extending to midnight of September 21, 1977, the effectivity of the Daylight Saving Time (DST). DST, which was first proclaimed on March 27 to take Advantage of longer daylight hours during the summer period, was to expire on midnight of June 7. The President said the extension of DST will further generate savings of electric power and fuel consumption consistent with the country’s energy conservation drive.

PHILIPPINE exports of lumber and plywood brought in \$33.36 million in foreign exchange earnings during the first four months of 1977 compared to \$27 million during the same period last year. Of the total proceeds for this year, \$18.2 million constituted the value of lumber exported while plywood accounted for \$15.2 million.

May 26—

THE PRESIDENT warned that he will punish those who do not perform their duties in accordance with the standards set by the New Society. He issued the warning during the induction of 41 newly-appointed officials of the Department of Labor in Malacañang. The ceremony was attended by participants in the International Labor Organization West Germany Training Program for Asian officers of employment services.

THE PRESIDENT underscored the need to inject what he called “new vision” in the administration of local governments in the resolution of various problems. He stressed this fact in a speech at the closing ceremonies of the Pacific-Asian Congress of Municipalities at the Philippine International Convention Center. Citing various problems in urban areas, the President said “there is great need today to look at the malaise of metropolitan life to seek out their roots and to start afresh.” He also expressed the hope that the international cooperation among nations in solving problems affecting the world has now touched its cities and towns.

May 27—

THE PRESIDENT authorized salary increases for provincial city and town officials effective last May 5. The authorization was contained in Presidential Decree No. 1136, also known as “The Local Decree of 1977.” The President issued the decree during a luncheon meeting at Malacañang with city and town mayors who were in Manila for the just-concluded Pacific Asian Congress of Municipalities. The salary rate increases will be determined by a joint commission created under the decree.

GOVERNOR Imelda Romualdez Marcos integrated all engineering operations in the four cities and 13 towns in Metro Manila to stop indiscriminate diggings and other activities that pose serious hazards to public safety, and

convenience. She also ordered the reorientation and revitalization of existing engineering departments or offices in the 17 local units to eradicate red tape in the execution of vital engineering projects. In an executive order, she created the Metro Manila Engineering Operations Center to supervise and report on all engineering operations and activities in the metropolitan area.

THE PRESIDENT inducted into office three new associate justices of the Supreme Court and the new Judge Advocate General of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Inducted were: 1) AFP Judge Advocate General Guillermo Santos, former Court of Appeals Justice Ramon C. Fernandez and Gov. Juvenal Guerrero of La Union, as associate justices of the Supreme Court; 2) Brig. Gen. Hamilton Dimaya, former Philippine Constabulary judge advocate, as AFP Judge Advocate General. Justice Secretary Vicente Abad Santos, who is attending in New York the United Nations conference on the law of the sea, as co-chairman of the Philippine delegation, was not able to take his oath.

May 28—

THE PRESIDENT and Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore exchanged views on bilateral and regional issues of interest to both countries. Although details of the private talks were not made known, it was understood that the two leaders discussed ways of improving the relations between their countries and economic and political problems confronting the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Accompanied by Madame Lee and some officials, the prime minister arrived in the Philippines for an overnight stay before proceeding to Japan, where he will be a state guest.

THE PRESIDENT has ordered government takeover of public works projects where private contractors concerned have failed to perform according to schedule. He also made mandatory the installation of barricades and other warning devices to hazardous sections of job sites, especially around excavations, to protect the general public. The instructions, which were conveyed to Public Works Secretary Alfredo L. Juinio to PW Director Desiderio Anolin and the manager of the flood control and drainage project in Metro Manila, was prompted by complaints that there have been delays, and other deficiencies in the execution of drainage projects in Metro Manila.

May 29—

THE PRESIDENT announced that a diplomatic offensive would soon be launched, in Africa and the Middle East to strengthen Philippine ties with countries in those two regions. In an interview after the departure of Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore, the President disclosed this plan to send a mission to Africa to confer with foreign ministers and other decision makers with a view to strengthening the country's relations with them. He cited the fact that many African countries had worked hard to moderate the position adopted by the Islamic Conference in Tripoli, Libya on the southern Philippine question.

AGRICULTURE Secretary Arturo R. Tanco Jr. announced the discovery of a high-yielding highland rice variety called the RPKN-2 (Marcos-2) for commercial planting. He said the new rice variety can yield 120 cavans per hectare.

May 30—

THE PRESIDENT said the Philippines' commitment to human rights is, as irrevocable as the pledge to uphold national sovereignty and territorial integrity. This position was reiterated in a speech at the Memorial Day services for the American war dead at the US cemetery in Fort Bonifacio, Makati to demonstrate the strength of such commitment the President said that in the New Society, the reform of organic social structures must in the end mean the reform of the opportunities and the environment of the individual.

TRAINING centers throughout the country were established by the President to teach better methods of production and marketing as well as management and community relations. He also ordered the Fertilizer Industry Authority (FIA) to control the distribution and sale of plant pesticides. The directives were embodied in two decrees he signed at Malacañang in the course of a speech before farmer-stock holders of Planters products Inc. (PPI).

METRO Manila residents will now actively participate in the governmental process. Metro Manila Gov. Imelda Romualdez Marcos created the Lupon ng mga Mamamayan or Citizens' Committee to advise the Metro Manila Commission (MMC) on development programs and to help translate policies into action. She also ordered the creation of a Lupon ng mga Mamamayan in each of the four cities and 13 municipal governments of Metro Manila.

THE PRESIDENT called upon the telephone industry to direct its efforts toward providing phone services to the rural populations. He issued the appeal in a speech read for him by Public Works Secretary Alfredo Juinio at the inauguration of the first fully electronic computer-controlled telephone exchange of the Republic Telephone Company (Retelco). The Retelco computer controlled exchange system will be the first of its kind in the country.

May 31—

THE PRESIDENT issued a number of decrees and directives designed to protect government employees and their families from "social accidents" and provide them with a "standard of living that is not only adequate but also dignified." The decrees were signed by the President at ceremonies marking the 40th anniversary of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) held at the Philippine International Convention Center.

DEPARTMENT of Education and Culture (DEC) said that some 278,000 more students from all levels in public and private schools are expected to enroll during the opening of classes on June 14. Pedro Conmigo, DEC senior statistician, said that about 11,416,000 students are expected to troop to schools this June, compared to last year's enrollment of 11,138,000. DEC authorities, however, gave the assurance that students who will enroll in public schools are assured of accommodation due to the completion of additional schoolbuildings, particularly in the rural areas.

GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System (GSIS) revealed plans to reduce its business loans and project financing activities to increase its salary and educational loans to members and to devote the rest of its portfolio to government and private securities purchased from the capital market. In a report to the President, Roman A. Cruz Jr., GSIS general manger, said that it is the intention of the GSIS to withdraw from being a quasi-development banks and become a portfolio investor, as a social security agency should be. "This does not mean that the GSIS will withdraw its funding capabilities from the country's financial stream. On funds will continue to be available to development but will be insulated from developmental risks," he added.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: June 1-7, 1977

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

June 1—

THE PRESIDENT acted to protect the interests of insurance policy holders by issuing Presidential Decree No. 1141 amending insolvency proceedings for insurance firms. The decree amends Section 249 of Presidential Decree No. 612, by preserving the assets of the firm in a manner that they would be used to settle satisfactorily its debts and accounts in case of insolvency. He directed the insurance commissioner to determine within 30 days whether the insolvent company should be reorganized or placed in such condition so that it could resume business. The insurance commissioner shall also prescribe the conditions under which such resumption shall take place, and the time for fulfillment of such condition.

June 2—

EIGHT revenue-raising measures were issued by the President, including taxes on alcoholic beverages, jai alai, and horse-racing, to help fund the government's P10.4-billion infrastructure program this year. The President also signed the National Internal Revenue Code of 1977 and the Agri-Business Incentives Decree. He also signed a letter of instructions granting a 20 per cent salary increase to employes of the Bureau of Internal Revenue effective last May 1.

THE PRESIDENT directed the transfer to civilian courts of cases involving some 4,013 political and other detainees now facing trial before military tribunals. This transfer of trial venue was one of a series of directives issued by the Chief Executive to resolve once and for all the question of military detainees. He made the announcement during the 3rd anniversary of the Foreign Correspondents Club of the Philippines.

THE PRESIDENT ordered the implementation of a typhoon moderation and flood forecasting program to minimize the damage caused by annual typhoons in the country. He issued Letter of Instructions No. 546 charging the Department of National Defense, through the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), with carrying out this program, and ordered the initial release of P4 million this year to support it.

June 3—

THE PRESIDENT created an Interagency Project Coordinating Committee (IPCC) to supervise land settlement projects in rural areas. Three large projects, financed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and World Bank are now ready in Agusan del Sur, Bukidnon and Capiz. It is to ensure that these settlement projects go on smoothly that the IPCC was created.

June 4—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the Department of Natural Resources. (DNR) to cancel all timber licenses covering areas within the water sheds of streams and rivers flowing into Lake Lanao. The President issued the order on the basis of official reports that logging activities in the areas around Lake Lanao had resulted in the widespread destruction of the watersheds.

THE PHILIPPINES and China have concluded an agreement aimed at substantially expanding Philippine-Chinese trade, it was learned from the Philippine embassy in Peking. The agreement came at the end of the first meeting of the China-Philippines joint trade committee, held at the Ministry of Foreign Trade from May 31 to June 2, 1977. Rodolfo Severino Jr. charged affairs of the Philippine embassy and Hsi Yehsheng, director of the fourth department of the Ministry of Foreign Trade, exchanged notes setting targets for this year's trade.

June 5—

THE PRESIDENT suspended privileges granted to local veterans and war widows under the Reunion for Peace program, and ordered an investigation into alleged irregularities in the grant of ID cards covering these privileges. His order did not cover foreign participants in the program. They will continue to enjoy the privileges indicated on their ID cards. Under the program, Letter of Instruction No. 394 (formerly Temporality No. 331-A) granted to local veterans and war widows the same privileges granted to foreign veterans, to wit, 30 per cent discounts on air, sea and land transportation and on hotel rooms.

June 6—

THE PRESIDENT ordered all public utility and government vehicles to be equipped with anti-pollution devices within three months. This was a follow-up to his statement the other day that all motor vehicles should be so equipped within one year or they would not be registered.

June 7—

PEOPLE'S Republic of China (PROC) basketball team paid a courtesy call on the President, and called its visit here a manifestation of the friendly relations between the two countries. The President said that another such manifestation was the recent agreement between China and the Philippines for increased trade to correct the trade imbalance due to the import of crude oil and other products by the Philippines from China. The President cited the Chinese team's participation in the Friendship series for the "very noble mission of setting up sports centers throughout the country." At the same time, he said he hoped the visitors and local players would learn from each other.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: June 8-12, 1977

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

June 8—

THE PRESIDENT acted to further curb “highgrading” or the theft of gold from mining claims or camps in the country. He issued Presidential Decree No. 1150 imposing stiff penalties on anyone caught panning or sluicing gold in public or private lands without permission. Penalties are also to be imposed for raw gold, gold, gold amalgam, or mercury within mining camps or claims. The President noted that while gold panning or sluicing may provide a source of lawful livelihood to individuals without resulting in a loss to the government in terms of foreign exchange or taxes, it is necessary to adopt safeguards when these activities are used as a “subterfuge for highgrading.”

LOCAL governments were ordered by Finance Secretary Cesar Virata not to overburden ordinary wage earners with unnecessary fees and taxes. In a ruling, he noted that local governments have been enacting ordinances imposing permit fees and occupation taxes on individuals who are not among those specifically mentioned in the Local Tax Code. The finance secretary has turned down a proposed city ordinance imposing mayors permit on singers and dancers of day and night club.

COCONUT products export earnings for the first five months of this year totalled \$295,141,487 or 48.7 per cent above the \$198,475,284 earned during the same period in 1976. The January-May export volume totalled 714,546 metric tons in copra terms, or 25.8 per cent below the January-May 1976 total of 963,386 metric tons. Prices, however, were sharply above the 1976 level. This was gathered from the United Coconut Association of the Philippines (UCAP), the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), Bureau of Customs and processors-exporters of Coconut products.

June 9—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the speedy processing of cases brought before the military commission to hasten their transfer to the civil courts. He issued the order to the military during a two-hour meeting of the National Security Council at the Officers' Clubhouse in “Fort Bonifacio. The council reviewed the country's security situation in the light of the reported renewed activities of the New People's Army.

DEPARTMENT of Education and Culture (DEC) has adopted as a policy the accreditation of learning gained outside the school in recognition to the importance of non-formal education. Education Secretary Juan L Manuel disclosed this in a speech read for him by Education Under secretary Narciso Albarracin during a conference attended by 30 education experts.

June 10—

THE GOVERNMENT laid down a policy to protect the environment as well as set standards for its maintenance. These were embodied in Presidential Decree No. 1152, known also as the Environment Code which was signed by the President. The new law prescribed: 1) The quality of the air, the volume of sound as well as the quality of water which people drink or use; 2) Guidelines for the use of land and the management and conservation of natural resources; and 3) Policy for the disposal or use of waste. The new decree also called on the private sector to support the government's anti-pollution campaign.

CENTRAL Bank Governor Gregorio Licaros enjoined all banking institutions to participate in the observance on June 29 of the 4th anniversary of the national savings-for-progress campaign.

AGRICULTURE Secretary Arturo R. Tanco Jr. said the Philippines has achieved self-sufficiency in rice production this year because of the Masagana 99 program. Speaking at the opening of the two-day National Food and Agriculture Council (NFAC) regional seminar in Cebu City, Secretary Tanco said rice production growth this year

hit 5.4 per cent, doubling the country's annual average population growth of 2.7 per cent. The four-million metric tons production would be more than enough to meet the country's annual rice consumption needs of 3.9 million tons, he said.

June 11—

THE PRESIDENT gave national and local government agencies the power to expropriate public as well as private lands to enable them to build more and better houses for the poor. At the same time, the President said the government would minimize the transfer of squatters from depressed areas to new towns. He said the government would undertake relocation and resettlement only when the need arises. These were embodied in three letters of instructions signed by the Chief Executive during the Inauguration of a self-contained community known as the Dasmariñas Bagong Bayan. The First Lady, Metro, Manila Governor Imelda Romualdez Marcos, also attended the inauguration. It featured the distribution of certificates of awards to 50 families.

IN A move to deal more effectively with problems affecting public order and safety, the President restored to mayors and local executives the power to supervise and manage police forces. He empowered the governor of Metro Manila, provincial governors, and town mayors to employ and deploy all segments of the Integrated National Police (INP) stationed in their areas of jurisdiction. The move is embodied in Presidential Decree 1162, in which the President assumes a direct prerogative in placing INP units in "embattled areas" under the supervision and control of local civilian authorities.

June 22—

THE PRESIDENT gave the assurance that the new tax measures he announced recently will not place any direct or indirect financial burden on low-income families. He also settled the confusion over the effectivity of the 35 per cent tax on money market operations by announcing that the decree of the subject became effective when he signed it last June 3. Addressing the nation on Independence Day, he said the new tax decrees are designed to increase government revenues through the improvement of collection methods. He said the aim of that decree which imposes withholding taxes on savings and time deposits is to enforce a more effective means to tax income considered taxable but hardly ever declared by many taxpayers.

THE PRESIDENT ordered the reduction of taxes paid by sugar planters and the increase in the price of sugar to prevent the total collapse of the domestic sugar industry. In his Independence Day speech, he likewise announced a reversal in the government's sugar policy and the elimination of subsidy to sugar producers.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: June 13-30, 1977

President's Month in Review: July, 1977

OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

July 1—

THE PRESIDENT authorized the payment of overtime to national government employees and at the same time increased the basic rate of overtime compensation. Under Letter of Instruction No.565, the President also lifted the ban on the filing vacant positions created in previous budget years, purchase of furniture and equipment, and construction and capital outlay projects in all national government offices. In pursuance of his directive, he set general guidelines to be followed by the various national government agencies, including government-owned and controlled operations. At the same time, the Commission on Audit has reduced the representation and transportation allowances of government auditors and officials to make such privileges fair and equitable.

THE PRESIDENT arrived in Tolosa, Leyte to join the First Lady in the observance of the latter's birth anniversary. He was met at the airport by the First Lady and a large delegation of provincial, municipal and barangay officials, headed by Gov. Benjamin Rorualdez.

July 2—

THE PRESIDENT moved to further decentralize the government by ordering, various government agencies to strengthen their regional offices to attend to the needs of the people in the country-side. He issued a still unnumbered Letter of Instruction to this effect in Tolosa, Leyte, where he joined the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, who celebrated her birthday anniversary yesterday. The directive of the President is designed to spare the people in the provinces the trouble of going to Manila to transact business with the national government.

July 3—

THE PRESIDENT considered the issuance of permits and licenses by the national agencies for three years instead of one year to effect savings in government operations. In a directive issued in Tolosa, Leyte, the President ordered all heads of agencies involved in the issuance of licenses and permits to study the plan, and submit recommendations.

THE GOVERNMENT will step up the development of Samar and Leyte, which comprise one of the poor areas in the country, the President said. More money will be given to Samar to develop its economy, the President told some 2,000 town officials and barangay leaders who attended a development orientation conference. Sponsored by the Department of Local Government and Community Development, the conference aims to keep the barangay leaders posted on government policies and programs and getting them involved in their implementation.

July 4—

THE PRESIDENT assured the American people of the continued support of the Filipino people to the human rights' campaign being waged by the United States. He made his offer of support in his speech at the Philippine Plaza on the occasion of the 201st anniversary of American independence, which is marked in the country as Philippine-American Friendship Day. Earlier in his speech, the President reaffirmed "our sense of individuality that has led the country to resist some of the values America had sought to implant upon the native soil."

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady returned from Leyte to resume their activities in Manila. As the President worked in the presidential study in Malacañang, the First Lady met Metro Manila city and barangay officials. In the evening the First Couple attended the cultural presentation of the Alvin Ailey Dance Theater at the Cultural Center.

July 5—

THE, PRESIDENT launched an infrastructure program funded by the Philippine Virginia Tobacco Administration for the construction of tobacco flue curing barns using solar energy. He issued the order through PVTA Chairman Federico Moreno, who presented a scale model of the proto-type solar flue curing barn to the President a month after the President forbade the use of firewood for flue curing, and directed the PVTA to look for other sources of heat.

July 6—

THE PRESIDENT ordered a 50-per cent fare discount to government officials and employees traveling on official and unofficial business in Mindanao through the rural air service. In Letter of Instructions No. 568, he directed the Philippine Aerospace Development Corp. (PADC), in charge of the, government's rural air service program, to grant the fare discount upon presentation of GSIS identification cards.

THE PHILIPPINE economy posted a surplus in its foreign exchange transaction, the peso value became stronger, inflation rate was lower while production and employment increased during the first six months of the year. This was contained in a report to the President by Central Bank Governor Gregorio Licaros on the economic and financial development during the first semester of the year. According to Gov. Licaros, the surplus realized by the country from foreign exchange transactions (receipts vs. expenditures) during the semester amounted to \$228 million, a reversal of the \$173 million deficit recorded in the same semester in 1976. This positive external balance was traced to improvements in exports and invisible incomes, and capital inflows.

INFORMATION Secretary Francisco S. Tatad said developing countries must set up their own communications systems to "rectify the great imbalance of perspective on global affairs." The Secretary spoke at the opening of the six-day UNESCO Asian Seminar of Journalists at the Philippine Village hotel. He cited the domination of the global communications system by a few interests which were not sensitive to the realities of life in developing countries. In this connection, he praised the UNESCO's efforts in setting up exchange services for the transfer of knowledge.

THE PRESIDENT increased from P10 million to P26 million the government's capital exposure in the Metro Manila Transit Corp. to enable the corporation to achieve its objective of rationalizing and integrating public transport services in the metropolis. The President authorized the increase through Presidential Decree No. 1168, after he raised the MMTC capital stock from three million to six million shares.

July 7—

THE PRESIDENT said that the Confederation of ASEAN Journalists will play a vital role in bolstering the integration of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations community. In a speech at the opening of the five-day second general assembly of the CAJ at the Philippine International Convention Center, the President said that in pursuing ASEAN objectives, "the role of the press in our region will certainly be more crucial than it has ever been." At the same time, the President called on the confederation to bridge "a formidable communication gap" through exchange and contact between the peoples in the region.

THE PRESIDENT warned that any government official or employee who will not render 15 days service in the rural area will be dismissed from the service. He issued the warning as he called for the acceleration of the government program to bring the bureaucracy to the service of countryside development. Speaking at the opening of the 15th annual convention of the Bureau Directors Association at the Philippine International Convention Center, the President said that the countryside is the "testing ground of all our reforms." In this connection, the President instructed the bureau of directors to prepare an effective orientation and deployment program for their personnel in pursuance to Letter of Instructions No. 559.

THE FIRST Lady and Governor of Metro Manila Imelda Romualdez Marcos asked the country's architects, engineers and inventors to pursue more vigorously the development of low-cost housing design and technology for Filipinos. She asked them not to be limited to the use of traditional building materials like wood and bamboo, but to explore the uses of native clay, stone and even corals for more permanent structures. She presented awards and P66,000 in cash prizes to winners of the Pambagong Bahay Pilipino contest conducted nationwide over the past year

by, the Rotary Club of Manila and the Technology Resource Center, in brief ceremonies at the Philippine Plaza hotel.

July 8—

THE PRESIDENT reiterated the government policy of allowing foreign investors to repatriate part of their capital and profit should they wish to do so. He gave the assurance during a meeting with the participants in the two-day Pacific Forum held at the Philippine Plaza. "There is a big room for foreign capital to undertake profitable and productive activity in the country," the Chief Executive said, adding that the "government welcomes the opportunity to "discuss with overseas investors the requirements of a fair, mutually beneficial and lasting relationship."

THE AUSTRALIAN government donated some P17.5 million worth of food plant equipment to the Philippines to boost the country's nutrition research program. The equipment, capable of producing low-cost protein-rich foods for children, were received by Chairman Melecio Magno of the National Science Development Board from Australian Ambassador to the Philippines Daniel Gerald Nutter during simple turnover ceremonies at the NSDB compound on Pedro Gil street.

THE PHILIPPINES is stepping up its production of Burley and Turkish tobacco, ingredients in the manufacture of aromatic cigarettes, in order to do away with the yearly six-million-kilo importation of these tobacco valued at P200 million. A directive to the Philippine Virginia Tobacco Administration (PVTa) to promote and regulate the production of Burley and Turkish tobacco was issued by the President through Presidential Decree No. 1143.

TOTAL of 292,649 tourists visited the country from January to May an increase of 20.03 per cent over arrivals for the same period last year. The Department of Tourism said Japanese visitors topped the list with 102,657 arrivals, an increase of 47.73 per cent. Second were overseas Filipinos or balikbayans with 36,396. Next were Americans, 34,031; British, 42,996; and Chinese, 17,784.

July 9—

THE FIRST Lady ordered the holding of public hearings to get the opinion of metropolitan residents on how Presidential Decree No. 1153 on tree-planting should be implemented. The directive was touched off by complaints that the people, particularly those in Metro Manila, have been confused on how they can comply with the decree based on implementing guidelines drawn up by implementors.

SECURITIES and Exchange Commission (SEC) has ruled that the capital stock of a corporation can be considered increased only after the SEC has issued an order authorizing the increase. In view of this, the SEC said subscribers to the increase in capital stock of a corporation cannot be considered as stockholders of said corporation and cannot exercise their rights as stockholders.

July 10—

THE PRESIDENT said that it is the policy of the government to reduce the production of sugar to make it an effective instrument to uplift those involved in the industry, particularly the small farmers. The rationalization of the sugar industry was emphasized by the President in a brief remarks before the induction of Ambassador Roberto Benedicto as chairman of the Philippines Sugar Commission. Also inducted as associate commissioners were Sugar Quota Administrator Jose A. Unson, Director Jaime Dacanay of the Philippine Sugar Institute (Philsugin), former Rep. Amado C. Gustilo, who is president of the National Federation of Sugarcane Planters, and Fred J. Elizalde, representing the chambers of business in the country.

INFORMATION Secretary Francisco S. Tatad called on publishers of Southeast Asia to help develop a press that will correct the cultural and information imbalance in the region. He said the participation of the publishers, together with the working press, is crucial in promoting a regional press. In setting up a new exchange for the Third World countries, for example, the publishers must be counted on to subscribe to the service as their primary source of

foreign news, he said. He made the remarks in a speech at the closing ceremonies of the 5-day second general assembly of the Confederation of ASEAN Journalists at the Philippine International Convention Center.

July 11—

MONETARY Board has imposed punitive actions—including suspension of credit availments—on banks found violating government regulations which require these financial institutions to invest at least 75 per cent of their deposits in areas where they were generated. Central Bank Gregorio Licaros, concurrently chairman of the Monetary Board, said monetary authorities agreed to take the action to check the non-compliance of commercial and, thrift-banks with CB regulations and the regional retention of deposits.

July 12—

THE PRESIDENT increased from P200 million to P450 million the authorized capital of the National Development Co. (NDC) to support the government's equity participation, in the first copper smelter project to be established in the country. A joint venture to set-up the first copper smelter project in the country has been concluded between a consortium of local copper mining companies and the government, as represented by the Presidential Advisory Committee on the Copper Industry (PACCI), in a memorandum of agreement signed on June 14, 1976.

SEAT of government of Maguindanao was transferred by the President from, Maganoy town to Sultan Kudarat town to accelerate the pace of development in the province. Issuing Presidential Decree No. 1170, the President noted that Sultan Kudarat is more accessible than Maganoy, because it is centrally located within Maguindanao.

July 13—

THE PRESIDENT authorized the establishment and operation of bonded warehouses to be used and converted into internationally acceptable Exploration Supply Bases to service petroleum and other energy-related operations in the Philippines. The authority was contained in Letter of Instructions No. 563, which directed the Philippine National Oil Co. to establish and operate "by itself or through duly designated qualified operations," bonded warehouses in the pursuance of the directive. The establishment of the supply bases is intended to make available and more accessible support and logistics for energy exploration activities, throughout the country.

THE PRESIDENT has extended to August 15 the deadline for filing of sworn statements by real property owners declaring the true value of property for 1977. The deadline for the filing of these statements, required under Section 6 of Presidential Decree No. 464, as amended, expired last June 30. However, the President extended the deadline because field reports show that there are still "a number of real property owners who failed to file the required sworn statements for reasons beyond their control."

July 14—

STARTING September 1, 1977, government officials and employees required to render 15 days rural service under Letter of Instructions No. 559 may select the date on which to comply with the requirement. The Office of the President announced this and required all government workers concerned to first accomplish personal data sheets for the *Paglilingkod: Bagong Lipunan* program, before rendering the rural service. The start of the rural service, embodied in Memorandum Circular No. 993, which amends Memorandum Circular No. 989, dated June 30, 1977, was announced by Presidential Executive Assistant Jacobo C. Clave.

THE PRESIDENT approved the sending of another delegation to Africa to follow up the initiatives towards establishing closer ties with the African states. The decision was made during a National Security Council meeting at Fort Bonifacio called to hear Foreign Secretary. Carlos P. Romulo's reports on the meeting of the Organization for African Unity (OAU), in, Libreville, Gabon, and the 10th ministerial meeting of the-Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Singapore which he had attended.

July 15—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the Department of Health to study the possibility of using, acupuncture as a cure for some diseases. He did this after the visit of Dr. Rolf von Litner and members of the Philippine Acupuncture Association. They discussed the holding of the World Acupuncture Congress in Manila next November 2 to 5.

July 16—

THE PRESIDENT, declaring that the government commitment to rural development is total, indicated that government expenditures for such development this year could well exceed last year's P4,613 million. Speaking before members of farm association at the Philippine International Convention Center, he said that farm incomes registered the highest rates of increases in the past years while new feats of productivity were achieved. "But even after we note that there has been a substantial improvement of conditions of life in the rural areas, we must still face up to the fact that the challenge of rural development is not behind us, but before us," he added.

THE PRESIDENT presented awards to five agricultural extension workers and three rural-organizations for "their outstanding contributions to the, country's multi-billion peso food productive programs." The awarding ceremonies were, held at the Philippine International Convention Center where representatives of some 500,000 farmers, rural house wives, and youths presented their five-year rural development program.

July 17—

GOVERNOR Imelda Romualdez Marcos directed the Metro Manila Commission to survey immediately all areas available for tree planting and solve the space problem brought up during the three-day public consultations. Aside from the proposed "green belt" around the metropolitan area, the object of the survey are watersheds, the vast tract of raw land in Novaliches, Muntinlupa, and Taguig, the Montalban area near the Quezon City boundary, the Bukid area of Caloocan City and other places. Metro Manila Executive Secretary Eduardo R. Soliman Jr., said these areas may be able to meet the space requirement of metropolitan residents so they can comply with Presidential Decree No. 1153.

July 18—

GOVERNOR Imelda Romualdez Marcos said the Metro Manila Commission is preparing a workable plan to implement the tree-planting decree. It will come out with the guidelines next week. She said the commission has compiled all proposals made by various sectors during the three-day public consultations last week. She said the hearings showed that the people recognized the urgent need for a tree-planting program and were unanimous in their support for the President's policy.

DEFENSE Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile stressed the government's efforts to establish the country's identity as a sovereign and independent nation through broader diplomatic relations. He was guest of honor and commencement speaker at the seventh graduation exercises of the University of the Philippines extension division at Clark Air Base. In a speech read for him by Defense Undersecretary Isabelo Castro, he said that the Philippines is opening its doors to new friends, particularly the members of the Third World with whom "we share the same challenge of economic growth, political reform and the aspirations of self-reliance and determination."

AMBASSADOR Roberto S. Benedicto, the new chairman of the Philippine Sugar Commission, called on the sugar industry to reduce its production costs and increase its yield per hectare if it is to survive the present crisis. He gave what he called his first policy speech as chairman of the commission before the Bago Lions Club in Bago City, 20 kilometers south of Bacolod City.

ADMINISTRATOR Jesus Tanchanco of the National Grains Authority (NGA) ordered outright cancellation of licenses and the filing of criminal charges against overpricing grains retailers. The order was issued in the wake of reports that some rice retailers, particularly in Metro Manila are retailing rice beyond the government-pegged price

of P2.10 per kilo NGA rules and regulations specified the penalty for overpricing as imprisonment of not less than one year but not more than two years as a fine of not less than P4,000 but not more than P6,000

July 19—

THE PRESIDENT took up with government and business leaders economic plans that would ensure political stability, improvement of the quality of life, industrialization and modernized farming, regional development, and environmental stability. Among the points taken up was that the land reform program should be expanded to other crops such as sugar because agriculture cannot prosper under the tenancy system. The President discussed these points during the five-hour consultative meeting with the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and the Cabinet on development plans.

AGRICULTURAL guarantee operations of the Land Bank of the Philip pines covering loans granted under Masagana 99, Masaganang Maisan and other food grains reached P2,348,040,522 as of May 31. Land Bank President Basilic Estanislao announced that production loans accepted for guarantee coverage for April and May amounted to P28,055,007 involving 18,309 accounts.

July 20—

PRIVATE sector strongly supported the government in seeking to further liberalize its “open skies” policy to boost tourism in the country. The sector, particularly those coming from the travel industry, manifested its support during the marathon consultative meeting held at the state dining room in Malacañang. Spearheading those in favor of increasing the frequencies of foreign airlines coming into the country was Tourism Secretary Jose D. Aspiras, who is concurrently chairman of the Civil Aeronautics Board.

July 21—

THE First Lady and Metro Manila Governor Imelda Romualdez Marcos attended the ceremonies marking the opening of the first geothermal electric plant in Leyte. The three-megawatt turbine unit—based control natural steam from earth pores—will provide power for the nearby town of Ormoc, Leyte. It is the pioneering effort of a New Zealand assisted project which may eventually produce 100 megawatts of power to help the country move away from oil as a major energy source and to increase electricity generation in remote areas.

Gen. Guillermo A. Pecache, chairman of the National Pollution Control Commission (NPCC) said that starting September 8 this year, smoke, belching government and public utility (PU) vehicles will be grounded until anti-pollution gadgets are installed on them. He reminded the public that under Letter of Instructions No. 551, the deadline set for the installation of anti-pollution devices on government and public utility vehicles is September 7. Under the said LOI, owners of public utility vehicles and government offices were given three months to comply with the requirements on pollution control.

July 22—

PRIME agricultural lands in central plains must no longer be used for industrial or residential purposes to keep agricultural production in step with the increasing population. This policy was discussed by the President during a conference at Malacañang on the 25-year Development Plans. This policy was laid down after farmers and the agrarian officials expressed fears on the increasing encroachments on prime agricultural lands. The President who presided over the meeting attended by government, business and; agricultural leaders, ordered the heads of the National Housing Authority, Department of Agrarian Reform and the Department of Local Government and Community Development to look into the matter.

NATIONAL Housing Authority (NHA) required some 3,000 subdivision owners to post surety bonds equivalent to 100 per-cent of their total development cost before they can sell lots to the public. Maj. Gen Gaudencio V. Tobias,

NHA general manager said this requirement was imposed because of the subdivision owners' failure to post cash bonds as required earlier.

JUSTICE Secretary Vicente Abad Santos acted to stop what he termed as an "anomalous" practice by prospective alien workers who enter the country either as tourists or temporary visitors and then change their status as "pre-arranged" employees of business firms engaged in nationalized activities. In his letter to Immigration Commissioner Edmundo Reyes, the justice secretary said he would stop this anomalous procedure" by disapproving applications for employment in nationalized enterprises made by foreign nationals who are already in the Philippines.

July 23—

GUIDELINES on the local borrowings of multinational companies are to be issued and implemented soon by the Central Bank. The monetary board has opted to adopt the debt-equity ratio scheme in determining how much a multinational company can borrow from domestic banks and financial institutions. An inter-agency committee which will be created to enforce the rules will also monitor the foreign borrowings of MNCs.

July 24—

LABOR Secretary Blas F. Ople said cottage industries absorb a big bulk of Philippine manpower resources not only as workers but also as entrepreneurs. Secretary Ople, who is also the chairman of the Cottage Industry Development Council (CIDC), said "cottage industries have been providing good employment opportunities to the country's increasing labor force." In a conference with officials of the Chamber of Cottage Industries of the Philippines (CCI), he said: "In this light, the first Metro Manila Cottage Industry Conference on August 6 has a great significance to labor. The importance lies in its theme, "Solving Urban Unemployment Through Cottage Industries."

CENTRAL Bank is not giving in to reported IMF pressure—to liberalize import regulations. Sources say the CB stands pat on its decision because the government believes the present rules on luxury goods import ban are sufficient and that the Philippines would not want to spend foreign exchange for commodities unnecessary to development.

July 25—

REORIENTATION of the banking and financial system's lending policy is again clamored by the private sector—from collateral to credit worthiness. The President received a position paper from the private sector headed by Enrique Zobel of the Ayala group containing several proposals including the lending orientation shift.

COLLECTIVE family income during the period from 1971 to 1975 increased by 68.9 per cent or at a clip of almost 20 per cent a year Preliminary government statistics listed 6.8 million families in 1975 whose combined income totalled P40 billion in 1971, 6.3 million families earned P23.7 billion. A pro-rata distribution of the P40 billion gave, each family an average income of P5,840. Its 1971 counterpart's share was P3,375 for a P2,104 or 56.3 per cent increase. For its living expenses, the 1975 family had to spend an average P6,526 representing a P686 deficit from its P5,840 income. The National Census and Statistics Office (NCSO) which released the statistics explained that marked increases shown by the 1971-1975 comparisons must "be taken in light of the fact that the data are at current prices and of recent developments such as the increase of wages of both agricultural and non-agricultural workers including those in the government service, and the spiraling of prices, among other things."

RESTRUCTURING of the whole educational system was proposed by Finance Secretary Cesar T. Virata to make it relevant to the country's economic development. He made this proposal during the consultative meeting of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and representatives of the private sector on the short and long-term national economic development plans meeting at Malacañang. He gave this suggestion after representatives of the private sector, many of whom are educators, expressed their views on the country's educational system as related to the proposed development plan which extends until the year 2000.

July 26—

DEFENSE Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile said that the government policies on Mindanao and the detainees problem have paid off even in the face of adverse propaganda waged on an international scale by certain quarters. He said that the initiatives taken by the national leadership on the Mindanao problem, particularly in the field of international diplomacy, have resulted in closer relations between the Philippines and the Third World, especially the Islamic and Arab nations. On the issue of detainees, the defense chief dismissed an “outright falsehoods” much of the publicity generated abroad on the administration of detainees-by the military here. Secretary Enrile made the remarks in a speech delivered for him by Undersecretary for Munitions Isabelo R. Castro at a luncheon-meeting of the Makati Rotary Club at a hotel in Makati, Metro Manila.

July 27—

THE PRESIDENT said the country is slowly moving towards normalization and that he plans to hold an election soon to find out if the old vices of society had been eliminated. This assurance was reiterated by the President in his remarks before participants in the five-day Association of Southeast Asian Nations seminar on collective bargaining and labor arbitration who called on him at Malacañang. At the same time, he also said that his administration will see to it that labor will pay a big role in the economic development of the country.

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady opened the first Youth Folk Arts Festival of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations at the Cultural Center complex. The first Couple led members of the Cabinet, the diplomatic corps, government officials and delegates from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines at the opening ceremonies highlighted by a fluvial parade on Manila Bay.

July 28—

THE PRESIDENT granted additional incentives to coal operators participating in the country’s development program. In a still unnumbered decree amending PD 972 (Coal Development Act of 1976), the President allowed coal operators—those who head a consortium of coal mine owners—greater reimbursement of mining costs and a larger return on investments.

July 29—

THE PRESIDENT has reiterated the desire of the Philippines to see lasting pence in the Middle East as he expressed understanding of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. He expressed these sentiments during a call at Malacañang by Farouk Kaddoumi, chief of the Palestinian Liberation Organization political department and member of a delegation of the PLO who came to Manila on a two-day visit.

TRADE Undersecretary Vicente Valdepeñas said a long-term contract to supply Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia with Philippine sugar will soon be worked Out with these countries. He said he has informed the President of the intentions of the three countries to buy raw and refined sugar from the Philippines.

DEFENSE Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile announced that the department will no longer entertain complaints which have no bearing on national security. He also announced that on the President’s instructions, the department will limit its issuance of arrest, search and seizure orders (ASS) to cases exclusively falling under military court jurisdiction. The policy further limits the jurisdiction of the military courts, Secretary Enrile said that nonsecurity cases like estafa, robbery, rape and homicide, except when committed by military personnel, will now be handled by civil courts.

July 30—

THE PRESIDENT received overwhelming endorsement not only to maintain the Philippines claim to Sabah, but more importantly, to pursue its settlement to keep the country’s friendly relations with Malaysia and the region. At

the same time, Princess Tarhata Kiram, spokesman of the Sulu sultanate's heirs who claims historic and legal ownership over the North Borneo territory, denied having renounced proprietary rights to Sabah.

THE PRESIDENT ordered; Education Secretary Juan L Manuel to suspend all proposed increases in tuition to give the department of education and culture more time to study the proposals. Adverse reactions to tuition increases from the student population prompted the President to issue the directive.

NATIONAL Grains Authority (NGA) readied punitive measures against erring rice dealers and retailers in the face of an apparent smear campaigns to discredit the government's efforts to stabilize supply and prices of cereals. NGA Administrator Jesus Tanchanco said that his office will file outright criminal charges against erring retailers and dealers. Their licenses will also be revoked permanently and they will be banned from participating in any sector of the cereal business, he added.

July 31—

THE FIRST Lady and Metro Manila Governor Imelda Romualdez Marcos commended the Metropolitan Police Force for "the good work done" and the patriotism that you have displayed many times in the performance of your duties." The occasion was the observance of the 76th anniversary of the Western Police District (formerly the Manila Police Department). She also signed Executive Order No. 7 giving each member of the metropolitan police force an additional uniform allowance of P50 per month effective July 1.

FOREIGN Secretary Carlos P. Romulo confirmed that the President will visit Sabah on the way home from the summit meeting this week He said in an interview with newsmen at Subang International Airport as he flew in to Kuala Lumpur from Manila via Singapore, the purpose of the President's visit is to reciprocate the visit of the chief minister of Sabah, Datuk Harris Salleh.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Month in Review: August, 1977

President's Week in Review: September 1-7, 1977

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

September 1—

THE GOVERNMENT flashed the green light to let foreign airlines increase their frequencies (flights to and from the Philippines) in support of a campaign to attract more tourists to the country. The President directed the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) to allow international airlines to enjoy the "open skies" policy of the country by authorizing more flights to the country. The President also ordered Tourism Secretary Jose D. Aspiras, concurrent chairman of the CAB, to impose no restrictions on chartered flights.

THE PRESIDENT has allowed small parochial or mission schools to raise their fees beyond the 15 per cent allowed by Presidential Decree No. 451. The President's action was prompted by a request from Jaime Cardinal Sin, archbishop of Manila.

THE PRESIDENT has authorized the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (CCP) and the Philippine Chamber of Industries (PCI) to launch formation of a "single voice" of private businessmen. Contained in a handwritten note addressed to Economic Planning Secretary Gerardo P. Sicat and Industry Secretary Vicente T. Paterno, the presidential instruction put an end to a feud brewing between the CCP and PCI, in one hand, and organizers of the Confederation of Economic and Development Associations, on the other.

ASIAN Development Bank approved a \$16-million loan expected benefit some 50,000 engineering students in 20 colleges and universities all over the country. The loan was approved under the government's engineering education project designed to improve the quality of engineering schools and to turn out enough skilled engineers for the country's industrial and infrastructure development.

September 2—

THE PRESIDENT told a group of Japanese parliamentarians he was satisfied with the increasing contacts between Japan, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations member—countries. The delegation of Japanese parliamentarians was headed by Saburo Tsukamoto, secretary general of the Japanese Democratic Socialist party.

INFORMATION Secretary Francisco S. Tatad said that the apparatus of Martial Law was gradually being dismantled because the country has already attained "a considerable measure of social stability and civil peace, and because basic reforms have already taken roots." In a speech before participants in a symposium on the role of mass media in crime prevention, Secretary Tatad pointed out, however, that during the return of normalcy, "pressures upon the fabric of civility in our society will be most felt." Director Lorenzo Cruz of the Bureau of National and Foreign Information read the speech for him.

September 3—

COMPULSORY retirement age of police and fire officers in the Integrated National Police (INP) has been lowered from 65 to 60. Likewise, compulsory retirement age of INP members holding the rank of sergeants and below has been lowered from 65 to 55. The Constabulary-INP high command announced that lowering of compulsory retirement ages of members of the INP was contained in one of the provisions of the INP Personnel Professionalization Law of 1977 which the President signed last August. 26.

September 4—

PILOT centers for non-formal education will be set up in each school division all over the country this year. Secretary of Education Juan L. Manuel ordered establishments of these centers in a recent memorandum. Secretary Manuel said each center should be designed to "serve the needs of Kabataang Barangay, out-of-school youths and

adults to enable them to develop themselves further, to acquire knowledge and skills for more effective social participation, and to contribute better to society.”

September 5—

THE PRESIDENT has released PIG million for the immediate installation of new water mains at the University of the Philippines campus in Diliman. The President’s action was in response to UP President Onofre D. Corpuz’s request for the release of funds to remedy the acute water shortage on the 500 hectare Diliman campus.

THE FIRST Lady and Metro Manila Governor, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, said the Chinese acrobatic and football groups which recently toured the country forged closer ties between the Philippines and China. Mrs. Marcos also said the two goodwill groups benefited the Filipino children “who are the future of the country.” Proceeds from the performances of the acrobats and the games of the football team are earmarked for the Nutrition Foundation of the Philippines and the Population Center of the Philippines.

THE GOVERNMENT moved to make the imposition of the travel tax more systematic. Finance Secretary Cesar Virata informed Secretary Francisco S. Tatad that the Bureau of Internal Revenue is working out a new procedure to clear up the confusion. In a news briefing at Malacañang, Secretary Tatad attributed the confusion to the sudden assignment of BIR personnel deployed elsewhere to the tax collection. He also said the Central Bank denied that it has something to do with recent reports that possession of dollars and other foreign currency is deemed illegal and consequently exposes the violator to arrest.

September 6—

THE GOVERNMENT and private sector forged an agreement to train and harness the talents of 7,000,000 idle out-of-school youth. Heartened by the participation of 500 private firms in the nationwide undertaking, the President committed the government to the joint venture. The project, as initiated by the Kabataang Barangay headed by Imee Marcos, seeks to deal with the problem of the school dropouts by considering their plights with compassion instead of hostility. Stressing the significance of the agreement, the President, speaking at the signing ceremonies at the Philippine Plaza, directed government agencies to complement the participation, of private enterprises.

THE PRESIDENT ordered the release of 500 more detainees from various detention centers throughout the country in pursuance of his policy of reconciliation and in fulfillment of his promise to return the country to normalcy. The 500 detainees composed the fourth group of 2,000 detainees released by the PC on orders of the President. Forty of them were freed from Camp Crame.

September 7—

THE PRESIDENT assumed direct supervision over the Philippine Sugar Commission and, broadened its authority and function. Through Presidential Decree No. 1192 which amends PD 388 (the PSC decree) the President sought to hasten the integrated development and stabilization of the sugar industry.

TOURISTS and temporary visitors, and officials and employees of the Philippine government travelling on official business are exempted from paying the travel tax which took effect September 1. Non professional contract workers are also exempted. These clarifications were issued by the Department of Finance in the wake of confusion over the 15 per cent (based on the fare) travel tax which was imposed in lieu of the lifting of the travel ban.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: September 8-30, 1977

President's Week in Review: October 1-28, 1977

OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

October 1—

TAKING advantage of the presence of the First Lady and Governor of Metro Manila as head of the Philippine delegation to the UN, the President has instructed her to carry a message and take up with the Secretary of State certain pending matters between the two countries. This had been the subject of consultations with Assistant Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke who was here in the Philippines last September 22. In the course of their meeting which lasted for more than an hour, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, reaffirmed to the First Lady what had been stated to the President: "The full recognition of Philippine sovereignty over the military bases and that the United States stands four square behind all of its defense commitments to the Philippines in case of attack." Mrs. Marcos reassured in return the Secretary of State of the enduring friendship of the Philippines and its people to the United States. She also assured the Secretary that she would immediately convey his statement to the President.

THE PRESIDENT called on the various faiths and creeds to help in the great task of promoting unity, social justice, economic development and cultural coherence. He issued the call during the solemn Pontifical Mass commemorating the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Philippine Independent Church at the Philippine International Convention Center.

October 2—

THE PRESIDENT said the Philippines would consider joining other copper-exporting nations in a concerted effort to stabilize the prices and production levels for copper, provided, such efforts would not lead to a cartel. He also said any such move by the government has to be done in close consultations with local copper producers who, he said, suffered a beating during the 1974-75 recession. He made this stand clear to Enrique Valenzuela Blanquier, Chile's minister of mines, who called at Malacañang to convey to him a formal invitation to the Philippines to become a member of the Inter-Government Council of Copper Exporting Countries (CIPEC).

October 3—

THE PRESIDENT approved a 50-percent reduction in travel taxes collected from departing passengers and imposed new reduced rates of travel taxes on travellers, effective October 18. He said this is to "remove the unnecessary barriers to travel and simplify travel regulations." Under Presidential Decree No. 1205 amending PD 1183, as amended, and Republic Act No. 6141, the reduced taxes are: P1,000 for first class passenger, and P600 for economy class. The old rates were P2,000 for first class passenger and P1,260 for economy class.

THE PRESIDENT gave a luncheon in honor of Social Services and Development Secretary Estefania Aldaba Lim who is leaving the Cabinet to assume her new post as Special Representative of the United Nations to the International Year of the Child 1979 (IYC '79).

October 4—

THE PRESIDENT said that the government will not take steps to bring back to the country Eugenio Lopez, Jr. and Sergio Osmeña III, who fled to the United States. "I do not know what the juridical tribunals which have jurisdiction over these persons will do but I personally have no intention of trying to bring them back to the Philippines, the President said. Lopez and Osmeña, who are both facing charges in connection with the plot to assassinate the President, escaped from their detention quarters last October 1 in Fort Bonifacio and flew to Los Angeles, California, by way of Hongkong.

THE PHILIPPINES has accepted the nomination of Vu Tien as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the Philippines. Diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level were established: in July 1976 during the visit in Manila of Phan Hien, Vietnam's deputy minister for foreign affairs.

THE PRESIDENT directed the Department of Trade to study the feasibility of setting up a display center for export products in San Jose City, California. He issued the directive in response to a request made by the visiting trade and investment mission of the San Jose Chambers of Commerce which called on him at Malacañang.

October 5—

THE PRESIDENT has signed Presidential Decree No. 1206 creating the Department of Energy. The new department will consolidate over all policy formulation, implementation, regulation and development of all energy activities. It was created in response to the critical need to further rationalize the country's total energy resource development program to accelerate self-reliance and conservation activities on an integrated and comprehensive basis.

THE COUNTRY'S palay produce for a three-month period ending September 1 this year went up unprecedentedly by 15.5 per cent, compared to last year's yield for the same period, according to Secretary Arturo Taneo in his report to the President. This means an expected harvest of 106 million cavans of palay this crop year, compared to only 92 million cavans last year." Central Luzon and Ilocos Region registered a whopping production .increase of 35.5 per cent and 23.6 per cent, respectively, for the same period, recovering from their two years of bad harvests.

THE PRESIDENT has proclaimed the period from October 8 to 15 this year as registration days for Kabataang Barangay (KB) members throughout the country. In Proclamation No. 1674, he required all KB members from 15 to 18 years of age to register "in accordance with the guidelines prescribed for the purpose."

October 6—

THE PRESIDENT disclosed that supporters of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) are trying to elevate the Mindanao secessionist problem to the United Nations. He spoke at the inauguration of the renovated Manila Hotel which also coincided with the commemoration of its 65 years of existence. The President, who was introduced by Roman Cruz, chairman of the board of directors and president of the Manila Hotel Corp., also directed the restructuring of lower interest of the indebtedness of all hotels that cannot meet government standards.

THE FIRST LADY and Metro Manila Gov. Imelda Romualdez Marcos met twice with President Jimmy Carter, handing him a letter from the President. She later described their talks on Philippine-American issues as "very friendly, very interesting and very fruitful." It was Mrs. Marcos first meeting with President Carter, and the first high-level contact between the Philippine government and the American president since Gerald Ford's visit to Manila in July last year.

THE PRESIDENT gave authorities concerned until the end of the month to submit recommendations on the establishment of a copper smelting plant in the country. He pegged the deadline at a Malacañang meeting with Natural Resources Secretary Jose Leido Jr., Industry Secretary Vicente Paterno, and mining executives. The recommendation, according to the President, should include the source of the equipment and the proposed location of the plant.

THE PRESIDENT has approved an ASEAN trade fair in Manila sometime in May, next year. The trade fair, authorized under Letter of Instructions No. 603, will carry out the agreement on ASEAN preferential trading signed last February 24 by the heads of government of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. The agreement calls for an overall framework for expanding intra-ASEAN trade.

October 7—

THE PRESIDENT leaves for Bicolandia to resume his country-wide “Balik-Barangay” tour which he initiated early last month during his 60th birthday. The President is expected to visit Daet, Camarines Norte; Naga City in Camarines Sur; and Legazpi City in Albay. His sortie to the Bicol region is part of his policy to meet with the ordinary people, to know first hand how they feel about various government programs.

October 8—

THE PRESIDENT pledged that it is the administration’s, firm policy to build a strong base for the nation by improving the living condition of the masses particularly the farmers, laborers and fishermen. He reiterated the government’s basic policy at a mammoth rally held at the town plaza of Sorsogon, Sorsogon shortly upon arrival from Tiwi, where he inspected the geothermal project being set up there in line with the policy to diversify the country’s energy sources. During the rally, the President issued a series of orders and directives designed to remedy the province’s pressing problems.

THE PRESIDENT issued a presidential decree creating a nine-man Abaca Development Authority composed of representatives from the Departments of Agriculture, Trade, Local Government, the Board of Investments, the Central Bank, the Development Bank of the Philippines, the Philippine National Bank and abaca producers and traders. Named to represent the latter two groups were Bernie Silverio of Albay, for traders, and Antonio Florendo of Davao, for producers. The President issued the decree during a mass rally held at the city plaza of Legazpi.

October 9—

THE PRESIDENT ordered all PX goods in the black market seized starting next November 1. He said the seized items will be distributed to charitable and philanthropic institutions to help the indigents and the poor. Malacañang confirmed that the President’s action was designed to stop once and for all the black marketing of PX goods.

October 10—

THE PRESIDENT created P10 million special research fund and specified the research on medicinal plants believed to contain a cure to cancer as the first project to get assistance from said fund. In his speech at Los Baños, Laguna, highlighting the 59th Loyalty Day and Alumni Homecoming the U.P. Lot Baños, the President also set up the Agricultural and Rural Development Scholarship Fund for poor and deserving students, particularly from the rural sector.

October 11—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the Philippine Sugar Commission the release of 107 526,000 kilos of sugar to insure a steady and adequate supply of the commodity in Manila and the rest of the country. In ordering the release, the President directed that 70 per cent of it should go to Luzon and that of this amount for Luzon, 60 per cent should be given to Manila.

October 12—

THE PRESIDENT called upon the officials and employees of the Bureau of Posts to participate in the general effort to rid the government of undesirable elements by cleaning their own ranks of misfits and corrupt personnel. Speaking at the Diamond Jubilee anniversary celebration of the bureau at Maharlika Hall, the President, however, said: “But I am happy that, today, there has been a marked improvement in the image of the Bureau of Posts.”

October 13—

RELEASE of P40 million to initially fund the priority infrastructure projects in the Samar-Leyte region has been authorized by the President. Highways Secretary Baltazar Aquino said the President’s action is in line With the government policy of upgrading the depressed areas in the country.

OCTOBER 15 to 21 was declared by the President Agrarian Reform Week. In declaring the week through Proclamation No. 1679, he said it is fitting that the event be celebrated with meaningful programs to focus public attention on its significance. October 21 is the fifth anniversary of Presidential Decree No. 27, otherwise known as the Tenant Emancipation Law, which emancipated tenant-farmers in rice and corn lands.

October 14—

THE PRESIDENT declared that the solution to the pressing housing problem is one of the top priority programs of the government. Addressing a national conference on Joint Venture Housing Program between the private sector and the National Housing Authority, at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang, he emphasized that housing is second only; in priority to food production. During the affair, the President signed a decree granting further incentives for subdivision owners and developers. Another decree signed in the presence of the conferees extends housing benefits provided by domestic corporations and partnerships to their employees and workers, to low-income families in general.

THE PRESIDENT signed a decree establishing the Civil Service Academy to formulate and implement centralized training programs for the civil service. He signed PD 1218 before graduates of the Junior Executive Training Program (JET) and the Supervisory Training for Effective Administrative Management (STREAM) whom he addressed at the Philippine international Convention Center. Under the decree the academy will be responsible for the planning, formulation and implementation of training and other career development programs particularly for those in middle management positions.

October 15—

THE PRESIDENT said that he is ready to submit himself to an election “if this is the desire of our people.” This statement was made by the President when asked by newsmen to comment on the proposal calling on the President to submit himself to an election as soon as possible.

October 16—

LAND Bank announced that it has already financed the transfer of 84,450 hectares of rice and corn lands worth P557 million to 45,000 former tenants of 2,782 former landowners during five years of Operation Land Transfer. This is in addition to 22,000 hectares of tenanted agricultural lands valued at P70 million owned by 93 landowners, tilled by 10,604 tenant farmers acquired from 1966 to 1972 under RA 3844, otherwise known as the Agricultural Land Reform Code.

October 17—

CITIZENSHIP by naturalization was granted to 5,295 aliens by the President through promulgation of PD 1220 on recommendation of the special committee on naturalization headed by Solicitor General Estelito Mendoza, with Undersecretary Manuel Collantes and Major General Fabian Ver, as members. PDs 836, 923 and 1055 had previously been issued through which 2,802; 4,138; and 4,165 aliens, respectively, were granted naturalization.

October 18—

THE PRESIDENT received officials of Fiat of Italy headed by the vice chairman and general manager, Senator Umberto Agnelli, who paid their respects and expressed the desire to participate in the Progressive Truck Manufacturing Program (PTMP).

October 19—

THE PRESIDENT met with the print and broadcast media councils to receive their progress reports in connection with their functions in upgrading local media. The organization of the print and broadcast media councils as self-

regulatory bodies were authorized in 1974 under Presidential Decree No. 576. They took over the functions of the abolished Media Advisory Council and the Bureau of Standards for Mass Media.

ENERGY Secretary Geronimo Z. Velasco confirmed the presence of commercial quantities of oil in the country. Secretary Velasco, concurrent Philippine National Oil Co. chairman, made the confirmation during a testimonial luncheon tendered by the National Association of Mapua Alumni at the Century Park Sheraton Hotel.

THE PRESIDENT signed Presidential Decree No. 1222 scheduling the registration of voters for October 29 and 30 and November 4 and 5. The registration on the precinct level is required under PD No. 1187. He also signed PD No. 1223 which provides that the third member of the three-man Citizen's Registration Committee for each voting center shall be a member of either the barangay council or Buklod ng mga Kabataang Kawani or Kabataang Barangay or a government official or employee. Another related decree signed by the President is PD No. 1215 which authorized the Commission on Elections to permit any of its personnel who is a member of the bar to act as registration officer in any city, municipality or municipal district whenever the need arises and to authorize election clerks to administer the oath required in the application; for registration to facilitate registration of voters.

THE PRESIDENT set for October 29-30 the next session of the Batasang Bayan to tackle the nationwide public hearings on government structure and other unsettled electoral issues. The legislative advisory council will also assess the people's views on coming elections as expressed in the recent public consultations.

October 20—

THE PRESIDENT urged insurance institutions to fully tap their financial resources and make them available for funding development programs of the Third World. He said that as an institution for economic and social development, the insurance industry is in a position to increase investments realized through the volume of various insurance business in priority projects. He issued the call in a speech keynoting the first Third World Insurance Congress at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC).

AGRARIAN Reform Secretary Conrado F. Estrella said agrarian reform is the country's shortcut towards industrialization. In an interview on the eve of the fifth anniversary of the signing of the Tenant Emancipation Decree, he said, "Once the living standards of the people in the countryside are improved by land reform, the need for industrial goods will increase and the products of industry will have a ready market." Under agrarian reform, Secretary Estrella said, the farmer is not only made the owner of the land he cultivates but is also provided with a "package of services" consisting of credit extension services and other facilities to help speed up the progress of new landowners.

October 21—

THE PRESIDENT received Mexican veterans of the Philippine liberation who came to pay their respects and to present him with a replica of the *Campana del Pueblo de Dolores*. Headed by Alfonso Ovellar Ponce de Leon, the veterans belong to Escuadron 201 which operated with the United States Air Force based in Clark Air force base during the liberation campaign in 1944 and 1945.

October 22—

THE PRESIDENT called for national unity and solidarity in solving the urgent and critical problems facing the Filipino people. Addressing the leaders and members of the Protestant Evangelical Church at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang on the occasion of 78th founding anniversary of the church, the President said: "Never before since the revolution have we needed more the strength of our solidarity and fraternity as a people and never before had we the opportunity to realize our solidarity make change and progress." Emphasizing the important role the church plays in nation building, he said tranquility and progress can never be realized without the "transcendental acts of the spirit which acknowledge and confirm the brotherhood that we all share."

THE PRESIDENT has directed representatives of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and the Philippine Airlines (PAL) to sit down and thresh out the difference between PAL's offer and GSIS's counter-offer on the sale of Rubicon's PAL shareholdings to the government. Rubicon holds 74.2 per cent of PAL shares, while the GSIS has 24.6 per cent. The President's order, contained in a memorandum to GSIS Manager Roman A. Cruz Jr. and PAL Chairman-President Benigno T. Toda dated October 20, came as a result of Toda's recommendation to the President last October 19 for the government to reacquire stock control of PAL so that the airline company could be provided additional capital for its expansion program.

October 23—

MALACAÑANG announced that PX items may still be sold in the markets up to the end of the year so long as the dealer submit to government inventory of all their items and pay the corresponding taxes. Malacañang said this did not mean an extension of the November 1 deadline after which all PX goods will be confiscated and given to charitable institutions.

October 24—

THE PRESIDENT reaffirmed Philippine support for the "principles, the organization, and the goals of the United Nations" and called on other member nations to do the same. Speaking at the 32nd anniversary celebration of the UN at the Philippine International Convention Center, the President also called on the member states to make a "clear-eyed assessment" of the world body towards enhancing its role in building a "true world community."

THE PRESIDENT said he has approved a petition of Christians and Muslims in Mindanao to organize themselves into defense units to protect their villagers from terrorist attacks. In a briefing for newsmen in his study at Malacañang, he also disclosed that he has authorized the armed forces to supply the villagers with arms to be taken from the stockpile of surrendered and captured firearms.

October 25—

THE PRESIDENT directed the Department of Local Government and Community Development (DLGCD) to prepare for the establishment of autonomous regional governments in Mindanao. Local Government Secretary Jose A. Roño said the regional governments which will include elective regional legislative assemblies, will be set up pursuant to the results of the October 1976 referendum-plebiscite and within the context of the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

THE PRESIDENT signed a \$45-million concessional loan granted by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for a nationwide road improvement program. The loan will earn an interest of 8.3 per cent annually over a period of 20 years. Repayment starts January 1983. The loan will be used to upgrade two major roads and 12 secondary roads in Luzon with a total length of 518 kilometers. Another 1,000 kilometers of road in the Visayas and Mindanao shall also be benefited by the loan.

THE PRESIDENT said he did not foresee any difficulties in Philippine-American relations although there may be some differences in the negotiations in the bases and other military agreements. Present problems may affect the mutual defense pact, military assistance agreement and military bases agreement, he added. He made these remarks when he received members of the Reunion for Peace (US) program who called at Malacañang.

ALL foreign students in the Philippines, including their wives and children, are now exempted from the travel tax, the President announced. Keynoting the 32nd anniversary of the United Nations (UN) charter at the Philippine International Convention Center, the President made the announcement shortly after the Philippine International Friendship Organization (FIFO) presented trophies to three outstanding foreign students taking up advanced courses at the University of the Philippines. The President, however, said the exemption shall apply to foreign students whose wives and children are not permanent residents of the Philippines.

October 26—

THROUGH Proclamation No. 1685, the President proclaimed October 31 and November 1, 1977 special public holidays to give full opportunity for the celebration of All Saints Day, a cherished tradition of paying homage to the departed.

October 27—

THE PRESIDENT welcomed a proposal for wider Philippine-West German cooperation in scientific research and technological development. The proposal was made to the President by Dr. Am Freytag in charge of bilateral relations with Eastern countries in the federal Ministry of Research and Technology, and head of the first German scientific mission to the Philippines. The group called on the President at Malacañang.

THE PRESIDENT received, separately, a group of bank officials and another group, representing the "Campus Crusade for Christ" who paid their respects. The President first received the officials of the Manufacturers Hanover Trust Co. headed by John F. McGillicuddy who sounded the President on how to encourage the expansion of off-shore banking facilities. Later, he received the foreign and local leaders of the Campus Crusade for Christ, headed by Frank E. Obien, representing Dr. William R. Bright, founder and president of the CCC International. They were accompanied by Education Secretary Juan L. Manuel.

THE PRESIDENT hosted a luncheon at Malacañang in honor of the officers and directors of Capital Research and Management Co., one of the oldest and largest investment management firms in the United States and its worldwide arm, the New Perspective Fund. They are meeting for the first time in Manila to gain direct understanding of current and future investment possibilities here. They were accompanied by officers of Marcopper Mining Corp., Industry Secretary Vicente Paterno and Finance Secretary Cesar Virata.

October 28—

THE PRESIDENT called for closer cooperation in the energy field among the countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and in the development of alternative sources of energy. In opening the Third Annual Meeting of the ASEAN Council on Petroleum (ASCOPE) at the Philippine International Convention Center, he emphasized that it is in this sphere that fruitful action will insure energy self-reliance for the ASEAN.

THE PRESIDENT said he would like to submit himself to an election in order to establish a precedent for future Presidents of this country. At a caucus with members of the Batasang Bayan held at Malacañang, the President said: "No body is more conscious of the immensity and the awesome nature of the power of the President under Martial Law than I am." He added however: "I don't care whether it is an election or not, but we must submit the political leadership to the judgment of the people periodically. It is my hope that we will be able to arrive at some kind of a scheme or mechanism by which I can submit myself to the people."

RELATIONSHIP between the Philippines and Australia, the President said, should be viewed over the long haul and their policies extend "beyond this particular period of distress." He spoke before members of the Philippine-Australia Joint Business Cooperation Committee who called on him at Malacañang at the end of their three-day meeting here, their third joint meeting in as many years. He explained that although trade between the two nations have recently suffered from some restrictions, private businessmen have ample leeway to expand trade and other relations between them. He said the efforts of businessmen of both nations to work together "within the limits and constraints of policy" of their governments speak well of their two peoples.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Month in Review: November, 1977

OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

November 1—

THE PRESIDENT directed that arrests, searches and seizures should be made only under established rules and procedures, including the serving of a proper warrant issued by competent military or civil courts. However, the so-called citizen's arrest may be effected even in the absence of a warrant under the circumstances provided for in Section 6, Rule 113 of the Rules of Court. The President has issued Letter of Instructions No. 612 to this effect.

November 2—

INTERNATIONAL Labor Organization (ILO) "has the will and the strength to survive" despite the United States' decision to withdraw. Labor Secretary Blas F. Ople, who was president of the International Labor conference in 1975, made this assessment following President Carter's formal announcement of US' decision to pull out of the ILO.

November 3—

THE PRESIDENT called on the private sector to extend beyond the sphere of consultation the relationship it had developed and is developing with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations machinery and governments. He underscored this fact in his speech at the third conference of the ASEAN Chambers of Commerce and Industries at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC). He added saying the private sectors in the ASEAN should continue their dialogues with their respective governments for their full participation in the implementation and fulfillment of the ASEAN projects and programs.

PHILIPPINE National Bank and the Central Bank were ordered by the President to release immediately the crop loan requirements of the sugar industry to enable the country to fill its sugar quota under its international commitments. He issued the order upon being presented with the text of the agreement adopted by the Sugar Conference of the United Nations in Geneva last month. The presentation was made by Chairman Roberto S. Benedicto of the Philippine Sugar Commission who headed the delegation which represented the country in the conference.

COMMISSION on Elections announced that 15-year-olds will also vote in the December 17 referendum, but their votes will be counted separately from the votes of the 18-year-olds and above, as done in past refenda. Comelec Chairman Leonardo B. Perez cited Section 3 of Presidential Decree No. 1229 issued last October 30 calling a referendum asking the people to vote on whether or not the President, should continue in office even after the organization of the interim Batasang Pambansa, possibly in April or May next year.

November 4—

THE PRESIDENT has ordered a price support for soybeans, mongo and sorghum to increase production of these agricultural crops and help farmers meet the high cost of producing them. In Presidential Decree No. 1212, the President also placed under the sole authority of the National Grains Authority (NGA) the importation of soybeans, mongo, sorghum and other feedgrains or their substitutes.

November 5—

THE PRESIDENT has approved a proposal of lumbermen and wood manufacturers to set up their own shipping lines for the exclusive shipping of plywood and lumber to ASEAN countries. He has authorized government support of this project through financing and tax exemptions for the procurement of ships both from abroad and from domestic shipbuilders.

THE PRESIDENT declared November 7 a special public holiday in Metropolitan Manila to give its people the opportunity to celebrate with fitting ceremonies the second anniversary of the creation of the Metropolitan Manila Commission which falls on that date.

THE FIRST Lady and Metro Manila Gov. Imelda Romualdez Marcos reported upon her return that improved relations between the Philippines and the United States can be expected. She gave a brief summary of her mission to US which she described as “one of the most challenging assignments outside the country.” She left the country on September 26 on a mission for the President.

THE GOVERNMENT will set up pesticide-safe zones around lakes and rivers all over the country to protect marine and fish life from contamination by harmful chemicals. Administrator Miguel Zosa of the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) who is also officer-in-charge of the Department of Agriculture said the program will be implemented nationwide by the start of the main crop season next year.

November 6—

NATIONAL Grains Authority (NGA) Administrator Jess Tanchanco warned middlemen against “interfering in the sale of farmers’ produce to the agency to take advantage of the government’s grain price support. The warning came in the wake of reports that several grain traders, other than farmers or grain producers, “are selling or offering to sell palay, corn, and other grains to the NGA.”

ABOUT 511,000 high school graduates and graduating students will troop to 1,300 examination centers to take the fifth national college entrance examination (NCEE). Even troubled areas in Mindanao, which have 132 test sites and about 62,000 examinees, are expected to be able to hold the test today.

November 7—

THE PRESIDENT declared the country as “not yet ready to shift to the parliamentary system of government.” He said the present set-up should continue. He cited this position to back his appeal for a “yes” vote in the December 17 referendum. The President, inspired by the enthusiastic crowd that packed the Folk Arts Theater, also explained the issues involved in next month’s referendum.

Members of the barangay community brigades in Metro Manila were granted by the President certain privileges, and vested them with the power of being agents of persons in authority. This was in recognition of their role in various community activities. The community brigades include the barangay ladies, auxiliary, the disaster, traffic auxiliary and the “tanod barangay” brigades. At the same time, the President ordered: 1) Exemption of the government officials and employees who are serving as barangay officials from the 15-day rural service requirement. 2) Deputized barangay captains in Metro Manila to help implement the uniform building code and as agents of the National Pollution Control Commission (NPCC).

METRO Manila Governor Imelda Romualdez Marcos paid tribute to the metropolitan citizenry for what she said was their total commitment to help solve the city’s problems. She said the conditions were the results of centuries of neglect and indifference. She thanked the barangays, the youth, the businessmen, and all sectors of the community for the “spirit of participation which has not only stopped the process of decay and death in the city but has, more importantly, transfigured metropolitan life.”

November 8—

THE PRESIDENT received Gen. Vladimir Alexander Shatalov, chief cosmonaut in charge of Soviet space agency and member of the Supreme Soviet, who paid a courtesy call at Malacañang. With Gen. Shatalov were Igor Poberezsky, Soviet interpreter and Tagalog scholar and Charge d’affaires Valery Butrin. They were escorted to Malacañang by Labor Secretary Blas F. Ople, chairman of the RP-USSR Friendship Society.

November 9—

THE PRESIDENT received 40 provincial and municipal officials from all over the country who called at Malacañang to pay their respects from the College of Public Administration of the University of the Philippines where they underwent a 14-week training in Local Administration. Headed by Gov. Faustino Dy of Isabela, class president, the local officials representing all 12 regions of the country, including three Muslims from Mindanao and Sulu, presented the President with a resolution pledging their active participation in the forthcoming December 17 referendum.

THE PRESIDENT expressed the hope that the people in the South would be able to participate actively in the coming December 17 referendum. He said their participation could help bring about national unity. He spoke before 40 municipal and provincial officials who lunched with him at Malacañang.

THE PRESIDENT ordered Commissioner Gregorio Bilog Jr. of the Land Registration Commission (LRC) to go on leave of absence effective at once and accepted the resignation of LRC Assistant Commissioner Ramon V. Puruganan. He did this “pending the investigation I have ordered concerning reports and charges of certain anomalies in the issuance of titles or transfers of certificate,” involving the LRC.

November 10—

THE PRESIDENT pledged, the complete support and assistance of the national government to further scientific and technological research. He gave this assurance of support and assistance during the fifth anniversary celebration of the Philippine Council for Agricultural and Resources Research at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang.

THE PRESIDENT said the question of whether Or not curfew should be reimposed will not be put before the electorate in the December 17 referendum. The statement was made in response to a query from Chairman Leonardo Perez of the Commission on Elections.

November 11—

QUESTION of whether or not to reimpose curfew shall be decided on the basis of public welfare and not on popular demand, the President said. In a conference with provincial governors and city mayors at Malacañang, the President said that the question will be decided after the December 17 referendum in order to give interested parties all the opportunity to campaign on the issues involved in the referendum.

THE PRESIDENT received a letter from US President Jimmy Carter in which the latter agreed that the talks on the use of the military bases by the Americans be resumed by those who had a hand on the negotiations. The American President’s letter was delivered to the President by the new American ambassador David Newsom during a one-hour conference with the President at Malacañang. Earlier in the morning, Ambassador Newsom presented his credentials to the President as the new US ambassador replacing Ambassador William H. Sullivan who was reassigned to Iran.

November 12—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the freezing of action on all contracts pending at the Department of Public Highways until after he has created a Special Bidding Committee which will, henceforth, pass upon these contracts. The President’s order came in the wake of reports of irregularities in the awarding of some contracts to private contractors.

November 13—

LABOR Secretary Blas F. Ople has announced that the Department of Labor’s regional office No. 4-A is now operational. The new office which cover 11 provinces and eight cities in Southern Tagalog, is headed by lawyer Dioscora C. Arellano as regional director with Danilo P. Cruz as assistant director.

November 14—

DEPARTMENT of Education and Culture will set up 182 new decentralized learning resource centers in seven regions identified as the more educationally disadvantaged areas. DEC Secretary Juan L. Manuel said the DLRC's to be set up through the educational development projects implementing task force (Edpita) and the United Nations Children's Fund, will bring to 238 such centers.

November 15—

THE PHILIPPINE policy to promote closer understanding and friendship with all peace-loving countries of the world on the bases of sovereignty equality, non-interference and mutual benefit was reaffirmed by the President. His remarks was made after receiving the letter of credence of Ambassador Vu Tien, the first envoy to Manila of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The President said that although the Philippines is not a rich country, it has managed to extend economic aid for Vietnam's reconstruction and rehabilitation. The aid included basic testing equipment, laboratory supplies, and seeds for experimental farms.

November 16—

THE PHILIPPINES and the United States governments agreed *in principle* on the installation of Filipino commanders for Subic, Clark and other military bases as well as the definition of the extent of US military facilities. Meeting formally for the first time this year at the Malacañang state dining hall, the RP-US panels reached an accord in the presence of the President and Ambassador David Newsom, who represents the US government.

THE PRESIDENT ordered the immediate release of P2 million for the relief of typhoon Uding victims. He also received damage reports from his Cabinet members who informed him that destruction to crops, communications and transportation was negligible.

GSIS General Manager Roman A. Cruz Jr. was designated by the President as the new chairman and president of Philippine Airlines (PAL). He will succeed Benigno Toda Jr., who has served in that capacity since the Macapagal administration. The GSIS which he also heads is now the parent company of PAL. At present it owns 92 per cent of the outstanding capital stock of PAL, which was recently increased from P25 million to P250 million.

THE PRESIDENT discussed with the Cabinet the impact upon the sugar industry of the order of US President Jimmy Carter to increase the import duties on sugar. Ordering a reexamination of domestic and international prices of sugar and other related matters, the President said a quota system may have to be established among sugar producers.

November 17—

THE PRESIDENT has paved the way for the acquisition of private lands within the limits of the proposed 20,312-hectare *Lungsod Silangan* town-site in the northern part of Rizal. He issued Letter of Instructions No. 625, directing, among others: 1) The Solicitor General to immediately start condemning proceedings for the acquisition of said lands, in accordance with Public Land Act and the new constitution; 2) The secretary of natural resources and the director of lands to take over the management, administration and disposition of the acquired lands, and to immediately do a boundary and parcellary survey of all lands within the newly established townsite and institute the necessary court proceedings for the compulsory settlement and adjudication of private claims therein; 3) The chairman of the Human Settlement Commission to prepare a total framework plan for the new townsite, as well as detailed development plans by phases according to priorities that it may deem fit, and 4) The budget commissioner to release such funds as may be necessary for the condemnation, of the privately owned lands, for the cadastral survey and land use inventory, as well as for the development planning of the new townsite.

November 18—

THE PRESIDENT approved the sale of 15,000 metric tons of Philippine rice to Indonesia, marking the first time ever in the New Society that the country will export the commodity. The rice export, worth P31.5 million in domestic price equivalent, was approved by the President in the spirit of ASEAN cooperation and in view of the current surplus of rice in the country.

THE PRESIDENT emphasized the need to train the young for future leadership in order to insure the continuity of government programs, particularly of the radical reforms under the New Society. Speaking before the first 67 graduates of the Future Leaders Program at the Hall of Unity and Brotherhood of Malacañang, the President singled out the graduates as “the vanguard, the cutting edge and spearhead of the new group of leaders who will show the way for others to follow.” In order to better prepare them for the task of future leadership, he instructed the Civil Service Commission and the heads of departments and agencies concerned to “expose them to the different government programs, and to make provision for the further career development of young people.”

UPON recommendation of the Commission on Elections (Comelec), the President set November 27 as an additional day for the general registration of the qualified voters to enable those who have not register to register in the voting centers. The nationwide listing of voters was held last October 29-30 and November 4-5, as specified under Presidential Decree No. 1187, which seeks to establish a new voting registry.

November 19—

THE PRESIDENT called upon the critics of his administration to express their views freely and to help clarify the issues involved in the December 17 referendum. In a speech at the annual reunion of the *kauyagan nen Polaris*, Inc. (Pangasinan Civic Confederation) held at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), the President directed the media to give equal time and space to those in opposition to any of the policies of the administration.

THE PRESIDENT said that the measure of a great newspaper or magazine is the decree of service it provides its readers and the larger society, the causes it promotes and the tendencies it corrects or rectifies. In brief remarks at ceremonies commemorating the 5th anniversary of *Focus* magazine held at its new offices and plant in Port Area, the President said in its chosen task of educating public opinion, the press can pursue that mission in innumerable ways. And the test of its worth is always the degree of public good and welfare that its work may advance or deter, he said.

November 20—

TRADE Secretary Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. said garments and television components would be given more promotional emphasis since these are notably lower in price and are of better quality than those exported to Switzerland by other countries. He told a visiting Swiss delegation, headed by Klaus Jacobi, delegate of the Federal Council for Trade Agreements and governor of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) that the Philippines would also seek an increase in its exports of raw coffee, semi-conductor devices and nickel to Switzerland.

November 21—

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady and Metro Manila Governor, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, received Dr. and Mrs. Billy Graham who made a courtesy call. The President later also received Markus G. Kaiser, executive of the Swiss Banking firm of Rhan Bodmer and Co., who also came to pay his respects.

SPECIAL committee to take charge of all arrangements for the nationwide commemoration of the 81st death anniversary of Dr. Jose P. Rizal on December 30 has been created by the President. Created through Administrative Order No. 423, the committee is composed of Education Undersecretary Narciso Albarracin and Presidential Assistant Ronaldo B. Zamora, as chairman and vice chairman, respectively.

November 22—

THE PRESIDENT battled for increased trade between Japan and the countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). "The Philippines and almost all, if not all, of the ASEAN countries believe in trade much more than in aid from Japan," the President told a 59 man delegation of the young members of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party of Japan conducting a study tour of ASEAN countries, who called at Malacañang. Later, the President also received the Bank of Tokyo officials, who also made a courtesy call before leaving after inaugurating their off-shore banking unit in Makati, Metro Manila.

THE PRESIDENT welcomed the interest shown by Switzerland in expanding trade relations not only with the Philippines but with all of Southeast Asia, in sending the Swiss-ASEAN Goodwill Mission to the region. He also expressed elation in receiving a delegation in which the private sector is strongly represented. The Swiss goodwill mission is touring Southeast Asia in an effort to find ways and means of strengthening and deepening relations with ASEAN countries.

November 23—

THE FIRST Lady and Metro Manila Governor, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, stressed that the government's task of giving man a better quality of life, total renewal and a New Society that is compassionate is "but a redemption of both his body and spirit." She was guest speaker at the opening ceremonies of the Billy Graham Crusade '77 at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC). She said that the Filipino people are trying to liberate themselves from the "disabling ingredients", traumas, violence and obscenities of the past in order to "emerge renewed and become truly human." Citing the small successes that the government had achieved, she said that as cities here have become more orderly and intellectual needs are being attended to "we can never have enough of divine leadership and its spiritual fullness." Expressing gratitude at the Crusade's presence in the Philippines, she said that this consciousness of Christ will move us to a eucharist of total renewal.

November 24—

THE PRESIDENT moved to insure Filipino control of the construction industry by issuing Letter of Instructions No. 630. The LOI provides that bidding awards or negotiation of primarily civil work contracts shall be limited to Filipino individuals, corporations, partnership, or association, 75 per cent of the capital of which is owned by Filipinos. To guarantee compliance, every contracting government entity, is required to see to it that no contractor should enter into an agreement, tie-up, or joint venture arrangement with a foreigner to thwart the provisions of the Anti-Dummy Law. However, the President said LOI should not go against present and future commitments on bidding of contracts financed partly or wholly by funds from international lending institutions.

THE PRESIDENT accused former President Diosdado Macapagal of personally aggravating the communist rebellion in Central Luzon and of spawning the bitter secessionist fighting in the South. He issued the strongly worded statement in reply to an indictment of the Martial Law government by his predecessor whom he defeated in a bid for reelection in 1965. Opposition leaders headed by Macapagal, have finally broken their imposed silence and have, resumed criticizing the President and his Martial Law regime.

EIGHT measures to help ease the financial problems of the nation's hospitals were implemented by the President. He announced the move in a keynote address at the opening of the 28th annual national convention of the Philippine Hospital Association (PHA).

THE FIRST Lady and Metro Manila Gov. Imelda Romualdez Marcos pledged to clean up the "non-physical debris" in the metropolis generated by "spiritual and mental pollution" and indicated the media for its "continuing role" in debasing human values. Addressing the Rotary Club of Manila at the Philippine Plaza's Grand Ballroom, the First Lady said, "we must proceed against spiritual and mental pollution, or the pollution of values."

November 25—

THE PRESIDENT stressed the role of religion as a "tremendous force for reform and change in society and in the world." He was speaking at the national prayer breakfast held at the Philippine Plaza Hotel. The visiting American

Evangelist, Billy Graham, also addressed the meeting. The President said he shares the view of religious leaders like Graham “of the need for men and nations to share with one another, and of the need of the poorer nations to share in the boons of progress in our time.”

November 26—

THE PRESIDENT put the question of Martial Law as one of the three main issues the people will decide in the coming December 17 referendum and in case of a “no” vote he pledged: “I will lift Martial Law immediately.” Speaking before the 20th general assembly of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines at Camp Aguinaldo, the President listed the other two issues as follows: 1) The question of his continuance as President which is the subject of the question in the coming referendum; and 2) The national development program drawn up by the present political leadership.

THE PRESIDENT attended a special mass on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the National Children’s Medical Center at Banawe, Quezon City. In his short remarks after the mass, he said the medical center will also enjoy the incentives he had ordered for all hospitals during his opening remarks at the 28th annual national convention of the Philippine Hospital Association (PHA).

November 27—

THE PRESIDENT expressed deep concern over the growing protectionism in world trade, saying that any trade restrictions “tend to result in more tensions in the world.” He made this observation in his talk with Francis Blanchard, director general of the International Labor Organization (ILO) who called on the President immediately after his arrival here for a ten-day official visit. Blanchard briefed the President on the activities of the ILO, especially the steps it has taken since the withdrawal from the organization of the United States last November 1.

November 28—

THE PRESIDENT imposed a “Mine Wastes and Tailings Fee” on all mining firms operating in the country. Under Presidential Decree No. 1251, the fee will accrue to a reserve fund to pay for damages caused by the mining firms’ pollution on lands, agricultural crops and forest products, marine and aquatic resources, and infrastructure, due to their operations. The fee, the amount is to be, determined by the secretary of natural resources upon the recommendation of the director of mines, will in turn be used to revegetate and rehabilitate silted farm lands and other areas devoted to agriculture, aquaculture and fishing, and to reconstruct infrastructure.

OFFICE of the President banned any government official and employee from accepting private employment in any capacity without prior authority from it. The ban, contained in Memorandum Circular No. 1025, was issued by Presidential Assistant Juan C. Tuvera by order of the President. It takes effect immediately. In this connection, Secretary Tuvera directed all government officials and employees now employed in any private agency, on a part-time basis or otherwise, to submit to the Office of the President their names, private employment, and the hours devoted to it.

ANCIENT Order of Sikatuna, with rank of datu, was conferred by the President on Ambassador Jamiluddin Hasan of Pakistan, who has been called home for reassignment. The award was conferred in recognition of the outgoing Pakistani envoy’s services in the field of international relations as the worthy spokesman of his government and people.

THE PRESIDENT received the members of Chaplain Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, who pledged continued and unstinted support to the President’s leadership, particularly in cleaning up the moral and spiritual pollution and in holding the referendum on December 17. The President told the group that he had deliberately gone out of his way to bring into focus the spiritual and moral problems of the New Society because the ways of justice do not seem sufficient to clean up the ranks, not only in the civil government but of ordinary citizen groups, as well as in the military.

November 29–

THE PRESIDENT increased the Philippine contribution to the International Labor Organization (ILO) by 25 per cent of its present contribution. He announced the increase at the opening of the 17th session of the Asian Advisory Committee of the ILO at the Philippine International Convention Center, in response to an appeal made by Francis Blanehard, ILO director general.

THE PRESIDENT approved a proposal that a bilateral trade agreement be entered into between the Philippines and Chile with the view to stepping up trade relations between the two countries. He gave his approval during the call at Malacañang of an official trade mission from Chile headed by Minister of Economy Pablo Baraona.

November 30—

THE PRESIDENT said that the reason for the coming December 17 referendum is that “circumstances prevailing in the country today require the counsel and guidance of the people.” In an address read for him by Information Secretary Francisco S. Tatad at the fifth anniversary celebration of the *Kilusang Mabuhay ang Pilipino* (KMP) at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), the President thus urged the people “to study the issues well, to think along and hard upon the subtler questions posed and implied by the referendum”, before rendering their decisions.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Month in Review: December, 1977

President's Week in Review: January 1-7, 1978

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

January 1—

THE PRESIDENT and the First Family were joined by guests at the traditional mass held in Malacañang to welcome the New Year. Among the guests were members of the diplomatic corps.

DOMESTIC trade contributed P14 million or 23 per cent of the Philippines gross national Product (GNP). In terms of growth, local commerce rose by 5.4 percent. Domestic trade's contribution to net domestic product (NDP) averaged 22.4 percent compared to the 31 percent share of agriculture and the 27.7 percent participation of the industrial sector. Trade Secretary Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. cited highlights of domestic trade performance for 1977 and foresaw a moderate growth for the ensuing year.

PUBLIC Works Secretary Alfredo L. Juinio directed all offices and agencies under the Department of Public Works, Transportation and Communications to ship all their import cargoes through Philippine air and sea carriers whenever possible pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 894, as amended. Under PD Nos. 806, 894 and 917, all government agencies as well as private parties that are beneficiaries of loans, credits or guarantees from the government and its institutions are required to give preference to Philippine flag carriers in the transport of their cargoes.

January 2—

TENANTS working in rubber, pineapple, banana, coconut and sugar plantations will soon become part owners of the land they till. Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado T. Estrella said fieldmen of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) were conducting a survey to determine the tenanted crop plantations which will be converted to corporations with tenants as co-owners. Secretary Estrella said only tenanted crop plantations of 25 hectares and above will be included in the survey. Plantations being worked by hired laborers, and not by tenants, will not be included, he added.

January 3—

“UNDERBOARD” doctors and nurses will now have to render four months of rural health service, instead of six, although their allowance has been raised from P250 to P300. The changes were approved by the President on recommendation of Health Secretary Clemente Gatmaitan.

January 4—

COCONUT products are still the Philippines' strongest export commodity, turning in record export earnings of \$765.3 million in 1977, or an increase of 38 percent over 1976, according to a report of the United Coconut Association of the Philippines. Coconut products contributed more than one-fourth of the country's total exports last year.

January 5—

THE PRESIDENT corrected certain misimpressions about the Philippine-style martial law in his talks with a visiting American congressional delegation headed by Rep. Lester L. Wolff (Dem., NY). The Wolff group, including nine congressmen, the deputy assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, and a special assistant to President Jimmy Carter, were in the country in the course of a fact-finding mission in the region.

THE PRESIDENT vowed to pursue with greater vigor the development of economic and trade relations with all Socialist countries. He made these remarks when he received at Malacañang the letters of credence of Ambassador Valerian Vladimirovich Mikhailov as the first ambassador of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR).

A BUDGET of P852.3-million, which puts emphasis on planned metropolitan growth, was approved for Metro Manila this year. The First Lady and Metro Manila Governor, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, signed the budget message in the presence of the town and city mayors of Metro Manila at the Heroes Hall, Malacañang. The budget emphasizes proper land use and resource management; improvement of institutional facilities for health, education, and social welfare, reduction or elimination of blighted areas; improvement of local administrative machinery; and more efficient fiscal administration.

THE PRESIDENT created a three-man committee to review, evaluate and recommend, for his final consideration, awards of contracts involving P20 million and above, whether awarded through public bidding or negotiation. Subject to the contract review, which covers subsequent changes in contracts involving a net increase in cost of 25 percent and above, are all contracts for civil works, consultancy services, or supply of equipment, machinery and supplies entered into by national government agencies and instrumentalities, including government owned and controlled corporations and local governments. Under Letter of Instructions No. 646, the committee is to be composed of the director general of the NEDA or his representative, as chairman, with a representative from involved agencies with at least the rank of an assistant secretary or assistant general manager, and a representative from the Office of the President, as members.

THE GOVERNMENT relaxed its policy toward PX vendors by ordering the inter-agency committee implementing the phase-out of the PX trade not to confiscate commodities already tax-paid. The order, relayed personally by the President to Brig. Gen. Romeo G. Gatan, First PC zone commander, put a new lease of life on an estimated P120 million worth of PX stocks which have been inventoried and taxed.

THE PRESIDENT expanded the territorial jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System to make it more responsive to the water supply and sewerage requirements of Metropolitan Manila. The President issued Presidential Decree No. 1260 which gave the MWSS jurisdiction, supervision and control over all waterworks and sewerage systems in Lungsod Silangan (new city), Muntinlupa "and other areas that may come within the development path of the expanding metropolitan Manila area."

METRO Manila Commission increased and prescribed uniform rates of real property tax in the four metropolitan cities and 1 municipalities beginning January 1 this year. Except in the city of Manila, where the increase was very minimal or none at all, tax rates in the three other cities were raised to the level applied in Manila. The 13 municipalities have their own uniform rates which are about one-half percent lower than those of the four cities. Taxes on residential and agricultural lands in the municipalities, however, remain unchanged. The new rates took effect with Ordinance No. 77-04.

January 6—

THE PRESIDENT approved a proposal to consolidate the government's borrowing program to finance development projects and/or refinance foreign obligations. The proposal, which was submitted by Central Bank Gov. Gregorio S. Licaros and Finance Secretary Cesar Virata, is designed to secure financing at the lowest possible cost at the same time consolidate under one loan the foreign obligations from commercial sources of both new and existing government projects.

THE PRESIDENT signed a decree creating the National Home Mortgage Financing Corporation to develop and provide for a secondary market for home mortgage granted by public and private home financing institutions. In signing the decree at a joint meeting of the Cabinet and the National Economic and Development Authority at Malacañang, the President said that further measures were necessary to optimize the effective use of funds and resources committed by the government to the housing program.

January 7—

THE PRESIDENT extended the Balikbayan Program for another year from March 1, 1978 to February 28, 1979 with the same incentives and benefits that have been part of the program since it started in July 1973. He signed the

(still unnumbered) letter of instructions extending the program at the awarding ceremonies for 11 outstanding overseas Filipinos and the Presentation of “balik-scientists” at the Maharlika Hall, Malacañang.

HE expressed hopes that more Filipinos overseas would return home and help build a new nation with the “greatness that was once ours.” He also thanked the “balik-scientists” for having abandoned their more lucrative jobs abroad to serve their countrymen in this of “renewal and change.”

THE PRESIDENT declared January 9 a special public holiday in Dagupan city to give folk an opportunity to commemorate the historic landing of the American forces led by Gen. Douglas McArthur on Bonuan, Blue Beach, Lingayen, Pangasinan, January 9, 1945.

Source: **Supreme Court Library**

President's Week in Review: January 8-14, 1978

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

January 8—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the restoration and preservation of the walls of Intramuros. In issuing Presidential Decree No. 1277 embodying this move he said the walls, which have been declared a national monument, "are precious historical relics of the artistry, craftsmanship" and industry of Filipino craftsmen and laborers." "Intramuros represents an integral part of our national history," he added.

January 9—

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady witnessed, the signing of two separate agreements defining, the framework for closer economic, technical and scientific cooperation between the Philippines and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The Basic Agreement on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation was signed by Foreign Secretary Carlos P. Romulo and by visiting Vietnamese Minister of Foreign Affairs Nguyen Duy Trinh.

January 10—

THE PRESIDENT reported on recent developments on the R.P. U.S. bases talks. American panel of top-ranking officials headed by Asst. Secretary of State for East Asia and, Pacific affairs Richard Holbrooke, has concluded two days of extensive and fruitful discussions on the, issues of military bases and two other military agreements. The talks were reported to have further identified areas where agreement was possible. The U.S. panel will report on the progress of the talks to President Jimmy Carter, as well as to Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Defense Secretary Harold Brown, Consultations will be conducted with the U.S. Congress.

THE PRESIDENT has authorized the holding of a national conference on countryside development on February 5 to 12, this year, to focus government's attention on key areas of countryside development. He said there was an urgent and compelling need to develop among government planners and decision-makers a common policy orientation that could serve as a guide for the formulation of programs for countryside development. To make the conference possible, the President issued Letter of instructions No. 651 directing the Cabinet Coordinating Committee on Integrated Rural Development Projects (CCC-IRDP), chaired by Agriculture Secretary Arturo Tanco Jr., and other government agencies concerned to spearhead the conference.

THE PRESIDENT announced the government had no intention of imposing new taxes but held the possibility he might abolish certain tax incentives to raise more government revenues. He made the announcement before a delegation of customs officials and collectors who paid a courtesy call at Malacañang.

January 11—

OFFICIALS of the World Chess Federation and. the Philippine team which won the Tun Abdul Razak Trophy in Auckland, New Zealand last month were received by the President at Malacañang. Earlier, the President received the officials of TIMEX Philippines, who also paid their respects and informed him of the inauguration of their factory in Quezon City.

THE PRESIDENT directed the Philippine Tourism Authority to exempt foreign students who are admitted into the country for educational purposes from the payment of travel, tax. In Letter of Instructions No. 655, the President ordered that the exemption may be made provided the foreign students are duly certified as such by the Department of Education and Culture and that they are not permanent residents of the Philippines.

January 12—

THE PRESIDENT clarified that contracts of national government offices which need his approval covers only those in implementation of the infrastructure program as well as the procurement of supplies, materials or equipment for the use of the purchasing government office. He made the clarification, contained in Letter of Instructions No. 653, to facilitate the implementation of LOI No. 620, and Memorandum Circular No. 1012. LOI 620 and MC 1012 generalize national government contracts involving P2 million or more that need the President's approval.

THE PRESIDENT received Pat M. Derian visiting U.S. assistant secretary of state for human affairs and assured him that the Philippines respects human rights, this being part of its tradition. Secretary Derian, who is on a three-day visit here, was accompanied by Ambassador David D. Newsom and Frank A. Sieverts of the mission-in-action affairs of the U.S. State, Department.

DEPARTMENT of Education and Culture (DEC) suspended the tree-planting requirement for air students in Metro Manila. Education Secretary Juan L. Manuel ordered the suspension following observations that such an activity was impractical, considering that the metropolis is densely populated and highly urbanized. He also said the activity should give way to the zoning and settlement programs of the Metro Manila Commission.

THIS PHILIPPINES' known coal reserves now range from 40 million to 128 million tons, according to Energy Secretary Geronimo Z. Velasco. Development of present discoveries may yet bring the total coal reserve to two billion tons or the equivalent of six million barrels of oil.

January 13—

THE PRESIDENT reiterated that -the youth were the ultimate beneficiaries of the New-Society before the, winners and participants in the firsts national oratorical contest held under the auspices, of the Department of Education and Culture. Paraphrasing Dr. Jose Rizal, he said "I will not be there to smell of its flowers, to eat of its fruits, and to sit under its shade, but I will have sons and daughters who will sit under that tree, smell of its flowers and eat of its fruits; and when that happens, I will also be there."

January 14—

THE PRESIDENT witnessed the signing of the 6th Project Loan Agreement between the Philippine government and the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan in the total amount of 22.5 billion yen or some US\$93 million. The agreement was signed by Finance Secretary Cesar Virata on behalf of the Philippines, and by Kaneo Ishihara, OECP president, in ceremonies held at Malacañang.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: January 15-31, 1978

President's Week in Review: February 1-7, 1978

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

February 1—

KILUSANG Bagong Lipanan, a coalition movement aimed at uniting the country during the period of transition was launched during a marathon bi-partisan caucus at Malacañang's Heroes Hall.

Proposed by former Speaker Jose B. Laurel Jr., the movement will serve as a political umbrella for various groups such as the Nationalista Party, Liberal Party, civic organizations and other groups which will field candidates in the Interim Batasang Pambansa (IBP) election

The President, who presided over the meeting, also formed a study committee headed by Local Governments Secretary Jose Roño to select the NP candidates for the 13 regions who will run under Kilusang Bagong Lipunan in the coming elections.

THE PRESIDENT rejected the "ten-point demand" of the Liberal Party on particularly the ruling out of block voting, the resignation of public officials who will run for the IBP, and the banning and suspension of the distribution of public funds. He also noted that the remaining six demands were already assured by existing laws.

GOVERNOR Imelda Romualdez Marcos has formed a task force in which government and private sectors will participate in the systematic implementation of essential public service and infrastructure projects in Metropolitan Manila. The scope of the task force's responsibility will cover the governor's ongoing seven-point community-based action program, as well as urgent infrastructure requirements in the region.

GOVERNMENT-sponsored selling missions abroad generated an estimated foreign sales of \$236 million last year. Trade Secretary Troadio T. Quizon Jr. said this was due to: 1) Direct Philippine participation in selected international trade fairs and expositions; 2) Sale of products in trade houses abroad; 3) Sending trade missions abroad servicing incoming missions; and 4) Sales negotiated and concluded from trade leads supplied by commercial attaches abroad.

February 2—

THE PRESIDENT granted additional concessions to the opposition Liberal Party to enable it to participate actively in the April 2 election of the members of the Interim Batasang Pambansa. He announced this in a detailed reply to the 10-point demand of the Liberal Party. The more significant of the concessions given by the President was his order freezing all disbursements and expenditures for community and barangay roads.

GOVERNOR Imelda Romualdez Marcos instructed Brig. Gen. Prospero Olivas, commanding officer of both the PC-Metrocom and the Metropolitan Police force, to stop the midnight drag-racing being done in city streets by youths from mostly affluent families.

At the same time, she instructed Presidential Assistant Ronaldo Zamora and Atty. Januario Soller, legal officers of the Metropolitan

Manila Commission group, to draft an ordinance prohibiting drag-racing and similarly dangerous or counter-productive activities with appropriate penalties for violations.

February 3—

THE PRESIDENT conferred with the general military council in a move to implement his directive calling for the confinement in barracks of soldiers not deputized by the Commission on Elections for the April 2 elections for the

Interim Batasang Pambansa (IBP). Presiding over the meeting held at Fort Bonifacio, the President reiterated his strict order that the military should not participate, either directly or indirectly, in partisan political activities in the coming elections.

FILIPINOS and Americans recalled the liberation of Manila 35 years ago and expressed the wish that never again should the miseries of war be inflicted on the whole of mankind. Mayor Ramon Bagatsing and U.S. Ambassador David D. Newsom led the Filipino and American communities in the observance of the historical occasion that featured wreath-laying rites at the Rizal Monument and a program at the University of Sto. Tomas which was used as an interment camp by the Japanese occupation forces in World War II.

February 4—

THE PRESIDENT said that the move towards normalization will continue with or without the participation of the Liberal Party. He said this in a speech at the inauguration of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan headquarters at the Doña Crisanta building on Roxas Blvd. The President said the Liberal Party leaders had not supported anything essential that he has done for the country, remarking that “the consistency of opposition without principle is therefore obvious.”

GOVERNOR Imelda Romualdez Marcos approved the design for public school buildings to be constructed in Metropolitan Manila henceforth. The approved schoolhouse design is a two-story structure with provisions for at least ten rooms (eight classrooms, an office, and utility areas). This basic structure can be expanded as the need arises without impairing the design.

February 5—

THE PRESIDENT ordered Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile to expedite action on cases pending before the military courts. He directed Enrile to look into the status of the cases pending before the 22 military commissions, including the case of former Senator Benigno Aquino Jr., in line with the government’s move toward normalization.

THE PRESIDENT warned, candidates in the April 2 Interim Batasang Pambansa elections that the government will prosecute violators of the Election Code to prevent a return to old poll irregularities. He issued the warning in a speech at the opening of the Southern Tagalog Region Athletic Association meet in Puerto Princesa, Palawan

THE NATIONAL Census and Statistics Office (NCSO) reported a 10 39 percent increase in consumer prices for the whole Philippines during 1977. This is significantly higher than the 8 percent increase reported by the Central Bank for the same year. NCSO said that the consumer price index (CFI) for all income households in the Philippines reached 209.3 index points as of December 1977.

February 6—

THE PRESIDENT has formed seven-man committee to study the feasibility of setting up a system of resolving family and barangay disputes without resorting to the court. In forming the committee, he noted the urgent need to reduce the mounting backlog in court dockets throughout the country. This move was effected through Presidential Decree No. 1293 on recommendation of Chief Justice Fred Ruiz Castro.

KTLUSANG Bagong Lipunan opened the door for the inclusion of Liberal Party stalwarts and independents in the movement’s regional tickets. At a marathon meeting of KBL leaders at Malacañang, the President authorized regional consultations to determine who among the candidates of Liberal Party independents will be included in the KBL regional tickets.

THE COMMISSION on Elections ruled that the 45-day campaign period for the April 2 election of the Interim Batasang Pambansa (IBP) will start on February 15, even if the proposal to move the deadline for the filing of certificates of candidacy from February 14, to February 20 is approved.

February 7—

THE PRESIDENT announced the postponement of the Interim Bata sang Pambansa (IBP) elections from April 2 to April. 7. He also announced that the deadline for the filing of candidacy has been moved from February 15 to 17. The presidential announcement came shortly after he signed into law the Election Code of 1978 to set into motion the first national elections in more than five years.

GOVERNOR Imelda Romualdez Marcos pledged her full support for Batasan candidates chosen by the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan in the primaries being held in the metropolitan area. Informed that her name consistently led the list of nominees, Mrs. Marcos said she did not have time for politics, much of her time being taken up by her activities as Metro Manila Governor and as the First Lady.

CENTRAL Bank told private companies intending to get foreign loans to secure them at 1.5 percent spread over the prevailing Euro-dollar rates for credits guaranted by domestic financial institutions and at 1.25 percent for credits guaranteed by government financial institutions. This new requirement lowered the interest rates on foreign borrowings from the previous 2.0 percent and 1.5 percent spreads over the London interbank offered rate for these two types of credits, respectively.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: February 8-14, 1978

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

February 8—

THE PRESIDENT approved the organization of a consortium of qualified Filipino contractors which will tap the construction market in the Middle East and other countries. The organization of the consortium is aimed at making Filipino contractors effective in undertaking projects abroad. He gave the go signal during the call at Malacañang of Camille Mirshak, managing adviser of the Ali B. Faho group of companies of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

THE PRESIDENT issued Proclamation No. 1709 declaring a special public holiday in Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, which celebrates its Liberation Day today.

THE COUNTRY'S coconut export earnings last January totaled \$59,010,002. This is 66 percent more than the \$36,544,824 earned during the same month in 1977. Export volume, in., copra terms, totaled 161,954 metric tons (MT), up by 66.9 percent from the January 1977 total of 97,037 metric tons. This was reported by the United Coconut Association of the Philippines (UCAP) on the basis of data from the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), Bureau of Customs, and coconut exporters.

February 9—

THE PRESIDENT and Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos received Edsel Ford II, son of Henry Ford II, who called at Malacañang. Edsel Ford II was accompanied by D. E. Peterson, executive vice president of Ford's international operations; John Sagovac, president of Ford Philippines; Frank Groman, president of Ford Asia-Pacific; and Energy Secretary Geronimo Velasco.

MOTHER Teresa, the Living Saint of Calcutta made a courtesy call on the President and the First Lady at Malacañang.

THE PRESIDENT ordered Solicitor General Estelito P. Mendoza to hasten divestment proceedings against American nationals still holding lands in the Philippines in violation of the new Constitution which limits land ownership to Filipinos.

The President's directive, contained in Letter of Instructions No. 645, included the investigation of corporations owned or controlled by American citizens who have acquired landholdings during the effectivity of the Laurel-Langley Agreement.

February 10—

THE PRESIDENT urged the Philippine Navy to pursue its plans to acquire the capability to deter intrusions and other acts inimical to national security.

Speaking during the 39th anniversary celebration of the Philippine Navy at Fort San Felipe in Cavite City, the President said "the development of our national maritime capability cannot be overstated."

THE PRESIDENT intimated that he would rather have the First Lady stay as Metro Manila governor than run in the interim Batasang Pambansa elections.

He expressed this view in an interview with newsmen after speaking at the 39th anniversary celebration of the Philippine Navy in Fort San Felipe, Cavite City.

February 11—

THE PRESIDENT has extended the Reunion for Peace (RFP) program for another two years, ending December 31, 1979. This was jointly announced by Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile and Tourism Secretary Jose D. Aspiras, chairman and executive vice-chairman, respectively, of the RFP coordinating committee.

February 12—

NATIONAL Housing Authority (NHA) set aside P49 million to finance housing projects to be undertaken jointly with local governments.

Already, four local government will initiate this year their housing projects with financial assistance from the NHA, according to NHA General Manager Gaudencio V. Tobias. Under the program, the housing project will be modelled after the Bagong Nayon total community, a project of the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez, Marcos.

AGRICULTURE. Secretary Arturo R. Tanco Jr. said schools and individual teachers may now participate in livestock distribution, in line with the government's animal dispersal program now in full gear.

February 13—

THE PRESIDENT approved the sale of an initial 10,000 metric tons of rice to Indonesia, to enable it to meet shortages caused by drought. He approved this in keeping with the spirit of ASEAN cooperation contained in the agreement signed by the ASEAN heads of state during their summit meeting in Bali in early 1976.

February 14—

NATIONAL Security Council (NSC) denied the request of 14 security detainees, including former Senator Benigno Aquino Jr., for temporary release to enable them to campaign in the April 7 interim Batasang Pambansa elections.

In a closed-door meeting at Malacañang, the council, presided over by the President, also denied two Communist factions the right to register as political parties, groupings or movements in the coming elections.

The council made the decision upon recommendation by the military, the defense department, and the intelligence community.

GOVERNOR Imelda Romualdez Marcos asked Metro Manila's public educators to help improve the educational system in the metropolis. Apprised of the need for more school buildings, she said the Metro Manila budget this year provides for the construction of at least one public school building in each of the four cities and 13 towns. At a luncheon meeting at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang, the First Lady showed them scale models of the school buildings designed by Architect George Ramos.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: February 15-28, 1978

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

February 15—

THE PRESIDENT postponed the filing of certificates of candidacy for sectoral representatives to the interim Batasang Pambansa from February 17 to March 7. The move is contained in Presidential Decree No. 1301 which amended PD 1296, also known as the 1978 Election Code. Under the original provisions of the Election Code, the deadline for the filing of certificates of candidacy for sectoral representatives coincides with the deadline for regional representatives.

February 16—

THE PRESIDENT proclaimed 142 candidates of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan in the April 7 Interim Batasang Pambansa elections. The KBL candidates, with the exception of 21 coming from Metropolitan Manila and one from Region V (Catanduanes), were proclaimed during a three-hour non-partisan caucus of political leaders at Malacañang.

THE PRESIDENT has approved the creation of the office of special trade representative in the Department of Trade to give the Philippines permanent representation in various international trade organizations and negotiations. He named Ambassador Wilfrido Vega who was accredited to Bonn as the country's first special trade representative (STR). With his appointment, Vega becomes the third ranking official of the trade department next to Trade Undersecretary Vicente Valdepeñas.

February 17—

THE PRESIDENT proclaimed the 21-man slate for Metro Manila of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan for the Interim Batasang Pambansa elections. The proclamation capped whole-day primaries held in Metro Manila's four cities and 13 towns that selected the KBL ticket. More than 11,800 delegates from Metro Manila's 1,673 barangay participated in the primaries that also led to the drafting of Gov. Imelda Romualdez Marcos to head the KBL slate on the basis of a popular clamor among barangays, particularly those in disadvantaged areas.

THERE is going to be a major shift in Japanese capital assistance to the Philippines from economic to social-oriented projects and programs designed to contribute directly to the improvement of the living conditions of the people. This was jointly announced by Ambassador Toshio Urabe former Japanese envoy to the Philippines and Foreign Undersecretary Jose D. Ingles in a press conference at the Central Bank's executive lounge.

DEPARTMENT of Education and Culture said fee increases approved by the department apply to the whole school year even if the increase was approved only during the second semester. Higher Education Director Antonio Dumlao made the statement in reaction to complaints of parents on the practice of some schools collecting fee increases retroactive to the first semester although the increase was approved during the second half of the year.

February 18—

THE PRESIDENT said that the most important challenge before military and police forces today is to insure the chance to normalize and maintain the momentum of reforms in the New Society. He said this in the course of his speech during the commencement exercises of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) at Fort del Pilar in Baguio City.

THE PRESIDENT challenged the opposition to present an alternative program of government instead of resorting to Old Society tactics of mudslinging. He issued the challenge during an interview with newsmen after speaking at the commencement exercises of the Philippine Military Academy at Fort del Pilar.

DEPARTMENT of Education and Culture will distribute five million more textbooks to 125 school divisions throughout the country before the start of the next school year. Education Secretary Juan L. Manuel said the books are part of the 60 million textbooks to be produced and distributed by the department under its five-year textbook development program designed to solve the textbook shortage in public elementary and secondary schools.

February 19—

THE PRESIDENT lashed out at politicians who he said, had fomented near anarchy and rebellion that forced him to declare Martial Law and are now campaigning for the support of the people in the April 7 elections. Speaking at the opening of the Region 2 athletic meet at the Arranz Sport Complex in Tuguegarao, Cagayan, the President appealed to the people to repudiate these politicians in the elections for the Interim Batasang Pambansa.

CERTAIN legal questions will first have to be resolved before action could be taken on the request of former Senator Benigno Aquino Jr. for temporary freedom during the campaign period of the Interim Batasang Pambansa election. The President issued this statement in an interview with newsmen at the Loakan airport in Baguio City before his departure for Tuguegarao, Cagayan. The request of Aquino for reconsideration of an earlier decision by the National Security Council (NSC) had been referred to the executive committee of the NSC in view of its national security implications.

COMMISSION on elections formed five supervisory panels to enforce the 1978 Election Code and to protect the credibility of the poll body. The panels will decide questions that may arise in their jurisdiction in connection with the April 7 IBP elections their decisions are immediately executor, unless reversed by the Comelec en banc.

February 20—

THE FIRST Couple led welcomers at the Manila International Airport during the arrival ceremonies for Thai Prime Minister Kriangsak Chomanan who together with his wife, Virat, arrived in the country for a four-day state visit.

LATER in the evening, the President conferred the Ancient Order of Sikatuna rank of Rajah, on Prime Minister Kriangsak and the Gabriela Silang Award on Madame Virat Chomanan at ceremonies held at Malacañang

February 21—

PRIME Minister Kriangsak Chomanan of Thailand said that foreign powers should not intervene in the internal affairs of countries in Southeast Asia so as to allow them to live in peace and prosperity. The visiting Thai Prime Minister made this statement at a press conference on board the RPS *Ang Pangulo* after his talks with the President.

THE FIRST Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, said that there is a good chance for a clean sweep for the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan candidates in Metro Manila because of the performance of the members of the ticket. Mrs. Marcos issued the statement in an interview by newsmen during a break in the trip to Corregidor with Thai Prime Minister Kriangsak Chomanan on board the RPS *Ang Pangulo*.

THE PHILIPPINES and China are scheduled to sign a contract for the latter to sell \$80-million worth of crude oil to the Philippines. Trade Secretary Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. said the agreement is part of the new schedule increasing the volume of trade between the two countries. The oil purchase, he said, is the biggest single oil buy the Philippines has made from China, which has extended a special rate to the Philippine government.

February 22—

THE PRESIDENT said that he and Thai Prime Minister Kriangsak Chomanan are agreed that peace and stability in Southeast Asia depends mainly on the resolution of the conflict in Indochina. He stressed that "there can be no peace in the region if the Indo-Chinese states of Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos are in a state of conflict." The visiting Thai

Prime minister and his wife were honored with a parade and review and a luncheon at the Philippine Military Academy in Fort del Pilar.

PRODUCTION of oil, the President said, in commercial quantity in the country will begin in the latter part of next year. This assessment was made by the President following a report of successful drilling in the West Nido well off Palawan by Cities Service of Oklahoma. With the latest discovery of oil in the Palawan area, he said, efforts will be made to start production in the first quarter of next year instead of the original target of late next year.

THE FIRST Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, stressed the importance of the mass roots of government, saying that only the people will provide "the reason and moving force" for national growth. For development to succeed, Mrs Marcos said, it must spring from the people whom it will eventually serve. She was guest speaker during the opening of the international symposium on integrated surveys in resource management.

February 23—

THE PHILIPPINES and Thailand deplored the protectionist policies of some developed countries creating barriers to the entry of Philippine and Thai products into their markets. Their "serious concern" over the "increasing protectionist tendencies" of developed countries was expressed in a joint statement issued by the President and Thai Prime Minister Kriangsak Chomanan. Prime Minister Kriangsak left the country for Kuala Lumpur and Singapore to continue his swing through the member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

FIRST LADY, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, said that the authorities are looking into the possibility that the rash of fires in Metropolitan Manila could have been caused by subversives. In an interview with newsmen shortly after inaugurating the multi-million peso warehouse of the National Grains Authority (NGA) in Loakan, Baguio City, Mrs. Marcos said that "we are looking into this possibility very carefully".

THE GOVERNMENT will construct 10,000 classrooms at a cost of P200 million for primary and elementary grades throughout the country this year, Public Works Secretary Alfredo Juinio said. He said construction of classrooms is part of the government's five-year school building program.

February 24—

PRESIDENT said the forthcoming elections for the Interim Batasang Pambansa could provide rich harvest of new and young leaders. This would be in line with the administration's program of training a new generation of leaders "who will take over the powers of government from "my generation that had fought the last war." The President expressed this during an exchange of views on the national and international situation with Prince Wittgenstein, deputy board chairman of Metallgesellschaft Ag of Frankfurt, West, Germany, who called on him at Malacañang.

THE PRESIDENT ordered the development and implementation of a sound risk and insurance management program to protect national government properties at minimum cost against accidental loss due to natural hazards. Issuing Letter of Instructions No. 673, he directed Budget Commissioner Jaime C. Laya in cooperation with national Treasurer Gregorio G. Mendoza and Gen. Manager Roman Cruz of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) to conduct a study of every national government office to make this possible.

OATH of office was administered by the President to former Rep. Pedro "Oloy" Roa as mayor of Cagayan de Oro City in a ceremony held at Malacañang. He succeeded former Mayor Concordio Diel who had filed his certificate of candidacy for the Interim Batasang Pambansa under the banner of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan. (KBL)

THE PRESIDENT received Shamoem Qurashi, chief adviser to Gulf Shipping Group of the Middle East and Europe, who called at Malacañang to pay his respects following his arrival here to look into further investment prospects in this country. Qurashi was accompanied by Jose de Venecia president of the Land Oil Group and the Petroleum Association of the Philippines and former Secretary Alejandro Melchor, governor of the Asian Development Bank.

February 25—

THE PRESIDENT directed Energy Secretary Geronimo Z. Velasco to terminate seven on-going contracts and further review 16 other contracts of the National Power Corporation (NPC). The contracts to be terminated include services, materials, and equipment amounting to P29 million which were pinpointed in line with the President's instructions given to the Cabinet last December 22, 1977, requiring contracts to be in accord with accepted norms and standards underlying the institution of the reform program under the New Society.

February 26—

THE PRESIDENT announced that the executive committee of the National Security Council (NSC) has rejected former Senator Benigno Aquino's bid for temporary release on security and legal grounds. He said the decision will be final as, he said "it is my decision not to intervene in the decision of the executive committee of the National Security Council." The President spoke, before a delegation of barangay chairmen from the third and fourth districts of Manila at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang.

February 27—

THE PRESIDENT proposed a plan for what he called "contractive dialogue" between the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL) and the Lakas ng Bayan (Laban) on issues of April 7 elections. He said he formulated the plan in his desire "to elevate the quality of this campaign and give our people sober discussions to reflect upon." Ambassador J. V. Cruz, spokesman for the KBL said that Napoleon Rama, Laban secretary-general and candidate, expressed agreement in principle, but Rama added he could not give a definite reply until he had consulted the officers of his group.

KILUSANG Bagong Lipunan vowed to protect the interest of labor in all forms of lawmaking once the Interim Batasang Pambansa is elected and convened. The commitment was occasioned by the selection and proclamation of Roberto Oca, Jr., a labor leader, to fill the Metro Manila KBL slot vacated by his father's death. The President made the proclamation in his capacity as KBL chairman upon receipt of a resolution from the officers and members of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) who endorsed Oca Jr.'s candidacy.

ALIENS living in the Philippines are subject to the requirements of BIR Form 17.01B, the Bureau of Internal Revenue said. They should submit also the BTR payments they have made in 1977 at P1,800 and above, the BIR said. This requirement also concerns payments made by aliens for building and houses in the Philippines for residence or for official business.

February 28—

THE PRESIDENT inducted into office Atty. Ernesto A. Bernabe as city fiscal of Pasay. President at the induction ceremony were close members of his family and friends led by Pasay City Mayor Pablo Cuneta and Manila City Fiscal Jose Flaminiano.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Month in Review: March, 1978

President's Month in Review: April, 1978

OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

April 1—

THE PRESIDENT challenged the opposition to present an alternative system to replace the New Society which it wants to be changed. He issued the challenge in the course of his speech during the commencement exercises of the Philippine College of Commerce (PCC) at the Philippine International Convention Center. While admitting that there is no perfect society, he said the crisis government has done a lot not only to improve the lot of the common man but also the economy of the country. He also announced, in the course of his speech, the elevation of the PCC into a university.

THE FIRST Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, told the residents of Pandacan and Sta. Ana that she and the President have spared no effort in the electoral campaign to make sure that the people realize and understand what is at stake in the April 7 elections. "Performance is our best answer to an irresponsible opposition that is interested only in undoing what we have done, what we have started," she said.

THE GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System (GSIS) announced two new benefits for government workers provided for under Presidential Decree No. 1146 which has been ordered implemented immediately by the President. The two new benefits are the survivors pension for dependents of deceased government personnel and sickness income for a GSIS member who suffers a non-work connected sickness or injury resulting in temporary total disability.

April 2—

THE PRESIDENT enacted several measures designed to improve living conditions of subdivision homeowners and correct subdivision malpractices. The measures were taken by the President during his political sorties in various Metro Manila subdivisions. He was accompanied by the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, and the entire Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL) ticket. The President increased from nine to 11 the number of barangays in Las Piñas and from six to 16 of that in Parañaque. He also authorized the release of P2 million for the repair of East Drive Road in Marikina and created a Barangay in Marikina Heights and Concepcion II subdivisions.

THE PRESIDENT empowered a five-man panel created last March 16 to negotiate to increase to \$23.5 million the government loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the construction of the Allah River Irrigation Project in South Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat in Mindanao. The ADB has agreed to increase the original loan of \$14.5 million for the project, Malacañang said. Designated to sign the loan agreement was Finance Secretary Cesar Virata.

ACCREDITED trading firms were granted another incentive by the President which can help penetrate the export markets of the country's non-traditional export products, particularly small-and-medium-scale industries. The move, contained in Presidential Decree No. 1319, was made to accelerate and assist the organization and development of large-scale and integrated trading companies.

April 3—

THE PRESIDENT extended social security, medicare and workmen's compensation benefits to all public utility drivers, including bus and jeepney drivers, throughout the country. He acted immediately on a clamor by drivers belonging to the Pasang Masda for the extension to them of the same benefits being enjoyed by other sectors of society.

THE FIRST Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, in a related development, noted the fact that many drivers were squatters. "She assured them that under the policy of the President that no Filipino should be a squatter in his own land, they, too, would be given houses and lots under the government housing program.

THE PRESIDENT reduced the interest rates on-pump irrigation-loans of the Farm Systems Development Corp. to farmer's associations from eight per cent to only six per cent per annum. At the same time, he extended the loan maturity period from 10 to a maximum of 15 years. He said this would boost the farmers' income through reduced irrigation costs.

April 4—

THE PRESIDENT pledged that the elections for the interim Batasang Pambansa (IBP) will be "clean, free and honest." The pledge was made during a rally held by thousands of "Metro Aides" at the Folk Arts Theater at the same time, the President, in his capacity as governor of Metro Manila, authorized the increase of the daily wages of the Metro Manila aides from P10 and P11 to P15 a day.

April 5—

THE PRESIDENT outlined what he said are the five basic issues in the April 7 elections. Speaking at the nationwide "Pulong-pulong Pambansa" in Malacañang, he also underscored the need, for a stable government to eradicate old society practices which, he said, had fragmented the country in the past. He also mentioned specific cases of intervention by the United States and Japanese corporations in the country's domestic affairs. The primary issue that the people will have to consider when they go to the polls, the President said, is whether, the Filipinos have the maturity and wisdom to bring about a radical transformation that the New Society aims to accomplish without resorting to violence.

THE PRESIDENT directed the National Housing Authority (NHA) to rush the updating of the survey of landed estates in Metro Manila for the sale of lots to actual bona fide occupants. He gave the order in-the presence of former Rep. Francisco Reyes of Tondo and other political leaders from Manila who called on him at Malacañang. Affected by the President's order are barrio Menu, Maria Guizon, Manotoc, Sunog-Apog, Dimayuga, Tambunting, Rita Legarda, Albeits, Agus Deo, Prieto, Teresa, Monserrat, Prieto Roces, Sumulong, Llor, Tuazon, Fabie, Zamora, Samahan ng Bayan Roque, Samahan ng Magkakapitbahay ng Obisis, Sarmiento, Fermin, Mont Tenant's Association estates and other estates in the region.

April 6—

ROMAN Cruz Jr., general manager of the Government Service Insurance System, (GSIS), was directed by the President to release P16 million on to the armed forces for the construction of about 300 additional housing units for families of military personnel inside military camps. He issued the directive after receiving a letter-appeal from Gen. Romeo Espino, AFP chief of staff, requesting the release of the amount which the AFP is applying for as a loan from the GSIS.

April 7—

THE PRESIDENT issued a stern warning against what he said subversive elements which created public disorder on the eve of the interim Batasang Pambansa elections. In a brief interview after voting in Batac, Ilocos Norte, he warned these subversives to desist from "their plan to wreck the Republic." He assured the people, however, that the government has adequate forces to meet any threat from those creating disorder in the country. He voted in Voting Center No. 2 in Lacub, at the Don Mariano Marcos Memorial School. The First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, who heads the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL) ticket in Metro Manila, voted at Precinct No. 643-2 at V. Mapa High School in San Miguel, Manila.

April 8—

THE PRESIDENT said that he has ordered a crackdown on subversive activities to prevent a repetition of the violent demonstration that marred the eve of the elections. In an interview with newsmen in Malacañang, he said that the government will stop subversive movements whether they are under the umbrella of a political party or any

organization, including some of the alleged religious groups. "It is the resolve and intension of the government forgo after them," he said.

April 9—

THE PRESIDENT provided the manner for substitution of a winning candidate who dies, fails to qualify, or is incapacitated before his proclamation or assumption of office. The manner of substitution is contained in Presidential Decree No. 1348, which amends the 1978 Election Code. The decree takes effect immediately.

April 10—

THE PRESIDENT convened a joint meeting of the Cabinet and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) to reassess the economic and political conditions in the country. The first to be held after the April 7 interim Batasang Pambansa elections, the meeting was held at the State Dining Room of Malacañang. The President and his advisers also discussed the disturbances created by certain groups before the elections and the government's development programs which the President promised to pursue after the polls.

April 11—

RESUMING her duties as Metro Manila Governor after winning, a seat in the interim Batasang Pambansa, the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, urged the formation of cooperatives among drivers to help them own the vehicles they drive. It was one of three-significant steps she planned to take for the benefit of Metro Manilans after meeting with Metro Manila Commission officers at Malacañang. She said these measures were an offshoot of her past rallies at the grassroots level where she was able to observe at first hand, the Metro Manila situation.

April 12—

THE PRESIDENT said he would see to it that the interim Batasang Pambansa would consider the lifting of Martial Law. He also said the local elections proposed to be held in November may be postponed until next year for the sake of national unity. Meeting with 56 foreign correspondents at Malacañang, he said the convening of the interim assembly would eliminate legal obstacles to the return of political normalcy. With the interim Batasang Pambansa in session, the President explained that his legislative powers under the commander-in-chief clause of the Constitution would have to give way to the normal lawmaking functions of the legislative body.

AMBASSADOR Ke Hua of the Peoples Republic of China (PROC) called on the First Couple to reiterate the invitation of Vice Premier Li Hsiennien to visit, Peking at their convenience. The Chinese ambassador and Mrs. Ke Hua visited Malacañang to bid them goodbye.

April 15—

THE PRESIDENT has proclaimed May 25 to 31 and every last week thereafter "Export Consciousness Week" to evoke public awareness of the government's export drive. He issued Proclamation No. 1725 enjoining all government and private offices, organizations, and individuals, to give the week proper observance.

CENTRAL Bank Governor Gregorio Licaros said the CB will continue its policy of dispersing financial institutions to the country's rural areas. This policy, he said, is in line with the government's emphasis on the regionalization of growth and the linkage of all sectors in the economy.

April 16—

THE PRESIDENT signed Proclamation No. 1728 authorizing the Foundation for the Rehabilitation and Prevention of Blindness to conduct a nationwide educational, membership and fund campaign from February 15, 1978 to January 15, 1979. He noted that most blind persons live in a hopeless existence and are unable to contribute their

share to the national effort for development. The project is one of the numerous civic undertakings of the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, honorary chairman of the foundation.

April 17—

COMMISSION on Elections (Comelec) proclaimed the 21 Metro Manila (Region 4) winning candidates, ending 10 days of official canvass slowed down by protests of alleged election discrepancies. Proclaimed after the opposition Lakas nng Bayan (Laban) virtually conceded defeat, were all the official Kilusan ng Bagong Lipunan (KBL) bets, headed by Gov. Imelda Romualdez Marcos. The President joined the winners in the proclamation ceremonies at the Comelec offices on Aduana st.

GOVERNOR Imelda Romualdez Marcos authorized the granting of a P50 housing allowance; to all policemen, firemen and civilian employees of the Metropolitan Police Force (MPF) starting this month. She made the announcement in the course of her speech during the fourth anniversary celebration of the MPF and the inauguration of the new Metrocom and Police headquarters at Camp Datum in Sikatuna Village in Quezon City. She also ordered the release of P1.5 million for the expansion of the Metro Manila police hospital to increase its capacity to 50 beds. She also took the occasion to announce that the President had promoted Police Col. James Barbers and Police Col. Tomas Karingal, superintendents of the Western and Northern police districts, respectively, to brigadier generals.

April 18—

AUSTRALIAN Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser made a one-hour stopover at the Manila International Airport on his way Tokyo for talks with Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda. Foreign Secretary Carlos P. Romulo and Energy Secretary Geronimo Velasco met the Australian prime minister.

DEPARTMENT of Education and Culture (DEC) exempted five more categories of teachers from taking the first professional board examination for teachers. Education Secretary Juan L. Manuel said these teachers have efficiently performed their work and spent the best years of their lives in the teaching service. He said those exempted are: holders of elementary teacher's certificate; graduates of the two-year trade technical curricula of schools of arts and trades with at least 21 units of professional subjects in elementary education; holders of associate certificates in agricultural education who have taken at least 18 units in education; and graduates of junior normal course.

April 19—

THE PRESIDENT warned students against being manipulated into blind activism which may lead them from their main reason from being in school, which is to study. He issued this warning in his speech at the opening of the 11th annual convention of the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC) at the Philippine International Convention Center. In his speech, he also called for a new thrust in the educational program geared towards the upgrading of higher education and more emphasis on technological, vocation and agricultural education.

THE PRESIDENT has expanded the application of the withholding tax system in a new presidential decree. Under the present system, when one engaged in trade or business or in the practice of a profession pays salary to his employees or makes other payments that are deductible from his gross income for tax purposes, it is enough that he proves that such payment has been made. Under the new law, Presidential Decree No. 1351, that is not enough. It is necessary to make the expenses qualified deductions, that the payor withhold the tax prescribed by law to be withheld from the amount of payment he makes, whether they be in the form of salaries or otherwise; and secondly, he must remit these taxes withheld to the BIR.

THE GOVERNMENT will make a national integrated manpower program that will insure the availability of medical services to the people in the rural and depressed areas in the country, the President said. Speaking at the 71st annual convention of the Philippine Medical Association (PMA) at the Philippine International Convention Center, he said that the program will be undertaken with the cooperation of the medical profession.

April 20—

THE PRESIDENT proposed the setting up of an international forum to resolve fears about satellite surveying and to maximize its benefits. Addressing an international gathering of scientists on “remote sensing of environment” by orbiting satellites, the President said such a forum could put into more extensive use of satellite data on the world’s natural resources.

PROJECTED increase in the water rate in Olongapo City was frozen by the President even as he ordered the holding of public hearings on the controversial rates. Reacting to a report that the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) had rejected a request of the Office of the President to rollback the water rates in Olongapo, the President ordered: 1) General Manager Carlos Leano Jr. of LWUA to hold public hearings on the petition of Olongapo residents against new water rates and to suspend the increase in water, rates pending such hearings; 2) The PC commander of Olongapo to enforce this order; and 3) Leano to submit a written explanation concerning the actuation of the Olongapo City Waterworks System (OCWS) on the matter, and to submit a report of compliance to the President.

April 21—

BUDGET Commissioner Jaime C. Laya said that critical evaluation of present needs and cost reduction are essential in individual as well as in national budgeting. This statement was made by Commissioner Laya during the awarding ceremonies for the winners in the essay, slogan and poster contest of the government’s National Cost Reduction Program at the National Library.

April 22—

THE PRESIDENT, gave, the go signal for the Philippine National Oil Co. (PNOC) to negotiate a \$21.1 million loan from the United States for the acquisition of geothermal drilling rigs. Energy Secretary Geronimo Velasco will soon leave for the US to discuss the terms of the proposed loans with the Export Import Bank of the United States and Case Manhattan Bank. The acquisition of the drilling rigs is in line with the acceleration of the exploration and development of geothermal resources as an alternative source of energy.

April 23—

THE PRESIDENT has approved the exportation of an additional 50,000 metric tons of rice to Malaysia valued at \$16 million or \$18 million. The sale is, the second contract signed with Malaysia, and brings its total purchases from the Philippines to 60,000. The first was contracted, in February for 10,000 tons of rice worth \$3.05 million or P22.6 million.

NATIONAL Electrification Administration (NEA) was authorized by the President to obtain a \$60 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) for the country’s rural electrification program. The loan is the biggest loan for rural electrification to be granted by the World Bank. It is also the first WB loan involving rural cooperatives.

THE PRESIDENT signed a decree subjecting, revenues from chartered flights on passengers and freights originating from the Philippines to taxation at the rate of. 2.5 per cent of gross Philippine billings. He said the new law will place on equal footing both regular airlines and chartered airlines and promote healthy competition.

April 24—

THE GOVERNMENT imposed anew tax structure for car sales transactions by increasing the taxable, base to P35,000 with an initial assessment of 10 per cent. The new tax measure is apparently designed to keep car prices down while at the same time increasing government revenues from the auto industry. Internal Revenue Commissioner Efren L. Plana said the revised car sales tax-system is one of three tax decrees signed by the

President to make the tax system “more progressive and responsive in rationalizing and harmonizing fiscal incentives granted under several existing laws.” The revised car sales tax reduced the rate which under the old system may go as high as 35 per cent. The same measure (Presidential Decree No. 1357) provided for a 15 per cent profit margin for dealers.

April 25—

THE PRESIDENT has signed a decree exempting from specific tax oil products sold to international carriers, the Bureau of Internal Revenue said. This exemption, as provided for in Presidential Decree No. 1359, however, can be availed of only if the country of the carrier also exempts from tax petroleum products sold to Philippine carriers.

THE GOVERNMENT, the President said, is rushing the completion of various hydro-electric and multi-purpose projects to increase the country’s energy sources. He went to the North to inspect progress of the work of some projects worth P13.8 billion. The three projects include the Magat Multi-Purpose project in San Mateo, Isabela (P1.032 billion); the Chico River No. 4 Hydroelectric Project in Lubuagan, Kalinga (P1.5 billion) ; and the Abulug River Hydroelectric project in Kabuyao, Apayao (P8.2 billion). The President also visited an impounding dam at Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte.

April 26—

THE PRESIDENT visited the Currimaos cable station to inspect the progress of the submarine cable system linking the Philippines and Singapore. He was informed that the cable was being tested and would be fully operational by July. The laying of the cable linking the two ASEAN neighbors was one of the agreements reached between the President and Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew in Baguio City last year. Completion of the cable system would be a step toward fulfillment of a plan to link all the five ASEAN countries by cable and other means of communication.

April 27—

FOURTEEN sectoral candidates were proclaimed winners by the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to complete the 200-member interim Batasang Pambansa. The Comelec, sitting en banc, made the proclamation upon receipt of the official results of the sectoral elections from its three boards of canvassers which supervised the electoral process for the three sectors—youth, industrial labor and agricultural labor.

April 18—

THE PRESIDENT acted to solve the social and economic problems of the residents of Ilocos Norte by mobilizing all government agencies concerned to extend to them every possible support and assistance. He issued a series of directives designed to enable the residents to earn decent income and raise their standard of living after a four-hour inspection tour of the area around Lake Paoay in Ilocos Norte. His action was prompted by the reported inaction of some Cabinet men on the problems of the residents of the province who complained to him.

April 29—

THE PRESIDENT said he does not plan to re-impose the ban on international travel or impose travel restrictions anew. At the same time, the President, who is in Paoay, Ilocos Norte, ordered the cancellation of all trips abroad of Cabinet members and senior officials of the national government, except those to be made in fulfillment of “urgent international commitments.” He clarified that government policy on the travel ban to squelch persistent rumors that he would shortly re-impose a travel ban.

April 30—

SOLICITOR General Estelito Mendoza said the labor restructuring initiated under the new Labor Code is not in violation of the constitutional provisions guaranteeing freedom of association, the right to collective bargaining; and

due process of law. He said restructuring of the country's labor: movement along the one-union one-industry line is a government policy designed to restore order and eliminate the evils on the labor front which should serve as an effective instrument for national development.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: May 1-31, 1978

OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

May 1—

THE PRESIDENT expressed support to the proposal of organized labor to increase the minimum wage due to the increasing prices of commodities. Speaking at the Labor Day celebration at the Folk Arts Theater, he said that the petition to increase the minimum wage "is no problem." However, he pointed out, this proposal, will have to be decided by the tripartite congress made up of labor management and government which will be convened by the Department of Labor.

THE PRESIDENT formed a Cabinet organizing committee to draft the proposed rules for the interim Batasang Pambansa which is expected to convene in June. The Committee was constituted during the Cabinet meeting at Malacañang. Named members of the committee were Justice Secretary Vicente Abad Santos, Solicitor General Estelito Mendoza, Local Government Secretary Jose Roño, Natural Resources Secretary Jose Leido, Tourism Secretary Jose Aspiras, and Presidential Assistant Jacobo Clave. Chairman of the committee is Secretary Roño.

May 2—

THE PRESIDENT and US Vice President Walter Mondale expressed their desire to settle as soon as possible vital issues confronting their countries to provide Philippine-American relations with a solid foundation. Both stressed the urgency of solving bilateral problems on security and economic matters in separate speeches shortly after the arrival of American vice president for a three-day, official visit.

THE PRESIDENT said the Philippines is faced with the challenge of maintaining its own defense capabilities and that it can no longer presume that any nation, no matter how powerful, will willingly share the burden of its own defense "expected in accordance with the explicit and expressed provisions of formal agreements." In a speech delivered at the 43rd foundation day of the Philippine Air Force, the President said that it is a challenge that must be met as far as the nation's resources will permit.

THE PRESIDENT has approved a suggestion that the inaugural session of the interim Batasang Pambansa be held on June 12 to coincide with the Independence Day celebration. This was revealed by Local Government Secretary Jose Roño on the eve of his convening a six-man committee formed by the President to draft the rules governing the IBP.

May 3—

THE PRESIDENT said that human rights is not linked to the military bases and trade treaty negotiations between the Philippines and the United States. In a press conference in Malacañang, the President said that human rights has never been made a bargaining point, in the current negotiations regarding the treaties. He also told newsmen that he and US Vice President Walter Mondale had laid the basis for the early resolution of conflicts confronting their countries, particularly the military bases and trade issues.

May 4—

THE PHILIPPINES and the United States governments agreed on four basic principles which will be reflected in the amendments to the military bases agreement that would allow continued use of the military bases in the country by the American. This agreement was contained in a joint statement issued by the President and US Vice President Walter Mondale shortly before the latter's departure for Bangkok, Thailand. Negotiations on the amendments, they agreed, will be "on terms fully consistent with Philippine sovereignty."

DEPARTMENT of Education and Culture (DEC) will put emphasis anew on the teaching of reading, writing and arithmetic in public elementary schools starting this coming school year. Education Secretary Juan L. Manuel said the return to the basics was prompted by the deterioration of the pupils' basic skills like reading, reading comprehension, arithmetic and writing.

May 5—

LABOR cases already resolved by the labor secretary will now be immediately enforced under a new decree issued by the President during the Labor Day celebration. Under the new procedure laid down by Presidential Decree No. 1367, decisions of the labor secretary may no longer be appealed to the Office of the President. This shortens the appeals route of labor cases. The President, however, may assume jurisdiction over any labor case which in his opinion affects the national interest.

BUDGET Commission issued the guidelines on the use of savings in the maintenance and operating expenses of government agencies. The guidelines make available to agencies 110 per cent of their savings to augment their budget for equipment, construction and other non-recruiting expenses. The use of savings was directed by the President through Letter of Instruction No. 635 to serve as incentives for agencies to save and economize in their operations.

May 6—

THE PRESIDENT said he plans to reorganize the Armed Forces of the Philippines and retire 44 generals. He made the announcement during his speech at the 56th annual homecoming and national convention of the University of the Philippines Vanguard Inc. in Diliman, Quezon City. He said he intends to increase the present four PC zones to 10 regional commands to make the Armed Forces of the Philippines more responsive to present realities.

DEFENSE Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile said that there will be no elections of local officials until the elections for members of the regular National Assembly will be held. The defense chief, who topped the elections for the interim Batasang Pambansa in Region II (Northeastern Philippines), said it is the thinking of the national leadership that elections for officials on the local level would be too expensive at this point and would develop ill will which would lead to divisions among the people.

May 7—

THE PRESIDENT will stop after May 15 issuing decrees, letters of instructions and general orders—a legislative function which he exercise under his Martial Law powers. This move was learned from Malacañang sources, who said that the President was preparing to pass on his legislative work to the Interim Batasang Pambansa. The sources said that the Present had directed all departments of the government to submit to him all urgent measures not later than May 15 so that they could be acted upon by him. All legislative matters that will not be acted upon by the President by May 15 will have to wait until the IBP convenes either on June 11 or June 12, the sources said.

THE PRESIDENT started his inspection tour of on-going rural development projects and the road damaged by the recent typhoon "Atang" in the depressed areas in Leyte. Accompanied by the First Lady, he checked on the progress of the construction of the 241-kilometer highway from Allen in Northern Samar to the San Juanico bridge at the southern end of the island.

THE PRESIDENT called for increased trade among the five members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to counter the growing threat of protectionism from industrialized countries. In a speech read for him by Foreign Secretary Carlos P. Romulo at the opening of the ASEAN Trade Fair at the Philippine Center for International Trade and Exhibitions (Philcite), the President said the escalation of the rich-country protectionism could curtail market access for ASEAN'S exports and its capability of sustained growth.

May 8—

THE PRESIDENT announced that the proposed copper smelter plant to be put up in San Juan, Batangas will be put up, instead in Palompon and Isabela towns in Leyte. He made the announcement after he and the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, visited the geothermal power plant in barangay Tonungan, Ormoc City.

May 9—

ORGANIZING committee of the interim Batasang Pambansa has recommended that the Prime Minister under the evolving parliamentary government be also required to answer question of IBP members during the “question hour.” The scheme is part of the proposed ground rules for the IBP which the organizing committee has adopted. The rules will be submitted to the IBP for approval. Under an amendment to the Constitution, the President will automatically be the Prime Minister when the parliamentary form of government is adopted. The proposed IBP rules require that any minister or Cabinet member under the parliamentary setup may appear for public questioning in the IBP during the same question hour.

May 10—

THE PRESIDENT said the developing nations of the Pacific basin still fall back on trade and investment measures as a result of the unabated and regrettable tide of trade protectionism used as an instrument of policy by developed nations of the world. In a speech read for him by Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Romulo at the closing of the 11th meeting of the Pacific Basin Economic Council at the Philippine International Convention Center, the President urged the nations of the region to conduct a “judicious reflection on these points and consideration of ways to affect structural adjustments or redirect resources to more productive and dynamic sectors.”

May 11—

THE PRESIDENT announced there will be a pre-inaugural caucus of the interim Batasang Pambansa to be held on May 17, possibly at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang. In an address at Freedom Park in Iloilo City, he also reiterated an earlier statement that he would stop exercising his legislative powers to allow the IBP to perform this function. However, he added, should the IBP fail to live up to expectations, he would exercise anew his power to legislate through issuance of decrees.

ASIAN Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$23.5-million (P173.20 million) loan for the Allah River Irrigation Project in southern Mindanao. The project will serve 82,000 people in 30 villages of South Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat provinces.

May 12—

THE PRESIDENT has ordered establishment of a sugar bank to meet the financing needs of sugar planters on Negros island and other parts of the country. Establishment of the bank to be capitalized at P400 million was ordered by the President in the course of his speech at a big rally at the Bacolod City plaza. He also directed Chairman Roberto Benedicto of the Philippine Sugar Commission (PSC) to handle the organization of the bank so it could start operation as soon as possible.

THE PHILIPPINES has accepted the nomination of Ambassador Richard William Murphy as the new US envoy to the country, the foreign office announced. Prior to his assignment to Manila, he was the US envoy to Syria.

THE PRESIDENT has rescheduled the pre-inaugural caucus of the interim Batasang Panibansa to June 1 to give more time to the assembly’s organizing committee to review its draft rules. This was announced by Local Government Secretary Jose A. Roño, committee chairman, who said the rescheduling will also enable the temporary Batasan secretariat to notify all assemblymen elect of the pre-session meet.

May 13—

DEPARTMENT of Education and Culture (DEC) will require public and private schools to offer population education as an elective starting this coming school year. Education Secretary Juan L. Manuel said the move is designed to enrich the students' background in population education to help them develop rational attitude and responsible behavior towards population situations.

May 14—

THE PRESIDENT approved the regionalization of the Philippine Constabulary (PC) and the Integrated National Police (INP) into 13 regional commands and ordered the gradual phase out of the existing four PC zones to make the PC and the INP more responsive to public safety, particularly in crime prevention. Maj. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, PC chief and INP director-general, said the 13 regional commands will each be headed by a regional commander, who have yet to be named by the President.

May 15—

THE PRESIDENT' said crime prevention and criminal justice could only be based on socio-economic realities in each region or country. He warned that anticrime measures on a universal basis were bound to fail. Hence, each nation must formulate its own approach, basing it on its experiences and needs, he told delegates at the opening of the United Nations Regional Preparatory Meeting on Crime Prevention and Treatment of Offenders for Asia and the Pacific. Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo read the speech for the President before the 150 delegates from 38 countries at the Philippine International Convention Center.

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady, resuming their inspection tour of outlying communities in Palawan, visited a newly discovered tribe of cave dwellers called Tao't bato (stone people) living by themselves in a mile-wide crater of an extinct volcano in Ransang. Although they hardly knew who their visitors were, the tribesmen welcomed the First Couple with smiling faces, kissing their hands in accordance with traditional Filipino custom.

May 16—

FIVE Cabinet members were directed by the President to go to Albay and find ways of giving semi-permanent employment to people who have evacuated their homes as a result of the eruption of Mayon Volcano. In his directive, the President said that he does not want to continue the usual practice of the government just doling out assistance in the form of food and shelter to those who have been forced to leave their homes. Directed to attend to the needs of the people displaced by the eruption are Industry Secretary Vicente Paterno, Agriculture Secretary Arturo R. Tanco, Jr., Labor Secretary Blas F. Ople, Information Secretary Francisco S. Tatad and Silvia Montes, the officer-in-charge of the Department of Social Services and Development.

THE PRESIDENT said he will review the grant and continuation of forest and timber concessions in Palawan to preserve and conserve the natural resources of the province. He said he went to Palawan to inspect the implementation of social, economic and political reform programs on the western side of the country.

THE PRESIDENT ordered a shift in emphasis in highways construction from national highways to rural roads, particularly farm-to-market roads. He also ordered the purchase of \$53 million worth of heavy equipment for the construction of rural roads and that more loans be obtained for rural roads which is only 25 percent of the present highways construction. He spoke before officials of the Department of Public Highways and members of the District and City Engineers' League of the Philippines who called on him at Malacañang at the end of their convention in Legaspi City.

May 17—

THE PRESIDENT paved the way for the granting of automatic citizenship to some 23,000 aliens who applied for naturalization since 1975. The Chief Executive announced this during his talk before leading businessmen from the five member nations of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) who are holding a three-day

conference here. The President said the new law would grant automatic citizenship to the remainder of some 38,838 aliens who applied for naturalization under a presidential decree naturalizing all qualified persons under the law.

THE PRESIDENT has postponed to July 1, 1978, the effectivity of the new Presidential Decrees 1357 and 1358 revising the sales tax rates and the method for computing the sales tax due. The move was taken to give the affected businessmen sufficient time to familiarized themselves with the provisions of the new sales tax laws, including those that govern the sale of automobiles, and to enable manufacturers to prepare the inventories of their raw materials, parts and accessories before the beginning of the next quarter on July 1, 1978. Excepted from the postponement order are importations which, since April 21, 1978 when the new sales laws were signed by the President, have been subjected to the sales tax prescribed under the new laws.

SOLICITOR General Estelito Mendoza was directed by the President to move for reconsideration of a lower court decision upholding the validity of an 1894 title to 176,000 hectares of land in Bulacan, Quezon, Rizal, Quezon City and Caloocan. The decision, rendered by Judge Agustin C. Bagasao of the Bulacan Court of First Instance, also decreed certain persons as true heirs of the late Don Mariano San Pedro de Esteban, owner of the questioned title. Solicitor Mendoza raised the matter to the President because of what he considered to be the doubtful legal and factual basis of the decision.

May 18—

THE PRESIDENT appointed Justice Vicente Santiago Jr. of the Court of Appeals and Judge Domingo Pabalate, executive judge of the Manila city court to the Commission on Elections (Comelec). He announced the appointments when he was interviewed by newsmen at the Laoag International Airport terminal upon his arrival. The new Comelec members take over from Commissioners Casimiro Madarang and Venancio Yaneza whose five-year term ended May 17.

THE PRESIDENT categorically said that he has no plans at present to revamp his Cabinet. But it was learned during an interview at Laoag International Airport that a new department, that of human settlements, may be created and the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, be appointed to head it. The new department, which will have Metro Manila under its jurisdiction, is now the subject of a study by team of experts including Justice Secretary Vicente Abad Santos, UP President Onofre D. Corpuz and Jose Conrado Benitez, chairman of the Technical Resources Commission.

THE PRESIDENT expressed sympathy and condolence to the Australian government on the death of former Prime Minister Sir Robert Gordon Menzies whose loss, the President said, "the government and Filipino people share with deep sorrow." The President sent the message to Australian Governor General Sir Zelman Cown who was informed that Ambassador Rafael A. Gonzales, director general of protocol in the Department of Foreign Affairs, will represent the President in the State funeral.

May 19—

THE PRESIDENT disclosed that the United States has voluntarily offered to limit the area for its military bases to only a few thousand hectares. This breakthrough in the bases renegotiations was bared by the President in an interview with Malacañang newsmen in barrio Pasil, Paoay, Ilocos Norte. "They are limiting themselves voluntarily," he said, adding that the US has further agreed to "a common use of various facilities" in the US bases.

THE PRESIDENT has declared the entire Ransang Valley in Palawan, home of the Tao't bato tribesmen and site of the latest neolithic archaeological finds in the Philippines as a preserve which no one may enter without official permission of the national museum. The preserve extends from the highest point of the mountain to the mouth of the Ransang river, north to south.

May 20—

THE PRESIDENT said that the Philippine government is ready to meet with duly authorized representatives of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) for a new round of peace talks. Interviewed by newsmen at the Manila International Airport, he said he was gratified by the initiative of President Suharto of Indonesia and Prime Minister Hussein Onn of Malaysia to bring about another meeting between the Philippine government and the MNLF representatives. The Suharto-Onn initiative was forged at their recent annual summit meeting in Labuan Malaysia.

May 21—

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, welcomed their royal majesties, the King and Queen of Nepal. The royal visitors, King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev and Queen Aishwarya Rajya Laxmi Devi Shah arrived from Tokyo for a three-day unofficial visit.

May 22—

THE PRESIDENT took King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev of Nepal on a flying visit to the International Rice Research Institute, UP College of Agriculture and the National Arts Center of the Philippines in Los Baños, Laguna. At the IRRI and the UP Los Baños, the visiting Nepalese King was shown newly developed, fast-growing, high-yielding and disease-resistant varieties of rice, corn, coconut and outstanding tropical fruits for propagation to farmers.

May 23—

THE PRESIDENT announced the general organizational structure of the Interim Batasang Pambansa (IBP) which will constitute the transitional government that will pave the way for the formal establishment of the parliamentary system in the country. He made the announcement in a talk with newsmen after the departure of the King and Queen of Nepal at the Manila International Airport (MIA) after a three-day visit. The President said the IBP will be headed by a prime minister who will be assisted by one speaker, one party whip or the vice chairman of the steering committee and composed of “no more than 30 committees” which will be chaired by cabinetmen.

ROYAL Couple of the Kingdom of Nepal left the country after three days of unofficial visit to the Philippines. King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev and Queen Aishwarya Rajya were seen off at the Manila International Airport (MIA) by the President and the First Lady amid thousands of cheering and waving children.

May 24—

THE PRESIDENT issued a series of directives and instructions, including additional funding for the National Grains Authority (NGA), to bolster the rice and corn industry. Speaking at the annual convention of the Confederation of Rice and Corn Associations of the Philippines at the Philippine International Convention Center, he also asked the private sector to help the government and participate in rice exportation. He authorized the increase of the procurement credit line of the NGA from P800 million to P1 billion, which will be made available by the Land Bank and the Central Bank.

THE PRESIDENT authorized the release of P5,000 for each of the 40,000 barangays all over the country to enable them to pursue priority projects. It was pointed out that the amount had been earmarked even before the elections but that they had been held in abeyance because of the insistence of the opposition that public works expenditures be suspended during the campaign for the Interim Batasang Pambansa. The release of the funds to each of the barangays, the President said, will enable them to start the projects.

May 25—

THE PRESIDENT signed a decree to bring about a more effective implementation of export promotion strategies and provide a mechanism to compete with other countries. The new decree amended PD 941 which created the

Philippine Export Council. The signing of the decree was witnessed by the officers of the Confederation of Philippine Exporters (COPE) who called on the President at Malacañang.

THE PRESIDENT ordered an audit of the books of enterprises which received about P1 billion from the Coconut Consumer Stabilization Fund (CCSF) and the prosecution of persons responsible for the irregularities in the use of fund. He also created an inter-agency committee to investigate reports that about P100 million in revenues have been lost due to misdeclaration of copra and other coconut products exports. He issued the directives in a meeting with officials of the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), planters and millers at Malacañang.

WORLD-famous monkey-eating eagle will now henceforth be called Philippine eagle. The President, in a proclamation, gave the eagle found only in the Philippines the new name. The eagle feeds on lemurs, birds and rats and only occasionally, monkeys. The Philippine eagle, found mostly in Mt. Apo in Davao and Cotabato provinces, is almost extinct. There are only 40 pairs now in Mt. Apo.

RICE stocks are now bankable and profitable lending instruments, Agriculture Secretary Arturo R. Tanco Jr. said. This was proven, he said, by the continued trust shown by rural bankers in extending loans to farmers on no-collateral bases. He spoke at the 25th annual convention of the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines at the Philippine International Convention Center.

May 26—

THE PRESIDENT has reiterated that no local elections are being scheduled in the immediate future. However, he did not entirely rule out the possibility that the Interim Batasang Pambansa (IBP) would take up the matter after it convenes its inaugural session on June 12. The IBP is scheduled to take up the national budget first. After disposing of the budget, it will tackle other matters, including possibly the holding of local elections. The President in an impromptu speech announced these possibilities at a dinner for the 17 Metro Manila mayors given by the winning Kilusan ng Bagong Lipunan (KBL) candidates for Metro Manila at the Meralco complex on Ortigas Avenue. The First Lady and Metro Manila Governor Imelda Romualdez Marcos, who led the winning KBL slate in Manila, accompanied the President.

THE PRESIDENT ordered the Department of Education and Culture (DEC) to hold a public hearing on proposals to increase tuition fees. The DEC and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) were directed to invite the views of as many parents, teachers and students as possible. They were asked to submit their recommendations to the President after the hearing.

THE PRESIDENT said he was gladdened by the interest shown by Australia in strengthening its links with the Philippines and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). He also expressed gratification over Australia's concern for the progress and stability of Southeast Asia to Ambassador Richard Arthur Woolcott as the latter presented his letters of credence as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Australia. He replaced Daniel Gerard Nutter.

May 27—

THE PRESIDENT directed the Central Bank (CB) and other government agencies to dig deeper into the causes of non-payment of farmers loans, including reports that some elements are spreading false information among farmers that the loan should be considered as government doles. He also urged farmers who had received loans under the Masagana 99 rice program and other food production schemes to settle their loans to keep the rural banks from bankruptcy. He pointed out that of the country's 875 rural banks, 200 are in financial distress because of their inability to pay their arrearages with the Central Bank. The President, speaking at the closing rites of the 25th Annual Convention of Rural Banks of the Philippines at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), said the farmers are not given enough motivation to settle their obligation.

THE FIRST Lady Imelda Romualdez Marcos, is in what she calls a "window shopping" spree for human settlement manager in preparation for the election for the creation of a ministry on human settlements. Speaking at the

38th anniversary of the Girl Scout of the Philippines (GSP) on Padre Faura, she said “I am just dying to get my hands on the job because no one has really harnessed our human resource in all levels for the good of the city.”

May 28—

HEAD of Sweden’s state-owned shipping industry has offered local shipowners cheap or “very soft loans” in the acquisition of ocean-going vessels. In a call at Malacañang, Ingvar Trogen, general manager of Uddevalla Shipyard and chairman of the Sweden Shipbuilders Association formally presented his offer to the President. After the call, the President ordered Industry Secretary Vicente Paterno, concurrently chairman of the Board of Investment, to study Trogen’s offer.

May 29—

THE PRESIDENT signed a decree increasing the minimum daily wage by P1 starting July 1. Under the new decree, which will affect about one-third of the six million salaried workers, the new minimum wage will be raised from P10 to P11 a day for workers in Metro Manila, P9 to P10 for non-agricultural workers outside Metro Manila, P8 to P9 for plantation agriculture, and P7 to P8 for non-plantation agriculture. He signed the decree in the presence of delegates to the just concluded National Tripartite Conference on Employment and Labor Relations held at the Development Academy of the Philippines in Tagaytay.

METRO Manila Governor Imelda Romualdez Marcos disclosed plans to trim down government expenditures and check corruption in the government service. She talked of this plan in an impromptu meeting with members-elect of the Interim Batasang Pambansa (IBP) for Metro Manila and some members of the Cabinet on board a Philippine National Railway coach. Mrs. Marcos, the Cabinet members and the successful Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL) candidates went on a whistle-stop-tour from Alabang to Caloocan City to thank the people for supporting the KBL ticket in the last elections and to assure the people that the KBL will make good its commitments in the elections.

May 30—

THE PRESIDENT has proclaimed 1978 as President Manuel L. Quezon national centennial year. He issued Executive Order No. 502, also creating a 19-man executive committee to prepare nationwide commemorative rites to honor on August 19 the late President Quezon. The President paid tribute to the ideals of the first President of the Philippine Commonwealth as he directed the committee to spearhead fitting ceremonies “to impress on our people the invaluable contributions of this great leader to the political emancipation of our nation and enhancement of our national growth.”

May 31—

THE PRESIDENT announced a move to convert the various departments of the government into ministries in line with the shift from purely presidential to parliamentary form of government. The shift will be effective on June 12 when the Interim Batasang Pambansa is convened. Under the new setup, the President will both be President with powers provided for in the 1935 Constitution and Prime Minister with powers provided founder the 1973 Constitution. The caucus held aboard the RPS*Ang Pangulo* which was berthed at Pier 15, was attended by members of the Cabinet and representatives elected to the IBP.

THE FIRST Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, disclosed she plans to initiate a system of maternity hospitals and child centers around the country “to give every newborn Filipino a proper and beautiful introduction into the World.” In ceremonies marking the ninth anniversary of the Makati Medical Center, she said that for her purpose, she was seeking the assistance of the center’s director, Dr. Constantino Manahan, who is one of the country’s top obstetricians. She also launched a unique medical exchange program between the center and the barangay health centers (BHCs) of Makati, which could lead eventually to a metro-wide effort. In addition, she formally inaugurated the center’s school of nursing named the Remedios Trinidad Romualdez Memorial School in honor of her late mother, as well as the center’s latest acquisition—a computed topography scanner, which updates the X-ray to produce a clearer and more accurate picture of the internal body.

THE PRESIDENT predicted “even greater benefits to government workers and retirees” during the 41st anniversary of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS). He anchored his prediction on the “continuous growth” of the GSIS in whose expanded benefit programs “I must take great pride.” He foretold a bright future for government workers in his message to GSIS officials and employees, some, 477 of whom were honored during simple rites at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC).

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Month in Review: June, 1978

President's Week in Review: July 3-9, 1978

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

July 3—

THE PRESIDENT directed provincial governors to require their respective mayors to list down the priority needs of their localities for submission to the national government with a view to updating the human settlements profile of all 1,700 towns and cities in the country. In a conference with city and municipal mayors of Ilocos Norte, he stressed the need for reviewing the human settlements organization of each province and region in order to update the economic, social and political profile of the nation. He said he could start with his home province of Ilocos Norte. He arrived in Paoay, Ilocos Norte where, he checked; various public works installations being get up in the, region, such as flood control, water conservation and the pilot mini-integrated development projects there designed to upgrade living conditions in depressed localities.

THE PRESIDENT has increased the membership of the Court of Appeals from 36 to 45, the third in a series of moves affecting the country's judicial system. Judiciary sources said the membership increase of the CA, which is an off-shoot of the increase in the number of: divisions from 12 to 15 as prescribed in a presidential decree signed last June 11, is primarily directed at easing the court's mounting backlog of cases.

July 4—

THE FIRST Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, discussed urban development and preparations for the 1980 Olympics with Moscow Mayor Vladimir Promyslov. She is currently in the Soviet Union as a guest of honor of the Ministry of Culture and to attend the finals of the Tchaikovsky musical competition. The meetings were held with Promyslov in her capacity as governor of Metropolitan Manila. Tass said Mrs. Marcos asked in detail about development of the Soviet capital, plans for housing and industrial construction and the work of public transport. She also expressed interest in pre-school education of children.

July 5—

THE PRIME MINISTER ruled that any bill, disapproved by any of the interim Batasang-Pambansa committees and referred to for study shall be automatically turned down for assembly discussion. He made the ruling in his capacity as head of the powerful steering council in reply to a question of Assemblyman Arturo M. Tolentino. The ruling ended the confusion on what to do if committees studying parliamentary bills were to make opposing recommendations.

THE PRESIDENT ordered Director Jolly, Bugarin of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to conduct an inquiry into the so-called "Buendia" case. The inquiry will be conducted like a public hearing where any interested person may testify. The President's directive was issued to allow any and all interested parties, particularly witnesses, to come forward and offer the testimony on the killing. Newspaper reports had said that Apolinario E. Buendia, 17, a second year civil engineering student of the University of the Philippines, was fatally shot and his father and mother were seriously wounded supposedly by a bodyguard of an Armed Force's colonel's son after a volleyball game in Makati last June 26.

THE FIRST Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, looked into the Soviet system of caring for pre-school children as a model that could be adapted to the Philippines on a modest scale. She spent her morning meeting with Vladimir Promyslov, who, as chairman of the Moscow City Soviety (council) of Working People's Deputies, is in effect the mayor of Moscow. In the afternoon and evening, she attended piano and violin concerts in the current Tschaikovsky music competitions. Meeting for the second time since June 1976, the two metropolitan executives compared notes on common problems that have arisen in their respective cities.

THE PRESIDENT received World Chess Champion Anatoly Karpov and challenger Viktor Korchnoi, who came to pay their respects. Earlier, he also received retired U.S. Admiral John S. McCain Jr., who was accompanied by his wife and son John III during his call.

July 6—

THE FIRST Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, met for almost two hours with Premier Alexei Kosygin of the Soviet Union to discuss the further development of Philippine-Soviet relations in the light of the current international situation. The meeting took place in Kosygin's office at the Senate building, the seat of the Soviet government, inside the Kremlin, after a day spent by Mrs. Marcos visiting two of Moscow's six main Olympic sites, and Star City, home of the Soviet cosmonauts.

July 7—

THE PRESIDENT authorized a 65-centavo increase per bag in the retail price of cement starting July 1. The new retail price is P15.35 per bag from P14.70 per bag ceiling set by the Price Stabilization Council (PSC). The 65-centavo increase per bag represents the 5 per cent sales tax required by Presidential Decree No. 1358. The Philippine Cement Corp. explained the 65-centavo increase does not represent a price hike as far as the cement manufacturers are concerned since its (increase) is a tax that is going to be paid directly to the government.

MINISTRY of Local Government directed all governors, mayors, bureaus and other units under it to include in their development plans the human Settlements programs adopted by the national government.

PHILIPPINE economy, during the first half of 1978, performed better than expected "because of the improvement in the demand for some of its export commodities and the implementation of non-inflationary measures designed to boost domestic growth." In a report to the President, Central Bank Gov. Gregorio S. Licaros said, the economy posted an overall surplus of \$83 million in its foreign exchange transactions. This, "together with other positive factors, helped the value of the peso appreciate *vis-a-vis* the US dollar," he added.

July 8—

THE PRESIDENT has approved the release of an additional P5-million from the Ministry of Public Highways to finance the completion of the beautification project in Baguio City started by the First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos. With P5-million released, P12.5 million has already been released for the facelifting of this mountain tourist city.

THE FIRST Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, ends a nine-day visit to the Soviet Union, after signing for the Philippines a cultural agreement with the Soviet Union and attending the prize winners' concert of the Sixth Tchaikovsky International Music Competition at which she was the guest of honor. The signing took place at the Soviet foreign ministry with Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko signing for the Soviet side in the presence of his senior officials and Soviet Minister of Culture Piotr Demichev and his senior officials. The two countries have agreed "to develop ties, cooperation in the fields of culture, higher or post graduate education and sport," for an initial two-year period.

ENERGY Minister Geronimo Velasco said the local oil industry has enough supply of gasoline in its inventories to cover for any shortfall brought about by the reported Caltex refinery problem. He issued this statement to assure gasoline buyers of the availability of the commodity. He added that Petrophil, Mobil, Shell and Getty have adequate supply to meet market requirements.

July 9—

THE PRESIDENT welcomed the conclusion of a P111-million (\$15-million) financing by six Arab banks and two US financial institutions for the Philippine-Singapore Ports Corp., a Landoil subsidiary. This is the first time that a

full complement of Middle East banks financed a Philippine firm. The President received Constantin Apostolides, executive of the First Boston Corp. which together with the US Mellon Bank, brought together Qatar National Bank, Arab-Malaysian Development Bank, Wardly-Middle East, Ltd., UBAS Bank, Ltd., UBAN-Arab Japanese Finance, Ltd., and Union de Banques Arabes et Francaises-EBAF in the international syndication.

THE PRESIDENT also received Mrs. Velma Morison, major share holder and director of Morrison Knudsen, one of the world's construction giants, who discussed contraction opportunities in Saudi Arabia and the Middle East and Shameem Qurashi, president of the United Arab Emi rates, who informed the President of the increasing Philippine acceptance in the Middle East and who is currently arranging joint venture opportunities for the Philippines in West Asia.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: July 10-16, 1978

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

July 10—

THE PRESIDENT pledged the total commitment of the government to science and technology as he announced a series of incentives for scientists and technologists to enable them to continue their vital role in food production and energy development. Speaking at the opening ceremonies of the 1978 National Science and Technology Week and the 20th anniversary of the National Science Development Board at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang, the President stressed that it is in the areas of food and energy “where the survival of the country will depend.”

THE PRESIDENT announced that the five oil well discoveries off Palawan would account for 15 per cent of the country's yearly oil consumption by April next year. His statement was an indication that the oil development program was on schedule. He said the five oil wells would yield 40,000 barrels a day starting February, which in turn would mean a daily foreign exchange savings of \$500,000. According to targets, the oil production was expected to increase to 19.3 million barrels a day by 1982, 34 million barrels by 1985 and 45.2 million barrels by 1987. He issued the statement at the opening of the 1978 National Science and Technology Week and the 20th anniversary of the National Science Development Board.

AGRICULTURE Minister Arturo R. Tanco Jr., ordered the nationwide use of IR-36 VEM rice variety which matures in only 100 day and produces about 140 cavans a hectare. Aside from high yield potential, he said, rice produced from the variety will raise the standard of Philippine rice export as the variety is reported to be resistant to shattering in the milling processes. At the same time, he directed the Seed Growers Association of the Philippines to step up multiplication of the variety for distribution to Masagana 99 farmers.

July 11—

LOCAL Government Minister Jose Roño was ordered by the President to investigate the mass dismissal and replacement of barangay and Sanggunian Bayan officials in Zamboanga del Norte after a dialogue with officers of the Pambansang Katipunan ng mga Barangay (PKB) and some concerned interim Batasang Pambansa members. The sudden replacement of more than 200 municipal and provincial local officials was earlier flayed by PKB as “politically motivated.” They appealed for an investigation.

THE FIRST Lady Imelda Romualdez Marcos, paid a half-hour courtesy call on British Prime Minister James Callaghan at his No. 10 Downing st. office.

MINISTRY of Local Government ruled that new provinces, cities and towns or barangays may be created based on standards to be set up without having to pass a plebiscite as normally required under the Constitution. The ruling, which was made by Minister Jose Roño in the first meeting of the interim Batasang Pambansa committee on local government, affects many parliamentary bills which are now pending in the interim legislature. The ministry, however, said that the plebiscite requirement will be fully enforced once the Local Government Code is enacted.

THE PRESIDENT has approved the distribution of 6,000 science kits to public elementary schools this year. The kits have been found to be effective as teaching aids in science education. Their production has been farmed out among small-scale industries by the National Development Board (NSDB).

FRENCH pilot Maurice Bellonte was received by the President at Malacañang. He was accompanied by French Ambassador Leonard Touze. Earlier, the President also received Bhagirathan Davarajan, new UNDP representative in the country.

July 12—

SOME P200 Million will be made available in the form of loans to rice, corn sugar and other farmers by the Philippine Planters Products Inc. (PPPI) during the current planting season. The President has directed the PPPI to undertake the massive financing program to enable farmers to buy fertilizers and pesticides on time. The financing plan will fill a gap in credit facilities brought about by repeated delays in the processing of farmers' crop loans.

July 13—

THE GOVERNMENT has finally decided to implement the controversial early warning device (EWD) requirement for every motor vehicle, which it has placed in the freezer for quite a time. The President has ordered the Land Transportation Commission (LTC) to now require owners of either private or public utility vehicles to acquire a set of EWDs for each of their vehicles. The LTC was directed not to register vehicles without their owners first presenting their EWD sets.

DEVELOPMENT drilling and construction of production facilities in the NIDO oilfield off southwestern Palawan will start this October, the Ministry of Energy announced. The development drilling will be a three-well program, two in the West Nido reservoir and one in the South Nido reservoir. The development work will be preparatory to the production of commercial oil in the country starting in February, the ministry said.

July 14—

A NEW super miracle rice, considered superior to all other existing rice varieties, has been developed at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in Los Baños, Laguna. It is called IR42, and exceptionally high-yielding, disease and insect-resistant, drought-tolerant variety that performs well even with minimal fertilization. This variety is a sister to the well known IR36 line which was recently ordered by Agriculture Minister Arturo R. Tanco Jr. to be used nationwide in the Masagana 99 program.

July 15—

THE PRESIDENT served notice that he would resume his decree making under the Constitution if the interim Batasang Pambansa fails in its assigned tasks. In an interview at the Baguio Golf and Country Club, he sought to correct the impression that he no longer has the power to issue decrees with the organization of the Batasan. He stressed that "I will issue decrees if necessary for the welfare of the country."

THE FIRST Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, met in New York City with 12 Filipino medical specialists whom she has asked to travel in the United States, Europe and Asia to observe the latest medical technology. The doctors left the Philippines shortly after Mrs. Marcos went to Moscow on a recent nine-day official visit to the Soviet Union. They converged to report to the First Lady halfway through their mission, having visited a number of US hospitals specializing in blood, lung, kidney, brain and children's diseases. She hopes to set up five new specialized medical centers as part of the health program of the Ministry of Human Settlements.

July 16—

THE PRESIDENT challenged "the real leaders" of the secessionist movement in the South to come to the country and discuss with government representatives the peaceful settlement of the Mindanao problem. Visibly impatient over the impasse in the final settlement of the trouble, he stressed that the problem is a domestic affair and that the meeting between government and secessionist representatives should be "a face-to-face meeting without any foreign intervenors." He pointed out in his talks with newsmen at the Baguio Golf and Country Club that the break in the talks in the South is caused by the split in the ranks of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), a group supposedly spearheading the secessionist movement.

THE PRESIDENT has ordered an investigation of the release in Cebu City of 29 men suspected of being members of an arson syndicate. He disclosed this action as he told newsmen that there are indications that some recent fires in Metro Manila and in the South were perpetrated by subversives.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: July 17-23, 1978

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

July 17—

THE PRESIDENT directed defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, who is also chairman of the Philippine Coconut Authority, to call a meeting of coconut producers and consumers groups to resolve the controversy over the recent price increases of coconut-based products. In an interview after playing a round of golf at the Baguio Golf and Country Club, he said he wants the meeting to be held as soon as possible so that "we can work out some kind of an understanding or compromise." The President was apparently reacting to the plan of a consumers' group (the Philippine Consumers' Foundation) to go to the Supreme Court to require the price Stabilization Council to roll back prices of laundry soap, edible oil and filled milk.

July 18—

EMPLOYEES who meet with an accident on their way to or from their workplace may now be compensated for their injuries if the place of accident is the only access road to the place. This is one of the highlights of the amended implementing rules of the Employees Compensation Law which was restructured recently by Presidential Decree No. 1368 to upgrade its benefits. Labor Minister Blas F. Ople, concurrently chairman of the Employees Compensation Commission, explained that the adoption of the so-called "ingress and egress rule" was made possible by the redefinition of the term "injury" under PD 1368.

July 19—

THE PRESIDENT required members of the interim Batasang Pambansa who cannot understand Pilipino to study the language so they can follow all assembly deliberations. The ruling came after Negros Occidental Assemblyman Teodoro Benedicto asked agricultural labor delegate Luis Taruc to speak English in interpellating Natural Resources Minister Jose Leido Jr. during the current budget discussions.

FOREIGN Deputy Minister Jose D. Ingles said that the Philippines remains a secular state as ordained in the Constitution although the government supports activities of religious groups that work for the advancement of learning among its adherents. He made his comments at the opening of the national Koran reading competition at the Folk Arts Theater. He spoke before a predominantly Muslim audience, mostly students and professionals in Metro Manila, who had gathered at the FAT to hear 18 young men and women recite verses in the Koran.

July 20—

THE PRESIDENT has organized a four-man committee to oversee the clearing and eventual development of the 160-hectare Cebu north reclamation area. The newly-organized committee is composed of Maj. Gen. Fidel Ramos, Constabulary and Integrated National Police chief; retired Brig. Gen. Gaudencio Tobias, National Housing Authority chairman; Edmundo Maninang, Public Estate Authority general manager; and Cebu City Mayor Eulogio E. Borres.

July 21—

THE PRESIDENT has signed into law at least 11 new tax measures designed to generate P184 million additional government revenues in 1979. This was reported during the Batasang Pambansa session by Finance Minister Cesar Virata. Minister Virata, chairman of the Batasang committee on finance, said the 11 tax decrees signed last June 11 were among the 16 revenue measures included in the President's budget message. The 16 measures were expected to generate additional revenues of about P412 million. He said the President's action left the assembly to consider the remaining six measures expected to generate P205.6 million in additional collections.

INTERIM Batasang Pambansa approved on second reading three new tax measures on cigarettes, liquor and hotels designed to generate 1211 million in revenue next year. The assembly also approved in principle the proposed budgets for the ministries of public highways, local government and community development, public works, labor and six other government offices amounting to P4.185 billion. The action ended floor debates on the P34.3-billion national outlay for 1979 covering 21 ministries and 12 government offices.

THE PRESIDENT said that some Chinese, some of whom are abroad, have been pinpointed as the brains of an arson and extortion syndicate operating in the country. In an interview with newsmen during a break in the session of the interim Batasang Pambansa in Quezon City, the President told newsmen that participation of foreigners in the rash of fires in Metro Manila and in the South is “a matter of fact.” The report made to him by Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile substantiates reports that foreigners were behind some major fires in the country, the President added.

July 22—

THE PRESIDENT has ordered the Ministry of Public Highways to continue the construction of the P13-million E. de los Santos avenue extension to Roxas blvd. in Pasay City using P. Lovina Sr. and F. Rein streets. The construction of the project was supposed to start last year but residents of said streets complained to the President who later shopped the project and directed the Human Settlements Commission to conduct a survey on the problem.

July 23—

THE GOVERNMENT has-banned the existing interlocking business interest in the insurance industry, raised the minimum paid-in capitalization of insurance firms and gave additional powers to the insurance commissioner. These, among the other new provisions, are embodied in Presidential Decree No. 1455 promulgated into law last June 11 by the President amending the Insurance Code otherwise known as PD 612.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: July 24-31, 1978

President's Week in Review: August 1-6, 1978

President's Week in Review: August 7-13, 1978

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

August 7—

THE PRESIDENT was shocked and saddened by the sudden death of Pope Paul VI. He said the late Pope, one of the greatest of world leaders, infused a new meaning and vigor in the Christian faith. The late Pope, who visited the Philippines, in 1970, also lent his strength in trying to repair a world long torn by tension and strife, the President added.

MINISTRY of Education and Culture ordered the strict observance of Pilipino requirements in all college courses starting school year 1979-1980. The order came in the wake of confusion over two previous orders since the bilingual program of education was started in 1974. These orders did not specify the number of required units in Pilipino and the subjects to be taught in Pilipino, thus making some schools think that the matter was not compulsory. The ministry's Order 22 outlined a definite program where at least six units of Pilipino, are offered in all courses. The teacher education program, however, should retain the required 12 units, the order said.

August 8—

THE PRESIDENT granted members of the police forces extra pay for hazardous undertakings. He also created a National Fire Safety Council to be composed of 15 top government officials, including eight cabinet members. He signed the decree on hazardous pay for policemen after delivering a speech on the occasion of the 77th anniversary of the Philippine Constabulary (PC) in Camp Diwa, Bicutan, Taguig, Metro Manila. The PC Day celebration coincided with the third anniversary of the Integrated National Police.

THE PRESIDENT ordered Trade Minister Troadio T. Quiazon to complete the hearings on the increased prices of basic commodities on learning that manufacturers of filled milk, edible oil and laundry soap have stopped production and created a shortage of these products in the market. However, in his order, the President said that only the issue specified in the Supreme Court ruling should be considered in the conference-type hearings under the auspices of the Price Stabilization Council (PSC).

THE PRESIDENT proclaimed November 27 as a day of mourning over the death of Pope Paul VI last Monday. November 27 was chosen because it was on this date that the late Pope started his visit to this country in 1970.

THE PHILIPPINES and Australian governments exchanged pledges to utilize nuclear energy only for peaceful purposes. Representatives of the two countries signed an agreement in Malacañang to avail themselves of their nuclear energy resources in pursuance of their regulations of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Presided over by the President, the signing ceremonies were attended by Energy Minister Geronimo Z. Velasco, who signed for the Philippines, and Deputy Prime Minister J. Douglas Anthony for Australia. The agreement which binds Australia to supply this country with unprocessed uranium for the use of the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant, is in line with the nuclear non-proliferation treaty concluded in 1968.

August 9—

THE PRESIDENT who met the Cabinet at Malacañang for half an hour deplored the tendency of some ministries to create new offices whenever they are confronted with certain problems. This has resulted in the increasing number of offices, duplication of functions and needless increases in operating expenditures, the President said. In a related move, he directed his ministers to study a direct purchase system in obtaining supplies for their ministries.

THE PRESIDENT said the First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos will soon leave for Rome to represent him at the funeral rites for the late Pope Paul VI. The First Lady will depart from New York where she served as a member of the Philippine delegation to the US-ASEAN dialogue in Washington.

August 10—

THE PRESIDENT directed the Ministry of Trade to look into the feasibility of taking over cooking oil manufacturing through a firm jointly owned by the government, coconut farmers and consumers. The President's directive was relayed to Trade Minister Troadio Quiazon shortly after the Price Stabilization Council restored prices of filled milk, cooking oil and laundry bar soap to their June 6 levels. The order was apparently issued to avert any future disruption in the production of cooking oil which is considered a basic commodity by the government.

THE PRESIDENT has ordered the Presidential Assistant for National Minorities (PANAMIN) to pull out of the Kalinga-Apayao region to give way to the Kalinga Special Development Region (KSDR), a special inter-agency body which oversees development programs and special problems affecting the ethnic tribes.

DOMESTIC enterprises intending to borrow foreign funds are now required by the Central Bank to maintain "sound" debt-equity as a precondition for getting authority to borrow from foreign commercial sources. The CB condition calls for an increase in the paid-in capitalization of the borrowing firms.

THE PHILIPPINE government has accepted the nomination of Mohamed Ismail Kahin as first Ambassador Extra-Ordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Somali Democratic Republic to the Philippines with residence in Pelting.

THE PRESIDENT declared Wednesday, August 16, as a special public holiday in Pasay City to enable its residents to observe the 31st foundation anniversary and 400th year of existence of their city.

August 11—

INTERIM Batasang Pambansa approved on third reading the national government's P34.3-billion budget for 1979. However, the general appropriations bill, authorized the expenditure of only P32.2 billion. The difference of P2.1 billion had been authorized by special public works acts and other existing decrees. The President announced he would prune the budget as approved by the Batasan by withholding fund releases. He added that he had ordered suspension of new offices in the government "that are not justified or that have not been justified before my office." The bill, which allocates P22.4 billion for current operating expenditures and P9.8 billion for capital outlays, now goes to the President to be signed into law.

EDUCATION Minister Juan L. Manuel announced a seven-point program thrust of the Youth Civic Action Program (YCAP) for school year 1978-1979. The thrusts are adoption of A Barangay for Community Development (AECD), Drug Abuse Prevention (DAP) Kabataang Barangay (KB), Tree planting Action Program (TAP), Public Understanding on Science, Technology and Environment (FUSTE), Educational Care and Reform (Educare), and Animal Care (Anicare).

August 12—

THE GOVERNMENT takes another step towards socialization with an urban land reform law, approved before the Batasang Pambansa convened, governing the ownership and use of big landholdings. In Presidential Decree No. 1517, the President is authorized to proclaim parcels of urban and urbanizable land as urban land reform areas. For them, the Minister of Human Settlements would prepare development and zoning plans. This law is designed to end the traditional concept of land ownership which has given rise to social tension and violent conflicts.

NATIONAL Reinsurance Corporation of the Philippines (NRCP) has elected Roman A. Cruz, Jr., GSIS president and general manager, as board chairman. The corporation was created under Presidential Decree No. 1270 to boost the insurance and reinsurance markets in the country. Under the decree, the NRCP has been designated as the national institution that will subscribe to the capital stock of the Asian Reinsurance Corporation.

THE FIRST Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, arrived in Rome with her son Ferdinand, Jr., to represent the President and the Filipino people at the funeral of Pope Paul VI. She was about to leave New York for Manila after a

month-long mission abroad for the President that took her to Moscow, London and Washington, when news of the Pope's death came. The President asked her to put off her going home so she could attend the funeral.

August 13—

THE PRESIDENT ordered a probe into the alleged irregularities in the construction of the P8-million public market in General Santos City, South Cotabato. The Chief Executive created a three-man committee headed by Rosalio A. Mallonga of the Ministry of Public Works, Transportation and Communications. The two other members are Faustino Santelices and Wilfredo Santos.

GROSS payment made to professionals for fees or other remunerations such as those paid to lawyers, accountants, doctors, engineers and other professionals will be subject to 20 per cent withholding tax. Payments made to actors, actresses, singers, musicians, emcees, athletes, dancers and other professional entertainers will also be subject to the 20 per cent withholding tax. These are the salient provisions of the proposed revenue regulations announced by the Bureau of Internal Revenue. The proposed regulations would implement Presidential Decree No. 1351.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: August 14-27, 1978

President's Week in Review: August 28 - September 3, 1978

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

August 28—

THE PRESIDENT said that as the people of a developing country, the Filipinos will never run to a developed nation for the protection of their human rights. Evidently referring to United States interference in Philippine domestic affairs he, said no developed country can arrogate unto itself the function of acting as ombudsman of the Philippines or guardian of rights of the Filipinos.” Addressing the opening session of the 58th Conference of the International Law Association at the Philippine International Convention Center, he said the Philippines is capable of performing this function well. Saying there is not one government which has not violated human rights in one way or another, the President said the proper inquiry is not whether any human right has been violated but rather whether the violation is part of the government policy. If it is not, he said, the question should be whether such a government has taken steps to redress the-violation according to law. “Foreign observers or interventionists do not seem to realize this,” he said.

THE FIRST Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, drew mixed reactions from the crowd as she urged international lawmakers to make use of laws to “liberate humankind.” In her welcome address at the 58th biennial conference of the International Law Association, she said “law should free a man and not imprison him”. She added that “law should be the living and democratizing instrument of man, for man, by man. It should be the vehicle of human liberation.”

THE PRESIDENT ordered the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) to suspend its operations and to stop authorizing water rate increases. He also directed the LWUA, an agency created to improve the waterworks systems in the provinces, to stop releases of funds to water districts. He instructed the budget ministry to desist from further releasing any fund for the LWUA. The President noted that the LWUA has become oppressive by authorizing increase in water rates without the benefit of public hearings.

August 29—

THE PRESIDENT proclaimed August 30 as a special public holiday in San Juan, Metro Manila to commemorate the 82nd anniversary of the Battle of Pinaglabanan. In another proclamation, he also declared August 30 as a special public holiday in the province of Bulacan to commemorate the 128th birth anniversary of Marcelo H. del Pilar.

August 30—

ALL banks were virtually required by the Central Bank to grant bigger loans to borrowers (individual or corporate entity) engaged in home building and subdivision development projects for low and middle income families. The CB requirement is embodied in Circular No. 627 which increased the loan values of collateral pledged by the borrowers to cover for their bank loans. The CB provided, however, that these provisions of the circular shall apply in cases that the real estate used as collateral is in the name of the borrower; the subdivision or housing project or plan has the approval by proper government authorities. The circular takes effect immediately.

August 31—

MINISTRY of Human Settlements has launched a nationwide Bahay Pilipino Awards contest which will grant cash incentives to houses best reflecting tally Filipino architecture in each of the country's 13 regions The contest is in line with the program of the First Lady, Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos, to evolve and encourage genuine Filipino architecture in such a very basic need as shelter for the masses. In launching the contest, the First Lady expressed the hope that it will encourage the construction of houses making use local and indigenous materials to serve as prototypes or models for houses in connection with the government's housing program.

September 1—

FILIPINO ship-owners are now able to generate more funds from the international capital markets. This was made possible by the issuance of the President of Presidential Decree No. 1521 amending the Philippine Ship Mortgage Law. Under the new decree, domestic as well as ocean-going vessels can be the subject of a preferred mortgage and that the loan secured by a preferred mortgage can also be used for the initial operation of vessels. This means that domestic operators will also have more financing alternatives and shipowners can bolster their working capital resources.

September 2—

THE PRESIDENT conferred the Order of Sikatuna with the rank of datu on Lansar Mojsov, president, of the United Nations General Assembly. He also conferred the Presidential Merit of Awards to Wilgerforce and Antonio Rodriguez Sastre, immediate past president of the ILA.

THE PRESIDENT has ordered the cancellation of five timber licenses in Quezon and Isabela covering 65,700 hectares for violating the Forestry Reform Code, and the terms of their licenses. On instruction of the President, Natural Resources Minister Jose J. Leido Jr. cancelled the licenses of Universal Timber Corp., in Anahawan, Burdeos, Quezon; Dionisio Murillo Logging Inc. in Panukalan, Quezon; Antonio Zarraga, Logging Inc. in Burdeos, Quezon; Jose de la Rosa, a logging firm in Patnanungan, Quezon; and the Palanan Logging Enterprise in Palanan, Isabela. Operations of these timber licenses were previously suspended before their cancellation by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

KABATAANG Barangay which is pushing a nation-wide “Batarisan” out-of-school youth training and development program has adopted “Anak Bukid” a development project aimed at the rural youth, as its agricultural arm. KB Chairman Imee R. Marcos, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, has indicated approval of the “Anak Bukid” affiliation with the main “Batarisan” activity. “Anak Bukid” is the name given the 4-H Club under an integrated rural youth development plan conceived by the Bureau of Agricultural Extension to harness the rural youth for productive ends.

September 3—

THE GOVERNMENT has extended up to December 31 this year the first year of its rural service program to enable all government employees to render their required 15-day rural service work. Education Minister Juan L. Manuel disclosed this in a memorandum to public school teachers and employees of the education ministry. Minister Manuel said Chairman Jacobo C. Clave of the Civil Service Commission extended the first year of the program from September 15 this year to December 31 to accommodate the following government employees those who are still sick but who are expected to recover and well enough to go on rural service on or before December 31, 1978; those who are on official missions but who are expected to return before December 1, 1978; and those newly appointed officials who will be one year in the government service before December 1 this year.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: September 4-10, 1978

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

September 4—

THE PRESIDENT issued a series of orders granting benefits to the wounded members of the armed forces, their families, and to the doctors and nurses of the AFP Medical Center. He issued the orders during his speech inaugurating the P30 million seventy-story annex building of the AFP Medical Center in Quezon City which, he said is “a gift of a grateful nation to its distinguished soldiery.” At the inauguration rite which was attended by ranking members of the diplomatic corps, the President: 1) Ordered the release of an additional P8 million for the completion of the center, including the installation of modern kitchen and laundry facilities; 2) Directed the doubling of the monthly incentive pay for army doctors from P100 to P200; 3) Ordered Gen. Romeo Espino, AFP chief of staff, to provide incentive pay for army nurses; 4) Approved a petition by soldier-amputees that they be absorbed in the service and assigned tasks that will fit their capabilities; 5) Reiterated previous directives that seriously wounded soldiers who are incapable of earning a livelihood be provided with lifelong pensions, regardless of their length of services; and 6) Ordered the acceleration of the program to train future or potential retirees for civilian jobs in preparation for their retirement.

THE PRESIDENT called on computer experts in Southeast Asia to find ways and means in harnessing computer technology for regional development and modernization. In a speech read for him by Budget Minister Jaime C. Laya at the opening of the 1978 Southeast Asia Regional Computer Conference at the Philippine International Convention Center, the President said that computer technology “will take a strategic and important position in the lives of our societies and in the life of Southeast Asia” in the coming years.

THE PRESIDENT, through Proclamation No. 1782, declared September 5 a special public holiday in General Santos City to give the city residents an opportunity to attend the 10th charter anniversary celebration. He also declared, through another proclamation, September 9 a special public holiday throughout the country in commemoration of the 100th birth anniversary of former President Sergio Osmeña Sr.

September 5—

THE PRESIDENT expressed gratification over the growing commitment of New Zealand in the economic progress of the Philippines. He expressed his gratification after receiving the credentials of Ambassador Barbara Angus as New Zealand envoy to the Philippines at ceremonies held in Malacañang. Earlier, he also received the credentials of Ambassador Lloyd Kojo Onikeh Randall as non-resident envoy of Sierra Leone to the Philippines.

September 6—

THE PRESIDENT called on business firms to help train out-of-school youths during his meeting with 500 delegates to the 12-day National Youth Congress (Kongreso ng Kabataan) on Mt. Makiling, Los Baños, Laguna. He also directed the integration of the “Batarisan” program with the government’s over all manpower and skill development program to enhance its successful implementation. He also took the occasion to announce the appointment of Dr. Jose R. Vergara as president of the Technological University of the Philippines (formerly the Philippine College of Arts and Trades). The delegates, head by Miss Imee Marcos, KB foundation chairman, called on the President in Malacañang to present him resolutions passed during the congress. Also with the delegation were the two other children of the President, Bongbong and Irene.

September 7—

THE PRESIDENT directed the Cabinet to reassess the flood control program for Luzon, cope with the new OPEC price increase in oil in December and prepare priority items for the Batasang Pambansa agenda. The President, who presided over the weekly meeting of the Cabinet, singled out these three problems as urgent. During the meeting, he

directed Public Works Minister Alfredo Juinio to review, redesign and reprogram immediately the Luzon flood control system, giving preferential attention to the development of catch basins. For this purpose, the ground and geological surveys on the Cordillera and Sierra Madre Mountains have been ordered accelerated.

September 8—

THE PRESIDENT underscored the need for “aggressive police action” against the secessionist movement in the South to prevent the situation from deteriorating into a massive threat to the country’s stability and security. Speaking during the loyalty parade of the Armed Forces at Camp Aguinaldo in connection with his coming birthday, the President expressed concern over the deteriorating situation in Mindanao. If the terrorism is not checked outright, he warned, there will be a weakening in the civilian communities that will allow the rebel forces to grow and gather strength.

ALL agencies of the government were directed by the President to open themselves up to the public and the media in line with official policy towards political normalization. He also formed a coordinating council in the dissemination of information abroad. The council will pool existing government resources and prescribe a standard for the operation of various government agencies involved in foreign information. He directed, the Ministers of Public Information, Foreign Affairs, National Defense, Trade, Tourism, Local Government and Community Development, Education and Culture, Health, Energy, Finance, Economic Planning and other officials “to adopt a more open and responsive policy towards members of mass media—whether local or foreign—and foreign government officials and to facilitate their access to unclassified information.”

September 9—

THE PRESIDENT said that he would propose to the interim Batasang Pambansa the setting up of regional legislative committees to enable the people to propose legislation and air their grievances. In an interview in Paoay, Ilocos Norte, he said that under the proposal, the committee will be empowered to hold public hearings in aid of legislation and receive complaints from the people affecting their regions. He also pointed out that the committee, details of which are contained in his new book entitled “Introduction to the Policies of Transition,” is also empowered to summon the military, Cabinet members and other government officials to shed light on their respective departments.

September 10—

THE PRESIDENT granted conditional pardon to six persons who were convicted last year for participation in an assassination plot against him in 1972. Pardoned were Eduardo Figueras, Antonio Arevalo, Manuel Crisologo, Augustus McCormick Lehman Jr., Faustino Puzon and Alexander Arevalo. At the same time, he also granted pardon and commutation of sentences to 432 prisoners. Of these, four were given absolute pardon, 335 were granted conditional pardon and 93 others were given shorter sentences. The President’s grant of pardon and commutation of sentences was given on the eve of his 61st birthday.

THE PRESIDENT said that he will propose the opening of the books of accounts of the interim Batasang Pambansa and the disclosure of assets and liabilities of assemblymen to enhance the prestige of the legislative body. In an interview at Paoay, he said that he will propose to the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan—the majority party in the Batasan—that rules to this effect be approved and be made part of the house rules and regulations.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: September 11-17, 1978

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

September 11—

THE PRESIDENT celebrated his 61st birthday today in his hometown together with his family, close friends and some members of the Cabinet. The First Family started the day by praying at the Aglipayan church and hearing a high Mass at the Imelda cultural hall celebrated by Julio Cardinal Rosales. With the President were the First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos their children Imee, Bongbong and Irene, Doña Josefa Edralin Marcos, the President's mother.

September 12—

THE PRESIDENT said that the government will undertake urgent measures to cushion whatever economic difficulties the Philippines will face as a result of the projected oil price increase next year. In an interview with newsmen at his residence on Batac, Ilocos Norte he said that the expected oil price increase is "serious" and something should be done to prevent economic dislocation. He stressed that the Philippines will face in 1979 purely economic problems prompting the government to plan immediate and short-term measures.

THE PRESIDENT declared September 21 and 22 special public holidays all over the country to give the people full opportunity to celebrate national Thanksgiving Day on Thursday. In issuing Proclamation No. 1785 to this effect, the President once again called upon the people to reflect on the blessings of goodwill and prosperity achieved under the New Society.

September 13—

THE PRESIDENT laid down the cornerstone of the P3-million National Grains Authority warehouse in Dingras, Ilocos region. Accompanied by members of his family, the President motored to Dingras for the first stop of a townhopping trip in his former second congressional district. In his address to the townfolk, he also announced that he had ordered the immediate cementing of the San Nicolas-Dingras road. He allocated P2 million for it, on a quarterly basis. The cornerstone-laying ceremonies, held at the Saldares-Calli Elementary School which is about 48 kilometers from Batac was witnessed by NGA Administrator Jesus Tanchaco, Gov. Elizabeth Marcos Keon and around 500 town residents.

THE GOVERNMENT launched a new sugar intercropping program to use sugarlands fully and increase the income of farmers will plant mongo and peanuts in between sugar crops. The scheme is also expected to ease the tight supply of the two products. The intercropping will be financed by the Development Bank of the Philippine Sugar Commission (Philsucom) to sugar farmers participating in the program.

September 14—

THE PRESIDENT announced in Batac, Ilocos Norte that as of September 11 this year, the center of research agricultural products has been the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU). He made the announcement on the occasion of the 21st birthday celebrations of his son Ferdinand Jr. (Bongbong), which were sponsored by the Kabataang Barangay and students of the different schools and colleges of the MMSU.

September 15—

THE PRESIDENT said the Philippines is ready to work with the People's Republic of China in promoting economic development and progress among the developing countries. In accepting the credentials of the new PRC ambassador, Chen Hsin-jen, at Malacañang, the President stressed that the two countries both belong to the Third World and their fate is inextricably linked to that of the developing countries. He pointed out that economic

development and progress is the key to stability and peace in the world, and that developing countries should enjoy their share of economic progress.

September 16—

MINISTRY of Education and Culture said it will conduct seminars on a year-round basis to update the knowledge and capabilities of public school teachers and other school officials in compliance with the order of the President. MEC Minister Juan L. Manuel said the first batch of assistant superintendents of schools was set to start a month-long seminar at the Teacher's Camp in Baguio City where there are available facilities for the purpose. The President, on his 61st birth anniversary last September 11 in Batac, Ilocos Norte, ordered the establishment of a Teacher's Development Center to upgrade the standard of instruction in public schools which, he noted has gone down. He stressed that the retraining of public school teachers was necessary because of the advance of science and technology.

September 17—

THE PRESIDENT and visiting Vietnam Prime Minister Pham Van Dong opened substantial talks which would serve as basis for future relations between their countries and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. The President got a personal filling in from the premier on Vietnam's intentions in the region and its attitude toward issues affecting their countries and the ASEAN. Vietnam's holding out its hand of friendship was deemed significant in the light of its earlier denunciations of ASEAN and its on-going quarrel with China and its Indochinese neighbors.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: September 18-24, 1978

President's Week in Review: September 25 - October 1, 1978

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

September 25—

THE PRESIDENT endorsed a P2.2-billion highway building program for 1979 to beat the rising cost of fuel oil. For this reason, he has instructed Highways Minister Baltazar Aquino to keep all projects moving so that these could be completed before more increases in fuel prices are imposed. The total amount set aside for the highway building program includes foreign assistance, principally coming from the World Bank.

INFORMATION Minister Francisco S. Tatad assured one more the media and the public that the substitute information bill which he has co-sponsored with Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile at the Interim Batasang Pambansa "is not a measure designed to abridge freedom of the press, but rather, is a guarantee of full access to information." The assurance was made by Minister Tatad before Students and faculty members of the College of Law of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

JUSTICE Minister Vicente Abad Santos issued a memorandum circular prohibiting the arrest of wanted persons at night, on holidays, and weekends, except in certain cases. He issued the memorandum to ensure adherence to the protection of rights of individual citizens which were guaranteed by the Constitution. The prohibition, he said, "is intended to avoid inconvenience on the part of an arrested person who otherwise might find it difficult to post bond for his provisional liberty, or secure the services of legal counsel, while under detention."

September 26—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the immediate release of P20 million for the development of the cattle and dairy industry, a part of a two-pronged government program to boost food production and increase protein in the Filipino diet. The other prong of the program, according to the President, will be the establishment of factories for the production of textured vegetable protein (TVP) from soya bean cake to fill the lack of animal protein in the people's diet. He was speaking during the "Binhi Awards" ceremonies sponsored by the Philippine Agricultural Journalists, Inc. at Malacañang when he announced the twin program which, he said, would be a "critical effort to change the lifestyle of the Filipino people."

THE PRESIDENT authorized the immediate shipment of 1,500 tons of rice, or 30,000 cavans, worth P8 million for the flood victims in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. He said that the rice will be shipped aboard Philippine Navy vessels. The Mekong Delta, known as the rice bowl of Vietnam, suffered from heavy floods as a result of the over flow of the Mekong River.

THE PRESIDENT expressed hope that the recent diplomatic breakthrough achieved in Camp David, Maryland, in talks between United States President Jimmy Carter, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli President Menachem Begin, will bring permanent peace to the Middle East. "We all hope and pray that the long quest for everlasting peace will soon come to an end," the President told Ambassador Moshe Raviv, who presented his letters of credence as the ambassador extraordinary, and plenipotentiary of Israel to the Philippines.

September 27—

THE PRESIDENT and the Cabinet launched a nationwide job creation program, with emphasis in the rural areas. The program, finalized during a joint Cabinet-National Economic and Development Authority meeting at Malacañang, is intended to absorb some 800,000 unemployed of the total work force in the country. It was agreed that the government will give the cottage industry "a big push" in the countryside to support the program. In addition to loans, skills will be distributed around the country so that all the 13 regions will benefit from the program. The job-creation program was conceived by the First lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos as part of the effort to improve the living conditions of Filipinos.

DURING the same meeting, the President also formed a special Cabinet committee which will study all proposed measures before they are considered by the Batasang Pambansa. The move is apparently intended to prevent the indiscriminate filing of proposed measures by members of the Batasan. The President said that "henceforth, no Cabinet or Parliamentary bill shall be brought before the Batasang Pambansa unless it is recommended by the committee for the Cabinet."

September 28—

PRIVATE and government employees will have to pay more for their medicare contributions starting Oct.1 but benefits will also be increased. Presidential Decree No. 1519 provides for coverage of all employees in several ranges up to a maximum of P600. The base of coverage used to be only up to a maximum of P300. This will mean that practically all employees will be subject to increased contributions since the minimum wage rate has been increased to P11 a day. Under the now rates, those earning P1 to P49.99 a month will be assessed 60 centavos monthly, those who get P50 to P99.99, P1.80; P100 to P149.99, P3.10; P150 to P199.99, P4.40; P200 to P249.99, P5.60; P250 to P349.99, P7; P350 to P499.99, P10.75; and those receiving at least P500, P15.

THE PHILIPPINES cited disarmament and the quest for a new international economic order as the main problems besetting the world, and to which the United Nations must address itself. Foreign Minister Carlos P. Romulo, delivering the Philippine position before the General Assembly, said that the snail's pace with which disarmament talks have been proceeding leads to the suspicion that the developed countries are impeding the progress of the talks to maintain the status quo. He warned that delay in the efforts to give developing countries the opportunity to participate in the equitable sharing of world economic growth can only be done at peril to world peace.

September 29—

THE PRESIDENT indicated that Martial Law will be lifted in a year or two as he laid down the basic guidelines of the country's foreign policy. During the question-and-answer period following his speech before the University of the Philippines College of Law Alumni Association at the Philippine Plaza, the President reiterated that the lifting of Martial Law will still depend on the final solution of the dissident movement in the South. However, he told his listeners that the settlement of the nagging Mindanao problem is forthcoming.

September 30—

LOCAL government Minister Jose A. Roño said that a system of recalling elective officials whose performance is deemed below par is one of the provisions of the proposed local government code. Speaking before 208 mayors in Region 4, the last of a series of regional consultation-conferences of municipal and city mayors, Minister Roño, urged the local leaders to participate in discussions on the proposed local government code. The code is a prerequisite to the holding of local elections and the establishment of autonomous regional administrations. He has ordered the rushing of copies of the local government-code for presentation to the Batasang Pambansa by mid-October. He said he expects the deliberation and passage of the local government code to last at least a year.

October 1—

JAPANESE government has finalized the seventh yen credit loan for the Philippines amounting to 32.5 billion yen (US\$170 million). Japan's decision to extend this package loan under its Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund to finance 10 local priority projects was first aired by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry Minister Toshio Komoto during his recent visit to the Philippines. The loan, which is 50 per cent larger than the previous sixth yen credit loan of US\$113 million, carries a 3.25 per cent interest payable within 30 years with a 10-year grace period. The total amount of this package loan includes a project loan amounting to 30 billion yen and a commodity loan valued at 2.5 billion yen.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: October 2-8, 1978

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

October 2—

THE PRESIDENT raised the possibility of local elections late this year, or early next year in a caucus with members of the Batasang Pambansa affiliated with the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan held at the south wing of the Batasan building. He advised the KBL, leaders to start preparing themselves from the grassroots level and strengthen their organization in view of reports that the opposition party has been mending its fences and trying to team up with other opposition groups.

October 3—

THE PRESIDENT said he was prepared to take the most draconian measures, including cancelling all timber licenses and totally banning log exports, to save the nation's forests. He issued the warning before the First Philippine Forestry congress at the Philippine Village hotels. It was the 77th anniversary of the Pambansang Paglilingkod Pangkagubatan. He also warned government personnel to start heeding the, order for them to take part in the nationwide tree-planting program.

October 4—

THE PRESIDENT, stressing the need for rural development, announced in the Cabinet meeting, he would himself take charge of the high priority cottage industry program. He also directed the-Ministry of the Budget to release P600 million to build barangay roads, irrigation projects and schools—each sector to receive P200 million. He said that roads, irrigation projects and schools were the most elementary needs in the countryside. And cottage industries, requiring a minimum of capital and equipment, would provide spending money for the rural homes.

THE PRESIDENT had ordered the creation of disaster, preparedness councils on the national, regional, provincial and community levels to strengthen the country's capability in meeting all types of disasters. He, also calling for a national disaster plan, said that the revitalized system would enhance the country's survival capability and economic stability against natural and man-made disasters. In line with this he created the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) to oversee preparedness programs, disaster operations and rehabilitation efforts undertaken by the government and the private sectors.

October 5—

THE PRESIDENT defended members of his Cabinet on the "conflict of interest" issue. Answering questions from the opposition during the Batasan question hour, he said he had earlier issued a decree setting the standard of conduct for cabinet men. However, he said, he would look into their holdings to dispel any doubt on their qualifications for their present positions.

INFORMATION Minister Francisco S. Tatad said that the Batasan committee on public information has deleted a provision on the proposed Official Information Act which would hold newsmen accountable for publishing confidential official information. Speaking at the Thursday Club of Quezon City, he said the bill will "routinize" public access to official records and enhance development of a free press. He also said the committee has dropped another provision which would have empowered the Minister of Public Information to advise media to refrain from publishing certain classified official information or be penalized for it. He said a new provision has been inserted to allow a minister to brief media from time to time on classified official information, when it is in the national interest.

October 6—

THE PRESIDENT indicated strongly he would purge dishonest and incompetent local officials next month and replace them with competent ones. He met with regional leaders of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan and took up with them the issue of organizing a single political party. This would mean the end of the present affiliation between the KBL, a catch all umbrella organization which served its purpose in the last election, and the Nacionalista party. When consolidated, the new political party could adopt the name Kilusan or Nacionalista or it could act under a new name. He asked the regional leaders for suggestions during the meeting.

October 7—

THE PRESIDENT announced he would set up a P5 million investment and development firm for enlisted personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. He said this was authorized in a decree signed before June 2. He decided to announce, this only during the 18th anniversary celebration of the Enlisted Personnel Association of the Philippines. The firm to be known as the Enlisted Investment and Development Corporation, will have the government supplying 55 per cent of the authorized capital which would be eventually transferred to the members. The President said this project is an affirmation of the government's commitment to the policy of enabling men retiring from the armed forces to adjust to civilian life.

October 8—

THE PHILIPPINE government has never been more stable than it is now under the President. This was reported by Foreign Minister Carlos P. Romulo in a radio interview over WKIS-TV in Orlando, Florida. Minister Romulo was in Orlando as one of the invited speakers at the meeting of the International Chamber of Commerce. When asked by interviewers on how the Philippine government under Martial Law was faring, he, said, that having been continuously connected with the government, since the Commonwealth under President Quezon, he could say in all honesty that the government has never been more solid, more honest and more effective than it is now under the President. He enumerated the many achievements of the present leadership such as growing economy better educational facilities, improved health and medicare programs, extensive public works improvements, agrarian reform and social justice.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: October 9-15, 1978

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

October 9—

THE PRESENT hailed the visit of the mission from Perking headed by Vice Minister Shih-lin of Economic Relations with Other Countries as another step towards strengthening Philippine relations with the People's Republic of China. "I am certain your visit will go a long way towards establishing rapport and cooperation in the implementation of the Technical and Scientific Cooperation Agreement in the most constructive level between our two countries and governments," the President told the visiting Chinese minister.

MINISTRY of Justice ruled that printing and distribution of the Holy Bible is not covered by the Filipinization requirement imposed by the Constitution on the ownership and management of mass media. Acting Justice Minister Catalino Macaraig, Jr. issued the ruling in response to a query from the Board of Investments concerning an application of the United Bible Society—a non-stock, non-profit religious US corporation—to establish a branch in the Philippines which shall translate the Bible into different dialects, print and distribute the same without monetary consideration.

October 10—

THE PRESIDENT conferred the Philippine Legion of Honor on six top officers of the Indonesian Army for eminently meritorious and distinguished service to the Philippines, particularly in strengthening ties between the Indonesian Army and the Philippine Army. Awarded the Philippine Legion of Honor were: 1) General Widodo, chief of staff of the Indonesian Army, (degree of commander); 2) Maj. Gen. Alex Prawiraatmadja, commandant, General Command for Development, Training and Research; 3) Maj. Gen. Himawan Soetanto, commanding the Sixth Military Command; 4) Maj. Gen. Abduralrachman Suhodo, assistant chief of staff for security; 5) Brig. Gen. Suhimo, chief of the Information Service; and 6) Col. Muchtar Yamin, chief liaison officer (degree of officer).

October 11—

THE PRESIDENT, anticipating an economic slump in the next two years, ordered a strict five per cent cut in government, expenses and, a slashing of not so essential projects. He said that this must, be implemented strictly. "All 26 ministries will be involved in this review," the President declared following his weekly meeting with the Cabinet and the National Economic and Development Authority.

DR. FLORENTINO S. Solon, executive director of the National Nutrition Council and of the Nutrition Center of the Philippines, was sworn in by the President as mayor of Cebu City in a concurrent capacity Dr. Solon replaces Mayor Eulogio Borres. He took his oath of office before the President at Malacañang in the presence of the First Lady and Minister of Human Settlements Imelda Romualdez Marcos, Labor Minister Blas F. Ople, Budget Minister Jaime Laya, Local Government Minister Jose A. Roño, Public Works Acting Minister Aber Canlas and Mrs. Mercedes A. Solon.

THE PRESIDENT received the, letters of credence of Ambassador Mohd. Yusof Zainal as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Malaysia to the Philippines. Following the ceremony, the President received former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam of Australia who is on a two-day stopover to the Philippines.

October 12—

THE GOVERNMENT announced a plan to expand overseas and inter-island shipping through a five-year program funded by \$390 million in foreign loans. The President announced this boost to the maritime industry, which ranks, seventh, among the country's foreign exchange earners, in a speech at the inauguration of the Chamber of Maritime Industry at the Manila Hotel.

THE FIRST Couple receive a 40-man delegation from the City of Melilia, Spain. Headed by Melilia City Mayor Luis Cobreros Acero, the group, composed of leaders of both the government and the private sector, is in the country to attend the formal ceremonies in Cavite City uniting it with the City of Melilia. In receiving the delegation, the President called to mind the ties of affection and common endeavors between Spain and Philippines, saying that Spain's many influences and traditions "which were cherished by the Filipino people and the leadership up to this time will never fade away."

THE FIRST Lady Imelda Romualdez Marcos, told US Ambassador and Mrs. Richard Murphy, and other senior officials of the embassy and US-agencies in Manila that "the strong political system laid down by the President since 1972, anchored on democracy and free enterprise, has enabled Filipinos to sustain a concerted development program in a climate of peace and order." She began two days of scheduled briefings for the American officials on her major national projects by bringing them to the Nutrition Center and the Population Center. "We begin here: to show you how we tackle first our basic problems with human resources since everything we do is aimed towards the full development of man, our priority resources," she said.

October 13—

THE PRESIDENT expressed serious concern over the huge deficit in the Philippine-Japan trade and called on the private sector of Japan to help lessen, if not completely eliminate, the trade deficit. "We are deeply concerned about the deficit in our trade with Japan," he told a Japanese survey mission which called at Malacañang. He also expressed fear of the policy of protectionism by developed countries in the wake of projections by Western countries of a recession or failure of their economies to recover and, therefore, continue with limited economic activity. He, however, expressed confidence that Japan, having recovered-from the debilitating effects of the world crisis, can help ASEAN countries maintain the momentum of development for their mutual benefit.

October 14—

THE PRESIDENT reiterated his order that marginal farmers be exempted from the one per cent tax on gross sales, with a minimum of P100, and gave the minister of agriculture 30 days to submit for Presidential approval a definition of what a marginal farmer entitled to exemption should be. He recalled that more than two months ago on July 26 he had directed that marginal farmers be exempted from the P100 minimum gross sales tax levied under Presidential Decree No. 1358 pending definition of a marginal farmer. "But it has been reported to me by the Batasan Pambansa Committee on Agriculture that the, one per cent tax is already being enforced on all farmers even before the definition of marginal farmer has been arrived at," the President said."

October 15—

THE PRESIDENT ordered an immediate study of the effects of the increases in the cost of electricity, water and gasoline on the minimum wage. Also to be studied are the possible repercussions to the low-income group should the petition of transportation operators for higher bus fares be approved.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: October 16-22, 1978

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

October 16—

THE PRESIDENT created the Ministry of Transportation and Communications by splitting the Ministry of Public Works, Transportation and Communications. The Ministry of Public Works was retained to concentrate on the infrastructure program of the governments. The creation of the new ministry, in turn, is a signal that the government is intent on improving the transportation and communication facilities of the country to keep pace with the accelerated economic development efforts. The President made the announcement in the course of his speech keynoting the opening of the Second Conference of the Road Engineering Association of Asia and Australasia at the Philippine International Convention Center.

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October 17—

THE FIRST Couple led officials in welcoming Deputy Prime Minister Ieng Sary of the Democratic Kampuchea (Cambodia), who arrived in the country for a four-day official visit. The Deputy prime minister, the first official of his country to visit the Philippines since the- Khmer Rouge took over the government, is accompanied by a 10-man delegation.

THE PRESIDENT ordered a comprehensive but quick audit of bus companies to determine whether their claim that they are losing money is valid. He said that would be the basis of whether or not to approve the proposed new fares for buses. The proposed fares were discussed during the President's meeting with the Cabinet and the National Economic and Development Authority.

DURING the same meeting with the Cabinet and the NEDA, the President also: Clarified that the government contrary to some reports, has no plans to nationalize the edible oil industry; 2) Asked the Cabinet and the NEDA to submit their nominations for the position of minister in the proposed new Cabinet office—the Ministry of Transportation; and 3) Pointed out that the government, was trying, to stimulate sustained growth in the various industrial and agricultural sectors and that the NEDA does not foresee any significant economic slowdown in the country.

FORMER Senator Lorenzo Teves was appointed by the President, governor of Negros Oriental. He succeeded, former Gov. William Villegas who had previously retired. After his path-taking at Malacañang, Gov. Teves pledged to render the kind of service, "richly deserved by the people."

October 19—

KAMPUCHEAN Deputy Prime Minister Ieng Sary declared that his country's conflict with Vietnam "is not a border problem," but a case of Vietnam trying to swallow Kampuchea. He used his press conference at the Manila Hilton to present his country's side in the conflict while denouncing "the great power ambition" of his enemies, the Vietnamese. The Cambodian leader warned the nations of Southeast Asia against the ambition of the Specialist Republic of 'Vietnam and "a big expansionist power" which he later identified as the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics "to dominate Southeast Asia."

THE PRESIDENT has appointed three new provincial governors and three city mayors in what has been interpreted as the start of a nationwide revamp of local governments. The appointments were announced by Local Government Minister Jose Roño. Appointed were former Sen. Lorenzo Teves as, governor of Negros Oriental, former Tagbilaran

city Mayor Rolando Butalid as Bohol governor, and Fiscal Sandiali Sambulawan as governor of Maguindanao. The new mayors are Jose Rocha Tagbilaran city, Lorenzo Masingno of Dumaguete city and Miguel Paderanga Ginoog City.

October 20—

THE PRESIDENT said the government would “maintain strict neutrality” in the tug-of-war for sympathy and moral support between Kampuchea and Vietnam. At an airport press conference after Kampuchean Deputy Prime Minister Ieng Sary took off for Jakarta, the President said that neutrality’ “is dictated by all considerations and the two parties understand it.”

THE PRESIDENT said there was no timetable for local elections, thereby dousing cold water on the ambitions of local political kingpins who are counting on elections at the end of the year. “We are now engaged in evaluating the work of local executives in Metro Manila and elsewhere,” he said. “Until we finish with that, it is a waste of time to be talking of local elections.” The President, speaking to newsmen at the airport after the departure of Kampuchean Deputy Prime Minister Ieng Sary said that if there would be local elections, they would be carried put first in Mindanao.

THE FIRST ordered Highways Minister Baltazar Aquino to dismiss, should evidence warrant, highways officials and employees linked to the P86-million irregularity now under investigation. Presidential interest on the case came after, the Commission on Audit (COA) reported similar cases involving payments to phantom projects in the Ministry of Public Highways (MPH) offices in the Visayas and in Mindanao.

October 21—

THE FIRST LADY, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, arrived in Rome to represent Filipino people at the investiture of Pope John Paul II. She was welcomed at Da Vinci airport by Msgr. Mario Vigarella, representing the Holy/See and Philippine Ambassador to the Vatican Francisco Delgado.

CENTRAL Bank authorized banks to grant preferential loan assistance to three areas of activities: marketing of palay, trading of corn, sorghum, soy beans and mongo, and production of nickel metal, nickel and cobalt in mixed sulphides. Loans granted by banks to firms/individuals engaged in said activities can be rediscounted (or used as collaterals for advances the banks may get from the CB.

October 22—

MINISTRY of Justice has dismissed outright some 300 pending cases involving illegal possession of blunt or pointed instruments. Minister of Justice Vicente Abad Santos directed dismissal of the pending cases in a circular to all city and provincial fiscals. The order was implemented by Col. Juan A. Sison, chief state prosecutor. Cases involve violation of Presidential Decree No. 9 which imposes a prison term of up to ten years for possession of blunt or pointed instruments.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: October 23-29, 1978

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

October 23—

THE PRESIDENT ordered Minister of Local Governments Jose Roño to make sure that members of the Batasang Pambansa make their statements of assets and liabilities. Also to be revealed would be the books of accounts of the legislative body. In an interview, the President recalled that on June. 12, he had asked the assemblymen to reveal their assets and liabilities. He reiterated this last month in Paoay, Ilocos Norte, during an interview with Malacañang reporters. Minister Roño would now carry out his instructions on the matter, the President said.

OCTOBER 31 and November 1 were declared by the President special holidays to enable the people to honor their dead on All Saints Day, Nov. 1. In issuing Proclamation No. 1796, the President pointed out that "remembering and paying homage to the dead on All Saints Day is one of our most cherished traditions."

October 24—

THE PRESIDENT hailed the Fourth International Population conference as an opportunity for the "interchange of knowledge, and the expression of solidarity that otherwise would not be there if our nations were acting alone in combating the population challenge." He offered to the delegates the benefits of the Philippine experience in population planning. He said the Philippines hoped to learn from other countries which might have even more impressive achievements. The President, accompanied by the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, who arrived minutes earlier from her visit to Rome for Pope John Paul II's investiture, gave the keynote address at the conference sponsored by the World Population Society.

THE PRESIDENT announced a timetable for five high-priority programs for the Batasang Pambansa, starting with the vital infrastructure bill which must be acted upon by the end of next month. The other vital bills: 1) Elections in the Muslim provinces of Region 9 and Region 12, which must be discussed and decided by Christmas; 2) Review of government expenditures which must be completed by January 1979; 3) The Local Government Code, which must be out of the committee room by January 1979; 4) The Corporation Code which must also be finished by January. He made the announcement in a talk with newsmen while waiting for the First Lady to arrive from Rome.

RUSSIAN Deputy Foreign Minister Nikolai Firubin called on the President and informed him that Soviet leaders were impressed with the Philippine government's course in foreign affairs. Firubin, who is in the country on a three-day official visit, said that the state visit of the First Couple to the Soviet Union two years ago is well remembered in Moscow. He said that their meetings with Russian leaders were an important historic step towards development of friendly relations between the two nations.

October 25—

THE FIRST Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, has invited Pope John Paul II to visit the Philippines next year for the fourth centennial of the archdiocese of Manila. The First Lady said she conveyed the invitation in the name of the President and the Filipino people during her 25-minute private audience with the new Pontiff at the Vatican.

October 26—

THE PRESIDENT told some 60 selected government executives of the need to actually stay among the masses in the barangays in order to find out their problems and work at solving them. "You are going where people really live, you are going to the barangays to find out how far the errors of the past generations have seeped down to the bottom and deprived our people, made them ignorant, weak, pessimistic, incapable, incompetent and immobilized," he said. "And once you have met this centuries old burden, bear it on your own shoulders," he admonished the executives who were participants in the 11th class of the Career Executive Service Development Program (CESDP).

October 27—

THE PRESIDENT, personally monitoring relief operations round-the-clock, directed government offices to maintain their rescue, rehabilitation and relief operations. He called for the continuing evacuation of civilians threatened by floods caused by typhoon “Kading” to be moved to high ground and to provide them with relief goods.

THE PRESIDENT gave the Chinese community two goals to achieve: help the government gain national unity and help it in regional economic cooperation with member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). He stressed that the naturalization of 18,398 Chinese under the government’s liberalized naturalization program was just the beginning in the process of assimilation.

October 28

THE PRESIDENT declared all of Central Luzon and Pangasinan an agricultural calamity area, and the province of Nueva Ecija a total disaster area. He ordered all government agencies concerned to set up rehabilitation headquarters there for speedy relief and rehabilitation works. The President’s action came in the wake of reports of heavy destruction of crops in Central Luzon and extensive damage to homes and infrastructure in Nueva Ecija.

DEVELOPED countries should not merely ask poor nations to limit population they should “do their share by restraining their propensity to excessive and wasteful consumption of the world’s limited resources,” the First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos said. Speaking at the closing session of the International Population conference, she drew the link between population and development. “Human beings are not obstacle to development but the primary resource. In fact human beings are the basic unit of development,” she said. She said the Philippines interprets the world population plan of action and its definition of population as an inextricable part of the development process.

October 29—

THE PRESIDENT directed the implementation of a total agricultural rehabilitation package for all Central Luzon after making an aerial survey with the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, of Bulacan, Pampanga, Tarlac and Nueva Ecija provinces. Flying over Central Luzon, the First Couple confirmed reports of heavy damage to crops, as well as to public and private buildings and installations.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: October 30 - November 5, 1978

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

October 30—

THE PRESIDENT assured the private sector, the principal agent of modernization and change, continued government support but added that the government would regulate “moderately” the income and wealth resulting from modernization to give the masses a greater share in the fruits of development. He expressed this view before members of a 25-man investment mission from the United States who are here to survey investment possibilities. The group was headed by Charles Robinson, vice chairman of Blyth Eastman Dillion and Co. and accompanied by US Ambassador Richard Murphy.

October 31—

AGRICULTURE Minister Arturo Tanco, Jr., said that the country would still have a 299,000-ton rice supply this year despite heavy damage to rice crops by “Kading” and two earlier typhoons. The country will have the surplus after meeting its rice consumption needs and the one million ton reserve for at least nine months, Minister Tanco said- He made the disclosure to allay fears expressed by certain quarters that the country might experience a rice shortage as a result of the loss of 11.6 million cavans due by three successive typhoons- In a related move, the President ordered the suspension of any further rice export commitments only because, the typhoon season is not yet over, and a final assessment of the country's surplus is yet to be made.

November 1—

THE PRESIDENT has approved a Ministry of Public Highways proposal to streamline the Metro Manila's traffic situation through construction and improvement of roads, bridges and interchanges in a two-phased program. MPH Minister Baltazar Aquino said the short-term action was designed to effect immediate partial relief of traffic with funding requirements coming from the national government. The long-term action plan, on the other hand, was approved by the President for inclusion in the eighth loan from Japan through its lending arm, Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), Minister Aquino said.

November 2—

NATIONAL Police Commission launched a long-range plan to pinpoint factors that predispose policemen to misbehavior and to devise measures to curb police abuses. Reacting to recent cases of inefficiency, corruption and other forms of malpractices on the part of officers and men of the Integrated National Police (INP), Defense Deputy Minister Jose M. Crisol, concurrent Napolcom chief, issued a general order mobilizing all seven departments of the agency behind a “program for the prevention of abuses by INP members.”

November 3—

PHILIPPINE Medical Care Commission (PMCC) asked that it be the health agency to exercise control and supervision of the hospitals in the country. Dr. Pacifico E. Marcos, PMCC chairman, said that Presidential Decree No. 1519, the Revised Philippine Medical Care Act, “explicitly makes it the objective of the medicare program to provide medical care.” He added that this objective of the program “must mean that the primary means of producing the services, which are the hospitals, should as much as possible be within the effective control of the PMCC.” Under the present setup, it is the bureau of medical services of the Ministry of Health which has control and supervision of government and private hospitals in the country.

November 4—

THE PRESIDENT underscored the significance of the Jaycee movement in the effort to bring about world peace and understanding. In an advance message to the international gathering, the 33rd Jaycees World Congress, to be held at the Philippine International Convention Center, he said, "the Jaycee movement, propelled by the idealism and civic involvement of young men everywhere, continues to exert constructive influence-in the common search for a better world."

PRESIDENT, Jose Lopez Portillo of Mexico and his wife, Doña Carmen Romano de Lopez, arrived from Tokyo on a 24-hour visit. The Mexican First Couple was welcomed at the Manila International Airport by the President and the First Lady, members of the diplomatic corps and the Cabinet and ranking local officials. Accompanying the Lopez Portillos are their three children, members of the Mexican cabinet, and other personalities.

November 5—

JAPAN has extended to the Philippines a loan package totalling \$170 million on very concessional terms to help finance 10 development projects, including projects for harbor and river dredging and potable water supply on 45 provinces. Yuzuru Asahata, head of the Manila office of the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan (OECF), the official lending agency of the Japanese government, said this would be the biggest loan package extended by Japan to the Philippines, and brings to \$280 million the total loans extended by Japan to the country, including the \$110 million loan package signed earlier this year.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: November 6-12, 1978

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

November 6—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the release of P20 million for the relief and rehabilitation of areas severely damaged by typhoon "Kading." Of the said amount, P10 million was earmarked for Nueva Ecija, the hardest hit by the typhoon. He also: 1) Released P5 million for most urgent rehabilitation of projects which will be determined after consultation with the provincial governors and mayors in the affected localities. The amount was placed at the disposal of various relief agencies; and 2) Authorized the release of an additional P5 million for the purchase of animals to replenish those that were destroyed by floods. These include work animals, as well as livestock for cattle dispersal and hog and poultry production.

November 7—

THE PRESIDENT ordered cancellation of all logging concessions in the calamity areas of Central Luzon. At the same time, he ordered accelerated reforestation of denuded areas, especially in Regions I and III. Affected by the President's order for franchise cancellations are the provinces of Nueva Ecija, Pangasinan and La Union in the north to as far south as Bulacan and Rizal.

THE FIRST LADY, and Metro Manila Gov. Imelda Romualdez Marcos raised and standardized the salaries and allowances of doctors, dentists, midwives, school teachers and policemen in the four metropolitan cities and 13 municipalities. Effective July 1 this year, doctors will receive a minimum monthly pay of P813 and P187 allowance for a total of P1,000. Dentists and midwives were given a monthly allowance of P100. The governor ordered that funds for this purpose should be provided by the local governments concerned.

November 8—

THE PRESIDENT declared that the government would exert all efforts to assure that the Philippine economic growth continues, in the face of efforts by the United States to strengthen the US dollar and the announced oil price hike. He issued the statement after a joint meeting of the Cabinet and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) in Malacañang during which Economic Minister Gerardo Sicat gave a briefing on the ramifications of the anti-inflationary moves of US President Jimmy Carter and the reported OPEC oil price hike.

THE FIRST Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos said that about 8.2 million Filipino children are daily beneficiaries of the country's nutrition program. In a speech before the 33rd Jaycees World congress, the First Lady said that despite the economic strains in 1974, the Philippine government launched a stepped-up nutrition program to help malnourished children. "It proved to be an initial success," she said.

November 9—

THE PRESIDENT expressed gratitude to the Japanese government for the grant of the seventh project loan and commodity loan totalling \$180 million or Y32.5 billion. The loan agreements were signed in the presence of the President by Kaneo Ishihara, president of the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan and by Finance Minister. Cesar Virata (project loan) and Central Bank Gov. Gregorio S. Licaros of the Philippines (commodity loan).

THE FIRST Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos created a coordinating center to integrate and systematize relief and rehabilitation efforts during disasters as well as to develop a long range plan to minimize the destructive threats of typhoons. She took these steps in a meeting with all agencies and offices engaged in relief and rehabilitation effort of the government. She named Maj. Gen. Rafael Zagala (Ret.), Human Settlements Ministry Region II supervisor as overall coordinator.

THE PRESIDENT received few callers including an official of a diesel manufacturing firm, the president of Jaycees International, and the mayor of Heidelberg, Germany. Michael R. Hoffman, chairman and managing director of the Perkins Group, Ltd., paid his respects and expressed the desire of his company to participate in the Philippines' Progressive Diesel Engine Manufacturing Program. Mayor Reinhold Zundel of Heidelberg, on the other hand, expressed warm sentiments from the people of his city which has deep memories of Dr. Jose Rizal, for the people of the Philippines. Carl Peterson, JCI president, also called on the President to express his gratitude to the President's keynote address and the First Lady's welcome remarks.

November 10—

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady, Imelda Romuladez Marcos, inaugurated the Maharlika (Muslim) Village in Bicutan, Taguig, Metro Manila. The First Couple cut the ceremonial ribbon and later unveiled the marker of what was described as "symbolic of our struggle to be a people of one race, of one spirit and of one nation."

November 11—

THE GOVERNMENT will raise the workingman's take-home pay next year to enable him to meet the increased prices of consumer goods expected in 1979, Finance Minister Cesar Virata said in an interview. Whether the increase will be in the emergency allowance or in the minimum wage was not specified. There were no indications, too, as to how much the raise would be Minister Virata said, however, that companies will feel the pinch less if the pay hike is reflected in the emergency allowance. He was interviewed by newsmen in "Face the Nation," a public affairs program of GTV-4.

November 12—

DEFENSE Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, chairman of the National Police Commission, has given assurances that breaches of discipline and abuses by the military and police personnel will be dealt with accordingly. Undersecretary Crisol, who is also chief of the office for detainee affairs stressed the need to curb abuses in the military services not only because the acts tend to put the entire organization in a bad light but also because such acts constitute a grave impediment in the move toward normalcy as envisioned by the President and the people.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: November 13-19, 1978

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

November 13—

THE PRESIDENT warned that the country faced divisive forces which threaten from within, the unity and survival of the nation. Against this backdrop, the President called for continued efforts to forge unity in the country under one flag. The President and the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, himself a bemedalled veteran of World War II, spoke at the closing of the two-day 21st annual general assembly of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines in Camp Aguinaldo.

THE PRESIDENT demanded to know the names of government officials obstructing investigation of the multi-million-peso highway scandal in Central Visayas. He also ordered the immediate release of Cebu auditor Sofronio Flores, Jr., from police custody so he could assist the special cabinet probe team delve into the irregularities.

November 14—

THE PRESIDENT called for new initiative for the relief of blighted communities and for new health programs for developing countries. He delivered the keynote speech at the opening of the 32nd World Medical Assembly at the PICC. Earlier, in her remarks, the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, who is also Minister of the Ministry of Human Settlement and Metro Manila governor, cited the country's health program under the President's program to bring sophisticated medical services to rural folks.

CERTAIN islands coves and peninsulas in the Philippines were declared by the President as tourist zones and marine reserves to develop the country's tourist potential and to correct ecological imbalance to the marine environment of these places. In Presidential Proclamation No. 1801, the islands, coves and peninsulas designated as tourist zones and marine reserves will be under the administration and control of the Philippine Tourism Authority (PTA).

THE PRESIDENT called for public hearings on the proposal of the National Power Corporation (NPC) to hike power rates. He directed the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) to give power consumers full opportunity to air their views over the proposal. The NPC has proposed a power rate increase from P20 to P22 per kilowatt hour effective May 1 aimed at helping the government owned power firm to pay amortizations and interests on the foreign loans it secured from the World Bank and other financial institutions.

November 15—

THE PRESIDENT urged members of the Asian Advertising congress and the Asian Federation of Advertising Association to project, the true image of Asia and what she can become. On the other hand, Public Information Minister Francisco S. Tatad asked participants in the on-going advertising congress to make sure that "in an age of increasing manipulation, Asia does not continue to be manipulated." He also urged the advertising industry to provide the means to educate the poor into wanting only what they need and can afford for development, creating only needs that can be satisfied within their, means, and stimulating production without "emptying the pockets of the pool to fill the pockets of the rich."

THE PRESIDENT vowed to kick out scoundrels in the government, as he disclosed "we are cleaning up not just the highways" mess but every office in government." He was interviewed by Malacañang reporters shortly after he spoke before delegates to the 11th Asian Advertising congress at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC).

November 16—

THE PRESIDENT took a personal hand in the solution of the worsening traffic situation in Metro Manila, by issuing a series of directives. During a conference with civilian and military authorities charged with relieving Metro Manila of traffic jams, the President, among others ordered: 1) The Philippine Constabulary (Metrocom) and the Integrated National Police to meet with the Metro Manila Traffic Management Authority to draw up plans with a view to making the present traffic rules more effective; 2) Public Works Director Desiderio Anolin to set a definite date for the completion of infrastructure projects which cause traffic jams along Padre Faura, Roxas Boulevard, EDSA and Taft Avenue; 3) Chairman Leopoldo Abellera of the Board of Transportation to stop the issuance of additional franchises and to explain why he authorized the increase of jeepneys in Metro Manila from 12,000 to 22,000 this year adding to the serious traffic situation; 4) Land Transportation Commissioner Romeo Edu to submit an estimate of old or junk cars that can be retired and to stop issuing registration certificates to old (junks) cars; 5) The Philippine Constabulary and police to help in the enforcement of traffic regulations; 6) The release of P8 million to Manila for road repairs and P3 million for traffic operations; and 7) Increase of barangay traffic aides from 500 to 1,000, and their daily pay from P10 to P15, to be shouldered by the national government and the city of Manila.

FIRST Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, told advertising executives from 15 nations of Asia and the Pacific region that the developing countries have great need of their communications expertise to promote development. Citing the advertisers for being “such masters of your profession—the creation of desire,” she suggested they would do well to “channel the desires of our people beyond mere consumer goods to permanent changes in life, which will ultimately mean an improvement in their quality of life.”

November 17—

PRESIDENT Panfilo O. Domingo of the Philippine National Bank (PNB) said the Philippine economy was “stable and solid.” This was in answer to a statement claiming that the economy of the Philippine, was just like a balloon, floating in the air and which could collapse any time if pricked by a needle. Interviewed by newsmen, he said the foreign debts of the country were wisely managed. At the same time, he said the inflationary rate that goes with transactions properly controlled.

November 18—

JUSTICE Minister Vicente Abad Santos said the government will be forced to take action against businessmen of Chinese descent who “have evidently undergone naturalization only for business advantage.” In a speech before branch managers of the Philippine National Bank (PNB) at Baguio City, he said the warning was directed specifically against naturalized Chinese “who have remained Chinese in ideology, attitude, and practice and have stubbornly refused to join the mainstream of Filipino life.”

MALACANANG has issued a letter of instruction clarifying Presidential Decree No. 20, the law on rental ceilings. The LOI declares that in two cases, an apartment owner may eject a tenant. Minister Gerardo Sicat of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) outlined the two causes for ejectment before the GTV-4 program “Face the Nation” as: 1) When the renter or tenant sublets the dwelling unit; and 2) When the owner wants to live in the dwelling unit a tenant is occupying. However, the owner must be renting another dwelling unit himself and has no other place to go.

MALACANANG announced that the President has approved construction and operation of two plants of a proposed integrated petro-chemical complex. The two plants were proposed by the Ministry of Energy and the Philippine National Oil Company. The recommendation to start with the low-density polyethylene (LDPE) and polypropylene (PP) plants was made jointly by Energy Minister Geronimo Velasco and Finance Minister Cesar Virata and concurred in by Industry Minister Vicente T. Paterno. The two approved plants will be constructed on a 280-hectare area in Limay, Bataan. The area was earlier set aside for the purpose under Presidential Decree No. 949.

November 19—

THE PRESIDENT cited the distinguished record of the Upsilon Sigma Phi fraternity at its 60th anniversary at the Philippine Plaza ballroom. He said that the fraternity, an exclusive organization of scholars in the University of the Philippines, has always had men who brought distinction to it. He was accompanied by the First Lady, son Bongbong and daughter Irene, who was the fraternity sweetheart. She was chosen frat muse in an earlier get-together in Canlubang, Laguna.

FOREIGN Minister Carlos P. Romulo and Louis de Guiringaud of France signed cultural and scientific accords in Paris. "These two accords reflect the quality of cooperation between our two countries and (allow for a form of rediscovery between the cultures of both nations," Minister Romulo said. French Foreign Minister Louis de Guiringaud added, "We appreciate the importance your country plays in Southeast Asia and its unique role in the whole of Asia." The five-year agreements were first of their kind between France and the Philippines, and official sources said they revitalized what had been "lethargic" bilateral relations.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: November 20-26, 1978

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

November 20—

THE PRESIDENT expressed the hope that the negotiations on military bases and economic relations between the Philippines and the United States will be terminated soon, possibly within the year. He expressed this hope during a luncheon given by him and the First Lady in honor of the visiting United States congressmen in Malacañang. Before the luncheon, he received the visiting lawmakers in his study and had an exchange of views with them on the world situation for about one hour and a half.

THE FIRST Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos announced there would be no changes in the non-coercive policy governing national population programs. She addressed the First National Population Welfare congress at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC). Speaking in behalf of the President, she said that "national development and not just a drop in the birth rate is the objective of the national population program."

November 21—

THE PRESIDENT ordered an investigation of Bukuhan Abdulhamid, the corporate auditor of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) for paying an estimated P3 million in electric bills charged to the Ayala Corp. The case, which originated in 1967, came to light when a MWSS official, Col. Gerardo Quicho, stumbled into the illegal payments while looking into illegal water connections to three Ayala-owned villages.

THE FIRST Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos cited the need for closer regional efforts in the development of tourism in Asia. Speaking at the inauguration of the Asian Institute of Tourism (AIT) in Diliman, Quezon City, she said that the institute will be a base for spearheading the balanced development and professionalization of the industry in the Philippines and the rest of Asia and the Pacific area.

November 22—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the arrest of persons found intimidating material witnesses in the anti-corruption cases. He ordered Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile to provide police protection of these witnesses against corrupt government officials. This would ensure their safety and protect them from threats and harassments from the unscrupulous, he said. He issued the order after receiving reports that five Rizal province residents who filed complaints against a ranking Ministry of Highways official in the province denounced the coercive tactics employed against them by the official and his bodyguard.

THE PRESIDENT has upheld the right of schools to discipline their students. In a precedent-setting decision, he directed the Ministry of Education and Culture (MEC) to dismiss an administrative case filed by Dr. and Mrs. Luis Lerma of 45 E. Rodriguez, Jr., avenue, Pasig, Metro Manila against the La Salle Greenhills High School. The Lermas had filed the case with Minister Juan Manuel with the endorsement of MEC regional officials in an effort to force La Salle to readmit their son, Jose Luis Lerma, to the second year at Greenhills.

THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos underscored housing and the creation of job opportunities as : the main thrust of her department to improve the people's life. She met with mayors of the Metro Manila area at the Technology Resource Center in Makati and said the initial target of building some 17,000 houses annually would generate livelihood for some 300,000 workers.

November 23—

THE PRESIDENT declared that the proposal to have the interim Batasang Pambansa convene as a constituent assembly to take up amendments to the Constitution was untimely. Following his regular meeting with the Cabinet and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), he also ordered the transfer of the case of Arcadio Trinidad, et al., charged with illegal possession of firearms and multiple frustrated murder of Makati Mayor Nemesio Yabut, from the military tribunal to the civil court.

THE PRESIDENT released the traffic regulatory system in the metropolitan area and empowered the Metro Manila Commission to enforce all traffic ordinances and impose penalties. He issued Presidential Decree No. 1605 "Granting the Metropolitan Manila Commission Certain Powers Related to Traffic Management and Control in Metropolitan Manila, Providing Penalties and for other Purposes."

November 24—

THE PRESIDENT discussed the opening of trade relations with Nauru whose president, Nammer DeRoburt, is now in Manila on a private visit. DeRoburt said Nauru could sell high quality phosphate to the Philippines and import Philippine products such as cement and other construction materials, sugar and skilled manpower.

PHILIPPINE Airlines, the country's carrier, is negotiating for landing rights with various countries as a corollary measure; to its fleet expansion program. Roman Cruz, Jr., PAL president and chairman of the board who was recently elected president of the International Air Travel Association (LATA), told a press conference that the airline's targets are expansion of routes side by side with expansion in fleet. He said PAL is now negotiating for additional landing points in the United States, Canada, and Mexico and for landing rights in the Middle East and China.

November 25—

THE PRESIDENT called for an integrated procurement system and a standard procurement policy as part of the government's program to reduce expenditures. He said that a procurement pilot project, tested by the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of the Budget and the Commission on Audit (COA) resulted in 30 per cent savings in procurement costs. This proves, he said, that the cost of government operations could be substantially reduced through more efficiency in buying supplies and materials. This move is contained in Letter of Instructions No. 755.

November 26—

THE PRESIDENT ordered a nationwide artesian well program to promote adequate and reliable water sources to rural folks. He noted among other things, that the rural areas have been hard-hit by water lack-He said only one-third of the rural areas have access to artesian wells'. To kick off the nationwide program code-named "Bagong Lipunan Communal Water Pump Program," the President ordered the release of P10 million for the initial phase of the project.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: November 27 - December 3, 1978

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

November 27—

THE PRESIDENT created two super groups—a special investigation team to act on corruption cases and a management audit team to streamline operations of the ministries. He said that the Ministry of the Budget would formalize the creation of the management audit group while the Ministry of Justice would formalize the organization of the special investigation group. The special investigation group, which would receive and act on charges of corruption and inefficiency involving government men, will be the forerunner of the Tanodbayan which is provided for in the Constitution.

THE PRESIDENT urged the hospital community to seek ways by which health care can be made cheaper for millions of poor people. “Medical care today, in spite of advances in medical science, has not developed to a degree that all our peoples can share its fruits and be truly rational to them,” he said in a speech read for him by Dr. Pacifico E. Marcos, chairman of the Philippine Medical Care Commission (PMCC). The President was keynote speaker at the joint 7th Regional Conference of the International Hospital Federation and the 29th Annual Convention of the Philippine Hospital Association which opened at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC).

THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos called on members of the Batasang Pambansa to support fully her “humanistic” program for population development. She briefed the Batasan assemblymen headed by Speaker Querube Makalintal for three hours at the National Arts Center auditorium at Makiling, Laguna.

THE PRESIDENT ordered the Armed Forces to provide protection for state witnesses in the highways fund irregularity in Central Visayas. His directive followed reports that the suspects in the fraud who offered to turn state witnesses were threatened with bodily harm or even death.

November 28—

THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos said the Philippine nutrition program seeks the total development of Filipino children on the three levels of body, mind, and spirit. She spoke before the regional consultation for Asia and the Pacific on the International Year of the Child at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC). “President Marcos saw the gravity and urgency of the problem and gave the nutrition program priority despite the fact that it was an added strain on our economy, struggling in the midst of our country’s economic and energy crisis,” she said.

November 29—

THE PRESIDENT said a quiet investigation into corruption among government officials and employees is now going on in all government ministries. He said that this probe extended to the bureau and regional levels of the various ministries. He made the announcement following the arrest of an official and a businessman in connection with a P13 million fraud in the procurement of supplies in the Ministry of Education and Culture MEC. In this connection, he issued Letter of Instructions No. 774 ordering the Ministry of the Budget to withhold releases of funds for the procurement of supplies and equipment, including those of the Ministry of Defense and all military establishments to forestall further abuses in government procurement.

VISITING American congressmen were told by the President that the Philippines and America should adjust their relationships to the changing Southeast Asian situation. He added that it would be to the advantage of the US for the Philippines and other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN) to remain strong and independent. He spoke at a lunch he and the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, gave in honor of the visiting lawmakers.

THE PRESIDENT ordered the release of P10 million in emergency funds to repair vital public works facilities damaged or destroyed by typhoon “Kading” and previous storms. He directed that the bulk of the outlay, P15 million, be used to restore the operational capability of the irrigation systems damaged by the typhoons. About P10 million will go to repair school buildings and another P10 million to rebuild damaged hospitals, while P5 million will go to repair public markets.

November 30—

BATASANG PAMBANSA approved the P9.4-billion infrastructure bill on second reading and virtually enacted it into law. As approved, P5.8 billion was allotted for the construction of highways, railroads, ports, airports, and air navigation facilities, while P5.6 billion would be spent for irrigation, flood control, drainage facilities and water supply.

December 1—

THE PRESIDENT capped his anti-graft program by activating the Sandiganbayan, a nine-man tribunal to try criminal and civil cases involving the Anti-Graft and Corruption Practices Act and other offenses committed by public servants. Judge Manuel Pamaran, known for his “quick justice” performance in criminal cases, was appointed presiding judge of the Sandiganbayan, with Judge Bernardo Fernandez and Judge Romeo Escareal as associate judges. Together they form the firm division of the nine-man Sandiganbayan, which was created by Presidential Decree No. 1486 last June 11, under Article XIII, Section 5, of the Constitution.

THE PRESIDENT has ordered that the Ministry of Public Highways (MPH) must be consulted first before any digging permit along national roads is issued. The presidential order was issued on recommendation of the MPH Minister Baltazar Aquino as a result of various diggings on national roads, particularly in Metro Manila, and publicized verbal tussle between him and Manila Mayor Ramon Bagatsing.

ORDER of Sikatuna, rank of datu, was conferred by the President on Ambassador Aquil of Saudi Arabia for his “long and exemplary service in the field of international relations.” The Arabian envoy completed a six-year tour of duty in Manila, twice the normal length of tour of duty of a chief of mission. The President cited his meritorious effort to strengthen relations between the two countries to promote greater understanding between the Filipinos and Arabians through mutually beneficial undertakings.

December 2—

THE PRESIDENT appointed former Supreme Court Justice Salvador Esguerra chairman of the Tanodbayan, patterned after Europe’s ombudsman, to receive and investigate complaints related to public office. His appointment came 24 hours after the President made Judge Manuel Pamaran the presiding judge of the Sandiganbayan, a court created to try graft cases.

December 3—

THE PRESIDENT turned in his best score in years—a give under par 30 for nine holes—when he played at the Manila Golf Club course in Makati, Metro Manila. Taking a break from his official chores, the President overcame the tough Manila course with a game described as “fantastic” by an aide. Only the onset of darkness stopped the President from going through the 18-hole course. He made five birdies and four pars for the nine holes.

THE FIRST Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos moved to reconcile the various tribal groups in the North to hasten the development of the region. Six months ago, the President conferred with regional officials in Baguio City to find ways of settling tribal disputes in the Mountain province and Kalinga-Apayao. The First Lady, after meeting tribal leaders in Baguio City, urged them to unite so that the inhabitants of the region could benefit from the resulting peace and prosperity that will follow. She made the appeal at the close of the three-day Grand Caño ’78, a festival of Igorot culture, held at the Burnham Park of Baguio City.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: December 4-10, 1978

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

December 4—

THE PRESIDENT instructed the Judge Advocate General of the Armed Forces and the Ministry of National Defense to refer to the civil courts all criminal cases still in their hands and awaiting to be filed. In Letter of Instructions No. 772 which he issued in line with the announced policy to restore normal democratic processes in the country, he said that henceforth criminal cases should no longer be filed with the military commission. Also contained in the said letter of instructions are the following specific instructions to the MND, MOJ and all other government agencies concerned: 1) No arrest, search and seizure order (ASSO) shall be issued under the emergency powers without prior clearance of the President; 2) All investigations shall be conducted in strict observance of constitutional processes, recognizing the rights of the accused, respondents and witnesses; and 3) These investigations "shall be done, quietly, without fanfare and undue publicity."

December 5—

THE PRESIDENT asked the members of the Batasang Pambansa to serve as "watchdogs" of government infrastructure spending to help stop graft and corruption in government projects. He made the plea during a four-hour caucus of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL) members of the Batasan at Malacanang.

DURING the same meeting, the President announced that the elections of the Members of the legislative councils in Region 9 and 12 will be held either in May or June next year. The election will formally organize the setting up of autonomous governments in the two regions in the South in accordance with the Tripoli Agreements reached by the President and Libyan President Moammar Khadaffy in December 1976.

December 6—

THE FIRST Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos risked businessmen to heighten their sense of social responsibility—in other words, they should look not only at profits but also how they can improve the quality of life of the people. She urged businessmen and the top government officials participating in the 4th national business conference to draw up workable plans of action to improve the economic conditions and distribute their benefits more equitably to Filipinos. The President, she added, has been advocating for an equitable distribution of resources and wealth, stressing his efforts for the "total development" of man.

PHILIPPINE exports for the first 10 months of the year totalled \$2.25 billion, representing a 5.77 per cent increase over the \$2.12 billion recorded during the same period last year, according to a preliminary report of the Central Bank. Top 10 exports contributed \$1.8 billion even as the earnings of some leading commodities declined because of price fluctuations in the world market. Coconut products led the country's exports for the 10-month period with \$581.35 million, a 6 per cent increase over 1977 figures.

December 7—

THE PRESIDENT said that before New Year's Day, the American and Philippine governments would come out with a definite amount that America would pay as rental for the use of its military bases here. The military panels of the two governments are, exchanging notes on this matter, he said. He would not say how much the Philippines was asking, but earlier reports stated that the Philippines recently turned down an American offer of \$1 billion for a five-year period during the protracted talks on a new bases agreement. Up to now, America does not pay any cash rental for its use of the bases here. However, it gives military aid to the Philippines. The President issued the announcement during an interview with newsmen at his Sta. Rita beach house in Agoo, La Union.

THE PRESIDENT, accompanied by the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, arrived at Agoo, La Union to attend the inauguration of the new Agoo parish church which features an octagonal dome and a three-tiered belfry. The First Couple attended a high mass celebrated by Sebastian Cardinal Baggio, prefect of the Vatican Congregation of Bishops and head of emigration and tourism in Rome.

December 8—

THE PRESIDENT signed into law one more cabinet bill and five parliamentary bills enacted by the Batasang Pambansa before it adjourned for a 30-day recess. This brought to 11 the total number of Batasan approved bills signed by the President into law from the time the assembly convened last June 12. It does not include the P9.4-billion infrastructure bill. Approved into law and now denominated as “Batas Pambansa” were the following measures: 1) Batas Pambansa Blg. 8 (formerly Cabinet Bill No. 14) defining the metric system and its units and providing for its implementation and for other purposes; 2) Batas Pambansa Blg. 6 (formerly Parliamentary Bill No. 61) reducing the penalty for illegal possession of bladed, pointed or blunt weapons, and for other purposes, amending Presidential Decree No. 9; 3) Batas Pambansa Blg. 7 (formerly Parliamentary Bill No. 18) separating the sub-province of Aurora from the province of Quezon; 4) Batas Pambansa Blg. 9 (formerly Parliamentary Bill No. 281) amending Section 13 of PD 97 and regulating the practice of the marine profession in the Philippines by prescribing a uniform “unlimited” license for all deck officers, except patrons; 5) Batas Pambansa Blg. 10 (formerly Parliamentary Bill No. 28) changing the name of the municipality of Dao, Antique to Tobias Former; and 6) Batas Pambansa Blg. 11 (formerly Parliamentary Bill No. 177) creating the municipality of San Jorge, Samar. Signed into law earlier were the 1979 General Appropriations Act and tax laws on cigarettes, liquors and hotels.

December 9—

THE PRESIDENT announced the appointment of Court of Appeals Justice Pacifico de Castro and Ameurfina Herrera to the Supreme Court, thereby bringing the strength of the 15-seat high court to 11. The President said he would keep on making new appointments at a fast clip to fill the many vacancies in both the appellate court and the Supreme Court.

THE PRESIDENT congratulated the leaders of the People’s Republic of China for having decided to modernize as well as develop and expand their trade relations with other nations of the world. The occasion was a call on the First Couple in Baguio City of PROC Ministry of Foreign Trade officials headed by Minister and Mrs. Li Chiang who are here on a weeklong visit to find out, they said, what they can learn from the Philippines that will help their country in its efforts at modernization.

December 10—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the reshuffle of all the 13 public highways regional directors in the country to prevent their fraternizing with private contractors. In support of this directive, he also removed from regional directors the authority to disburse funds.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: December 11-17, 1978

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

December 11—

THE PRESIDENT held out the possibility that the Philippines could host the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) third summit conference next year. Interviewed by newsmen at Laoag, he said, actually, there are suggestions from various quarters that a summit conference be held." He added: "I am not adverse to holding such a summit conference but I would like to be certain something substantial will come out of it."

THE FIRST Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos said that focus of housing efforts in the Philippines is "the generation of man's well-being." In a keynote speech read for her by Deputy Minister Jose C. Benitez, Mrs. Marcos told participants of the Southeast Asian Convention for Planning and Housing that, in the Philippines, housing concern was no longer confined to the provision of shelter, "but also of a whole package of goods and services" necessary and essential to a fully human existence.

December 12—

PERSONS who have served more than one year in prison after having been convicted of illegal possession of bladed, pointed or blunt weapons may yet be reunited with their loved ones, not only in time for Christmas but, hopefully, for keeps. The President has signed into law a bill reducing the penalty for this particular crime which was prescribed under a presidential decree issued right after the declaration of Martial Law in 1972.

THE PRESIDENT has appointed nine new mayors for Bohol, headed by 27-year old Dr. Jose Teofilo Arcay of Panglao, Bohol. The other eight are: Engineer Eufrasio M. Masacariñas, Tubigon; Atty. Arnold Lugay, Catigbi-an; Atty. Avelino Puracan, Trinidad; Mr. Enrique Alvares, San Miguel; Mrs. Paula Raagas Valles, Maribojoc; Mrs. Anunciacion R. Tuazon, Calape; Eugenio Amores, Sagbayan and Simplicio Maestrado, Sierra Bullones.

December 13—

PEOPLE'S Republic of China (PROC) has contracted to buy all the copper concentrates required by its industries from the Philippines. As a result of this commitment, the President ordered the opening of new copper mines to meet China's industrial needs. The trade ministry said the copper concentrates exports from January to August this year totalled 611,177,394 kilos worth \$162,764,757.

December 14—

COMMUNAL tree farming program in the rural areas should not be taken lightly, the President told farmers in Laoag City. Setting an example, the First Couple planted ipil-ipil trees in barangay Pacsil outside Laoag City. In formally opening the ninth nationwide communal tree farming program, he said: "I have come here personally to serve notice that this is not an ordinary project. This is the project of the President because it involves the survival of the nation."

December 15—

THE PRESIDENT assured the private sector that the government would not confiscate property under the urban land reform program. At the closing rites of the First Southeast Asian Convention on Planning and Housing, he also pledged the full support of the government for the formation of the ASEAN Association for Planning and Housing which would be the nucleus for cooperative planning in the region. He praised the plan to exchange information, experience, and expertise in planning and housing.

NEW guidelines for government employees who will render rural service beginning Jan. 1 were issued by the national secretariat. The revised guidelines require that national government employees based in Metro Manila and receiving a monthly pay of P600 and below will have the option to serve in any depressed barangay of any province or city of their choice. Those receiving more than P600 per month will have option to select the province only and report to the provincial rural service secretariat for assignment.

December 16—

THE PRESIDENT assured the nation's workers that if there should be any inflationary threat "the President, on his own initiative, will immediately raise the minimum wage in accordance with the demands of the economy." He recalled that he ordered government economists earlier in the year to have a continuing study of income and wages to determine whether to increase the minimum wage in one move or in separate stages. He spoke before delegates to the first triennial convention of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP).

SOME 10,000 children representing 50 different institutions received bags full of holiday goodies from the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, at the traditional Christmas festival for children held at the Folk Arts theater. She hosts the festival every December to bring holiday cheer to the city's less privileged children.

December 17—

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, formally reopened the Metropolitan Theater situated at Liwasang Bonifacio. The occasion was attended by government officials, members of the diplomatic corps and local art aficionados.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: December 18-24, 1978

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

December 18—

THE PRESIDENT declared that insufficient salaries for teachers were “the anomaly of our times,” and he promised to do something about it before delegates to the 12th World Congress of the International Federation of Free teachers Unions. Some 250 foreign delegates and 200 local delegates attended the convention at the Philippines International Convention Center (PICC).

December 19—

THE PRESIDENT said he believed normalization of relations between China and the United States would enhance security of the Philippines and the Southeast Asian region. That was one of the pros that emerged in his consultation on this development with the national security council the foreign policy council and the general military council. The President also added that the development could mean the shift of resources from security expenditures to economic development for the Southeast Asian region and the, rest of Asia. Earlier, Minister of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo briefed the presidential advisers on the background, as-well as the national and regional significance, of the finalization of diplomatic ties between China and America next January 1.

MINISTRY of Local Government and Community Development said the national government would intensify its program to improve and; develop; the administrative capabilities of local government units including the barangays, throughout the country. The program is expected to, increase, the local governments developmental responsibilities in implementing priority national programs to improve the people's quality of life. The President had earlier declared 1979 “Local Governments Year” in the Philippines.

December 20—

THE PRESIDENT administered the path of office to retired Supreme Court Justice Salvador Esguerra as Tanodbayan, the Filipino version of the “ombudsman,” who would investigate complaints, against government men. In a separate ceremony, he swore into office members of the Sandiganbayan: Presiding Justice Manuel R. Pamaran and Associate Justice Bernardo P. Fernandez and Romeo Escareal. The Sandiganbayan, the anti-graft court, would try criminal and civil cases involving graft and other offenses committed by government men in relation to their office.

GOVERNOR Imelda Romualdez Marcos said the Metro Manila Commission would initiate four major changes in traffic policy and administration to improve further the traffic situation in the metropolitan area. In a report to the President, the governor cited the following changes: 1) Institution of the traffic citation ticket (TCT) in place of the temporary operator's permit (TOP) to deal with traffic offenders; 2) Preparation for a fully computerized system incorporating all information on current driver's licenses certificates of convenience for public vehicles, vehicle registrations, and violations of law, to facilitate TCT processing; 3) Implementation of traffic engineering improvements, including repair of traffic lights, and completion of lane markings along 11 TEZs; and 4) Rationalization of infrastructure projects requiring major excavations along the streets.

US Ambassador to Japan Mike Mansfield was received by the President and assessed with him the overall American defense posture in the Pacific and Southeast Asia. Mansfield, former US Senate, majority floor leader and a long-time friend of the President, said the normalization of relations between the US and China contributed greatly to peace and stability in the region.

ORDER of Sikatuna, rank of datu, was awarded by the President on Egyptian Ambassador Abdel Monem Zaki el Shinmawi in recognition of his distinguished service in the field of international relations.

December 21—

THE PRESIDENT urged the nation to maintain continued vigilance over the country's security. He also said the international scene should be closely watched. He called for the establishment of new and higher standards for the military so that if soldiers lived up to them, they could inspire others in society with "the same idealism and the same fervor." He spoke in Camp Aguinaldo during the celebration of the 43rd anniversary of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

December 22—

THE PRESIDENT said the government can handle the increase in oil prices by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) even when these prices reach 14.5 per cent by the end of 1979 or the start of 1980. He disclosed that six per cent of the country's energy requirements at present are produced from indigenous sources. By 1979, however, he said, this would increase to 20 per cent, and that this will mean a saving of about \$252 million annually. These points were discussed by the President during the conference with representatives of the mass media after the joint Cabinet-NEDA meeting which lasted for almost three hours.

THE PRESIDENT appointed eight judges—six to courts of first instance and two to the court of agrarian relations. Appointed to the courts of first instance in Manila were Judges Ernesto S. Tengco, branch VI; Ricardo Diaz, branch XXVII; and Benjamin Relova, branch XI. Judge Dominador Cendaña was appointed to CFI in San Fernando, La Union; Judge Segundino Chua to branch IV of Bacolod City; and Judge Justo O. Orros, Jr. to branch XII of Dagupan city in Pangasinan. Appointed to the Court of Agrarian Relations were Judge Lucas B. Britanico, Jr., branch II of Bacolod City; and Judge Bernardo A. Bunyi, branch III of San Carlos City.

December 24—

RP-US military bases talks—an off-and-on affair the last two years—has been concluded. This was indicated by the order to four government agencies to move immediately to Clark where they will conduct their business beginning January 1, 1979. Agreement has already been reached on three Philippine demands: sovereignty over the bases, the appointment of a Filipino base commander, and the turnover of idle base lands to the Philippines.

PHILIPPINE foreign exchange reserves received a boost of \$118.8 million this year from payments of multinational corporations operating in the country. Minister of Trade Troadio T. Quiazon, Jr., said the amount was remitted to the government by 170 multinational corporations, as required by Presidential Decree No. 218. The dollar remittances will cover the operational expenses of the corporations, such as office rentals, salaries, purchases of office supplies and equipment, Minister Quiazon said.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: December 25-31, 1978

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

December 25—

THE PRESIDENT granted Christmas pardons to 545 convicts in accordance with a traditional practice of the Chief Executive. Of the 545 pardons granted, 12 are absolute, one conditional with deportation, 368 conditional with parole conditions and 164 commutation of sentences.

THE PRESIDENT and his family, with Doña Josefa Edralin Marcos and their relatives heard Christmas midnight mass at their San Juan residence. Fr. Eduardo Eleazar, command chaplain of the Presidential Security Command (PSC), officiated.

December 26—

THE PRESIDENT declared that the American and Philippine governments have agreed that every five years, there will be a review of the military bases agreements: and this review includes not only the implementation but the duration." In an interview, at Batac, Ilocos Norte, he explained that "in five years, if either party wants to, it can consider the bases agreements terminated."

ENERGY Minister Geronimo Velasco said that total, energy consumption is expected to grow by seven per cent in 1979. In a year-end press conference, Minister Velasco said that next year's consumption of energy will reach an equivalent 91.2 million barrels. Oil consumption, he said in his forecast, should total 83.2 million barrels, or 91.2 per cent of total energy requirements. The remainder will be met by hydroelectric sources of energy (6.6 per cent), geothermal (1.1 per cent), and coal (1.1 per cent).

December 27—

THE PRESIDENT pledged the government would take every step to keep prices within reasonable limits, notwithstanding the four-stage 14.5 per cent increase in the price of crude oil starting Jan. 1, less than a week away. He said his economists would closely monitor any price increase of goods "in which energy and oil consumption do not play a substantial part." This would include prices of luxury goods. But the prices of commodities such as fuel, fertilizer, pesticides and foodstuff are expected to go up. He is in Paoay, Ilocos Norte for the holidays.

THE FIRST Couple formally opened the clubhouse at the sports complex in Paoay, Ilocos Norte. The inauguration took place shortly after the President opened a two-day sports festival in the same town.

December 28—

THE PRESIDENT released P500,000 for the Paoay Lake Development cooperative to finance various projects upgrading living conditions in the five barangays in the area. The President, together with the First Lady who is also vacationing in Paoay, Ilocos Norte, officiated at the awarding of prizes to winners in the Paoay Amateur Golf Invitational championship held at the new golf course.

PHILIPPINE government stood pat on its decision not to accept 2,700 Vietnamese refugees who had come the other day aboard the vessel Tung An with no place to go. Except for five who are seriously sick, the government refused to allow any of the refugees to step on land, but it extended help to them. According to Deputy Foreign Minister Jose D. Ingles, the help consisted of providing, for their necessities and making arrangements for their accommodation by other countries.

December 29—

THE PRESIDENT said he has set the final talks on amendments to the Philippine-American military bases treaty in Malacañang on the last day of the year. "We hope everything will be ironed out by Sunday," he said in an interview in Paoay, Ilocos Norte. He set the final date after a meeting with Gen. Romeo Espino, Armed Forces of the Philippines chief-of-staff. Gen. Espino heads the Philippine panel while US Ambassador Richard W. Murphy heads the US side.

December 30—

COMMITTEE for the search of the Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) of the Philippines called recently on the President after the 1978 TOYM awardees received their trophies from the President. The group was headed by Frank Evaristo, 1979 Philippine Jaycees treasurer and vice president of the Manila Jaycees.

THE NATION observes the 82nd death anniversary of Dr. Jose P. Rizal. The President will be joined by the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos and their children, as well as government officials and foreign dignitaries in the ceremonies to be held in memory of the late hero.

December 31—

THE GOVERNMENT will have to raise prices of price-controlled goods early next year to avert shortages of prime commodities, Finance Minister Cesar Virata said. He predicted that as a result of the price adjustments, consumer prices may rise by about 10 per cent in 1979. This predicted climb in consumer prices is higher than this year's inflation rate of nearly eight per cent. In an interview with Industry Minister Vicente Paterno on "Face the Nation," Minister Virata assured anew that the government would raise either wages or emergency allowances to help workers catch up with rising costs.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: January 1-7, 1979

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

January 1—

PHILIPPINE and United States panels of negotiators reached agreements on amendments to the existing RP-US Military Bases Agreement. Areas of agreement reached were: 1) Reaffirmation by the US of Philippine sovereignty over the bases; 2) The placing of each base under command of a Philippine base commander; 3) Agreement to reduce the areas for use by the US military within the bases; 4) Assumption by Philippine forces of responsibility for perimeter security of each base; 5) Assurance by the Philippine government of unhampered US military operations; 6) Review by both the Philippine and US governments of the agreement every five years. In a fifteen-minute interview with mass media which followed the five-hour meeting of the RP and US panels, the President said, among others, that he expected formalization of the agreed amendments within the next two weeks of the next month.

January 2—

THE PRESIDENT will meet the national security council this morning to discuss the six-point amendment to the Military Bases Agreements arrived at by the American and Philippine panels. While the national security council will ratify the matter for the Philippines, the American panel has referred it to the appropriate office in Washington, D.C.

THE FIRST Couple tendered a luncheon for visiting American congressmen, during which, the President said the panels of the two countries were in the final stages of polishing up their notes on the military bases agreement, before exchanging them. He said once the notes were exchanged, they would be subject to confirmation by the US Congress. Rep. Lester Wolff, and adopted son of the Philippines, led the congressmen composed of Rep. Joel Pritchard, Rep. Stephen Neal and Rep. Robert Dornan.

January 3—

THE GOVERNMENT started its crackdown on overstaying aliens and illegal immigrants. In an order issued to the Commission on Immigration and Deportation (CID), Justice Minister Vicente Abad Santos directed that no change of status be allowed for aliens who were admitted to the Philippines under various immigration procedures. He was referring specifically to aliens who were admitted into the country under CID office orders Nos. 117, 118, and 119.

January 4—

THE FIRST Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos ordered a restudy of the present structure of the Metro Manila Commission to make it more responsive to the people's needs. She created a study group composed of Assemblyman Ronaldo B. Zamora and Budget Director Silvestre D. Sarmiento, MMC action officer for finance, to go over various proposals and submit the necessary recommendations. She is expected to refer the matter to the President for possible amendments to Presidential Decree No. 824 creating the Metro Manila Commission.

January 5—

THE PRESIDENT, meeting a group of American senators, expressed hope that the signing of a final accord on amendments to US-Philippine base agreement could be achieved by deadline time tomorrow. Sen. Samuel Nunn, chairman of the armed services subcommittee on military manpower, headed the group of US legislators which included Sen. Gary Hart, Sen. John Glenn, and Sen. William Cohen. With them was Ambassador Richard Murphy. Both the President and his visitors expressed satisfaction over the progress of the military bases negotiations.

THE FIRST Lady, Gov. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, fired off a Series of directives in an effort to provide Metro Manila residents with their basic needs and give the city a thorough facelifting. In her first conference with the mayors this year, the governor expressed satisfaction over their performance but urged them to undertake more development projects to provide the 11 basic needs of human settlements.

BUDGET Commission released P2 million for the rehabilitation of fish ponds and fishpens damaged by typhoons that hit the country late last year. The rehabilitation program was designed to avert a projected fish supply shortage due to typhoon damage.

January 6—

METRO Manila Gov. Imelda Romualdez Marcos tackled the problem of sidewalk vendors and ambulant peddlers in the metropolitan area. She authorized the use of certain city and municipal streets, roads, and open spaces as sites for flea markets and vending areas under certain terms and conditions. She said the authorities cannot overlook or ignore the problem because of its economic and social implications.

January 7—

THE PHILIPPINE and United States governments exchanged notes confirming acceptance of amendments to existing KP-US Military Bases Agreements as hammered out by the panels of negotiators of the two governments. The notes were signed by Foreign Minister Carlos P. Romulo in behalf of the Philippine government and Ambassador Richard Murphy in behalf of the US government. The notes exchanged were President Carter's letter to the President, US State Secretary Cyrus Vance's letter to Minister Romulo, and Romulo's letter to Ambassador Murphy. The signing and exchange of notes at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang were witnessed by the President and the First Lady Imelda Romualdez Marcos, US and Philippine diplomats, members of the cabinet, the RP and US panels of negotiators, ranking Filipino military leaders and members of the Batasang Pambansa.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: January 8-14, 1979

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

January 8—

THE PRESIDENT said he would speak on the recently-amended military bases agreement before the interim Batasang Pambansa to clear up some confusion that may have arisen over the matter. He said he would "throw himself open to questions from the members of the IBP which will reconvene soon. This develop after conflicting interpretations arose over how much assistance the Philippines would receive from the United States over the next five years.

January 9—

GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System (GSIS) urged members to utilize their policy and salary loan proceeds in setting up cottage industries and other income-generating enterprises to boost their earnings. GSIS President Roman A. Cruz, Jr., made the appeal as he announced that the system reimburses P231.9 million to policy and salary loan borrowers in 1978.

January 10—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the Ministries of Health and of Labor to extend all possible assistance to a delegation recruiting Filipino doctors and nurses for Libya. Headed by Lt. Col. Dr. Sharif R. Farmat, the delegation informed the President of its desire to recruit 70 doctors and 150 nurses from the Philippines for a start and to promote closer cooperation between their country and the Philippines. Dr. Farmat said that the Filipinos will be employed for a two-year period renewable at the end of that period if the workers desire to continue further. He added that his government was also interested in recruiting construction workers from the Philippines.

FOREIGN Minister Carlos P. Romulo said the Philippines welcomed the decision of the United Nations Security "Council to take up the strife between Vietnam and Kampuchea. He said he instructed the Country's permanent representative to the UN to monitor developments and to contribute in the process of fashioning constructive solutions to the Indochina problem.

January 11—

THE PRESIDENT signalled the start of power generation from geothermal sources by pulling the switch which put the Tiwi geothermal unit No. 1 in Tiwi, Albay, in operation. He was scheduled to fly to Tiwi to inaugurate the geothermal plant but due to bad weather, the symbolic inauguration was held at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang, instead. In his brief remarks before officials from both the government and private sectors who had helped in the establishment of the first geothermal plant in the Philippines, the President said, "the occasion places the Philippines well on the road to the development of the geothermal energy."

ANTICIPATING a bumper harvest this year, the President ear-marked P42 million for the construction of additional warehouses and acquisition of storage facilities in rice-producing areas in the country. He took the step when he was informed by National Grains Authority Administrator Jesus Tanchanco that the existing 142 warehouses with a total storage capacity of 12.58 million cavans of rice and corn are not enough for this year. Of the P42 million, P21 million will be released by the Ministry of the Budget. The NGA will get the balance of P21 million.

January 12—

THE PRESIDENT plans to revamp the Cabinet in the next few days, Malacañang sources said. At least five Cabinet members will be affected in the revamp, the first since the proclamation of Martial Law more than six years ago. It was pointed out that those affected had expressed their desire to be relieved and retired from public service. In

addition to those who will be relieved as members of the Cabinet, the President is expected to fill the vacancy in the newly-created Ministry of Transportation and Communications.

THE FIRST Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos asked the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women to help in delivering basic services to the country's 1,500 towns and cities. She met with members of the commissions, of which she is the chairman, in Malacañang and briefed them on the goals and functions of the Ministry of Human Settlements. She said the ministry will strive to give every human settlement its 11 basic needs: power, water, food, clothing, livelihood, medical services, education, culture and technology, ecological balance, sports and recreation, shelter and mobility.

January 13—

MALACANANG has given the Bureau of Energy Utilization (BEU) additional powers to, enforce a more effective program of energy conservation in households and business. Under a new Presidential decree, the BEU, which is under the Ministry of Energy, may conduct "energy audits" and require energy-intensive companies to submit "energy impact" studies. PD No. 1573, signed last June 11, 1978, but made public only recently, gave the BEU wide discretion to impose penalties on those who do not comply.

January 14—

GOVERNMENTS of Austria, Japan and the Philippines paid tribute and hundreds of dignitaries and diplomats sent congratulatory messages to Foreign Minister Carlos P. Romulo who celebrated his 80th birthday. In ceremonies held at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), the President, assisted by the First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos, conferred the Dakilang Kamanong award on Romulo. The Dakilang Kamanong, the highest rank of the Gawad Mabini (Mabini awards) was awarded on the foreign affairs minister for his achievements in the foreign service and for giving the country "distinction in the field of international relations."

Source: Supreme Court Library

President's Week in Review: January 15-21, 1979

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

January 15—

THE PRESIDENT told the Batasang Pambansa that the Philippines gained three benefits from the revised RP-US military bases agreement: sovereignty, security, economic development and modernization. He urged the Batasan members to take a unified stand upholding the amended treaty which he called the “wisest, most effective and most dignified” step towards the country’s goals. The Batasang Pambansa on motion of Metro Manila Assemblyman Ricardo Puno unanimously supported the President’s stand on the military bases issue.

THE PRESIDENT acted on the shortage of cooking gas. He directed Energy Minister Geronimo Z. Velasco, concurrently president of the Philippine National Oil Company, to: 1) Acquire a tanker to serve as a floating storage for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) as well as a carrier for the importation of LPG; 2) Lift the ceiling imposed on deposits for LPG containers; and 3) Monitor and coordinate the repair of petroleum refineries so that there can be a proper scheduling of their operations.

MINISTRY of Human Settlements has chosen \$78 communities all over the country to be developed into model communities this year to demonstrate the human settlements approach to community building. The First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos said in a briefing of deans and faculty members of the University of the Philippines at the Technology Resource Center in Makati, that in the next five years, there will be at least one model community in each of the country’s 1,464 towns and cities.

THE FIRST Lady and Metro Manila Gov. Imelda Romualdez Marcos advised the mayors of the four cities and 13 towns of Metro Manila to cut down their expenses for conferences and meetings “specially those held in hotels and restaurants.” The directive was issued in an effort to promote savings from local government budget.

January 16—

THE PRESIDENT is expected to fill up 260 vacancies in the judiciary to relieve the backlog of cases in the courts. He was scheduled to induct three associate justices of the Supreme Court. These are former Justice Minister Vicente Abad Santos who was originally appointed to the high court in 1977 and former Court of Appeals Justices Ameurfina Herrera and Pacifico P. de Castro.

THE FIRST Lady, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, formally opens the country’s First International Choral Festival at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP). She is the guest of honor at the festival which is one of the highlights of the 10th anniversary celebration of the Cultural Center, of which she is the founding chairman. Upon her invitation international choral groups from Spain, China, Poland, Brazil, Hungary the Soviet Union are now in town for a weeklong series of performances with six other Philippine choral groups.

January 17—

THE PRESIDENT assured that the Philippine government will never again grant parity rights to aliens in the country. Speaking at the sixth anniversary celebration of the promulgation of the Philippine Constitution at the Maharlika Hall, he stressed that “this is the position that we have taken and will continue to take.” Referring to current trade treaty negotiation between the Philippines and the United States, he said there have been efforts to reinstate parity rights by seeking “national treatment” for some, aliens in the Philippines. Parity rights granted to Americans in the country, he pointed out; terminated on July 3, 1974 with the expiration of the Laurel-Langley Agreement.

THE PRESIDENT inducted three associate justices of the Supreme Court and seven justices of the Court of Appeals. He swore in former Justice Minister Vicente Abad Santos and former Court of Appeals Justices Pacifico P.

de Castri and Ameurfina Herrera as members of the Supreme Court. He also administered the oath to Andres Reyes as presiding justice of the Court of Appeals together with Associate Justices Ambrosio Germaldez, Benjamin K. Gorospe, Justiniano Cortez, Isidro Borromeo, Pedro Cenzon, Elias Asuncion and Oscar R. Victorino.

PRICE STABILIZATION Council (PSC) was directed by the President to control the prices of paper or carton products used as raw materials or for packaging or labelling of socialized commodities to further depress prices. This was disclosed by Trade Minister Troadio T. Quiazon, Jr., also council chairman, before he left for Sri Lanka to attend a meeting of the, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

THE, FIRST Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos directed her attention to the poorest sections of towns and cities throughout the country to improve the residents' living conditions and provide them with their 11 basic needs. Addressing provincial governors, city and municipal mayors attending a two-day conference-workshop on the Bagong Lipunan sites and services (BLISS) program, she said 77 sites will be developed within the first three months this year.

January 18—

THE FIRST Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos called on the Rotarians to help in the present government program of setting up model human settlements in various localities throughout the country by choosing sites which they could adopt as "Rotary villages." She urged the civic group to assist the government chart "a new course in national development which will respond closely to the needs to the people." She specifically enlisted their support in the new Bagong Lipunan Sites and Services Program which aims to set up 300 model neighborhoods throughout the country this year.

January 19—

THE PRESIDENT asked the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan assembly to submit a listing of erring local officials who should be removed from office in preparation for the holding of local elections. In his remarks during the two-hour caucus of the KBL at Maharlika Hall, he gave the assemblymen from the ruling party up to the end of the month to submit their recommendations to the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development which will make the final list of those who will be replaced.

THE FIRST Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos said that her ministry plans to solve the housing problem in the country; by making available houses within the reach of the average wage earners. In an interview with Malacañang newsmen during the caucus of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan at the Maharlika Hall, she said that plans are now being finalized for the construction of housing units that an average worker can afford.

January 20—

THE PRESIDENT paid tribute to the late Ambassador Guillermo Sison who, he said, had "commanded the trust of four successive presidents and served them all as spokesman to the press." Ambassador Sison, 68, director-general for press and public affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, died Friday at the Philippine Heart Center. In his and the First Lady's, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, message of condolence, he said he is saddened to hear of the passing away of Ambassador Sison.

January 21—

THE PRESIDENT announced the government plans to develop resort complexes in different sections of the country. The announcement was made by the President in brief remarks at the inauguration of the new 16.8-kilometer Biñan-Carmona-Dasmariñas road which links the South Superhighway in Laguna to Tagaytay City. The inauguration of the P11.7 million road, he said, marks the beginning of efforts of the national government to put up resorts near Metro Manila to provide tourists, as well as Filipinos, attractive side trips. The First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos, who accompanied the President, cut the ceremonial ribbon.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: January 22-28, 1979

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

January 22—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the transfer of all pending graft cases from the civil courts to the Sandigambayan. Thousands of cases will be affected by the President's order. He also directed Col. Juan A. Sison, acting chief special prosecutor of the Tanodbayan, to expedite the investigation and filing of graft cases with the Sandigambayan.

January 23—

THE PRESIDENT received a delegation of Japanese parliamentarians who sought Philippine support to the objectives and activities of Asian Parliamentary Union (APU). They were accompanied by Ambassador Kiyohisa Mikanagi and Tomoyuki Abe. The delegation was composed of Vichi Noda, Motoharu Morishitaka, Kazuya Ishibashi of the Japanese Diet, Director General Yoshiharu Takeno of the APU, and Fujio Morishita.

HUMAN Settlements Minister and Gov. Imelda Romualdez Marcos ordered Metro Manila mayors to speed up the construction of playgrounds and parks in metropolis. Four of these playgrounds are in Manila, four in Quezon City, three in Pasay City, three in Caloocan City and one each in other towns and cities in Metro Manila. Plans for the play grounds were completed three years ago with the adoption of the Metro Manila development program. Earlier, she met with all mayors and action officers of the Metro Manila Commission to asses metro plans and programs. The meeting also discussed plans for the setting up of flea markets in every town and city.

January 24—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the Commission on Audit (COA) to look into the finances of the Metro Manila Transit Corp., to determine whether it is making profits or not. His order was prompted by a claim of Jose Crisanto Jr., MMTC manager, that the government-owned bus firm lost P27 million last year. It losses are expected to reach P32 million this year. The President also directed the COA to find out how much the government is spending for subsidies to cover MMTC's claim of annual deficit and the reasons for such deficit.

January 25—

THE PRESIDENT ordered that the awarding of contracts for all government projects, except in certain cases, will be made through competitive public bidding. The new policy is contained in an unnumbered executive order designed "to ensure economy and efficiency" in the awarding of government contracts.

January 26—

THE PRESIDENT, in response to complaints from foreign businessmen, ordered government agencies to slash red tape by setting deadlines for processing of papers pending before them. He also suspended until further notice the order prohibiting industries from being set up within a 50-kilometer radius of Manila. He also said that the number of special holidays would be cut to the bone and that Saturdays would be used to offset special holidays. He met members of the American, European, Japanese and Australian business communities at their request to promote mutual understanding between government and business.

ON complaints against the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), the President during the same meeting, declared that the company is given up this year to improve its services. He promised to cancel the PLDT franchise if the improvements do not materialize.

January 27—

THE PRESIDENT has launched an expanded Blue Revolution program for fisherman and ordered the immediate release of P10 million as special guarantee fund for fishery credit. The expanded credit program for small fishermen will be similar to that extended to farmers under the Masagana 99 program. Some 600, 000 small fishermen throughout the country will benefit from the package of assistance to be extended under Letter of Instructions No. 791.

THE PRESIDENT ordered the adoption of two codes designed to upgrade the quality of movies in the country. In a still unnumbered Letter of Instructions, he ordered the Board of Censors for Motion Pictures to see the implementation by the Industry.

January 28—

THE PHILIPPINES started producing oil recently from the Nido oilfield off Northwest Palawan at an initial rate of 4,000 barrels per day, three weeks ahead of the original commercial production timetable. In a report to the President, Energy Minister Geronimo Velasco said that the advanced production date was due to the completion of redrilling work on South Nido 1, the first discovery well.

ARMED Forces authorities approved recently a standard operating procedure (SOP) providing relief payments ranging from P1,500 to P3,000 for damage to or loss of life and property of private individuals during military operations. Gen. Romeo Espino, AFP chief of staff, stressed, however, that the granting of financial relief is dependent on the legal liability of the AFP.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: January 29 - February 4, 1979

January 29—

THE PRESIDENT said that regardless of the turmoil of economies and the rapture of untoward developments in 1979, the Philippines will survive tempest and challenges and continue to grow as a developing nation. Speaking at the diamond anniversary celebration of the Manila Rotary Club, he said, the country in 1979 will continue to be engaged at home with many programs and problems, and abroad will continue to be affected by global crisis and difficulties. He said that based on the government's performance last year, the country has achieved resiliency and growth in conditions of stability.

January 30—

THE PRESIDENT announced that there will be no elections this year to minimize divisive politicking and to reserve the country's resources for difficult times ahead. The announcement was made by the President during a two-hour caucus of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL) party at Malacañang.

January 31—

THE PRESIDENT briefed the Dillon Read Investment mission, representing the largest investment and institutions in America, on the investment climate here. Headed by Robert Engelston, head of Capital Group Inc., the members are surveying nations in the Pacific basin for their clients. American Ambassador Richard Murphy was with the group in the Malacañang visit.

February 1—

THE PRESIDENT cautioned the labor sector to be moderate in its demand for higher wages to remove the possibility of shutting down business or placing Philippine products out of competition in the world market. In separate meetings with business leaders and labor in Malacañang, he also announced the holding of a tripartite executive meeting among government, labor and management representatives on March 10 to discuss a new minimum wage.

FRA Angelo de Mojana di Cologna, prince and grand master the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, arrived to a warm welcome led by the President and the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos. The prince and his party landed at the Manila International Airport (MIA) on a Singapore airlines jetliner from Rome and was accorded full military honors, including a 21-gun salute given heads of state.

THE PRESIDENT has approved the release of P2,326,100,000 for the Ministry of Public Works, Transportation and Communications this year. The P212.5 million earlier earmarked for the construction of new three-room classrooms, home economics buildings, and rehabilitation of damaged school buildings has been supplemented with another P200 million to overcome the backlog of 58,000 classrooms within the next five years not seven as earlier planned. Public Works Minister Alfredo Juinio also said that P300 million has been included in the 1979 budget for a light rail transit project for Metro Manila.

THE PRESIDENT and Fra Angelo de Mojana di Cologna, the prince and grand master of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, agreed to formalize their cooperation in charitable work for the poor in the country. Details of the agreement will be worked out by officials from the Philippines and the SMOM, which is known the world over for its charitable work. The President and Fra Angelo talked for half an hour in Malacañang during which they also discussed ways of increasing and facilitating the flow of charitable assistance to the Philippines.

FINANCE Minister Cesar Virata been named by the President chairman of the Philippine delegation to the fourth ministerial meeting of the Group of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) February 15-16 in Arusha, Tanzania. The Group of 77—which compromises the have-nots in the world community of nations—

will consolidate their positions and proposals of their governments for the fifth general session of the UNCTAD in Manila in May.

GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System (GSIS) launched its “online salary loan system” to service a million members. GSIS President and General Manager Roman Cruz, Jr., said the system’s computerized online program could service 20 borrowers in one hour. Initially, employees from select government agencies and financial institutions may avail of the “instant” salary loan. These include those from the Central Bank, Philippine National Bank, Development Bank of the Philippines, Land Bank, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

February 2–

SIGNALLING the government’s intent to raise prices of pegged commodities, Malacañang named the three new members of the Board of Energy. The three who received their appointment papers were Ponciano Mathay (chairman), Jaime Mejia, and Gary Makasiar. The new board, which took over the price-setting powers of the defunct Oil Industry Commission (OIC), will hold public hearings on price petitions filed recently by four oil companies.

FRA Angelo de Mojana di Cologna, prince and grand master of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, was conferred the Ancient Order of Sikatuna, rank of raja, by the President before dinner hosted by the First Couple in Malacañang.

February 3–

THE PRESIDENT directed all, government offices, including government corporations, to ensure that funds and property in their custody are effectively and efficiently used. He required all offices to monitor closely and periodically their activities and progress of their projects along guidelines which he issued in an unnumbered letter of instructions. He directed the project monitoring staff of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) to undertake a continuous followup on the implementation of the projects in accordance with the government’s development plans.

February 4–

THE FIRST Couple joined the Philippine Christendom in celebrating the 400th anniversary of the foundation of the diocese of Manila. They attended the 4:30 p.m. mass at the Manila Cathedral, which the country’s state visitor, Fra Angelo de Mojana di Cologna, prince and grand master of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, and his group also attended.

THE PRESIDENT ordered the exportation of the country’s surplus rice stocks at concessional prices. He specifically directed that in the exportation, priority should be given to “our friends in the ASEAN.” His order was given to Agriculture Minister Arturo E. Tanco Jr., in view of the huge surplus cereal harvests this year which will enable the country to export up to 270,000 metric tons of rice worth \$70 million, or P520 million. This will mean an overall decrease of \$12 million at present market prices, at the rate of P45 per metric ton selling price.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: February 5-18, 1979

President's Week in Review: February 19-25, 1979

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

February 19—

THE PRESIDENT has appointed 117 new local government officials, Malacañang said. The Ministry of Public Information, which released the list of the new officials, said that of 117, 106 are town mayors, five are city mayors and six are provincial governors; There are no new appointments in Metro Manila and Region 6 which is composed of the provinces of Negros Occidental, Iloilo, Capiz, Antique and Aklan. Forty-one were appointed in 1978, from October to December, while the rest were designated this year. In all, there are 1,478 town mayors, 60 city mayors, and 77 governors, or a total of 1,615 local officials.

THE PRESIDENT called to a meeting the country's top law enforcement officers to discuss measures to stop the uptrend of crimes in Metro Manila: He said that while the national crime rate during the past three years has gone down, crime incidents rose due to the increase in population. He said the increase in petty crimes which are attended by violence like robbery and holdup is enough to alarm the citizen.

THE FIRST Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, met formally with Austria's top officials on the first full day of her working visit in that country at the crossroads of Europe. It was a busy day of conferences with the mayor of the city-province of Vienna, after a rousing welcome marked by extensive publicity from the Austrian press.

February 20—

THE PRESIDENT, in a move to coordinate all reclamation projects, has issued Executive Order No. 525 granting the Public Estate Authority (PEA) the primary responsibility for all such projects. The order was issued to provide for the coordinated economical and efficient reclamation of land to maximize their contribution to national development.

ASSOCIATE Justice Vicente G. Ericta of the Court of Appeals was appointed by the President as Tanodbayan, a newly activated constitutional post charged with prosecuting graft and corruption cases against government personnel. He replaces Justice Salvador Esguerra who died recently.

February 21—

THE PRESIDENT declared that the strength of the nation is in the barangays during graduation rites for 6,000 leaders from 800 barangays of Batangas who completed a five-day barangay executive officers' training course aimed at instilling the spirit of self-reliance among the people. The President, in his speech, told the leaders to assist the government in the systematic delivery of basic needs of the people, particularly in the rural communities.

February 22—

THE PRESIDENT, in a move to stop the upsurge of crime in Metro Manila, ordered the immediate hiring of 1,575 more men for the four police districts in the area and the training of thousands of barangay volunteers to help track down criminals. He also announced that he will soon fill up vacant courts to expedite pending cases, particularly those involving serious crimes. Another presidential directive was the tightening of security in the national penitentiary and rehabilitation centers to prevent escapes which has been found to be one of the reasons for the uptrend in criminal incidents. During a meeting with top law officers and mayors at Malacañang, the President said the new recruits who will beef up the police forces will be civilian employees to be drawn from the barangay tanod and paid P15 a day on a casual basis. The local governments, and if necessary, the national government, will provide the funds for their pay.

THE FIRST Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, who has become an instant hit in the Austrian press, met with the president of parliament while a cabinet team discussed possible economic projects with Austrian financiers. On the third day of her visit in Vienna, she spent more than an hour exchanging impressions on parliamentary work with the presiding officer of the Austrian parliament, Dr. Anton Benja.

February 23—

THE PRESIDENT has ordered the Ministry of Agriculture to meet with rice farmers to fix a new floor price for palay which the government at present buys at P55 a cavan. The new floor plan will cushion the impact on farmers' income of forthcoming increases in gasoline, and other goods and services and wages,

AUSTRIAN financiers offered credit facilities to the Philippine delegation headed by the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, for possible economic projects, envisioned in their newly signed trade agreement. Members of the cabinet with the party of Mrs. Marcos met for the second straight day with a group of Austrian businessmen, industrialists and bankers to discuss implementing details of the trade accord signed by the two countries.

THE PRESIDENT attended the graduation of his son, 2nd Lt. Ferdinand (Bong Bong) R. Marcos Jr., in a jungle warfare and mountain operation course. In his brief remarks during the ceremony, the President said the course is a part of the security plan of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and is intended not only for regular troops but also for the reserve force. Six other officers and 85 enlisted men graduated with Bong Bong, while two other officers and 26 enlisted men were made honorary graduates.

February 24—

DEFENSE Minister Juan Ponce Enrile has cautioned military personnel stationed in Kalinga-Apayao against committing any form of abuse towards tribal minorities in that region. Speaking during an unscheduled inspection trip at the military camp, in Tabuk, Kalinga-Apayao, Minister Enrile said erring personnel will be dealt with accordingly and dismissed from the service "if necessary."

February 25—

THE PRESIDENT disclosed government plans to keep the prices of essential commodities down by importing cheaper goods and decontrolling prices of certain items. He made the disclosure in an interview at Fort Del Pilar where he witnessed the turnover of the corps command of this year's graduating class of the Philippine Military Academy to the junior class; He also said he will stop the exportation of cement in a day or two to make more of the commodity available locally. However, he said he would encourage cement producers to operate at full capacity by allowing cement to seek its own price level in the free market.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: February 26-28, 1979

President's Week in Review: March 1-11, 1979

President's Week in Review: March 12-18, 1979

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

March 12—

THE PRESIDENT led top government officials in welcoming the First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos from her 23-day mission abroad which took her to Rome, Austria, Bavaria in West Germany and to Morocco. In an interview, the President said the First Lady's principal objective was to gain the support of as many influential Islamic leaders as possible and to request the good offices Of King Hassan II to help the Philippines' efforts to resolve the problems in the South. He added that his request for the good offices of Morocco was well received.

CERTAIN betting games prohibited under the recently issued Presidential Decree No. 1602 are now allowed. Domino, bingo, kuaho, panggingge, and mahjong, if played as parlor games or for home entertainment are now permitted provided they are not conducted in habitual gambling places and the betting does not defeat the intention of the decree. Poker, which the Supreme Court had ruled as a game of skill and which was included in the decree, was also allowed on condition that five-card stud is not dealt.

March 13—

THE PRESIDENT stressed the government's determination to "spare no expense nor effort to eradicate drug abuse." He told members of the International Drug Enforcement Association (IDEA) who called on him at Malacañang that all countries should support plans, operations and efforts of any organization in combatting drug trafficking and drug abuse. The IDEA members are currently holding a four-day meeting here to prevent the proliferation of drug abuse and to arrest the international traffic in drugs through international cooperation.

March 14—

THE PRESIDENT increased the minimum daily wage by P2—or to P13 for non-agricultural workers in Metro Manila. He signed Presidential Decree No. 1614 in the presence of representatives of the national tripartite conference on wages, incomes and prices held in Tagaytay City recently. He also issued Letter of Instructions No. 829 to protect both labor and industry from the effects of the changes incorporated in the said decree. The new minimum wage levels under PD 1614 effective April 1 are: 1) Non-agricultural workers in Metro Manila—P13; 2) Non-agricultural workers outside Metro Manila—P12; 3) Plantation agricultural workers—P10; 4) Non-plantation agricultural workers—P9.

ENERGY and military authorities were directed by the President to stop hoarding and unauthorized rationing of petroleum products, particularly gasoline. His instructions were relayed to Energy Minister Geronimo Z. Velasco and PC chief Maj. Gen. Fidel Ramos, who called the heads of the five local oil companies to an emergency meeting immediately after he received the instructions.

MALACAÑANG announced the designation of Deputy Justice Minister Catalino Macaraig Jr. as acting minister of justice. The post has been vacant since January 17 when former Justice Minister Vicente Abad Santos was sworn into office as associate justice of the Supreme Court. The announcement said Macaraig's designation signed by the President was retroactive to January 17, 1979.

March 15—

THE PRESIDENT said that he is finalizing plans and programs for the production of "alcogas" as another fuel for the transportation industry. He told newsmen in an interview at the site of the BLISS project in Sta. Cruz, Makati, that the plans call for the production of millions of gallons of alcohol directly from sugarcane juice, without passing the molasses and refinery stage, as well as from cassava and other starchy products. He said the government is in the

process of procuring the necessary machinery and looking into the possibility of converting existing sugar refineries into “alcogas” production. Once this program is realized, “alcogas” will constitute ten to 15 per cent of all gas consumption for all kinds of transportation except for high-performance machines like airplanes, the President said.

DURING the same interview, the President said the government would spend P800 million to P1 billion this year “to bring up the salaries of government officers and employees to a level similar to that of the private sector.” He said that not only will government pay increase, but there would also be instituted the principle of “equal work-equal pay and standardization so that no favorites can get higher pay for less work. This is the general idea, to establish a level on both the private sector and the government,” he said.

EXACTLY 187 four-story apartment houses for poor families will have been constructed in Metro Manila by the end of June, the President said. Speaking at the ground-breaking rites in Paco and Muntinlupa, Metro Manila where two of the housing projects will rise, he said that initial funding of P100 million for the housing projects came from funds raised under Presidential Decree No. 1630 which calls for collection of the funds by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and the Social Security System (SSS). He was accompanied by the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos.

March 16—

THE PRESIDENT told an American senator that housing is only a part of the Bagong Lipunan Improvement Sites and Services (BLISS) program which, he said, aims to upgrade community life. “We are creating a community in which everybody will be self-sufficient,” he told visiting Sen. Park Matsunaga of Hawaii. The American solon congratulated the President for launching the BLISS program. He was accompanied by US Ambassador Richard W. Murphy.

March 17—

THE PRESIDENT directed all government offices and agencies to effect an additional compulsory savings of at least 5 per cent of their current operating expenditures in the face of inevitable fuel price increases. Under Letter of Instructions No. 828, he said the 5 per cent is in addition to cuts earlier imposed totalling 10 per cent as part of the fiscal restraint adopted by the administration. Exempted from the coverage of the LOI are hospitals and national schools. These institutions, however, are required to adopt economy measures so as to maximize the effective use of public funds.

March 18—

PHILIPPINE Virginia Tobacco Administration (PVTA) signed recently an agreement with the Central Bank to establish a lending program which will provide sufficient funds for tobacco trading in the four Ilocos provinces. About 100,000 leaf farmers are expected to benefit from the program. Under the agreement, the PVTA will deposit with the Central Bank P50 million from its corporate funds to set up the Virginia Tobacco Trading Loan Fund for the purpose of providing funds for lending to trading centers, exporters and cigarette manufacturers which buy the produce of tobacco farmers. The President, who presided over the signing rites, said the agreement will help not only the traders, buyers and manufacturers but also the government in monitoring and bringing about a more stable system of trading.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: March 19-25, 1979

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

March 19—

THE PRESIDENT urged the expansion of the manpower development program to train more out-of-school youths and make it more relevant to present-day needs. Speaking at the 10th anniversary of the National Manpower and Youth Council and the inauguration of its administration building in Taguig, he said that although the government started the program, it was the primary aim for the private sector to take over the training of personnel. He said that since industries will ultimately take over the program, there was no need to construct permanent structures for the purpose.

US DEFENSE Assistant Secretary Michael Armacost called on the President at Malacañang. He arrived in the course of a tour of ASEAN countries and Japan. He was accompanied during his courtesy call by Don Toussaint, US embassy charge d'affaires.

March 20—

THE PRESIDENT urged the establishment of an international rice agreement to insure, a stable world food supply at reasonable prices. The mechanism is designed to accumulate rice-stocks during periods of oversupply so that it can be availed of during times of scarcity. He made his proposal in his keynote address that opened the 22nd session of the inter-government group on rice of the Food and Agricultural Organization at the Philippine International Convention Center.

March 21—

THE PRESIDENT inaugurated the Nido Oil Complex in Palawan with the assurance that the private sector will continue to assume the principal role in petroleum development and production. Exalting over the success of Filipino and foreign service contractors in opening the first two productive wells in the country, he said this policy will be maintained to accelerate private participation in oil exploration efforts. He delivered his remarks after he and the First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos unveiled a commemorative marker in Malacañang's Maharlika Hall. They were assisted by Energy Minister and Mrs. Geronimo Z. Velasco and Mrs. Robert V. Sellers, chairman of the board of the City Service Co., the service contractor.

THE PRESIDENT, in his first report to the Batasang Pambansa this year, said that there might be an average increase of 23 per cent in the cost of petroleum products. The expected increases would raise the prices of premium gasoline from P1.81 to P2.23 per liter; regular gas from P1.66 to P1.87; diesel oil from P1.21 to P1.40 and kerosene from P1.12 to P1.30. However, he assured the Batasan that measures are being taken to offset the effects on the people of the increase, in prices. In this connection, he is issuing 10 more directives to cope with rising prices caused by increased oil costs, he added.

March 22—

THE PRESIDENT pledged to strengthen the Philippine Army to achieve a greater defense capability in times of emergency. Accompanied by the First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos, he addressed the 82nd anniversary of the Philippine Army at Fort Bonifacio during which he commended the army for its ability to carry out the 10-year revitalization program, the first years of which is concentrated on coping with, internal and the last five years with external security.

March 23—

ECONOMIC Planning Minister Gerardo P. Sicat said government employes and industrial workers will get salary increases starting April 1 this year. He said the government has allotted not less than P500 million for the pay increase of government workers. The amount is expected to go up because the figure was only a result of an earlier preliminary study. He said the salary increase is designed to enable government employes to cope with higher costs of living as a result of the oil price increases. He, however, reported that the cabinet has not made up its mind on whether to give government employes 13th month salary bonus.

March 24—

THE PRESIDENT warned the nation that he will order the arrest of the detractors of his administration if they will return to their pre-martial law activities. He issued the warning in a speech before some 2,000 local and barangay leaders at the Philippine International Convention Center. He said that he has received reports that elements responsible for the disorders of pre-martial law days are again taking advantage of the present economic crisis to foment political unrest.

March 25—

CENTRAL Bank Governor Gregorio Licaros said the CB will do its utmost this year to help small and medium-scale enterprises that are export-oriented to obtain cheap credits from banks to finance their export activities. He also said the CB will fully use its resources and policy tools to boost domestic production, particularly of agriculture products, and help contain inflation in the light of the recent price adjustments carried out by the government.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: March 26 - April 1, 1979

President's Week in Review: April 2-8, 1979

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

April 2—

THE PRESIDENT issued a proclamation setting the date of the election for the Sangguniang Pampook or regional assemblies in Regions 9 and 12 on May 7. With the issuance of Proclamation No. 1835, about two million Christians and Filipino voters in the two Mindanao regions will elect 21 members of the assemblies. Seventeen of these regional representatives will be elected at large and five will serve as sectoral representatives of the youth, agricultural workers, non-agricultural workers and professionals. However, the President will appoint five more representatives whenever in his judgment any other sector is not properly represented in the assembly. The proclamation set the campaign period from April 5 to May 5 and the deadline for the filing of the certificate of candidacy not later than April 12.

THE PRESIDENT received top officers of the American Society of Association Executives who are here to survey trade possibilities and to determine if facilities are adequate for bringing in more of their group. The group's chairman, S. L. Goldsmith, Jr., president of the Aluminum Association, observed that the President "has been incredibly successful in raising the standard of living of the Filipino people." The President assured him the Philippines has deep reservoir of goodwill for the Americans and "it would be good for both the Philippines and the United States if more Americans would come to see the country at first hand."

April 3—

THE PRESIDENT upgraded the government pay scale from three to six ranges, which is equivalent to five to 30 percent depending upon the classification of the position. It will call for an additional outlay of P231 million for the eight-month period from May 1 to Dec. 31. The President stressed the need to adjust salaries of government workers in view of increases in cost of living and to keep abreast the pay level of 208,460 officials and employees of the national government with the private sector.

GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System (GSIS) announced a 16 percent increase in assets despite full implementation of Presidential Decree No. 1146 which increased benefits and provided new ones to over one million members and pensioners. Roman A. Cruz, Jr., GSIS president and general manager, reported that the system's assets reached P7 8 billion on December 31, 1978, up by P1.082 billion (16 percent) over the December 1977 total of P6.751 billion. Likewise, net income rose up by P29.7 million or 18.18 percent, from P163.4 million in 1977 to P1 93.1 million in 1978. The total gross income of GSIS in 1978 stood at P1 .598 billion, up by sixteen percent over the 1977 figures of P1,378.5 million.

April 4—

THE PRESIDENT ordered a study made of salary plans for the judiciary, commission on elections and some executive offices in line with a policy to achieve uniform salary levels in all agencies of the government. He also directed a study of salary levels in all agencies of the government, including government controlled corporations to facilitate the formulation of recommendations on salary adjustments, allowances and fringe benefits called for by current economic conditions. He signed Letter of Instructions No. 840 directing Budget Minister Jaime C. Laya to make the studies on the judiciary, the foreign service, including service attaches, and uniformed personnel of the Armed Forces and the police.

April 5—

THE PRESIDENT warned the opposition he will never tolerate the use of violence to grab power in government. He issued the warning before mayors and barangay leaders in Region VII (Central Visayas) who gathered at the gymnasium of the University of San Carlos in Cebu City. He noted that some members of the opposition were once

again undertaking divisive activities, abetting violence and preaching subversive activities to grab power of government.

THE FIRST Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos, hours later before the same audience, expressed hopes that BLISS will be more successful in Cebu than in Metro Manila. She anchored her optimism on the full support given by local leaders in pursuing BLISS projects. She told her audience that everybody will be needed in the development projects.

April 6—

THE PRESIDENT authorized the release of P15 million to help local governments increase teachers' salaries in local schools. Through Letter of Implementation No. 82, the amount would be allotted among the local schools in accordance with the guidelines and rules to be evolved by the joint commission on local government personnel administration. The salary adjustments will be effective on May 1.

THE PRESIDENT told political leaders in Central Visayas he would support to the hilt whoever becomes governor of Cebu province. At the same time, he told local leaders, from the provincial to barangay levels, he would replace those found wanting or remiss in their duties. He spoke before mayors and barangay officials who met him after he delivered his keynote speech to open a three-day convention of some 2,000 lawyers and jurists from all over the country at the University of San Carlos in Cebu City.

ACTING BIR Commissioner Efren Plana announced the approval and implementation of revenue regulations 279, reducing the withholding tax rates of employees by an average of 15 percent. The new rates would benefit a total of 935,511 wage earners and would minimize administrative work of both employers and the government.

April 7—

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, called for unity to enable the country to surmount the serious problems it faces. "We must unite," he said. "Our country is facing serious dangers and if we are divided, we will have no strength, will be powerless. But if we are welded together—the people in government and those governed—then we can surmount all difficulties." The First Couple made the plea during the Pagkakaisa Community Relations Day ceremony held at the Quezon Memorial circle in Quezon City.

THE PRESIDENT set aside P32 million as subsidy for the government's fertilizer program. The allotment, he said, was intended to cushion the effects of the fertilizer price adjustments on the country's farmers. Budget Minister Jaime C. Laya said the fertilizer and pesticide authority approved a 18.4 percent increase in imported grades (urea, ammosul, and potash) and 26.7 percent increase in locally produced grades (complex and complete).

VARIOUS front organizations were being formed throughout the country, but principally in Metro Manila, the President said. He made the remark to Malacañang newsmen following his four-and-a-half hour meeting with various Armed Forces of the Philippines commanders at AFP headquarters at Camp Aguinaldo, where he pressed for a compulsory reduction of military expenditures by 15 percent. Asked if he could identify any particular group creating trouble in Metro Manila, he said "they are the same old groups, with a few new faces but the same old groups." He warned that the law would be applied inexorably to meet violence.

THE FIRST Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos and GSIS President and General Manager Roman A. Cruz, Jr., signed a memorandum agreement formalizing the insurance coverage of some 250,000 members of the barangay community brigades. The agreement makes effective Presidential Decree No. 1232 which extends life, disability, and accident insurance to BOB members. The signing was witnessed by the President during the Community Relations Day rites at the Quezon Memorial circle in Quezon City.

April 8—

THE PRESIDENT went on a two-day retreat aboard the RPS Mount Samat under the guidance of the retreat master of the Society of Jesus and chief of the chaplain services of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. He spent the day in private meditation, prayers and spiritual exercises, together with five cabinet members and some personal friends.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: April 9-15, 1979

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

April 9—

THE PRESIDENT designated the period from June 1, 1979, to May 31, 1980, for the annual educational and fund campaign of the United Way Philippines. He also commended the UWP program on rural development supportive of the declaration of 1979 as the "Year of the Common Man."

April 10—

MINISTRY of Labor announced that covered employees are entitled to 100 per cent of their basic wage even if they do not report for work on Maundy Thursday (April 12) and Good Friday (April 13), both regular holidays. Labor Standards Director Antonio Nuesa said employees who absent themselves from work on the day immediately preceding the first holiday of the successive holidays like Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are not entitled to a holiday pay. Under the Labor Code, employees who work on any regular holiday should be paid at least 200 per cent of their regular daily wage.

COMMISSION on Elections set the ceilings on campaign expenses for Regions 9 and 12. Under the ruling, a political party or group participating in the May 7 election may spend 50 centavos for every voter, while a candidate may spend up to P24,000, the one-year salary of a representative to the regional legislative assembly, for the entire election campaign. These limits will include any expenses that may be incurred by any political party or group or any candidate in connection with the regional balloting. To insure that expenses are kept within these limits, the Comelec requires political parties or groups and candidates to submit periodically to its regional directors in the election areas reports on their expenditures.

April 11—

THE PRESIDENT, through Proclamation No. 1836-A, reset the dead line for the filing of certificates of candidacy in the May 7 Sangguniang Pampook elections in Regions 9 and 12 to April 30. The April deadline is for candidates of political parties. Independent candidates may file their candidacies up to May 6, the day before the election. The new deadline would allow political parties who have already nominated candidates to alter or withdraw them and replace them with new candidates, or to complete their tickets.

April 12—

THE PRESIDENT and his children—Imee, Bongbong, and Irene—made the traditional "visita iglesia" at the basilica of Our Lady of Charity in Agoo, La Union. The First Lady, who was indisposed, was not with them.

April 13—

THE PRESIDENT and his family spent Good Friday quietly at Santa Rita beach house at barangay Paratong in Agoo, La Union. They did not receive any callers.

THE PRESIDENT took a direct hand in the Halsema national road irregularities in Benguet province and ordered the immediate suspension of all officials involved in the case. His order to suspend those involved in the Benguet highways racket came after he was informed that the accused Officials were still holding office or reporting to work despite the filing of anti-graft charges against them by the Tanodbayan. The Benguet highway mess involved an alleged ghost project in Atok where 5,500 cubic meters of aggregate materials worth P99,990.

April 14—

THE PRESIDENT called on all Filipinos to muster the season's spirit of hope and indomitable will to help them triumph over the economic hardships and difficulties now besetting the country. "These hardships and difficulties are neither overwhelming nor insuperable nor unprecedented in scale," he said in his Easter Message. New and more measures have been formulated and implemented by the government to deal with the problems, he assured the nation.

THE PRESIDENT ordered the restructuring of the budget outlays of two ministries to avoid the improper use of funds. He issued the directive citing instances of the improper use of funds in the highways and education ministries. He said local and national officials were involved in this. A case in point, he said, is the use of road maintenance funds to build new roads resulting in the deterioration of some of the road networks in the country. In the case of the Ministry of Education and Culture, he said vocational schools in the provinces are not getting the proper support from the ministry.

THE PRESIDENT cancelled his trips to Laoag to return to Manila to tackle the problem of rising prices and shortages of prime items like diesel fuel, cement, and canned fish. He told Malacañang reporters that Energy Minister Geronimo Velasco had assured him there would be enough diesel for priority activities and there would be no need for rationing. He said he would also look into the legality of a wildcat sit-down strike by workers in some industries, particularly the hotel industry. He took the occasion to call on both labor and management not to use the present crisis of shortages, rising prices, and the threat of unemployment to attain their own selfish objectives.

April 15—

THE PRESIDENT, in an interview with members of the Malacañang press corps, disclosed that Philippine-based officials of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) have indicated willingness to participate in the May 7 election in Regions 9 and 12. Asked if he had received any reaction from Nur Misuari and Hasim Salamat, MNLF leaders-in-exile, on the Chief Executive's invitation to them to return home and participate in the regional election in the South, he said he did not get the words directly from Misuari and Salamat but "their Philippine-based officials have indicated a willingness to participate in the elections." Asked if he would use his appointing-power in case they (MNLF leaders) would like to be appointed by him to sit in the executive committee of the legislative council, the President answered: "Yes, this is a part of the plan. This is one of the reasons the Batasan Pambansa agreed to the proposal that five, in addition to the 17 elective members of the legislative council, be appointed by the President. This is the basic purpose—to give representation to the secessionists, if necessary."

THE PRESIDENT has ordered the release of P13,750,000 for various infrastructure projects in the Mountain Province. According to Mountain Province Assemblyman Victor Domingues, who helped follow-up the release of the amount from the Ministry of Public Highways, the funds were broken down as follows: Construction of new barangay roads, P3,500,000; construction of the Barlig-Natonin-Paracelis-Cudal road, P2,542,000; construction of new barangay health clinics, P486,000; construction of new school buildings, P1,335,000; repair of damaged school facilities, P1,160,000; funds for Various irrigation projects, P1,300,000; and Agoyo river control along the Chico river, P500,000.

MORE THAN P2 million was ordered released by the President to implement three cadastral projects in Central Luzon in an effort to spur the agro-industrial development of the region. According to Lands Director Ramon N. Casanova the project will benefit about 20,000 lot claimants.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: April 16-22, 1979

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

April 16—

THE PRESIDENT witnessed the signing of an agreement under which Kuwait will sell to the Philippines close to one million tons of fuel oil annually for three years. This is equivalent to 16,000 barrels a day. Energy Minister Geronimo Z. Velasco and Chairman Ahmed Mutair of the Kuwait National Petroleum Corp. finalized the agreement between the two countries.

ENERGY Minister Geronimo Z. Velasco, during the same occasion, said the diesel supply situation is under control and that the government is taking steps to prevent a crisis. He said the state-owned Petrophil had been able to secure 65,000 barrels of diesel fuel. Caltex will also bring in about 150,000 barrels of diesel. These new imports, plus the country's inventory of the product may reach 23 days' supply level by the end of April, will help ease the temporary shortage of diesel fuel in the market, he said.

April 17—

DEPUTY Foreign Minister Manuel Collantes stressed in his speech-before the Makati Rotary Club that the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) scheduled in Manila next month will try to revise international economic relations in the face of impending economic crises. He said the acceleration of economic development everywhere in the world in the wake of economic difficulties will dominate the UNCTAD discussions. In the process, he added, the conference will find solutions to these problems.

DEPUTY Social Services Minister Sylvia P. Montes called, on delegates to the 6th Asia-Pacific Youth Forum "to further strengthen the ties and promote friendly relations among the people of the region." She said the 300 delegates can make a plan to achieve regional cooperation by discussing the economic aspects of cooperation which would be submitted to the economic planners of their respective countries. Speaking on the out-of-school-youth development program in the country, she said the program started by the government under the integrated social welfare program focuses on the youth and children has greatly aided them in achieving self-reliance and self-realization.

April 18—

THE PRESIDENT issued several directives to bring down and stabilize the prices of prime commodities and control adjustments in the prices of items removed from price control. In a meeting with Energy Minister Geronimo Velasco, Economic Planning Minister Gerardo P. Sicat, Deputy Trade Minister Vicente Valdepeñas Jr. and Animal Industry Director Salvador Escudero III, the President, among others: 1) Ordered the flooding of the market, if necessary, with consumer items the prices of which should not exceed reasonable levels; 2) Told the Ministry of Trade to place back under price control items that go beyond the reach of the masses "if all other options fail;" 3) Directed the Philippine Navy to ferry excess cement from the Visayas and Mindanao to ease the cement shortage in Metro Manila; 4) Ordered the acceleration of the lowering of tariffs on food items; and 5) Told the Ministry of Energy to set up plants for the processing of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) from natural gas imported from Indonesia and other sources. These directives were issued in reaction to reports that prices of vital commodities had risen beyond expected levels, the President said.

ROMAN A. Cruz, Jr., chairman and president of the Philippine airlines, accused the developed countries, particularly the United States and Australia, of seeking to coerce Third World nations into accepting their decisions on the airline fares issue. Cruz, who is also president of the International Air Transport Association, made this charge in his keynote address at the 28th annual conference of the Pacific Area Travel Association in Seoul. He said that "the bigger nations should keep in mind that in a global community of countries and airlines whose philosophies and goals are as diverse as their interests, one should not impose, one's ideology and expect this to resolve issues."

April 19—

CHIEF Justice Fred Ruiz Castro died after a heart attack aboard a KLM plane 80 minutes before it landed at the New Delhi airport. The 13th chief justice of the highest court, Chief Justice Castro, who would be 65 on Sept. 2 this year, is the first to die in office. Accompanied by his wife Natividad Hizon and 17-year-old daughter Meli-Sande, Chief Justice Castro flew to New Delhi to receive an honorary doctor of laws degree from the University of Rajasthan and honorary membership in the Indian Society of International Law and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations. From India, he was to go on an official trip to China as guest of the Chinese Institute of Foreign Relations.

April 21—

THE PRESIDENT, his cabinet and members of the foreign diplomatic corps, went to Bataan for the joint commemoration of the fall of Bataan, Corregidor and Bessang Pass, and the surrender of Japanese forces on Mt. Samat. Earlier in the day, the President and his guests witnessed the delivery of the first 250,000 barrels of oil from the Nido well. He also turned the symbolic switch to inaugurate the Agus II hydroelectric project in Lanao del Sur.

April 22—

FOREIGN Minister Carlos P. Romulo has asked Japan to allow the entry of more Philippine exports to balance the lopsided trade relations between the two countries. Romulo, who is now on an official trip to Japan, made the appeal during a two-hour meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Sunao Sonoda. The Philippines' deficit in her trade with Japan rose by 88 percent last year, from \$248.4 million in 1977 to \$466.7 million. Romulo and Sonoda also discussed developments in the region, the North-South problems, as well as bilateral issues related to energy, trade cooperation, development cooperation, insurance and immigration problems.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

Official Week in Review: April 23 – April 29, 1979

April 23—

THE PRESIDENT directed that industrial concerns in Metro Manila and selected industries in the provinces be given priority in power service allocation. This policy was laid by the President at a meeting with industry and energy officials at Malacañang during which he also took steps to ease power shortage in Luzon particularly in Metro Manila.

WORLD Bank officials assured the President they would support the government's Bagong Lipunan Improvement of Sites and Services (BLISS) and the Zonal Improvement Programs (ZIP). Those who called on the President at Malacañang were the World Bank urban mission headed by Edward Jaycox, director of the urban sector, and David Williams, head of the bank's appraisal mission for the Third Urban Loan. The bank sent them to appraise the projects to be funded by the \$60-million loan the Philippines is negotiating with it.

April 24—

THE PRESIDENT witnessed a demonstration of the United States Air Force's E-3A Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) at the Manila International Airport. The unusual aircraft, developed by the USAF, is a modified Boeing 707 packed with computers, navigational and communications equipment and a notably superior radar, according to the USAF. The USAF pointed out that the system "represents the most modern methods and equipment for surveillance, command and control."

THE PRESIDENT called upon the members of the Cabinet to help insure the success of the Fifth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development set from May 7 to June 1 in Manila. He stressed the importance of the conference in view of the high-level representations from the 167 participating countries during a Cabinet meeting in Malacañang. Upon the suggestion of the First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos, the President asked the Cabinet members to participate in the preparations.

April 25—

THE PRESIDENT called for a barangay security network to prevent the infiltration of the grassroots by subversive elements. He also redefined the role of the barangay in the New Society and pledged the government's continued support for their activities. His statement was prompted by a pledge of loyalty by Mrs. Aurora Panlilio, president of the Metro Manila Katipunan ng mga Barangay, on behalf of the organization. Every Metro Manila resident should know beforehand what the government expects of him because such knowledge would be helpful to him in an emergency, the President added.

THE FIRST Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos was named by the President chairman of the 45-man delegation to the UNCTAD V conference which starts May 7. Named co-chairman was Foreign Minister Carlos P. Romulo while Finance Minister Cesar Virata was named vice chairman, Trade Minister Troadio T. Quiazon, Jr., was designated co-vice chairman.

THE PRESIDENT said "the country has lost a social diversionary" with the death of the late Chief Justice Fred Ruiz Castro of the Supreme Court. In necrological rites at the Manila Cathedral, he said the late Chief Justice "was no mere brilliant craftsman of the law. He was mindful of the spirit of the strict letter of the law, weighing the social facts with the legal norms, situating the law properly within the framework of human reality." The late Chief Justice succumbed to a heart attack last April 20 on board a KLM plane about 30 minutes before landing at the New Delhi airport. He was to receive an honorary Doctor of Laws degree and memberships from various associations in India. He was the 13th chief justice of the high tribunal and the first to die in office.

April 26—

THE PRESIDENT declared the province of Leyte in a state of calamity and ordered the immediate release of P4.5 million for the repair of its roads destroyed by Typhoon "Bebeng." The provincial military and civil officials recommended this move to the President, although they admitted that the situation was under the effective control of the regional disaster control center.

April 27—

THE PRESIDENT took up with the U.S. Ambassador Dick Clark, coordinator for refugee affairs, the scheduled conference on refugees in Jakarta, Indonesia, on May 15 to 16. The Philippines and Indonesia have offered an island to serve as temporary haven for Vietnamese refugees and act as a processing center. Ambassador Clark conveyed to the President the willingness of the United States government to increase the number of refugees entering the United States. The President, in turn, made it clear that the Philippine government was willing to work with other nations to help resolve the international refugee problems.

April 28—

COMMISSION on Election (Comelec) decided to allow rebels and evacuees in the Mindanao area autonomy to register even on election day, May 7. This was contained in a resolution which provides that any rebel or evacuee, who is a qualified voter, may register personally on election day in any special voting center to be established exclusively for them in specified areas. The poll body warned it will prosecute a registered voter who registers again in any of the special voting centers. Double registration is an election offense severely penalized under the new Election Code.

April 29—

THE PRESIDENT laid the cornerstone of the P500-million Marbella Club (Manila) at Caylabne, Ternate, Cavite. In brief remarks during the luncheon, the President stresses the relevance and vital importance of tourism in maintaining the stability and security of the country.

Source: Supreme Court Library

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1979). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 75(18), lxxxvii-lxxxviii.

President's Week in Review: April 30 - May 6, 1979

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

April 30—

THE PRESIDENT took up arrangements with Japanese Ambassador Kiyoshiza Mikanagi for the visit of Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira early this month. Mr. Ohira's Manila visit, also his first in the Pacific region, will fall sometime during the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) scheduled May 7 to June 1. The President had earlier said he hoped the Ohira government would adhere to the Japanese commitment of close cooperation with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

FOREIGN Minister Carlos P. Romulo said the President's desire to maintain a balance of power in Asia motivated him into entering into an improved bases agreement with the United States. Minister Romulo, who arrived in the country from Bangkok, said this was what he told officials, as well as civic leaders in Thailand, when he asked about the US military bases in the Philippines. "Without this balance of power in the region, there will be polarization, or one country siding with another which, will result in instability that none of us would like to have," he added.

May 1—

THE PRESIDENT said he would amend the Labor Code to make certain unfair labor practices, including union-busting, criminal offenses. Addressing an overflow of crowd in the Labor Day celebration at the Philippine International Convention Center, he gave Minister of Labor Blas F. Ople 24 hours to prepare the proposed amendments to the Labor Code. He said this would serve as a fair warning to management sectors which were anti-labor. At the same time, he ignored the demand in the manifesto presented to him earlier by the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines asking for the lifting of the ban on strikes. To facilitate the solution of labor-management disputes, he announced the appointment of 35 new labor arbiters. He also signed the appointments of Guillermo Medina, Gabriel Gatchalian and Miguel Varela: as commissioners of the newly-created division of the National Labor Relations Commission. He appointed Aurelio Intertas as member of the Price Stabilization Council (PSC) and Ernesto Herrera as member of the National Manpower and Youth Council (NMYC).

DURING the same occasion, the President signed four letters of instructions, which would: 1) Establish the Workers Rehabilitation Center Complex under the Employees Compensation Commission. Some P15 million is set aside for this; 2) Establish the Institute of Occupational Health Safety under the Ministry of Labor. For this, P2 million is appropriated; 3) Establish the policy that henceforth, only Filipino construction companies may export Filipino construction workers, with the Ministry of Labor and the Overseas Construction Board to determine the appropriate rules and regulations; and 4) Legalize the boundary system in the land transportation industry.

EARLIER, the First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos, gave an inspirational talk, reaffirming her dedication and that of the President to the cause of Labor, whose welfare is the primary objective of the New Society.

THE FIRST Couple observed their silver wedding anniversary today. A mass was held in Malacañang with their children, members of the Cabinet, government officials, members of the diplomatic corps, and close friends in attendance.

THE PRESIDENT announced new appropriations to modernize the Philippine Air Force, making it an air force "we can be proud of and which will stand the challenge of the 21st century." Speaking at the 44th anniversary rites of the PAF at Nichols Air Base, he said that while the budget for the Armed Forces of the Philippines would increase by P200 million, the bulk of it would go to modernizing the Air Force. He reiterated the government's policy of building a "self-reliant defense posture, in all aspects of military preparedness, not as an instrument for aggression but as the shield of a sovereign state standing guard over its heritage and its territory."

THE PRESIDENT suggested that conditions for development assistance set by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) be further liberalized for the benefit of developing countries. To accomplish this, he told over 1,000 delegates who came to Manila for the 12th annual meeting of the ADB board of governors, it will be necessary to reexamine loan procurement terms for possible modification. The ADB should continue to support growth and change in the region by helping us in a very real sense to achieve the full measure of our potentials, the President said.

May 3—

THE PRESIDENT said he hopes that the coming fifth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) would bring about a new international: economic order. He expressed his hope to Ambassador F. W. Wanigasekera, who presented his credentials as the first resident ambassador of Sri Lanka to the Philippines. He also received later the credentials of Ambassador Christianus Theodorus Franciscus Thurkow as the new ambassador of the Netherlands to the Philippines, replacing former Ambassador Frans von Oven.

THE PRESIDENT said he would welcome an air agreement between the Philippines and China to further strengthen the close ties between the two countries. He made the statement during the call of a Chinese delegation which arrived, to negotiate an agreement that will allow the Philippine Airlines and the Civil Aviation Administration of China to make regular flights to each other's country. Roman A. Cruz, Jr., PAL president, who accompanied the delegation to Malacañang, said the agreement, if concluded, would make Manila the gateway to China in view of the hotel congestion in Tokyo and Hongkong.

May 4—

THE PRESIDENT expressed optimism that the UNCTAD V meet would go down in history as that which set down in its charter the establishment of the Common Fund, the program of action to help developing countries. "This is what we hope to achieve," he said in a brief press conference with Malacañang newsmen. "I do not see any serious hindrances but anything can happen in a meeting like this." He was confident; "however, that "we will overcome all difficulties this time."

THE PRESIDENT announced that Tara island, part of the Calamianes Island group, east of Busuanga and Coron, would become the processing center for Vietnamese refugees, pending their permanent resettlement in other countries of the world. Replying to a question from a Malacañang newsman during a press interview, the President said the setting up of a refugee center was not in reaction to, a foreign proposal. "This is a Philippine proposal," he said.

May 5—

FOREIGN Minister Carlos P. Romulo said the Philippines expects to increase its sales to Japan substantially as a result of the new Treaty of Amity, Commerce and Navigation to be signed by the President and Japanese Prime, Minister Masayoshi Ohira during the latter's arrival in the country. Interviewed on television, General Romulo said, "I believe that in this new treaty, we have succeeded in establishing a more relevant legal framework for our trade and economic relations with Japan."

May 6—

DR. KURT Waldheim, secretary-general of the United Nations arrived to the country to address the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) fifth session. The visiting top UN official, accompanied by his wife, was met at the airport by the President and the First Lady, Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos. Also on hand to meet Dr. Waldheim were members of the Cabinet and the diplomatic corps.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: May 7-13, 1979

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

May 7—

THE PRESIDENT urged the delegates to the fifth session of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to start a "momentum of change and creativity" to bail humankind from poverty and underdevelopment. He made the call in his keynote address at the opening of the fifth session at the Philippine International Convention Center. He said a great number of the deprived "can no longer wait and stand on squibbles and reservations and further study." He asked the delegates from 158 participating nation "to break the vicious cycle of crisis and impotence" and to admit the need for the establishment of a new international economic order.

ALL the 34 candidates of the ruling Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL) were leading their opponents in today's election for the Sangguniang Pampook (regional assemblies) in Regions 9 and 12, according to partial unofficial results received by the Commission on Elections tabulation center in Davao City. About 1.5 million voters trooped to the polling places as early as 6 a.m. although the actual voting started at 7 a.m. and closed at 5 p.m. Voting centers in Western Mindanao (Region 9) and Central Mindanao (Region 12) totalled 7,823, including 38 special voting centers set up exclusively for rebels and evacuees.

May 8—

THE PRESIDENT said United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim and Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Van, Dong have agreed on a proposal to allow refugees to join their families abroad. The president met for an hour with the UN official in Malacañang before the latter's departure for Jakarta at 4:45 p.m. Under the compromise proposal, the refugees would be provided with the necessary documents to enable them to leave the country legally. Waldheim, in a predeparture press conference at the airport, assured the refugees of permanent asylum.

They will be accommodated on Tara island, a temporary processing center 150 kilometers from Manila. He also indicated the possibility of UN financing.

THE PRESIDENT said the results of the May 7 Sangguniang Pampook elections in Regions 9 and 12 indicate that the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL) candidates have been elected. He sounded pleased over reports that there were no serious incidents in the votings. The elections involve voting for 21 members of the legislative councils to be established in the two regions. Of the 21, 17 were elected at large and four will represent various sectors.

May 9—

THE PRESIDENT and Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser of Australia agreed to correct the trade imbalance between their countries during a two-hour talk which was described as "frank and cordial." The two leaders also discussed security implications to the region of recent regional and international developments. In a press briefing, Information Minister Francisco S. Tatad said the President and Prime Minister Fraser, who is in the country for a four-day state visit, also took up "important bilateral questions like trade and aviation."

COMMISSION on Elections set for May 27 the election of sectoral representatives to Sangguniang Pampook in Regions 9 and 12 as all the 24 official candidates of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL) in the May 7 elections appeared to have already clinched victory. In a meeting at Davao City, Comelec Chairman Leonardo B. Perez and Commissioners Venancio S. Duque, Flores Bayot, Vicente Santiago Jr., and Domingo C. Pabalate decided that the sectoral elections will start from 7 to 11 a.m. in Zamboanga City for Western Mindanao (Region 9) and in Cotabato City for Central Mindanao (Region 12). Four sectoral representatives from the youth, agricultural, non-agricultural and professional sectors will be chosen for each region by representatives of the Sangguniang Bayan and the Sangguniang Panlungsod in every town and city in the regions.

May 10—

THE PRESIDENT and Japanese Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira signed a new treaty of amity, commerce and navigation between their countries. At the signing ceremony at, Malacañang, the two leaders expressed hopes for fresh opportunities to expand Philippine-Japanese economic relations. The new treaty replaces an agreement reached in 1960 which came into effect only in 1974 due to a delay in ratification by the Philippine government. The President, in a short speech, said the new treaty now opens the Japanese market to Philippine exports thereby narrowing the gap the Philippines continues to suffer in trading with Japan. Last year the Philippines bought \$1.5 billion worth of Japanese goods. However, Japan purchased only \$1,057 million of Philippine products, leaving a trade deficit of \$489 million.

May 11—

THE PRESIDENT and Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser exchanged, letters of ratification, formally putting into effect a trade agreement between their countries. The trade agreement, described by both as a “significant development” in Philippines-Australia relations, helped remove a number of irritants between the two countries. Among other things, the agreement guarantees increased market opportunities for Philippine export products to Australia. The exchange of ratification of the trade agreement was contained in the joint communique issued by the President and Prime Minister Fraser at the end of the latter’s four-day state visit.

THE PRESIDENT inaugurated the Mak-Ban (Makiling-Banahaw) geothermal power plant in barrio Bitin, Bay, Laguna which, started feeding Luzon an additional 55 megawatts of electricity. In his brief speech, he pointed out that the world is in the midst of another oil crisis where industrial nations are beginning to seriously consider a rationing system for all kinds of fuel oil and the Philippines, although it has not been spared from the oil crisis, “is lucky enough to have alternate sources of energy, like this geothermal power project.”

May 12—

THE FIRST Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos said that she would spell out the Philippine position on the various problems confronting the developed and developing countries in a speech before the Fifth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development this week. This was disclosed by Mrs. Marcos, who is head of the Philippine delegation to the UNCTAD V, in an interview with Malacañang newsmen during a lunch which she gave in honor of the delegates to the UNCTAD at the National Arts Center in Mt. Makiling, Laguna.

LABOR Minister Blas F. Ople proposed a reexamination of the protectionist policies within the five member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Keynoting the three-day conference of the ASEAN Confederation of Employers at the Philippine Plaza, he said the review should be made from the standpoint of the common interest of the member countries in becoming a major industrial region. By intra-ASEAN protectionism, he said, he meant all forms of restrictions to the flow of goods and resources. He said the combined population of the ASEAN countries represent a big market that will sustain all the heavy industries that may be established by Singapore, Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia.

May 13—

THE PRESIDENT reiterated that the Filipino people still believe in the world of America. In brief, extemporaneous remarks at a luncheon he and the First Lady gave in honor of US Ambassador to the United Nations and Mrs. Andrew Young, the President said the Filipinos were honoring Ambassador Young not only because of his prestigious position but also because of his “unassailable, splendid record in the defense of small people.”

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: May 14-20, 1979

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

May 14—

THE PRESIDENT sought the assistance of the Food and Agriculture Organization in providing food for the “Vietnamese refugees in the country. The request was made by the President to Edourd Saouma, director-general of the FAO, who called on him at Malacañang. He informed Saouma that the Philippines has established an island processing center which can accommodate 7,000 refugees and that their stay here will be supported by donations from the international community. The refugees will be staying in the center while waiting for their permanent settlement in different countries abroad. “I really hope the FAO will help out in this operation, initiated by the Philippines,” the President told Saouma.

May 15—

MINDANAO provisional government is bowing out upon the assumption of office of the elected members of the Sangguniang Pampook or regional legislative assemblies in Regions 9 and 12. The provisional government, composed of the governors of the two regions and headed by Lanao del Sur Gov. Ali Dimaporo, will present today its successors to the public at a conference in Cotabato City.

May 16—

THE PRESIDENT urged the forming of a group to study two schemes proposed by the secretary-general of the Asian and African Consultative Group to help bring about a new international economic order. He made the suggestion after his exchange of views with Dr. B. Sen, secretary-general of the AACG, who called on him in Malacañang. The two schemes which had been earlier proposed to the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) by Dr. Sen, are: 1) Rapid industrialization to bring about a new international economic order through regional cooperation; and 2) Transfer of arbitration of commercial disputes from the International Chamber of Commerce to national institutions and by regional centers.

May 17—

THE PRESIDENT took steps to hasten the development of Samar, one of the country's depressed areas, and to improve its peace and order. In a two-hour meeting with civilian and military leaders at Malacañang, he stressed the need for greater coordination among government agencies involved in the, development of Samar. During the conference, he ordered: 1) The release of P1.5 million for the construction of roads linking several towns in northeastern Samar to be undertaken by army engineers; 2) The release of P1 million for the completion of Dolores airstrip and P600 million for the extension of the airstrip in Catarman plus P100,000 for the purchase of its lighting equipment; 3) The establishment of a broadcast station in Borongan to beef up the information campaign in the hinterlands where insurgents reportedly are active; 4) The release of P2.5 million for the integrated national police in Region 8 for the purchase of various equipment and P2.5 million for their subsistence allowance; 5) The beefing up of the civil home defense force, for the citizens may be involved in securing peace and order in remote areas.

May 18—

FIRST autonomous regional governments in Regions 9 and 12 started “functioning today. This came about when the President ordered the immediate and smooth transfer of responsibilities from the provisional government to the, two Sangguniang Pampook or regional legislative councils. He issued the directive after receiving the report at Malacañang of Lanao del Sur Gov. Ali Dimaporo, chairman of the provisional government, on the election of 34 representatives of the two regions. With the election of the representatives, the councils will complete its – membership with the election of eight (four for each of the regions) sectoral representatives. The appointive

representatives or five for each of the two regions will raise be named by the President upon recommendation of the two legislative councils.

THE FIRST Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, prodded the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to move from “slogan to a program of action” and firmly committed the Philippines’ contribution of \$50 million to the common fund which aims to stabilize world commodity prices. In her speech at the fifth UNCTAD session, Mrs. Marcos, who heads the Philippine delegation to the meeting, said “individuals in the rich nations are 13 times better off than their counterparts in the poorest nations.” She urged the UNCTAD to speed up action on measures to cure the World’s economic ills.

May 19—

DIRAAR Y. Alghanim, chairman of the Alghanim International Corporation of Kuwait, called on the President to discuss the establishment of a Philippine trade house in Kuwait and the possibility of investing in all fields of industries in the country. He was accompanied by Ambassador Wilfredo Vega, Ricardo S. Laudico and Albert C. Aguirre.

May 20—

SOUTH Korean Foreign Minister Tong Jin Park called on the President at Malacañang. He is in the country to address the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). He was accompanied by Ambassador Yang Kyoo Kang and Deputy Foreign Minister Manuel Collantes.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: May 21-27, 1979

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

May 21—

THE PRESIDENT reported that government officials have been holding trade talks with at least 12 delegations, led by China and Russia, which are attending the current United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) here. In a report to the Batasang Pambansa on trade developments, he said that aside from these 12 countries, "we expect to have further dialogues with other countries in the course of UNCTAD V which will adjourn June 1." He also reported on the Philippines' new Treaty of Amity, Commerce and Navigation with Japan, and also on its trade treaty with Australia. He also discussed the elections in Regions 9 and 12 which resulted in the choice of 17 representatives for each of the legislative councils. The Batasan reconvened following a long recess which started just before the Holy Week.

THREE government overseas employment agencies, the bureau of employment services, the overseas employment development board and the national seamen board, have been tapped by the Ministry of Labor to stop the misuse of tourist visas by Filipino workers seeking employment overseas. Labor Minister Blas F. Ople also ordered heads of the three government overseas employment agencies to work out a plan to check the exodus of disguised jobseekers through the use of tourist visas. The three agencies were also ordered to draft rules to implement Letter of Instructions No. 852 which seeks measures that will prevent the abuse of tourist travel as a means to obtain overseas employment.

MINISTER Jose A. Roño of the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development (MLGCD) ruled that a barangay council cannot enact an ordinance declaring curfew for residents within its jurisdictional area. A barangay is under the Pambansang Katipunan ng mga Barangay which is directly under the MLGCD minister himself. Commenting for the first time on the controversial issue revolving around the validity of a curfew ordinance in a barangay in Quezon City, Minister Roño said that it is only the President who can impose curfew in any part of the country or over the entire country.

May 22—

THE PRESIDENT received P. A. Graham, managing director of London Standard Chartered Bank' Ltd., who called, at Malacañang. He is in the country as part of his tour of Pacific countries. He was accompanied by Roberto Pudner, manager of the local branch of the bank, and Mrs. Pudner.

May 23—

THE PRESIDENT paved the way for the overhaul of the government's monetary, infrastructure, and budgetary policies to accelerate food production and energy development. In support of these directive, he also increased the credit line of the National Grains Authority (NGA) to P500 million for its buying program and P42 million for the construction of additional warehouses. Earlier, he authorized the Central Bank to release P10 million to increase the lending facilities of the rural banks. He made these recourses during the Pulong Pulong dialog at Malacañang with tenant leaders on the occasion of Farmers Week.

May 24—

THE PRESIDENT cancelled the results of the National College Entrance Examination (NCEE) that 586,000 high school students took last November to qualify them for admission to four-year college course in the coming school year. He said he is leaving it to the colleges and universities to adopt their own admission policies for four-year courses, at least for this year. He also ruled that the opening of classes would not be June 4 but on June 13, the original date. He did this to end, once and for all, tensions and confusions among students and their parents caused by conflicting announcements on these two issues.

May 25—

THE PRESIDENT shifted the emphasis on government funding, from grains to fish production, by creating the P10-million *Biyaya ng Dagat '79* Fund. He announced this new policy in his speech on the closing of the 14th annual Convention of the Philippine Federation of Fishfarm Producers (PFFP) at the Manila Peninsula. During the same occasion, he also ordered: 1) Creation of 21 five-year scholarships on fisheries, directing the Ministry of Natural Resources to set aside P2-million of the ministry funds for the purpose; 2) The preparation of a new fisheries education program by the Ministry of Education and Culture (MEC); 3) Strict enforcement of the prohibition against illegal and dynamite fishing, with the deputization of all fishing boat captains to implement the law; 4) Investigation of reports that too many middlemen are making huge profits in the fishing industry at the expense of producers, consumers and the sound economy; 5) A complete survey of marginal lands, heretofore considered not adaptable to fishpond culture (areas between agricultural lands and the sea), for possible use as fishponds in order to save the mangroves; and 6) Constitution of a fishermen's committee to keep a dialog with the government through the director of fisheries and aquatic resources, the minister of, natural resources and the President.

NATIONAL Grains Authority (NGA) was ordered by the President to study if part of the rice earlier set aside for export should be held back to, form part of the country's buffer stock for emergencies. However, he instructed NGA Administrator Jesus Tanchanco to honor all the export commitments which had been contracted with buyer-countries on a government-to-government basis. His order was prompted by bad weather including typhoons which have started to hit the country and, the fuel crisis which may cause a shortfall in rice harvests.

THE PRESIDENT disclosed the possibility of a 10 percent increase in the prices of oil next month. He made the disclosure as he ordered the reduction of this year's energy consumption from the projected 87 million barrels to 84 million barrels—the 1978 consumption level—beginning July 15. He presided over a joint meeting in Malacañang of the National Security Council and the National Economic and Development Authority, (NEDA), which looked into the global and national energy situation and the problems of prices and how these would affect the people.

May 26—

THE PRESIDENT has assured producers and distributors of agricultural products of financing to maintain steady price levels. Malacañang said that the President has ordered changes in the government's monetary policies so that food production and energy development would get enough financial support. The order was made at the joint meeting of the National Security Council and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) recently during which he also decided to allow the price control law to expire in July.

MINISTRY of Finance said, that the 10 per cent limitation on increases in assessments of real property for purposes of taxation refers to assessment levels and not on the taxable values of properties. The clarification was made by the ministry to correct the misconception that the decree amending the Real Property Tax Code (PD 464) allows only 10 per cent increase in realty taxes.

BANKS were allowed by the Central Bank to accept time deposits with various ranges on maturities thereby scrapping the old regulation which limited maturity dates to either 90, 180, 360, 540 or 730 days. In a circular signed by Central Bank Governor Gregorio S. Licaros, Sr., time deposits can now be placed at maturities ranging from 90 to 179 days, 180 to 359 days, 360 to 530 days, 540 to 729 days, and from 730 days or more. Covered by the regulation are commercial banks, the Development Bank of the Philippines, Land Bank of the Philippines, thrift banks and rural banks.

SOME 300 families which will be affected by the contraction of the Bangkulasi cut off channel in Navotas, a flood control project, will be relocated in the Dagat-Dagatan housing project. Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos directed public works and Metro Manila officials to make sure the affected families will get their units from among the 1,500 core houses being constructed by the National Housing Authority (NHA) at the Dagat-Dagatan. The Bangkulasi cut off channel will relieve the flooding problem which affects some 28,000 families in Navotas, Malabon and Caloocan during the rainy season.

May 27—

LABOR Minister Blas F. Ople called on labor arbiters to, speed up the disposal of labor cases to hasten settlement of various labor disputes in the country. In a speech at the induction of 34 new labor arbiters and three commissioners, Minister Ople said labor arbiters should live to the expectations of the President and should discharge their duties with dedication and sincerity to give justice to every Filipino worker.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: May 28 - June 3, 1979

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

May 28—

THE PRESIDENT cited the need for heroism during Memorial Day rites at the American Military cemetery at Fort Bonifacio in honor of those who died in the defense of freedom in the Pacific during World War II. During his speech, he said that the essential significance of Memorial Day was that it is a guide for all people to remember, particularly during these times of crisis and challenge. He said there was nothing nobler than the sacrifice of one's life, honor and happiness for a cause he considers worthy.

May 29—

THE PRESIDENT bared the determination of the developing countries to promote economic cooperation among themselves. He made known the stand of the developing countries during his breakfast conference / with delegates from Group D (Socialist) countries of UNCTAD V, headed by A. Ginev of Bulgaria. This is the second time that the President and the First Lady tendered a breakfast in Malacañang in honor of UNCTAD V delegates.

INDIA and the Philippines entered into an agreement providing most-favored-nation treatment between the two countries. The agreement calls for exchanges of commercial and technical mission and the establishment of a joint trade committee to promote better economic relations. The treaty will last for a year but may be continued indefinitely unless either party terminates it. The agreement was signed by Trade Minister Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. and his counterpart, Mohan Dharia. This is the third agreement the Philippines has signed during the current fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

May 30—

THE PRESIDENT signed Letter of Instructions No. 866 directing the establishment of a reforestation and forest management program to preserve the ecological balance in the Ilocos region and provide Virginia tobacco farmers with abundant supplies of firewood for the tobacco industry. The signing was witnessed by Justice Federico B. Moreno, chairman and general manager of the PVTa; Demetrio Tabije, PTA chairman and general manager; Natural Resources Minister Jose Leido Jr. and Agriculture Minister Arturo Tanco Jr.

LEADERS of the Group of 77 informed the President at a breakfast meeting in Malacañang that the developing countries were united in fostering economic cooperation among themselves. Many of the delegates from the Group of 77 composed of Third World countries, sounded pessimistic about the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The President, however, said he was "cautiously optimistic."

THE PRESIDENT welcomed the offer of the United Nations to extend to the government maritime technical assistance. C. Srivastava, secretary-general of the Inter-Government Consultative organization of the UN, made the offer during a call on the President at Malacañang. Srivastava said the UN makes available to all interested countries in the developing a technical cooperation program in organizing technical assistance world in the maritime field, particularly in training personnel, adoption of safety measures, application of anti-pollution measures and the administration of ports and harbors.

May 31—

THE PRESIDENT and leaders of the Group of 77 decided to organize a 15-man committee to work out a mechanism that will guarantee economic cooperation among its members. The committee will be composed of five members each from the Group of 77 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Nominees from Asia will include delegates from Saudi Arabia, India and Indonesia. In a meeting at Malacañang, the conferees, who included members of the negotiating groups of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) also

agreed: 1) To remain united in the face of crucial issues; 2) To support the Arusha Declaration irrevocably. (The Arusha Declaration was forged by developing countries in Arusha, Tanzania before UNCTAD V so that a common stand could be arrived at); 3) To proceed to explore all possibilities of multilateral cooperation action within the Group of 77 in all levels of activity such as agriculture, industry, science and technology without weakening their position on the restructuring of international trade and the elimination of protectionism. Before the meeting started, the President “reiterated the readiness of the” Philippines to provide aid in food production to any developing nation.

MOROCCAN Foreign Minister M’Hamed Boucetta pledged his government’s assistance in the settlement of the Mindanao problem. He informed the President that he was instructed by King Hassan of Morocco to convey his commitment, which is in the interest of Muslims and Christians alike. The Moroccan official is here as his country’s representative to the fifth session of the UNCTAD. He called on the President, however, as the president of the recently concluded Islamic Conference. The foreign minister and his wife were honored at a Malacañang luncheon which was also attended by members of the cabinet and diplomatic representatives and some heads of the UNCTAD delegations.

EDUCATION Minister Juan L. Manuel was ordered by the President to take over the Philippine Public School Teachers’ Association (PPSTA). In Letter of Instructions No. 860, he told Minister Manuel to weed out and prosecute officials and employees of the association who have committed wrongdoings. He also ordered the minister to carry out reforms and take steps to insure the stability and continued operation of the association. He took this move because the association, he said, performs welfare services vital to the moral of public school teachers.

THE PRESIDENT, in separate proclamations, had declared Friday, June 1, a special public holiday in Olongapo City and in Makati, Metro Manila, but the day will remain a regular working day in the two localities. He issued the proclamations to underscore the importance of the day as the foundation anniversaries of Olongapo City and Makati, and for the residents of the two localities to observe special events and preserve cultural traditions.

June 1—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the immediate implementation of 11 energy conservation measures in view of tightening supply and spiralling prices of oil in the international market. The measures were contained in Letter of Instructions No. 869 and released-for publication by Energy Minister Geronimo Velasco.

THE PRESIDENT took a direct hand in the controversial \$1-million seizure at the Manila International Airport as he ordered Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile to arrest anyone, “military or not,” who had a hand in the scandal. In a television interview, Minister Enrile ordered the military “to show to the world” that it can enforce the laws as well as discipline within its ranks.

VISITING California trade mission was informed by the President that the Philippines has “high hopes” of attaining self-sufficiency in oil in the foreseeable future. He based his optimism on the recent discovery of gas at a depth of 4,000 ft. in Tarlac which, he said, “indicated the presence of on-shore oil in the Philippines. He added that the explorations and exploitations of other sources of energy will continue. Two geothermal (volcanic steam) plants, one in Tiwi, Albay and the other in the Makiling-Banahaw area in Laguna, are now generating electricity. The 27-member mission organized by Filipino-American Chamber of Commerce of San Francisco, California, was led by Mrs. March Fong Eu, California secretary of state, and Demetrio Jayme, president of the organizing chamber of commerce.

June 2—

THE PRESIDENT issued a directive to reduce the number of special public holidays during which work is suspended. The guidelines provide that: 1) All regular working days that fall between holiday and a weekend shall not be considered a special holiday; 2) Academic holidays during which classes are suspended due to typhoons and floods and other natural calamities shall be governed by regulations of the Ministry of Education and Culture (MEC); 3) All private and government offices shall wait for the announcement from the Office of the President as to whether work would be suspended due to typhoons and floods; and 4) For unforeseen special public holidays that

may prolong the suspension of work, the Saturday immediately following such a holiday may be declared as a working day. Special public holidays for provinces, cities and towns may be proclaimed by the President to observe cultural traditions and celebrate anniversaries, although unless specified through a proclamation, these special public holidays shall be working days.

DEFENSE Minister Juan Ponce Enrile warned the officers of the Armed Forces against tolerating the misconduct and abuses of their men, especially those assigned in the far-flung areas of the country. Speaking during the third anniversary celebration recently of the Aviation Security Command under Brig. Gen. Petronio M. Lapeña at Nichols Air Base, Pasay City, he said that nothing can be more illogical and dangerous than the tendency of some AFP officers to overlook the misconduct of their men on the false assumption that this is needed to maintain the loyalty of those under their command.

June 3—

FOREIGN Minister Carlos P. Romulo formally closed the four-week session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

(UNCTAD), with the poor and the rich countries battling each other down the wire. "There have been no victories in UNCTAD V, and there have been no defeats," he said as he banged the gavel ending the month-long talks. The conference agenda covered a wide range of interrelated fundamental issues considered vital to restructuring the world economic order. However, it was only during the last hours of the conference that agreements were reached on some minor issues, and the decision on most of the 70 unresolved issues touching on trade, finance, technology and aid was to include it as part of the UNCTAD secretariat's work programs. UNCTAD Secretary General Gamani Corea said the Manila conference had given impetus to a continuing process of negotiations between the rich and poor nations during the 1980s.

MINISTRY of Local Government and Community Development (MLGCD) directed the country's 42,000 barangays to carry out various energy conservation measures at the grassroots level. In a circular released pursuant to a letter of instructions issued recently detailing several plans designed to reduce fuel consumption, the MLGCD directed all governors, mayors and barangay officials to urge all fuel users in the provinces and the rural areas to cooperate fully with the government in its energy conservation program.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: June 4-10, 1979

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

June 4—

THE PRESIDENT said that the just concluded United Nations" Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), although having an agenda many times heavier than previous conferences, made the first realistic approach to the problems of trade protectionism and energy. Saying that UNCTAD V was a conference of "many firsts," he also said that it began the serious restructuring of the international economic order. In his assessment of the meet, he said that protectionism and energy were two issues no international conference ever dared to take, up. The UNCTAD V will also be remembered for formally creating the Common Fund (for commodities) and for launching the integrated commodities program, aside from extending the life of the General Scheme of Preferences. The President, having been active in bringing together, the various blocs toward the end of the meet, said he was satisfied with the stronger unity in the Group of 77, composed of poor nations. As a result, the group has become a greater force to be reckoned with.

June 5—

THE PRESIDENT created a special group to determine priorities in the allocation of petroleum products in accordance with the requirements of food production, energy development, mass transit, and other basic needs. This group is a joint committee of the Board of Investments and the Ministry of Energy. It would also determine priorities in the additional allocation of products in line with basic guidelines issued earlier. At a meeting with Minister of Industry Vicente Paterno, who is also BOI chairman, he asked that credit policies be synchronized with energy policies.

THE FIRST LADY and Minister of Human Settlements Imelda Romualdez Marcos described the country's experiment on national renewal through human settlements as a "heroic act of national salvation." Speaking before the Asia Pacific Regional Conference on Human Settlements Finance and Management at the Philippine International Convention Center, she emphasized that "human settlement transcends the traditional social dole and charity, and becomes the moulder of the wholeness of man in his dignity and of the Filipino national character,"

June 6—

THE PRESIDENT signed into law Cabinet Bill No. 19 penalizing certain acts that violate energy conservation measures. The action capped the concluding session of the first regular meeting of the Batasang Pambansa. Also signed by the President into law were two parliamentary bills—PB No. 292 expanding the coverage of the anti-subversion law, and the PB No. 146 broadening the benefits for labor.

THE PRESIDENT clarified the rule on succession by reaffirming the power of the Batasang Pambansa to choose the Prime Minister in the event the President is incapacitated. This clarification was made by the President in his address shortly before the adjournment of the first session of the Batasan. He said the organization of the Batasan answered the fears of some people in case the incumbent President dies or suffers permanent disability.

THE GOVERNMENT activated a new body to determine priorities in the allocation of petroleum products, particularly for the industrial sector. The committee was set up by the President to insure proper distribution of petroleum products among industrial, commercial, agro-industrial and fishing sectors. Named by Energy Minister Geronimo Velasco and Industry Minister Vicente Paterno to the joint body were Orlando Galang, director of the Bureau of Energy Utilization, as chairman; Ignacio Salcedo of the Ministry of Industry as vice chairman; Rene Ira and Agapito Kalingking of the Ministry of Industry as members.

THE PRESIDENT ordered that the home development mutual funds one managed by the Social Security System and the other by the Government Service Insurance System, be merged and placed under the sole management of the

National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. He said this would achieve unified management, cost-savings and more stable financial viability to insure effective implementation of the program.

PROCLAMATION: No. 1682 was signed by the President declaring Friday, June 8, Ice and Cold Storage Industry Day. This lends significance to the first national conference of the industry at the Philippine Plaza hotel on Friday, under the auspices of the Association of Philippine Ice and Cold Storage Operators (APICSO).

June 7—

OFFICIALS of Tabacalera and members of the Spanish and Chinese soccer football teams called on the President at Malacañang. He cited them for helping build the character and physique of the youth.

THE FIRST Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos launched a nationwide program to make every town self-reliant in its power needs. In a meeting at Malacañang, Mrs. Marcos said that in view of the oil crisis which threatens the Philippines, more watershed-based ecological communities should be established throughout the country. Known as the ECO-BLISS project, it involves the construction of water catchment basin which at the same time serves as a communal fishpond. The impounded water may be used for irrigation, while trees like ipil-ipil planted to protect the watershed and the basin will in turn provide a steady supply of wood for the electric plant and protein-rich leaves for animal feeds. The kilowatt output of the thermal plant is expected to provide electricity not only to the community but neighboring towns as well.

June 8—

THE PRESIDENT ruled that the assignment of military men to any civilian office should not mean removing or diminishing the responsibilities and duties of civilian official's working there. Among the offices directed to follow this policy were the Central Bank, the Ministry of Health, the Bureau of Customs, Bureau of Immigration and the Bureau of Quarantine. The President pointed out that in case of the Bureau of Customs, the military men assigned there are not authorized to open baggage passing through the customs areas for examination without the approval and presence of customs officials or employees.

CABINET Ministers must leave the comfort of their plush Manila offices to visit the provinces to examine the progress of programs and projects operating under their offices. The President issued this order as he noted that much of the delay and inefficiency in national government work in the provinces would be attributed to lack of firsthand knowledge of the actual needs of the people in rural areas. He said that this firsthand knowledge cannot be obtained by cabinet men just by sitting in their offices in Manila. He also announced he would soon, hold a series of cabinet meetings where the ministers would be required present projects and programs of their respective offices, as well as their work objectives. His order was addressed specifically to the heads of the National Economic and Development Authority and the Ministries of Defense, Agriculture, Public Works, Public Highways, Health and Education.

THE PRESIDENT said the forthcoming Summit Conference of the developed countries in Tokyo assures the developing countries their interests will be taken up in the meeting. This view was made by the President during his conversations with Ambassador Takeshi Yasukawa, who called on him as the personal envoy of Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira of Japan. Yasukawa is here to sound out the President on the Tokyo summit which will be held late this month.

THE PRESIDENT conferred the Philippine Legion of Honor, degree of commander, on visiting Gen. Prem Tinsulanonda, commander-in-chief of the Royal Thai Army and concurrently minister of defense of Thailand, in a ceremony held at Malacañang.

June 9—

THE PRESIDENT ordered Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile to clean up the Cagayan Valley, particularly the provinces of Cagayan and Kalinga-Apayao, of communist terrorists. At the same time, he approved the increase in the number of civilian defense forces in the towns affected by renewed rebel activities. He took note of reports that the renewed and intensified NPA activities in the region are designed to embarrass Minister Enrile who hails from Cagayan.

June 10—

DEFENSE Minister Juan Ponce Enrile said he is thinking of reassigning abusive armed forces personnel to “war zones” and far-flung posts. The form of punishment, he said, will also be applied among arrogant military personnel and those who cannot get along with civilians in their respective areas of responsibility. He spelled out the alternative-punitive measures after receiving complaints from civilians during a gathering inside the Philippine Marines headquarters in Brooke’s Point, Palawan. At the same time, he ordered Commodore Gil Fernandez, Western Command chief, to throw out from service nine troopers denounced in public by civilians for alleged kidnapping, murder and mauling.

MINISTRY of Education and Culture (MEC) said that there are enough school teachers and classrooms to meet the expected influx of students this school year, which opens on June 13. “There will be no confusion in the opening of classes on June 13,” Deputy Education Minister Narciso Albarracin said during the “Meet the Press” program of the National Press Club on GTV—4. He said school superintendents and teachers have been given enough leeway to adjust and cope with whatever problems that may occur on the first day of classes. The MEC has projected an increase of about 400,000 students this school year, with 12 million students trooping back to classes on Wednesday. Of this number, 8.2 million are elementary pupils, 3.2 million high school students, and 940,000 college students.

FINANCE ministry has ruled that real properties with assessed value of not more than P1,000 are exempt from the basic real property tax. The ruling takes effect July 1, 1979 in cities and towns in Metro Manila, and Jan. 1, 1980, throughout the country. For properties located in one town or city, with assessed value of more than P1,000, the first P5,000 of the value of the properties shall be exempted from the additional 1 percent special education fund (SEF) tax. No SEF tax will be imposed on properties whose assessed value does not exceed P5,000. If the assessed value of the properties exceed P5,000, the amount of P5,000 will be deducted from the total assessed value of the properties and only the difference will be subjected to the additional 1 percent SEF tax. The new exemptions from the SEF are effective July 1, 1979 for real property located in Metro Manila and on January 1, 1980 throughout the country.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: June 11-17, 1979

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

June 11—

THE PRESIDENT said he had delegated to cabinet members certain presidential powers to enable them to make on-the-spot decisions on matters essential to development. However, the use of the President's name does not include the power to dismiss or suspend erring local officials because this function cannot be delegated. In ease of doubt a cabinet member in the province may consult the President by long distance telephone and action will be taken within 24 hours. The clarification was intended to avoid confusion during the visits of the cabinet members who have been required by the President to spend more time in the rural areas.

THE FIRST Couple inaugurated the first three projects of the Bagong Lipunan Improvement of Sites and Services (BLISS) program to coincide with the first anniversary of the Ministry of Human Settlements. The first three projects are in barangay Sta. Cruz, Paco; barrio Sta. Rita, Makati and barangay Tadalac in Los Baños, Laguna.

June 12—

THE PRESIDENT called on the people to close ranks if the country is to overcome the many crises that now beset it. Keynoting the country's 81st Independence Day anniversary rites, he dwelt at length on the "Isang Bansa, Isang Diwa" (One Nation, One Soul) theme of the celebrations. During the three-and-a-half hour ceremonies, he accepted the surrender of 565 top commanders of the Moro National Liberation Front. He also swore into office the members of the Sangguniang Pampook (regional assembly) in Regions 9 and 12 (Western and Central Mindanao).

June 13—

STATE colleges and universities and national agricultural schools, beginning this school year, will participate in the "Alay Tanim" program designed to support the national goal of self-sufficiency in food. Under Letter of Instructions No. 872, these schools will produce protein-rich food such as casava, seguidillas, mongo, soya beans, fish, livestock products and other food sources such as fruits. The LOI authorizes the sale of commodities from planting and livestock raising. The income generated from such sale will go to the school's revolving fund.

June 14—

THE PRESIDENT launched a P1.25 billion development program-for depressed areas. Details of the program were drawn up during a joint meeting of the National Economic and Development Authority and the National Security Council in Malacañang. The, First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos was directed to coordinate the program. Initially, the program, which will include development of fisheries, establishment of settlements and prosecution of the Bagong Lipunan Improvement of Sites' and Services (BLISS) program, will cover Samar-Leyte, Southern Philippines and Cagayan Valley. The development program is expected to stabilize the peace-and order situation in these areas.

THE PRESIDENT postponed to Oct. 1 a scheduled power rate increase which would have been in effect July 1. The order was addressed to Energy Minister Geronimo Velasco and National Power Corporation president Gabriel Itchon. It was the second postponement of the new power rates, a move taken because of increased costs in imported fuel.

June 15—

CONSTRUCTION work on the \$1.2 billion nuclear power plant in Bataan was suspended by the President pending inquiry into its maximum safety features against the dangers of possible nuclear contamination. The suspension order was spurred by a letter last June 14 from former Sen. Lorenzo Tañada who pointed out the danger the Bataan

nuclear power plant may pose. The project is being undertaken by Westinghouse Electric of the United States and is expected to be completed late in 1982 or early 1983.

THE PRESIDENT extended for another two years the suspension of tax increases on gross sales of rice and corn which is due to expire at the end of this year. This is contained in a package of incentives for the country's rice and corn growers which he announced before the National Convention of the Confederation of the Filipino Rice and Corn Associations at the Philippine International Convention Center. He also: 1) Directed the Philippine National Bank to set aside P10 million for loans to grains retailers duly affiliated with the federation in response to their clamor for financing assistance through soft loans; 2) Issued a directive to the Central Bank of the Philippines to increase the loan value of the grains quedan from 50 per cent to 70 per cent; 3) Ordered the Development Bank of the Philippines and the Land Bank to provide sufficient loanable funds for the financing and improvement of rice mills to meet the requirements under Letter of Instructions No. 645, which directed that all rice mills should have a minimum milling recovery of 62 per cent; 4) Amended LOI 112 to allow rice and corn haulers to load the equivalent of 11 tons' weight for 10-wheeler trucks to maximize transport facilities in hauling the commodities; and 5) Made mandatory the installation of steam boilers using corn husks as fuel for all new mills installed to conserve energy supplies in the industry.

THE PRESIDENT disclosed plans to gradually pull back troops from Mindanao and leave the responsibility for peace and order in that region to the two regional autonomous governments. "It is my intention, and this is the first time I announce it, to withdraw the military in Mindanao" he told the annual convention of the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines, "and leave the development and peace and order to the two regional autonomous governments principally through economic development." At the same time, he called on the rural bankers to extend their support to the various government programs to improve the lot of the masses.

TRADITIONAL executive clemency was granted by the President to total of 174 prisoners on the occasion of the 81st anniversary of Philippine Independence. Of those given executive clemency on recommendation of the Board of Pardons and Parole, fifteen were granted absolute pardon, one special absolute pardon, three individual pardons, 479 conditional pardons with parole conditions and 216 commutation of sentence.

June 16—

THE PRESIDENT ordered a study of the legal implication of the cancellation of a \$1.2-billion government contract with Westinghouse Electric of the United States to build a nuclear plant in Bataan. He ordered the study because of the violation of what he called "implied warranty of safety. Under a still-unnumbered letter of instructions, he directed Acting Justice Minister Catalino Macaraig and Solicitor General Estelito Mendoza to undertake the study and submit their recommendation not later than July 1, 1979.

June 17—

GRANDMASTER Fridrik Olafsson, FIDE president and current leader in the on-going Marlboro Grandmasters Chess Classic, called on the President at Malacañang. He was accompanied by FIDE deputy president Florencio Campomanes and Justice Federico Moreno, president of the Philippine Chess Federation.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: June 18-24, 1979

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

June 18—

THE PRESIDENT has directed Public Highways Minister Baltazar Aquino to send all of the first shipment of 50 bulldozers arriving in the country this month to Mindanao, to beef up the present government massive barangay road construction and development there. Also expected to arrive soon are 350 bulldozers, a large number of excavators, and other heavy equipment to be used in the barangay road program of the country.

DEPUTY Defense Minister Carmelo Z. Barbero said that an anti-graft committee of the Armed Forces of the Philippines has been quietly conducting investigations since it was formed last year. The committee, composed of generals, has been looking into reports—even rumors—about officers who have allegedly enriched themselves in office, he said. The President himself is “deeply embarrassed” by an excess in military ranks and erring officers had been removed from their commands or deprived of promotions, he said.

June 19—

THE PRESIDENT created a three-man committee to work out the early establishment and operation of the Sangguniang Pampook in Regions 9 and 12. Consisting of Chairman Armand Fabella of the Reorganization Commission as chairman, and Budget Minister Jaime C. Laya and Local Government Minister Jose A. Roño as members, the committee will draw up the necessary letters and orders of implementation. In constituting the committee, the President cited the need to get the autonomous government moving as soon as possible. Initially, the national infrastructure projects, broken down into 962,491,000 for Region 9 and P422,344,000 for Region 12, or a total P484,825,000 for the two regions, will be turned over to the two autonomous governments. The transfer will symbolize the exercise of autonomous functions which include responsibility for maintaining peace and order, economic planning and other activities for the improvement of living conditions.

NATIONAL Grains Authority (NGA) has channeled to the countryside since January this year a total of about P293 million through its cereal procurement program. This amount, according to the NGA, represents payments made to farmers who sold their harvests to the cereal agency since January. Purchases, which now total 5,031,254 cavans, include palay, corn, sorghum, mongo and peanut. The biggest turnover registered so far was during the period May 23 to 31 when the NGA bought direct from farmers 648,899 cavans of palay worth about P40 million. NGA Administrator Jesus Tanchanco said that his office has braced itself for more intensive buying this year as bigger number of farmers deliver their harvests to the agency's buying stations to avail of government support prices.

June 20—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the preparation of plans for the establishment of 20 resettlement areas in Regions 9 and 12. The resettlement areas are intended for rebels, trainees, AFP retirees who want to settle in Mindanao, and displaced civilians who fit into the program. The resettlement areas will be modelled after the Sacovia settlement project near the US Clark Airforce Base, which was originally a resettlement project of the Ministry of Agrarian Reform but which was taken over by the Ministry of Human Settlements and the military. The plans will be prepared by a committee headed by General Antonio Venadas of the Ministry of Human Settlements.

PRESIDENTIAL Medal of Merit was conferred by the President on Carlyle Reed, a columnist of the *Sacramento Union*, for his objective and clear interpretation of events in the Philippines. In expressing gratitude for the award, Reed said it was no trouble to report favorably concerning the Philippines and what is happening here because he just reports accurately what he sees, hears, and observes.

THE PRESIDENT has released P850 million for loans to fishermen in the depressed areas of Southern Mindanao, Samar, Leyte, and Cagayan. He also allocated P500 million for the fisheries credit program in Southern Mindanao,

P200 million for the provinces of Samar and Leyte, and P1.50 million for Cagayan. The loans will be used to fund the purchase by small fishermen of boat engines and fishing gear, operation of fishponds less than 10 hectares in size, tilapia culture, and cottage industry fish processing.

REFUGEES problem is not a problem for any one country or for Southeast Asia alone but a problem for the whole world, the President declared during the opening of the two-day second Philippine Navy sea power symposium at the Philamlife Auditorium.

June 22—

CAR racing, water skiing, sky diving, hoarding of petroleum products and overpricing of such products are among the things banned by the Energy Conservation Law. The law, signed by the President one day after it was passed by the Batasang Pambansa last June 5, is now in effect, having been published in two newspapers of general circulation. Under this law, it is now the declared policy of the state to institutionalize as a way of life energy conservation geared toward the judicious and efficient use of petroleum and petroleum products. This would enhance availability of these products to support economic, social and developmental goals.

THE PRESIDENT, calling for the early operation of the autonomous governments in Regions 9 and 12, said the government has made it a policy to transfer all possible powers to the two governments to make them truly autonomous. Meeting with the cabinet and the assemblymen of the sangguniang pampook of the two regions, he laid down guidelines to be followed by a three-man committee charged with drawing up plans for the implementation of the two governments.

June 23—

THE PRESIDENT received at Malacañang visiting officials of the Westinghouse International Projects Co. headed by James Moore, general manager of the nuclear fuel division. During the call, the President announced that the commission created to look into the safety features of the Bataan nuclear power plant held its first public hearing at the Philippine International Convention Center this morning, lie told the officials of Westinghouse, the builder of the Bataan nuclear power plant, that he created the investigating commission following the malfunctioning of the three Mile Island nuclear plant in Pennsylvania, USA. He was influenced likewise by the position of the American government restricting the export of nuclear equipment unless the safety factor is fully considered.

June 24—

THE PRESIDENT said the government is consulting both developing and developed nations on the problem of refugees from Vietnam. He told newsmen the main problem is not the current number of refugees but how to stem the tide of Vietnamese people seeking refuge in foreign nations. He said refugees settled at present in foreign countries could be rehabilitated. He said he had directed foreign ministry officials to take up the refugee problem with representatives of foreign nations. Earlier, he said the Philippines would no longer accept refugees. He, however, did not order the navy to drive them away if they enter Philippine territory.

THE FIRST Lady and Metro Manila Governor Imelda Romualdez Marcos announced a 20 percent across-the-board salary increase for all the 75,000 government employees of Metro Manila. The salary increase will be retroactive to May 1 of this year. The announcement was made during the celebration of Manila's 408th founding anniversary at the Folk Arts Theater. At the celebration, the Metro Manila governor renewed her pledge to the country's children by saying that "no homeless child shall roam the streets, no child will go hungry, naked, ill or unschooled and no youngster shall ever despair of his tomorrow."

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: June 25 – July 1, 1979

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

June 25—

AGENCIES of the national government were directed by the President not to contract domestic or foreign loans to finance their activities unless the full amount of such loans is covered by “obligational authority” issued by the Ministry of the Budget within the regular budget program. In a letter of instructions he issued recently, he also directed that loan proceeds, whether in cash or in kind, shall be utilized only upon the issuance of a Cash Disbursement Ceiling (CDC) or its equivalent, which shall be within approved cash budget limits. These directives were issued upon the recommendation of Minister of Finance Cesar E. A. Virata, Minister of the Budget Jaime C. Laya, and Governor Gregorio S. Licaros of the Central Bank to bring agency borrowings more fully under fiscal control.

June 26—

THE PRESIDENT directed Minister of Agriculture Arturo R. Tanco to implement the new P600-million food production program for the most depressed areas. He cited these areas as Regions 9 and 12 in Mindanao, Region 8, comprising Samar and Leyte, and Region 2, consisting of the Cagayan valley. Mainly, the program for these three areas would call for an extension of credit facilities, totalling P500 million for Mindanao, P200 million for Samar and Leyte, and P150 million for Cagayan. Credit facilities will be given for the development of fisheries, poultry, piggery and cattle dispersal, as well as for the tapping of new sources of protein and new sources of energy.

June 27—

THE PRESIDENT has ordered a review of tenancy situations in lands planted to crops other than rice and corn to improve the tenurial arrangement between landowners and tenants. He has created a presidential committee composed of the minister of agrarian reform as chairman, with the ministers of agriculture and justice as members, “to determine classes or nature of relationship or arrangements where tenancy shall be considered to have been established.” His directive was contained in Presidential Decree No. 1583.

THE FIRST Couple presided over the symbolic inauguration of the second unit of the geothermal plant in Tiwi, Albay, and the Bohol diesel power plant in Tagbilaran City at the ceremonial hall of Malacañang. Inclement weather prevented them from flying to Albay and Bohol. The President said that the development of local sources of energy is moving on schedule. With this encouraging sign, he expressed confidence in the country's ability to see itself through the difficulties arising from the oil shortage.

SULTAN Khalifa Al Hastoor, a leading member of the National Federation Council (Parliament) of the United Arab Emirates called on the President. He is in the country to look into the investment climate in the country.

June 28—

THE PRESIDENT reassured the people that contingency plans have been readied to ease possible difficulties caused by additional increases in the cost of oil. He was reacting to reports that members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) who met in Geneva recently raised the price of oil. The price increases ranged up from a minimum of \$18 for the Arabian light crude to \$23.50 for top-grade oil. Unbothered by these reports, the President said he will soon call the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and the cabinet to a joint emergency meeting. The meeting will restudy the impact on the local pricing of commodities of the new round of price increases.

YUGOSLAVIAN Vice President Fadilj Hodza arrived at a warm welcome including full military honors, to start a five-day official visit here. The President and the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, throwing aside protocol,

welcomed Hodza and his party at the Manila International Airport. The two leaders are expected to concentrate on trade in then-talks.

June 29—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) to make a study of the implications of the oil price increase on the entire economy, including its effects on income and price policy. He issued the order in view of the recent price hike of oil by an average of 35 per cent, thereby threatening all oil-importing countries with the grim prospects of a worsening economic crisis.

HUMAN Settlements Minister and Metro Manila Governor Imelda Romualdez Marcos directed all metropolitan mayors to intensify efforts to provide Metro Manila residents with all 11 basic needs for a good life. In a conference with the four city and 13 municipal mayors at Malacañang, the First Lady urged them to initiate more development projects in their respective localities.

June 30—

THE PRESIDENT received the summary outline for a proposed Executive Order designed to give the two autonomous regions in Mindanao the widest latitude of power and authority. The outline was submitted by Armand Fabella, chairman, of the Presidential Commission on Reorganization, upon instructions of the President who had time and again expressed the desire to set the autonomous governments (Regions 9 and 12) in motion in order to speed up economic development and return to normalcy in the two regions.

July 1—

INFORMATION Minister Francisco S. Tatad, in a three-hour dialogue with administration critics and oppositionists, asked the opposition not to play on the passions of the people by utilizing their present economic difficulties. Speaking to a combined meeting of the Cebu City and Mandaue Breakfast Clubs, he reacted strongly to reports that a ranking member of the opposition had earlier asked the people of Cebu not to pay their taxes as a sign of protest against the continued enforcement of Martial Law. He described the proposal as “unpatriotic, inane and absurd—a disservice to the civic education of our people and a direct assault on the values with which we weave the fabric of the nation.” He said that “the people are being seduced by dangerous ideas,” and asked the members of the two clubs “not to be caught in this game.”

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: July 2-8, 1979

President's Week in Review: July 9-15, 1979

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

July 9—

THE PRESIDENT received Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, Regional Director of the World Health Organization for Western Pacific, who called to pay his respects. Dr. Nakajima took over the WHO post last July 1 from Dr. Francisco Dy of the Philippines, who retired after serving with the WHO for 13 years. Dr. Nakajima briefed the President on the continuing programs of the WHO on training for primary health care, malaria control and schistosomiasis research.

July 10—

THE FIRST LADY, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, and her multi-sectoral delegation are guests of the Chinese government on a three-day, three-city cultural extension of their successful working mission in Peking. Her escorts on this trip are Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Han Nien-lung and Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Chen Hsi-ren. They left Peking the other day from Sian, once the capital of 11 dynasties, and the site of several important archaeological excavations, a city whose fantastic limestone crags have lent their distinction of Chinese landscape paintings. The group will leave for Canton tomorrow for a brief visit to Southern China's most important city, before proceeding to Manila in the afternoon.

July 11—

THE GOVERNMENT, the President said, will import a big quantity of beef and allow the tax-free importation of some 45 essential food items to prevent unreasonable increases in prices of prime commodities. He made the announcement in an interview with newsmen after the three-hour meeting of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) at Malacañang. He also told newsmen that he just signed the amendment to the Tariff Law allowing the importation of such food items as meat and even tin for canning, free from taxes.

July 12—

THE PRESIDENT received former Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda of Japan, who arrived in Manila recently on the last leg of his tour of ASEAN capitals. During the one-hour conference held at the Music Room in Malacañang, the two exchanged views on the world situation, particularly the economic problem posed by the energy crisis, the Indo-china refugee problem, and Japan-ASEAN relations.

METRO Manila took on a festive atmosphere as it welcomed the First Lady and Minister of Human Settlements Imelda Romualdez Marcos upon her return from a successful six-day official mission to the People's Republic of China. The welcomers were headed by the President who, along with ranking government officials and members of the diplomatic corps, was on hand at the Manila International Airport to greet the First Lady as she emerged from the plane. Addressing the nation on the result of her official mission, she said the President had sent her to Chin with a three-fold mission: 1) to obtain from China's highest leaders a clear understanding of China's outlook on and perceptions of the situation in the region; 2) to seek the cooperation of China in coping with the nation's oil problem; and 3) to see how the Philippines can benefit from participating in China's development program. "I am happy to report that we return from this, my third visit to the People's Republic of China, with our mission accomplished," she said.

July 13—

INFORMATION Minister Francisco S. Tatad said poor Asian countries must now revise their old concept of development and progress and the rich better heed "the doomsday message of this age of scarcities" before it is, too late. Addressing the second council meeting of the Federation of ASEAN Public Relations, Organizations, Minister Tatad said, "we need a new life style in our developing cities and countryside that recognizes the need for

development and progress for people, but without swallowing every attribute given to the idea by the affluent Western Societies.” The poor, like the rich countries, should now begin to live within their means, and there should be some kind of parity between the development of the city and that of the countryside, he said. In the same address, he said the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is today confronted, with a dilemma on how to proceed as an economic community “without being sucked into a situation that is completely and hopelessly political.” He challenged the public relations practitioners of the region to help propagate “ASEAN as a reality, ASEAN as an emerging way of life, ASEAN as the only alternative to regional rivalries and dissension.”

July 14—

THE PRESIDENT has approved the exportation of 30,000 metric tons rice to Brazil, the first to be concluded with a Latin-American country and the first outside of the ASEAN region. The rice is valued at \$298 per metric ton, FOB, Philippine port—the highest price ever among all other previous export transactions made this year. Indonesia and Malaysia, both ASEAN-member countries, were the first buyers of Philippine rice.

July 15—

PUBLIC school teachers will no longer have to buy school supplies for their classes from their own pocket money. Education Minister Juan L. Manuel ordered all local school boards to use part of their funds in buying chalks, erasers, forms and other supplies needed. The move was prompted by complaints of the teachers that they have to use their own money in buying school supplies which are supposed to be given to them free.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: July 16-22, 1979

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

July 16—

THE PRESIDENT sought the assistance of Czechoslovakia on the Vietnamese refugee problem. He conveyed the request through Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek who called on him at Malacañang. In their brief conversation, the President pointed out that the refugee problem is not only a problem of countries in Southeast Asia but the rest of the world. He also expressed confidence that the visit of Chnoupek will strengthen further the relationship between the two countries. He suggested more exchanges of visits between officials of their countries.

PARTICIPANTS in the 25th Session of the; United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board, led by Ambassador Ernesto Garrido of the Philippines and L. Goll, chairman and first vice chairman, respectively, called on the President at Malacañang. They informed the President that, because the pension board, which represents 44,000 members in the UN and its specialized agencies, had accumulated a substantial fund, they are under instructions to study all possibilities of investment in developing countries to a degree higher than before, Goll said that by the time they are ready to leave they shall have made the necessary contacts in Manila to fulfill their instructions from UN Secretary Kurt Waldheim to investigate all investment possibilities.

July 17—

THE PRESIDENT requested Indonesian President Suharto to hike Indonesian oil shipments here from 20,000 barrels a day to 33,000 barrels and offered to pay for this with Philippine rice of which there are 100,000 tons available. Minutes after President Suharto's arrival at the Manila International Airport, the First Couple whisked the visitor to Puerto Azul in Ternate, Cavite by helicopter where they will stay for the duration of Mr. Suharto's 21-hour visit.

THE PRESIDENT has created a top-level inter-agency committee to draft a comprehensive national alcogas program which is aimed at displacing 15 percent of the country's premium gasoline requirement with alcogas in 10 years. The committee, created through Letter of Instructions No. 888. is composed of the minister of energy as chairman, the commissioner of the Philippine Sugar Commission (Philsucom) as co-chairman, the minister of finance as vice, chairman, and the ministers of agriculture, natural resources, industry and land reform as members.

THE PHILIPPINES and Czechoslovakia concluded an agreement aimed at the expansion of bilateral trade between them. The agreement was reached during the meeting between Trade Minister Troadio T. Quiazon Jr. and Bokuslav Chnoupek, visiting minister of foreign affairs of Czechoslovakia. Among the matters agreed upon was the need for a more balanced trade between the two countries. The Philippines, has always suffered trade deficit with Czechoslovakia since the start of trade relations between the two countries six years ago. The agreement also proposed the establishment of a joint trade commission headed by the trade ministers of both countries which would serve as a venue for discussing and threshing; out common problems affecting trade. The promotion of trade, on the other hand, will be handled by trade offices in Manila and in Prague.

July 18—

THE PRESIDENT said Indonesia would increase its oil exports here from 20,000 barrels a day to 26,000, meaning an annual increase of 1,825,000 barrels. At the same time, the Philippines will enter into a joint venture to develop Indonesian natural gas deposits, wherein the Philippines will receive 200,000 metric tons of the gas to convert into liquefied petroleum gas or other finished products. In an interview at the airport VIP lounge, after seeing off Indonesian President Suharto, the President told newsmen the oil and natural gas deals were among the main achievements of the two-nation summit which was held entirely in the Puerto Azul beach resort in Ternate, Cavite. He was accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos.

July 19—

ECONOMIC Planning Minister Gerardo P. Sicat assured continued government financial assistance to the development of local waterworks systems which would provide the country's millions of rural folks adequate supply of potable water. In a speech he delivered before the participants in the three-day water district forum being held in Tagaytay City, Minister Sicat said the government equity participation in the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) a government-controlled corporation, has reached P83.6 million this year. Annual government equity allocation to LWUA in the past years totalled to only P50 million. He said the government will continue to tap international lending institutions, like the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, for the funds needed by the expanded local waterworks program.

July 20—

THE PRESIDENT appointed 27 new generals in the Armed Forces, effective July 11. Elevation of 23 colonels and four Navy captains to flag rank was announced in a letter he sent to Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile. Of the 27, one belonged to the corps of professors, 10 to the Army, seven to the Constabulary, and four to the Navy.

MINISTER of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo said that disruptive effects of hundreds of thousands of Indochinese refugees threatened the stability of Southeast Asian societies, and was already being felt in the Asean countries. In a statement delivered during the two-day United Nations International Conference on Indochinese Refugees and Displaced Persons in Southeast Asia being held in Geneva, he added that unless solutions were found quickly, there would be serious repercussions on economic growth and efforts to erect stable policies—"commensurate with the tremendous potentials of the Asean region." He said that what was needed was a concerted international effort to solve a problem that, although tragic in itself, could have even more tragic consequences.

DEPUTY Governor Ismael Mathay Jr. said a performance audit of metropolitan mayors was going on quietly to do away with "deadway" if necessary. The performance audit was intended primarily to determine whether changes, in the leadership was necessary for a more effective administration in the metropolitan area, he said as he addressed the weekly Manila Bay Breakfast club meeting. He said he had been directed by Metro Manila Governor and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos "to monitor closely the activities of local officials in Metro Manila to find out if these officials have been contributing their share in the implementation of the (Metro Manila) commission's various programs."

July 21—

DEVELOPMENT Bank of the Philippines has programmed P300 million for the development of rural and depressed areas in Region VIII—the Samar-Leyte area. DBP Acting Chairman Rafael A. Sison said the new DBP thrust was in line with the policy of the President to develop depressed rural areas as food production centers.

July 22—

THE PRESIDENT ordered a 15 percent increase in salaries of personnel of the University of the Philippines. He ordered the release of P10 million to effect the raise immediately. He acted on a petition of employe organizations of the UP. The additional increases will be funded by available UP funds for the first five percent while the remaining 10 per cent will be funded by the Ministry of the Budget.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

Official Week in Review: July 23 – July 29, 1979

July 23—

THE PRESIDENT revamped his cabinet to place the government, he said, in a better position to cope with the present problems out of the oil crisis. The major revamp, the first since he assumed the presidency in 1966, was announced during his opening address at the second session of the Batasang Pambansa. Affected by the reshuffle were seven ministries. The new cabinet appointments included: 1) For the Ministry of Transportation and Communications—Jose Dans with Cesar Zalamea as consultant; 2) Ministry of Education—Dr. Onofre D. Corpuz of the University of the Philippines, vice Juan Manuel, who retired; 3) Ministry of Health—Dr. Enrique Garcia, director of the Quezon Institute, vice Pr. Clemente Gatmaitan, who retired; 4) Ministry of Public Highways—Vicente T. Paterno, industry minister, vice Baltazar Aquino, whose resignation was accepted; 5) Ministry of Industry—Roberto Ongpin, vice Minister Paterno; 6) Ministry of Trade—Assemblyman Luis Villafuerte, vice Troadio T. Quiazon Jr.; 7) Ministry of Justice—Assemblyman Ricardo Puno.

DURING the same opening address, the President also announced seven other appointments, namely; 1) Manager Nereo Andolong of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, as deputy minister for the Ministry of Sports and Youth Development; 2) Assistant Manager Mario Rama of the PCSO as PCSO manager; 3) Rear Admiral Romulo Espaldon, chief of Southern Command, as concurrent chairman of the newly created Commission on Islamic Affairs; 4) Assemblyman Emmanuel Pelaez as minister of state for foreign affairs; 5) Assemblyman Carmencita Reyes as minister of state for social services; 6) Assemblyman Antonio Tupaz as minister of state for local government and community development; and 7) Philamlife President Cesar Zalamea as consultant to the ministry of transportation. The ministers of state serve principally as liaison between the legislature and the executive branch of the government specifically to the ministries to which they are appointed.

THE PRESIDENT said the economic progress achieved by the country in the last seven years is the key to the reduction to the threat to national security which prompted the proclamation of Martial Law in 1972. This assessment was made by the President in his brief remarks after inducting 26 new one-star generals in the armed forces, nine of whom come from the army. The new generals bring to 77 the number of generals in the AFP.

July 24—

THE PRESIDENT said protectionism in global trade should be eased and the realization of a more open world market be sought by leaders of Asia and the United States. In a speech delivered at the closing of the first ASEAN–American Business conference held at the Philippine Plaza, the President said the region has started encouraging business communities to follow upon the initiatives of governments and encourage their leaders to propose and put forward mechanisms and arrangements consistent with their goals for closer economic ties. Lauding the setting of the new ASEAN–US Business Council, he said the formation of the council is an invaluable addition to the forum for cooperative endeavor that over the past few years had emerged in support of stronger ASEAN–American relationship.

EXECUTIVE Order No. 546 issued by the President abolished the Bureau of Public Works while the Land Transportation Commission and the Board of Transportation had been absorbed by the newly created ministry of public works and the ministry of transportation and communications. Under the order, the functions of the bureau of public works are transferred to appropriate bureaus, divisions, units or regional offices of the new ministry. Also abolished by the splitting of the old ministry of public works, transportation and communications were the bureau of transportation, the board of communications and the telecommunications control bureau. The Land Transportation Commission has been renamed bureau of land transportation and shall continue to perform its regulatory and enforcement functions, including the registration of public utility vehicles and the enforcement of the decisions of the board of transportation with regards to public utility vehicles. The BOT on the other hand, will now be under the administrative supervision of the ministry and shall continue to exercise the powers and functions entrusted to it by law.

July 25—

THE PRESIDENT, meeting his reorganized cabinet for the first time, called for an indepth study on the economic situation, with emphasis on a possible rise in unemployment. Officials of the National Economic and Development Authority, who also attended the meeting, were asked to determine if a rise in the unemployment rate was expected, and if it was, in what sectors of the economy. He also asked them to determine the correct inflation rate to anticipate, given the current price movements brought on by the spiralling oil prices.

JUST before the meeting, the President swore into office Dr. Onofre D. Corpuz as minister of education and culture, Dr. Enrique Garcia as minister of health, Roberto Ongpin as minister of industry and Alfredo Juinio as minister of public works.

THE PRESIDENT signed a decree establishing the organizational framework of the autonomous government of Regions 9 and 12 and defining their relationship with the national government. He also issued letters of instructions expanding the powers and duties of regional directors of various national government agencies in the area. These orders would also restructure operations of the Southern Philippines Development Administration to enable it to extend more effective assistance to the autonomous governments.

THROUGH an executive order which the President signed at Malacañang, the Commission on Islamic Affairs was created to serve as a link between the national government and the regional governments. This will be directly under the Office of the President. He administered the oath of office to Adm. Romulo Espaldon, chief of the Southern Mindanao Command, as head of the Commission.

July 26—

THE PRESIDENT released P1.3 million for the prevention of disability as well as the rehabilitation of disabled persons. He also issued a letter of instructions to Minister of Labor Blas F. Ople to look for ways to eliminate discrimination against disabled persons in employment and salary scales. He issued the directives during the program in observance of the National Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation Week at Malacañang's Heroes' Hall.

July 27—

THE PRESIDENT said he was confident that the establishment of autonomous regional governments in Western Mindanao and Central Mindanao would finally bring peace, unity and progress in these two regions. He said the regional assemblies (*sangguniang pampook*) carry the great responsibility of blazing the trail in the employment of regional autonomy as an effective instrument for regional development throughout the country. The President's speech was read by Armand Fabella, chairman of the presidential commission on reorganization, at the inaugural session of the *sangguniang pampook* of Region 12 at the Chariff Kabunsuan Cultural center at Cotabato City.

THE PRESIDENT decided to hold a referendum in strife-ridden Cagayan province on the issue of local leadership while the leaders of the two factions, Minister of Defense Juan Ponce Enrile and Gov. Teresa Dupaya, stay away from the province. The president decided on the referendum on the recommendation of all concerned, including Minister Enrile, Gov. Dupaya, and the mayors.

July 28—

THE PRESIDENT created a special committee to help the board of energy make up its mind whether, to increase the prices of oil products such as gasoline, kerosene, diesel fuel, and motor oil. Minister of Energy Geronimo Velasco, appointed to head the committee, was instructed to meet as soon as possible with Chairman Ponciano Mathay on this issue. The President wanted to do away with uncertainties about the rumored price increases. At the same time, he asked for a study for a mass transit system, which might be subsidized by as much as P300 million.

PHILIPPINE National Bank (PNB) has raised its crop loans to sugar planters from the P73 to 79 per picul for crop year 1980–1981 PNB President Panfilo Domingo said the bank is restructuring overdue loans to planters. Defaulted

loans in crop year 1978–1979 amounted to 11 percent of the P516 million released by the bank. These moves were taken in response to numerous requests from sugar planters badly hit by rising costs of oil products, fertilizers, and labor.

DEFENSE Minister Juan Ponce Enrile said that development, rather than force of arms, has been the main weapon used by the government in its effort to put an end to the conflict in Mindanao. “Now,” he said, “the government is availing of another recourse—the political measure of establishing the autonomous governments for Regions 9 and 12. New hopes have sprung from this new measure and our people throughout the nation eagerly await the outcome of this new approach to the resolution of the problem.” He delivered the keynote address at the opening in Iligan City of the 11th Mindanao regional conference of the Philippine Jaycees.

July 29—

MINISTRY of Social Services and Development (MSSD) moved to curb the selling or illegal placement of abandoned children. The ministry ordered all hospitals to report abandoned babies to its branch offices. The MSSD’s action came in the wake of reports that many hospitals in the country were illegally placing abandoned children instead of turning them to the MSSD pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 603. The ministry’s bureau of family and child welfare warned that violators of the adoption law involving abandoned babies could be charged in court and sentenced to at least six months in prison upon conviction.

DEFENSE MINISTER Juan Ponce Enrile said anew that there is press freedom in the country. His assurance came in reply to a query by local mediamen during an open forum following his keynote speech at the 11th Philippine Jaycees Mindanao area conference held in Iligan City. Minister Enrile said no one, not even members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, except those authorized by the President, can arrest or detain any person in the pursuit of his profession.

Source: **Supreme Court Library**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1979). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 75(31), clvii-clx.

Official Week in Review: August 13 – August 19, 1979

August 13—

THE PRESIDENT, through a letter of Instructions, has ordered the National Power Corporation (NPC) and other government authorities concerned to terminate the nuclear power plant contract with Westinghouse International Projects Company (WIPC) if it cannot secure an export license and thereby fail to deliver the nuclear reactor equipment to the Philippines. "Circumstances relating to the nuclear power plant project, more specifically the failure to date of Westinghouse to secure an appropriate export license for the nuclear reactor components, places in serious doubt the ability of Westinghouse to perform its obligations under the NPC-WIPCO contract," the President said.

August 14—

THE PRESIDENT approved adjustments of power rates of the National Power Corporation effective September 1. In line with the socialized pricing policy of the government, he approved an average increase of three centavos per kilowatt hour in Luzon and one centavo per kilowatt hour in the Visayas and Mindanao for residential customers consuming more than 200 kwh. This means that residential customers using 200 kilowatt hours or less a month will be exempted from the power rate increase. Also exempted from the new power increase are sari-sari stores with a monthly consumption of 90 kwh or less.

THE FIRST LADY, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, inaugurated the new ballet studio of the National Arts Center at Mt. Makiling, Los Baños, Laguna. The guest of honor was Natalia Makarova, prima ballerina assoluta. Among the members of the small party was Mrs. Ann Murphy, wife of the American ambassador.

MINISTER of Transportation Jose Dans Jr. said Metro Manila bus operators will get a bigger share of the P400-million transport subsidy to be given by the government to improve the country's mass transit system. The reason for this, he said, is that transport problem is more acute in the metropolis and the provincial operators can still provide an efficient service to their respective commuters. The 1,000 buses procured by the government will first be offered to private operators and the funds to be used in procuring the 1,000 buses would be taken from the P400-million subsidy, he added.

NOMINATION of Felipe Mabilangan Jr. as the new Philippine ambassador to France has been accepted by the French government. He replaces Luis Moreno Salcedo, who had been assigned to Moscow.

August 16—

THE PRESIDENT directed the three-man standing committee of the Cabinet to give priority to pending proposals relating to price levels, production incentives and subsidies and wages. Speaking at the reunion of the United States Armed Forces in the Pacific Northern Luzon held at Malacañang, he pointed out that there is "a need for a new equilibrium on prices and wages." The directive to vie priority to proposals on prices and wages is contained in the five-point guideline which the President gave the "super Cabinet."

THE PRESIDENT elevated the Office of the Solicitor General into a ministry, increasing the number of line ministries to 24. He announced the elevation of OSG into a ministry during his speech at the United States Armed Forces in the Pacific-Northern Luzon reunion in Malacañang. Under Executive Order No. 552, authority and responsibility for the exercise of the powers and the discharge of the functions of the ministry are vested in the Solicitor General, the position of which is held by Minister Estelito Mendoza. The ministry has the same powers and performs the same functions as the Office of the Solicitor General as defined in Presidential Decree Nos. 478 and 1347.

August 17—

THE PRESIDENT underscored the importance of Japan's close association with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in the Indochina conflict. He made the remarks in a speech delivered for him by Foreign Minister Carlos P. Romulo to keynote the two-day second annual Japan ASEAN Symposium sponsored by the Mainichi newspapers at the Manila Hotel. He said it was eloquent proof of Japan's desire to contribute to the lessening of tension through a peaceful solution to the volatile situation which threatens to engulf the rest of Asia.

THE PRESIDENT cited the importance of blending humanism "in military training with the most advanced developments in the military field." He said that "today as never before, the times demand for officers to man the military service who have a deep understanding of the national environment of the economic, political, social and cultural factors that constitute the life of a nation." The President's speech at the commencement exercises of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Command and General Staff college was read for him by Chief of Staff Gen. Romeo Espino.

MINISTER of Human Settlements Imelda Romualdez Marcos said she hoped the country's rice exports to Brazil would increase so that it could help offset the Philippines trade deficit with that country. She presided at the signing of an agreement under which the Philippines would export 40,000 metric tons of rice to Brazil for \$11 million. The agreement was signed by National Grains Administrator Jesus Tanchanco and Director Raul Campos of Interbras Cayman Co., a subsidiary of Petrobras, the Brazilian national oil company. This is the first time the Philippines has entered the international rice market outside of Southeast Asian region.

August 18—

THE PRESIDENT directed the picturesque Kennon road be opened to traffic before Sept. 1. The directive was sent to Region I and Benguet district engineers through Highways Minister Vicente Paterno. It said that full-scale work should be started to re-open the closed Kennon road before Sept. 1. Kennon road was closed last August 7 when a mountain slide rolled down and covered some 100 meters of road as a result of heavy rains.

TRADE Minister Luis R. Villafuerte urged Filipino exporters to cooperate with the government, "in the light of bigger national export volumes and goals in the days to come." In a speech at the monthly meeting of the Confederation of Philippine Exporters, Inc., he asked exporters to be part of the solution to the problems, instead of being part of the problems.

HIGHWAYS Minister Vicente Paterno stopped the negotiating of contracts with private construction firms for road and bridge projects. He said the government itself would undertake repairs or construction of emergency projects, since a letter of jurisdiction which followed negotiated contracts for emergency projects was not being followed strictly. He also said he was shifting the Highways Ministry's emphasis from construction to maintenance, particularly on repair methods, inspection and routine work on drainage and canals, to make roads last longer. He spoke during the "Meet the Press" program of the National Press Club along with Health Minister Enrique Garcia.

August 19—

THE PRESIDENT ordered his special three-man Cabinet team of trouble shooters which is composed of Minister of Finance Cesar Virata, Minister of Highways Vicente Paterno and Minister of Budget Jaime Laya, to clarify the confused picture created by conflicting reports on the outcome of the two-day tripartite conference on wages at Puerto Azul, Ternate, Cavite. He directed the special Cabinet team to submit a report on the matter to him immediately. At the same time, he also ordered the committee to obtain confirmation of statistics that might have been used in the study of the tripartite conference.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1979). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 75(34), clxxv-clxxvii.

Official Week in Review: August 20 – August 26, 1979

August 20—

THE PRESIDENT said that negotiated contracts for public works involving more than P300,00, except in emergency cases, have been prohibited since January this year. The reminder was the presidential reaction to a directive of some ministers who ordered a ban on negotiated contracts. The President called attention to Letter of Instruction No. 794, dated January 19, 1979, which provides that all civil works of the national government and government corporations costing more than P300,000 each shall be advertised for public bidding and the contract awarded to the lowest bidder. In the case of contracts costing more than P300,000 these shall only be undertaken by the agency concerned or through negotiated contract in cases of urgent necessity or in time of natural calamities where immediate action is needed to prevent imminent loss of life or property. In this instance the contract still has to be approved by the head of the ministry, if the project costs less than P1 million, and by the President upon recommendation of the ministry head concerned, if he costs exceeds P1 million.

THE PRESIDENT approved an additional monthly allowance of P2,500 for each member of the Batasang Pambansa. With this additional amount, an assemblyman now receives P10,000 a month in salary and allowances. He has a salary of P5,000 and previous allowance of P2,500 for his staff. In addition, a Batasan members is entitled to travel expenses to and from his province for those living outside Metro Manila or a quota of 400 liters of gasoline, tax free at P2.30 per liter per month for those living in the metropolitan area.

August 21—

THE PRESIDENT signed a decree raising the emergency monthly allowance of private company employees by P60 effective Sept. 1 and P30 by next January. He also issued a letter of instructions directing the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) to prepare a program that would encourage greater production of commodities. He also instructed the NEDA to study policies on investment, incentives, credit and matters related to production and employment creation. He took these moves in response to the recommendation of the tripartite conference held at Puerto Azul in Ternate, Cavite recently.

A PHILIPPINE task force on refugee assistance and administration under the Ministry of Human Settlements, with the minister as chairman was created by the President. The task force includes 11 other Cabinet members—the members of foreign affairs, national defense, public works, public highways, local governments, natural resources, health, agriculture, education and culture, transportation and communications, and social services and development. The President's Executive Order No. 554 creating the task force coincided with a call on the First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos by Otto Gobius representing the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and Victor Beermann, senior consultant to the UNHCR.

AMERICAN Congressman Joel Pritchard and Norman Dicks called on the President and expressed satisfaction both with the handling of refugees here and conditions in the bases under the amended bases agreement.

THE PRESIDENT conferred the Order of Sikatuna, rank of Datu, on outgoing Ambassador Filip Tomulesco of Romania in recognition of his services in the international field. The ceremony was attended by members of the Cabinet and the diplomatic corps.

August 22—

THE PRESIDENT signed a decree penalizing the use, possession or unauthorized sale to minors of “volatile” substances which disturb any person's normal functions. The decree defines the “volatile substances as any liquid, solid or mixed substance that releases toxic vapors or fumes containing certain chemical compounds which when sniffed, exhaled or introduced into the body produce intoxication inebriation, excitement, stupefaction, dulling of the brain or nervous system, depression, giddiness, paralysis or irrational behavior or in any manner changing, distorting or disturbing the auditory, visual or mental processes. The decree makes mere possession liable, to imprisonment from six months to four years and a fine ranging from P600 to P4,000. However, an accused can seek the suspension

of his sentence and confinement in a rehabilitation center for drug addicts upon admission before the court of his addiction.

DR. WALTER Althammer, a member of Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany and deputy chairman of the Hans Seidel Foundation of Munich, called on the President at Malacañang. Dr. Althammer is on his way back to Germany from China where he led a 12-man delegation.

August 23—

THE PRESIDENT ordered a review of existing economic policies to spur production and growth of various local industries. This directive was issued to NEDA Director-General Gerardo P. Sicat in a letter of instructions he sign after addressing the Batasang Pambansa on the state of the nation's economy. The NEDA review will look into areas directly affecting various industries, especially with regard to credit availability, government incentives and taxation.

THE FIRST Lady and Metro Manila Gov. Imelda Romualdez Marcos formed a super-committee which was given up to Sept. 21, and Nov 11 at the latest, to put Metro Manila in order. "In order" means the rehabilitation of damaged streets and sidewalks, arrangement of the unsightly tangle of wires and cables above the ground and the dredging and beautification of Metro waterways.

MRS. Julita C Benedicto was inducted by the President as acting chairman of the National Commission Concerning Disabled Persons (NCCDP). A member of the NCCDP board of commissioners, Mrs. Benedicto succeeds Justice Corazon Juliano Agrava of the Court of Appeals Justice Agrava has resigned due to pressure of work at the Court of Appeals.

SOLICITOR General Estelito Mendoza said that the special committee on naturalization has approved 2,740 petitions for Philippine citizenship by decree. He said the approved petitions, which were filed mostly by Chinese, included 31 petitions for repatriation, 352 applications of wives, and 421 petitions for minor children of naturalized citizens. The newly approved petitions bring to 19,327 the number of Philippine citizenship granted to applicants through decree since December when the first batch of 2,802 petitions for naturalization by decree was approved by the government.

August 24—

THE PRESIDENT has told military commanders that before approving arrest orders on suspected subversives, including members of religious groups, they must first be fully satisfied with the evidence presented as a basis for the arrest. He made this clear at a meeting with military commanders at Malacañang, during which he exhorted the military commander to stress to the men in their commands the need to maintain friendship and cooperation with priest, ministers, preachers, and other religious leaders. He said AFP personnel must exercise restraint and be polite and patient with the citizenry, including religious groups.

LABOR Minister Blas F. Ople said that Aug. 26, the fourth Sunday of the month, observed as National Heroes Day, is a regular holiday. He said that consequently, employees are entitled to their regular daily wage if they don't report for work on that day and twice their rate of pay if they work.

RAMADAN came to a close ending the period of fasting for the 2.5 million Filipino Muslims. In Manila, Quiapo was the center of religious festivity where 26,000 Muslim followers converged at the golden mosque built two years ago. Datu Mamadra, special assistant to Ambassador Lininding P. Pangandaman, said most of the 26,000 Muslims live in Metro Manila. "It is a very special event for all of us, Muslims, because we all thank Allah for having sustained us for a fasting over a period of one month," said Datu Mamadra.

August 25—

THE PRESIDENT inducted Transportation and Communications Deputy Minister Don M. Ferry as concurrent acting chairman of Board of Transportation succeeding Court of Appeals Justice Leopoldo Abellera and Lt. Col. Mariano Santiago as director of the new Bureau of Land Transportation replacing Romeo Edu, at ceremonies held in Malacañang.

THE FIRST Couple congratulated Jaime Cardinal Sin, Archbishop of Manila, for the acceptance of Pope John Paul II of his invitation to visit the Philippines later this year. The President also asked Cardinal Sin, since Pope John Paul II is also a head of state, if the Philippine government could have the privilege of extending to him the “usual ceremonies for his welcome and stay” which the President said are given to visiting heads of state on a state visit.

August 26—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the construction of a national memorial to honor the “great number of our national heroes.” He issued the order in his brief remarks at the wreath-laying at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Fort Santiago in observance of National Heroes Day. He said the national memorial will be built at the reclamation area on Roxas blvd. and with government funds and contributions from the people. He deplored that the Philippines does not have a national memorial for its heroes.

Source: Supreme Court Library

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1979). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 75(35), clxxxi-clxxxiii.

Official Week in Review: September 3 – September 9, 1979

September 3—

THE PRESIDENT acted to rationalize the coconut oil milling industry to insure a reliable supply of coconut products at stabilized and competitive prices in the world market and to assure farmers of a reasonable and steady return for their produce. In Letter of Instructions No. 926, the President affirmed that it is the policy of the state to promote the rapid integrated development and growth of the coconut and other palm oils industry in all aspects and to insure that the coconut farmers become direct participants and beneficiaries of such growth and development. He pointed out that the coconut industry is one of the major earners of foreign exchange for the country and its continued survival, growth and development is therefore, vital to the national economy.

CERTAIN land areas were declared by the President as wilderness and directed their closure to any form of commercial exploitation or similar activities. He said his action, contained in Letter of Instructions No. 917, was intended to achieve the government objectives on national security, the enhancement of a healthy and wholesome environment, as well as the maintenance of adequate water supply for hydropower generation, irrigation, industrial and domestic lands, and the prevention of floods, droughts, excessive soil erosion, and surface runoff.

THE BATASANG Pambansa approved on third and final reading the P39.8 billion national budget for 1980 which is P5.6 billion more than the current budget. Earlier, the Batasan also approved on second reading the two remaining tax measures intended to help support the national budget—Cabinet Bill No. 22, also known as the energy tax bill, and Cabinet Bill No. 25, also known as the omnibus tax bill.

September 4—

THE BATASANG Pambansa approved on final reading three of four tax measures recommended by the government for enactment to raise about P230 million additional revenue to support the national budget for 1980. The chamber also passed on final reading Cabinet Bill No. 13 requiring the compulsory registration of foreign agent in the country.

THE GOVERNMENT limited the employment of foreign nationals in the hotel industry to prevent aliens from edging out qualified Filipino workers. The move was contained in a joint circular signed by Labor Minister Blas F. Ople, Tourism Minister Jose D. Aspiras and Immigration Commissioner Edmundo M. Reyes. Under the circular, alien workers may be employed only as general manager, food and beverage manager, executive chef, executive sous chef, sous chef, pastry chef, especial chef and butcher. However, these workers may be hired in four other positions only on a consultancy basis and for a limit period. The positions are for restaurant manager, engineering consultant, sales and marketing director, and foreign sales account manager.

September 5—

THE BATASANG Pambansa passed on final reading the Omnibus Tax measure (Cabinet Bill No. 25) intended to generate P100-million to help support the P39.8 billion national budget. The approval of the bill is expected to stop the connivance of unscrupulous revenue collectors and taxpayers in either undervaluation or misdeclaration of taxes due the government. The tax bill, which is the last of the four tax measures recommended by the President for Batasan enactment, revises several provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code to plug loopholes for the commission of malpractices.

THE PHILIPPINES and the United States governments agree to continue operations of the US veterans' administration in this country. The new agreement was signed at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with Foreign Minister Carlos P. Romulo signing for the government. The agreement would extend medical grants-in-aid until September 30, 1981 to eligible Commonwealth army and recognized guerrilla veterans who served during the war.

September 6—

THE PRESIDENT expanded the membership of the three-man Cabinet standing committee to include Economic Planning Minister Gerardo Sicat and Industry Minister Roberto V. Ongpin. Presiding over a three-hour joint meeting of the National Economic and Development Authority and the Cabinet, he has decided to expand the committee into five to enable it to tackle effectively the problems brought before it, especially those affecting the nation's economy.

MSGR. BRUNO Torpigliani, papal nuncio to the Philippines, called on the President at Malacañang. He was accompanied by Jaime Cardinal Sin, AFP Vicar General Mariano Gaviola and Mrgr. Cirilo Almario of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines. The President was given a copy of the Views of the Biblical World, a Catholic publication, by the papal nuncio.

September 7—

THE PRESIDENT signed Batas Pambansa Blg. 40 providing for a national budgetary program of P39.8 billion for Calendar Year 1980. He also signed into law: 1) Batas Pambansa Blg. 36 imposing an energy tax on electric power consumption; 2) Batas Pambansa Blg. 37 amending certain provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code and imposing additional requirements for allowable deductions on income taxes; 3) Batas Pambansa Blg. 38 consolidating the provisions on travel tax by amending certain sections of Presidential Decree No. 1183, as amended; 4) Batas Pambansa Blg. 39 regulating the activities and requiring the registration of foreign agents in the Philippines; and 5) Batas Pambansa Blg. 41 amending certain sections of the National Internal Revenue Code by subjecting to the final tax capital gains deprived from the sale of real property.

ADDRESSING the opening session of the two-day Eight ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting at the Manila Hotel, the President called for a stronger and more positive steps to provide a better life for the people of the ASEAN countries. He particularly called attention to several matters aimed at strengthening ASEAN Economic cooperation such as acceleration of intra-ASEAN trade, encouraging private participation, and promoting economic cooperation among developing countries (ECDC). However, the President emphasized, ASEAN has a strong foundation for meeting the challenges and "am confident that with our firm commitment to the establishment of the Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality in Southeast Asia, the stability of our region will be preserved."

September 8—

THE PRESIDENT announced the release of P10 million for loans this year to small fishermen under the "Biyaya ng Dagat," credit program, a Masagana 99-type plan. During his tour of Bulacan where he inaugurated electric power service for 11 island barrios, he said the P10 million is only the start of "Biyaya ng Dagat," which would eventually loan out P850 million to some 600,000 fisherman in the next five years.

AT THE same time, the President also: 1) Appointed Assemblyman Teodulo Natividad, a native of Bulacan, as minister of state for justice. He administered the oath of office to him before a group of fishermen; 2) Directed Deputy Minister of Public Works Aber Canlas to hasten the construction of the Labangan channel to prevent floods in Central Luzon; 3) Approved the construction of a fish landing complex in Tibagin, Hagonoy which will have cold storage facilities similar to the one in the fish complex in Navotas, only on a smaller scale; 4) Activated symbolically the Agus II hydroelectric power unit in Saguirayan, Lanao del Sur. It would increase the output of the two Agus units from 60 to 120 megawatts; 5) Announced the release of P20 million to import sardines; 6) Directed Minister of Public Highways Vicente Paterno to designate the Angat-Norzagaray-Bustos, Plaridel highway as a priority project by making it part of the Philippine-Japan Friendship highway; and 7) Announced the release of P200 million for building barangay roads and said he might include the construction of farm-to-market roads in Bulacan.

September 9—

THE PRESIDENT switched on the second unit of the Mak-Ban (Makiling-Banahaw) Geothermal Power plant, putting on stream 55 more megawatts on the Luzon power grid. With simple switch-on ceremony held at the main plant in Barangay Bitin, Bay, Laguna, the total power capacity generated through geothermal energy producers. He was accompanied by the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, and their daughter Irene.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1979). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 75(37), cxci-cxcv.

President's Week in Review: September 10-16, 1979

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

September 10—

THE PRESIDENT declared he would call for “local elections for all local officials” within the next 18 months, which he called crucial with respect to the economic crisis. This would be the first time local elections are held in the Martial Law regime—which the President said he had earlier planned to end this year, but decided to postpone because of the economic crisis and the international situation. He explained it was necessary to use some Martial Law powers to keep the people united “to do battle with this new danger.” Speaking at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Loyalty Day rites at Camp Aguinaldo, he urged all, “including those who do not wish us well, to join hands to preserve for our children what you and I are striving to preserve.”

THE PRESIDENT, in a wide-ranging speech, also: 1) Reiterated his basic policy that the government would not condone abuses by men in uniform, whether there is Martial Law or not; 2) Ordered the release of all detention prisoners against whom no charges have been filed up to now; 3) Decreed that no arrest, search and seizure orders would be issued without the approval of the President, unless the accused is caught *in flagrante delicto* (in the act of committing a crime); 4) Revealed that all military tribunals would be phased out as soon as possible; 5) Granted amnesty to more than 15,000 prisoners charged with various crimes; and 6) Promoted 1,400 officers of the AFP.

THE BATASANG Pambansa unanimously approved on third and final reading a bill amending the charter of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO). It was the first bill filed by the First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos and the first measure passed by the assembly without a single negative vote or abstention. The bill now goes to the President to be signed into law. After enacting the measure, the Batasan adjourned until Oct. 22. All standing committees, however, will continue working during the recess.

THE GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System (GSIS) has extended its “on-line” loan services to 38 additional government ministries, offices, and corporations that have updated membership records and remittances to the GSIS. GSIS President and General Manager Roman A. Cruz, Jr., said that officials and employees of 38 state instrumentalities may now be served on-the-spot on their salary loan needs.

September 11—

THE PRESIDENT issued Proclamation No. 1893 declaring the entire Metro Manila area as Urban Land Reform Zone. He took this historic step, the second land reform edict since PD 27 was signed on October 21, 1972, in a bold move to confront the progressively deepening problem of unregulated use and unlimited ownership of urban land. The proclamation is in accord with PD 1517, signed on June 11, 1978, which proclaimed urban land reform in the Philippines and provided for the machinery to carry it out. Section 4 of said decree calls on the President to proclaim specific parcels of “urban and urbanizable lands” as urban land reform zones. Upon their proclamation, the Ministry of Human Settlements shall draw up appropriate development and zoning plans.

THE PRESIDENT described as “very inspiring” the mass rally in honor of his 62nd birthday at the Luneta and pledged to work for the welfare of the people with more dedication. In an interview with newsmen at the Heroes Hall in Malacañang, he expressed elation over the participation of some two million people in the rally at the Luneta. He said that he was surprised at the large crowd “and it is not even a holiday.” People from all walks of life, including-government officials and employees, barangay members, students and plain citizens went to the Rizal Park as early as 5 a.m. to participate in the rally.

September 12—

The President approved a uniform Position Classification and Pay Plan for 14 government corporations belonging to the infrastructure and utilities group. The pay plan, approved through Letter of Implementation No. 97 covers adjustments in basic salary, allowances and fringe benefits of 36,239 employees belonging to transport, power, infrastructure and water utilities firms, namely; The Philippine National Lines, Philippine Aerospace Development Corp., Philippine National Railways, Metro Manila Transit Corp., National Power Corp., National Electrification Administration, Cavite Electric and Development Authority, National Irrigation Administration, Philippine Ports Authority, National Housing Authority, Farm Systems Development Corp., Philippine Tourism Authority, Local Water Utilities Administration, and Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System. According to Budget Minister Jaime C. Laya, the pay plan, when fully implemented, will incur an additional cost of P25 million per month and involve increases in compensation from 17 to 98 percent.

THE PRESIDENT said that it is the policy of the administration to strengthen the governments of Regions 9 and 12 in Mindanao so as to make them truly autonomous. He received members of the Sangguniang Pampook of the two autonomous regions who informed him that their regional assemblies are already operational. Headed by Nur Hussein Ututalum and Abdul Khayr Alonto, the assembly members presented the President with reports of their accomplishments since the two legislative bodies were constituted last June 12. Congratulating them for having managed to operate at minimum expense, the President urged them to give priority to infrastructure projects like barangay roads, farm-to-market roads, irrigation systems and other projects designed to increase production. He added that the main thrust of government activity today is productivity and energy, he enjoined the Sanggunians to contribute their share in the solution of national problems.

JUDGE Advocate General's Office was directed by the President to stop hearings on the case involving former President Macapagal for alleged rumor mongering and inciting to rebellion. Earlier, the President has asked the JAGO to explain why hearings on the case were set. The JAGO informed the President that the hearings were called in connection with Macapagal's application for clearance to travel abroad and in view of the pending charges against him. The President directed that no hearings on the case be conducted but the former president should instead be merely "invited" to give his side on the charges. Macapagal may or not attend the inquiry. The President explained that "invitations" of this nature are a routine procedure in connection with applications for travel clearance of persons facing charges.

September 13—

THE PRESIDENT directed the Ministry of Human Settlements to conduct public hearings on his order making Metro Manila an urban land reform zone. He said that the views expressed during the hearings will help guide the ministry in formulating policies and guidelines for the ULRZ program. He wants the hearings to start after the seventh anniversary of the proclamation of Martial Law on Sept. 21. To be invited to the public hearings are big and small landowners, real estate developers, tenants and the general public.

September 14—

THE PRESIDENT said he would consider lifting Martial Law, either fully or partially, after 18 months if the economic crisis and the peace and order situation in Mindanao do not worsen. In an interview with foreign and local journalists in Malacañang, he said the next 18 months are crucial not only for the Philippines but also for other countries because of the oil price increase. He stressed that he has no intention of maintaining the crisis government indefinitely. In the same interview, he also: 1) Scotched rumors that the peace and stability of the country is being threatened by a civil war similar to what had happened in Nicaragua; 2) Reiterated the government has no intention of expropriating lands in Metro Manila, but merely to place the lands under a proper regulatory system and thus stop the various evils spawned by land speculation; 3) Explained that the Spratlys are part of a trusteeship and do not allow their occupation and exploitation or administration by any country and that the islands—called Kalayaan—that have been occupied by the Philippine government in the area are not part of the Spratlys; 4) Denied a reported move to nationalize coconut oil mills; 5) Said that options on the establishment of a refugee center nearer Manila are being considered to cut down on cost of transportation which uses up 50 percent of the outlay for the maintenance of refugee centers.

HIGHWAYS Minister Vicente T. Paterno announced in a press conference that the President, through a proclamation, had changed the name of the 1,230-kilometer Pan Philippine Highways which stretches from Allacapan, Cagayan to Davao City, to Maharlika Highway. Minister Palace said the word Maharlika, which means “noble,” would characterized the Filipinos themselves and would underscore the role of P2.3 billion highways as “a road to freedom and to a better tomorrow.”

TRANSPORTATION Deputy Minister Don Ferry, concurrent chairman of the Board of Transportation, said the country’s 80,000 tricycles operating along national highways and main streets of the urban areas will be banned starting Sept. 24 and relegated to the side streets. He said the move will decongest traffic flow and assure the safety of the riding public.

ENERGY Minister Geronimo Velasco who heads an official delegation in Brazil, said will provide technical help to the Philippines in developing the use of alcohol as automobile fuel. During a press conference in Brazil he said the Philippines planned to buy Brazilian made Volkswagen vehicles equipped with alcohol-burning motors. Or perhaps, he added, the Philippines would produce Volkswagens on its own, with the help of Brazilian technology and equipment.

September 15—

THE PRESIDENT granted executive clemency to 410 persons, upon the recommendation of the Board of Pardons and Parole. Of the number, 18 were given absolute pardon, 254 conditional pardon, and 138 commutation of sentence.

HIGHWAYS Minister Vicente Paterno ordered a nationwide inventory of equipment and spare parts of the highway ministry in an effort to uncover anomalies involving overpricing and missing equipment and spare parts. The ministry’s equipment and spare parts are kept in its six regional equipment depots, base shops and area shops.

September 16—

THE PRESIDENT has ordered recently the publication, free of the usual P1,000 fee, of the work of creative writers. Pointing out that it is about time that something be done to encourage creative writing in this country, he: 1) Directed the National Media Production Center (NMPC) to allocate 15 percent of its output to the publication of literary works also upon certification as such by Writers’ Union of the Philippines (WUP); 2) Donated P100,000 to the Creative Writers’ Center of the University of the Philippines and directed the Ministry of Public Works to provide three-two-story pre-fabricated buildings for the center to be put within the UP campus; and 3) Made a personal contribution of P50,000 for the Writers’ Union of the Philippines of which he is a member. During the testimonial dinner he and the First Lady tendered at Malacañang in honor of the nation’s writers in connection with the three-day first Filipino literary festival, the President was presented with a scroll citing him for his “vital and prodigious contribution to the progress of Philippine society and letters.”

DEVELOPMENT Bank of the Philippines stepped up its food production drive in the countryside in line with the program of the President to extend credit facilities to people living in depressed areas as a means of improving their livelihood. The DBP recently approved the granting of, among others, agricultural financing assistance to a rice milling project in Davao del Sur and a mushroom canning plant in Baguio. The rice milling project loan is extended under DBP-IBRD grab processing and storage program while the mushroom canning plant is assisted under the bank’s small and medium industry program.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: September 17-23, 1979

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

September 17—

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, were unanimously chosen as recipients of the first two highest Balangay Awards for their outstanding services to the barangay. The President will receive the first and only all-time Golden Salakot Award while the First Lady will be the recipient of the first annual Silver Salakot Award. Supreme Court Justice Antonio Barredo, chairman of the Balangay Awards national board of judges, said the President will be cited for founding and looking after the welfare of the barangay and for being the moving spirit of the nation's smallest political unit. The First Lady will be honored for, among other accomplishments, founding the barangay brigades.

September 18—

THE FIRST Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, in a meeting at Malacañang with Metro Manila mayors, said the country's 15-million school children will take to the streets on Sept. 21, seventh anniversary of the proclamation of Martial Law, to demonstrate their "faith in the future." Starting at 7 a.m., the Filipino youth from Cagayan to Davao will line the 2,100-km. "Daang Maharlika" with ipil-ipil seedlings. "It is but fitting and proper for the country's school children and out-of-school youth to plant seedlings along the highway which physically unites the Filipino people for the first time," Mrs. Marcos said.

MINISTER of the Budget Jaime C. Laya said some P900 million would be set aside for a 10 percent salary increase for about 700,000 government workers beginning next year. The increases according to him were computed in a projected 10 percent increase in the cost of living index next year as reflected in the consumer price index. This would enable government workers to cope with rising prices. At the same time, this would result in placing government pay on par with salaries in the private sector.

MALACAÑANG announced the appointment of Presidential Assistant Victor G. Nituda as acting commissioner of the Commission on Immigration and Deportation during the absence of Commissioner Edmundo Reyes. Secretary Nituda has been associate commissioner since 1970.

MALACAÑANG also announced that the National Thanksgiving Day on Friday, Sept. 21, is a non-working nationwide special holiday. This announcement was made in response to numerous queries reaching Malacañang whether it is a working or a non-working holiday. The day also marks the seventh anniversary of the proclamation of Martial Law.

September 19—

THE PRESIDENT said he will continue to uphold academic freedom in the University of the Philippines in line with the government's efforts to maintain the state university's standard of education. He made the pledge in his brief remarks after the oath-taking of Emmanuel V. Soriano as new UP president. Soriano took over from now Education Minister Onofre D. Corpuz.

AFTER the oath-taking of Emmanuel V. Soriano, the President swore in Associate Justice Carolina Griño Aquino of the Court of Appeals.

THE PRESIDENT, through Letter of Instructions No. 933, approved the energy priorities plan (EPP) jointly proposed by the Board of Investment (BOI) and the Ministry of Energy. The plan seeks to develop or manufacture non-conventional sources of energy. To implement the plan, the President directed the BOI and the energy ministry to classify all projects under the EPP as pioneer preferred areas of investment. The classification will entitle project proponents to full government incentives such as tax holidays or tax-free importation of raw materials. At the same

time, the BOI was also directed to set aside procedural requirements to speed up registration or implementation of EPP projects.

September 20—

THE FIRST Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, recently penned the lyrics of a short marching song entitled “Maharlika” on the occasion of the seventh year anniversary of the proclamation of Martial Law. The song is brief but beautiful. It emphasizes the fact that it was “only under the New Society that the Filipinos have been freed from colonial influences.” Mrs. Marcos said that “Maharlika symbolizes the new Filipino who is proud of his race and has no identity crisis.” The music was composed by Prof. Lucio D. San Pedro.

September 21—

THE PRESIDENT called for unity, as he pledged determination to nurture the New Society, which is seven years old today. He sounded his call for unity as he and the First Lady led the nation in observing the seventh anniversary of the New Society by kicking off the tree-planting along the Daang Maharlika (previously known as Philippine-Japan Friendship Highway). In his brief remarks at the Philippine Trade. Exhibit site in Roxas Boulevard, he said that the country has come to a turn in its destiny and that the people must decide once and for all whether they have the stamina, resolution, and the personal and national courage to continue what they started on Sept. 21, 1972.

THE FIRST Couple motored from Malacañang about 8 a.m. and proceeded to the Philippine Trade site to usher in the tree-planting along the Daang Maharlika, passing by the Luneta to view the mass calisthenics by about 4,000 young men and women. From the Philippine Trade Site where they planted an ipil-ipil tree each, they proceeded to Malacañang where an estimated 2,000 members of the Kabataang Barangay were waiting to give a cultural presentation symbolizing their various programs, and presented the First Lady with symbolic products of a progressive society, including bread, hog and poultry, as well as loaves of bread. Following the program, the First Couple, who were accompanied by their daughters Imee and Irene, toured the KB exhibits showing various inventions by KB members. Later, the President held a 30-minute dialog with the younger sector of society.

September 22—

THE PRESIDENT, during his recent nationwide Pulong-Pulong TV broadcast, gave the assurance that former Sen. Raul Manglapus, a leader of the opposition living in America, may come back to Manila any time with a safe conduct guarantee from the government. He said that Manglapus could come home and look around, and if he did not feel like staying, he could go back to his friends in the United States. The former senator, however, has never made any feelers about wanting to come home. He went to America just before Martial Law was proclaimed and never came home since.

SOUTHERN Command Chief and Commissioner of Philippine Islamic Affairs Romulo M. Espaldon disclosed that a full-scale development of the fishing industry in Western Mindanao is expected with the P340 million loan granted recently by the Norwegian government for the region’s integrated fishing program. He made the announcement during the 27th anniversary celebration program of Zamboanga del Sur. He said the amount would augment the Philippine government’s current “Biyaya ng Dagat” project in Southern Philippines which carries an appropriation of P500, 000. He added that the loan would be used for the acquisition of enough failing equipment like fishing boats, nets, and gears as well as the establishment of ice and cold storage facilities.

September 23—

MINISTRY of Finance has reclassified 11 municipalities of Davao del Norte on the basis of average income realized during the last four consecutive fiscal years, as certified by the Commission on Audit. Reclassification of the 11 towns shall be the basis for determining the maximum amounts expendable for salaries and rates, representation allowances, administrative aids and other statutory contribution in the adoption of their annual budgets, as well as the maximum salary rates of local government officials and employees in accordance with

existing laws and regulations. Reclassified one degree higher were the towns of Asuncion, Carmen, Compostela, Kapalong, Mabini, Mawab, Nabunturan, Panabo, Pantukan, Santo Tomas and Tagum.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: September 24-30, 1979

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

September 24—

THE PRESIDENT served an ultimatum on corrupt Bureau of Internal Revenue personnel to reform voluntarily or face the consequences of being sent to jail. Summoning 2,500 BIR officials to Malacañang, he warned that “it would be a very sad duty for me to prosecute those men and send them to jail but I will be compelled to do so unless in the next several months there is a change in the conduct of these officers and men of the BIR.”

ACTING on the recommendation of the first amnesty commission of the armed forces, the President granted amnesty to 51 former members of the defunct Northern Mindanao Revolutionary Command of the Moro National Liberation Front. The former rebels were under the command of Abdul Khayr D. Alonto, former vice chairman of the MNLF central committee.

September 25—

THE PRESIDENT declared that real estate sales in non-developed areas, which cover 90 percent of Metro Manila's land area, could be transacted as before—without any need to report them to the Ministry of Human Settlements. However, he said, there are three types of land which cannot be sold or developed without permission of the said ministry. They are: 1) Open areas in the Metropolis; 2) Blighted areas, such as slums; and 3) Areas where infrastructure would be developed.

THE FIRST LADY and Metro Manila Gov. Imelda Romualdez Marcos asked the PC Metrocom to assign policemen to see to it that the waterways being cleaned by “river aides” are not dirtied up again. She asked Brig. Gen. Prospero Olivas, Metrocom chief, to assign at least one policeman to each banca of river aides. She noted that after the Pasig river and esteros are cleaned, “it's frustrating to see filth scattered anew after a few minutes.” The order was issued during a follow-up meeting of the super-committee of Metro Manila with Mrs. Marcos at Malacañang.

OWNING or importing piranha, a man-eating fish, now fetches a fine ranging from P500 to P5,000 or a prison term of six months to four years, at the discretion of the court. It used to be illegal to own or import piranha, as provided for in Presidential Decree No. 702, but no penalties were prescribed for these acts. Fisheries Director Felix Gonzales made the recommendations when his office could not impose any punishment on a Tondo pet shop owner recently discovered to have acquired piranha for sale.

September 26—

THE FIRST Couple started the day with a breakfast with Peter Blaker, minister of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs of the United Kingdom. During the three-hour meeting with Blaker, matters of mutual interests were taken up.

THE PRESIDENT suggested safeguards in the construction of refugee processing centers which are expected to be located either in Bataan or Ulugan Bay, Palawan. The safeguards include the use of construction materials that are available locally and strong enough to withstand erosion caused by bad weather or tropical climate. He made the suggestions during the call of Victor Beermann, senior consultant to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Beermann called at Malacañang to say goodbye to the President before returning to Geneva where he will submit his recommendations on the construction of facilities for refugees. He was accompanied by Manfred Paeffgen, UNHRC representative to the Philippines.

RETIRED Brig. Gen. Francisco A. Joves was inducted by the President as chief of mission, Class 2, and ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary.

September 27—

THE PRESIDENT granted amnesty to 1,455 detained subversives and 147 others facing charges on common crimes in the spirit of unity and compassion. It was the second time this month he granted amnesty to detainees who have been confined in various military camps throughout the country. On the eve of his 62nd birthday, he ordered the release of 705 of them.

THE FIRST Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, promised to help in the immediate release of P3 million in government funds for improvement in Cebu City. She said the President had set aside 3-1/2 percent of the proceeds from the Manila Bay Casino to help Cebu City. The Land Bank will give a P24-million loan to Cebu City for its other programs, she said. She made the announcement during the inauguration of the Cebu Eco-Technology Training Center, the Labangon BLISS project and the Human Settlement Children's Park.

September 28—

THE PRESIDENT declared he would implement 11 major industrial projects in the 1980's—all designed to provide the basic industrial infrastructure of the economy. In a speech delivered before the University of the Philippines Law Alumni Association at the Philippine International Convention Center, he named these projects: 1) Heavy industry (fabrication of machinery for alcogas, cement, refineries, heavy equipment, and so forth); 2) An integrated steel mill; 3) A petrochemical complex; 4) A copper smelter; 5) A phosphatic fertilizer plant (assigned the Philippines by the ASEAN); 6) An aluminum smelter; 7) Diesel engine manufacturing; 8) An integrated pulp and paper industry; 9) Expansion of the cement industry; 10) Rationalization of the coconut industry; and 11) Development of non-conventional sources of energy. He invited the public to invest in these projects estimated to cost about \$6 billion.

THE FIRST Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos arrived in Cebu City to inaugurate the P4.5-million Ecological Technology Livelihood Community Center built primarily to check ecological imbalance in Central Visayas provinces and Mindanao. The site, a 12-hectare lot inside Sudlon Agricultural College compound in Lahug, is a joint project of the Ministries of Education and Culture, Human Settlements Technological Resource Center, and Technological Research Foundation, Inc. She also inaugurated 50 housing units of BLISS in Labangon and Human Settlements children's playground at Fort San Pedro put up by Aboitiz Foundation Inc. During "her speech at the Eco-Tech. Center, she announced the release of P3-million on orders of the President to finance more city development projects and approval of the President for Cebu City to start receiving regular shares from proceeds of Manila Bay Enterprises Inc. which operates a floating casino in Cebu City.

September 29—

MINISTRY of Agriculture announced that it is ready to embark on alcogas production based primarily on cassava. Agriculture Minister Arturo It. Tanco, Jr., said the ministry has prepared cassava seed pieces of improved varieties enough for 1,500 hectares. In 18 months, there will be enough seed pieces for the 5,000 hectares contemplated in the cassava project. He added that feasibility studies in Brazil indicate that cassava roots have a greater potential as raw material in alcohol production than sugarcane.

BUREAU of Internal Revenue posted a collection of P10.83 billion for the first eight months of the year representing an increase of 25 percent compared with the same period last year of P8.63 billion. In a memorandum-report to the President. Acting Commissioner Efren Plana also reported that for the month of August, total collection reached P1.253 billion compared with P971.2 million for the same month last year, representing an increase of 30 percent. The acting commissioner expressed optimism that for the remaining four months, revenue collection will also substantially increase and collection might reach if not exceed the collection goal this year of P15.2 billion.

September 30—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the cancellation of all forest and timber concessions in Negros Oriental. His action was made upon the representation of the people of Negros Oriental to the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, during

her recent trip to the Visayas. The order which was issued to Director Edmundo V. Cortez of the Bureau of Forest Development, was to take effect immediately.

THE FIRST Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, has just returned from an inspection trip to Cebu, Dumaguete and other points in the Visayas in connection with the Bagong Lipuian Improvement of Sites and Services (BLISS).

LABOR and management agreed on a four-point consensus to improve working conditions of nurses and other health personnel throughout the country. The agreement was readied at the closing rites of the tripartite conference on nurses at the Army and Navy Club. Labor and Management also agreed to give the President a free hand to decide the wage issue. The four-point consensus follows: 1) A joint recommendation for the immediate enactment by the government of a Magna Carta of the rights and obligations of nurses and other health care personnel; 2) Workers in non-profit institutions shall have the right to self-organization and collective negotiation; 3) Two additional members representing labor shall be appointed to the Board of Directors of the Philippine Medical Care Commission; and 4) Fifteen to 20 percent of the professional fees of physicians, to be paid through the hospitals, shall go to a special hospital fund to be apportioned to labor and management.

UNITED States Ambassador Richard W. Murphy recently inaugurated the Capitangan water system in Bataan, one of a number of joint Philippine-American projects designed to improve the general health, productivity and the quality of life of rural inhabitants. As guest speaker at the ceremony, he congratulated the people of Capitangan saying that, "the barangay water system will serve as an example for other communities to follow. It is an encouraging force because it shows what can be accomplished when a community pulls together."

Deputy Minister Salvador Socrates of the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development who also attended the ceremony, hailed the project as significant because it is an important vehicle for melding national, local government and community resources in the achievement of Philippine development goals.

NATIONAL Cottage Industries Development Authority (NACIDA) Administrator Mario R. Reyes said entrepreneurs should make full but judicious use of government incentives such as financing and tax exemptions to generate jobs and foreign exchange savings and receipts. In a statement directed to producers and exporters for the Cottage Industry Week, he said the government has consistently induced the growth of cottage industries.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: October 1-7, 1979

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

October 1—

THE PRESIDENT gave Commissioner Efren Plana of the Bureau of Internal Revenue two days to reorganize thoroughly his bureau—reaching down to the levels of division chiefs and group supervisors. He said the commissioner's duty would be to separate the good revenue men from the bad and to base the revamp on two lists already drawn up, one containing the names of those with good records and the other containing names of "undesirables." The revamp involves 17 directors of the BIR regional offices, plus 91 regional district officers.

MEETING some members of his Cabinet at Malacañang, the President expressed grave concern over reports that middlemen dealing in vegetables, fruits and fish were making excessive profits "far too large" to the detriment of the consuming public. He warned that the government itself would market these commodities to protect consumers if the middlemen do not cooperate on stopping the rise, in prices of consumer goods. He directed Agriculture Minister Arturo R. Tanco, Jr., to meet with these middlemen and get them to maintain a reasonable margin of profit in order to keep down prices. The First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, was one of those who reported the profiteering. She had been undertaking surveys of prime commodities in her recent visits to the provinces.

SECURITIES and Exchange Commission (SEC) ordered the immediate adoption of a Securities Industry Protection Fund to insure stock market investments against default or fraud committed by securities brokers and dealers. SEC Chairman Angel Limjoco, Jr., activated the protection fund after the flight of Manila Stock Exchange broker Enrique Santamaria recently. The protection fund has already been set up but has remained dormant because securities brokers and dealers could not agree on the amount of their contribution.

THE PRESIDENT has ordered the abolition of a three-man special Cabinet committee involved in the investigation of complaints for anti-graft filed against elective and appointive government officials. The order is contained in Memorandum Order Mo. 665 issued recently. The abolition of the anti-graft probe body had earlier been recommended by Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile following the creation of the Tanod-bayan. The members of the committee are Defense Minister Enrile, who is the chairman, Local Governments Minister Jose Roño and Justice Minister Ricardo Puno who took over from the then Justice Minister Vicente Abad Santos who is now a Supreme Court associate justice.

October 2—

THE PRESIDENT directed the senior officers of the Integrated National Police, headed by PC Chief and Director General Fidel V. Ramos to support the move of the various sidewalk vendors associations, retailers and sari-sari store owners and independent merchants to clean up the mess from "tong" collection allegedly involving some city hall employees and police officers in Metro Manila. In a meeting with Ismael Mathay Jr. special assistant to the Metro Manila governor, Polly Cayetano, president of the recognized market vendors association and senior officers of the INP headed by Maj. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, the President also instructed Mathay to supervise and participate in pinpointing and prosecuting city hall employees involved in the mess. He also told police officers present that it would not appear good if he calls on other investigating agencies to do this. In this connection, he pointed out the necessity for the INP to clean up its ranks, adding that there should be no sacred cows.

THE FIRST Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, announced that Plaza Miranda and the arteries leading to it will shortly become a hawker's paradise. She instructed Manila City Engineer Romulo del Rosario to complete the plans for a "vendor's paradise" within two weeks. The plan includes the construction of uniform stalls to accommodate many hawkers who will be occupying Plaza Miranda, Carriedo, Villalobos and Evangelists streets, which will be closed. The announcement was issued during her inspection tour of Metro Manila and in the wake of reports on an anti-sidewalk vendors campaign.

CENTRAL Bank reported that the consumer price index in Metro Manila registered its biggest monthly jump during the year in August as it leaped by 3.5 percent and pushed the annual inflation rate to 23.2 percent. The big jump in consumer prices during the month reflected the price movements triggered by the rise in the prices of oil products which, in turn, influenced the retail prices for the other basic commodities.

JUNK dealers selling purely junk items are exempt from securing clearance or permit to sell used second hand articles as provided for by Sec. 6 of Presidential Decree No. 1612, otherwise known as the Anti-Fencing Law. This ruling is contained in a circular issued by Maj. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, chief of the Constabulary, to all PC and INP, commanders, including the PC Metrocom units. Junks as construed by PD 1612 Gen. Ramos said, means worn out and discard materials which have outlived their usefulness such as old newspapers, caps, bottles, cans, refuse pieces of iron usually collected from garbage cans or clumps or bought by ambulant buyers from households for conversion into other products of either the same or different kind. He added that "junk dealer" shall be construed to mean any person or establishment dealing in the buying of "junk" for sale not to the general public but to a clientele who recycle these items to useful articles. However, he said, should they also engage, in the buy and sell of used second hand articles other than junk as defined in the circular, they should secure a permit as required by Sec. 6 of the Anti-Fencing Law.

BEER-making industry will be listed back as an overcrowded industry after the Board of Investments (BOI) selects the first and only competitor of San Miguel Corporation, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) said. The selected company could be wholly-owned by Filipinos or owned by foreigners to the extent of 30 percent. The relisting of the brewery trade was recommended by the Investment Coordinating Committee (ICC), a NEDA agency chaired this year by Finance Minister Cesar Virata. This same body deleted beer brewing from the list of overcrowded industries in a meeting last July SI, 1979. Its decision was later forwarded to the President, chairman of the NEDA, for his review and approval.

DIRECTOR Felix Gonzales of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), urged fish canners to look for sources of fish other than the Navotas fish market. He urged them to put up their own fish production units. He said that if canners get their fish supply from sources other than the Navotas market, prices of fish in Metro Manila would considerably go down. At present, local canners produce every year 22,000 tons of canned fish or 43 percent of the total demand for canned fish. The remaining 57 percent or 29,000 tons is supplied by importers.

October 3—

THE PRESIDENT directed all government officials concerned to maintain periodic dialogues with leaders of jeepney drivers and operators for the purpose of finding out their problems and helping formulate solutions to them. In a meeting with some 500 representatives of jeepney drivers and operators at Malacañang, he said he would like to seek their cooperation in flushing out members of the Metro Manila police reportedly engaged in "tong" collection and extortion.

October 4—

THE PRESIDENT ordered that P800 million in government funds be made available to cottage industry producers and exporters for loans at low interest. He issued the order to the Ministry of the Budget and the Ministry of Finance in a speech before the 7th National Conference of Cottage Industry Producers and Exporters sponsored by the Chamber of Cottage Industries (CCI) at the Maharlika Hall in Malacañang. Some of the P800 million will come from available funds under previous appropriations acts, many of which have already become idle, such as the fund for retailers and the fund for raw materials, the President said. To help administer the fund and draw up the guidelines for its lending, he reactivated and expanded the cottage industry development council, now headed by Labor Minister Bias F. Ople, chairman of the National Man power and Youth Council.

October 5—

IMPLEMENTING the "Biyaya ng Dagat '79" lending program, the President turned over to Bulacan fisherman Claro Martinez of barangay Pamarawan, Malolos, the first check for P14,700. Martinez who played host to the

President at breakfast last Sept. 8, was granted a loan of P15,000 for the purchase of fishing gear, payable in five years at 10 percent interest, from the Community Bank of Paombong, Bulacan. A two-percent service fee had been deducted from the amount of the loan.

THE FIRST Lady and Minister of Human Settlements, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, briefed members of the diplomatic corps on the establishment of the refugee processing center in Morong, Bataan. She told the foreign diplomats that the establishment of the center “is one project on which there could be no disagreement because it answers one of the most elemental needs—survival or life itself.” The processing center, located in a 300-hectare valley seven kilometers north of Morong, is two hours and 15 minutes by car from Manila, or 25 minutes by helicopter. The center, which will accommodate 50 000 refugees at any one time, will be constructed in stages, the first of which will be for 10,000 refugees scheduled for completion in December, and the second for 40,000 to be finished by April 1980. The center will be a self-contained community, complete with all social and medical facilities to provide community housing for refugees awaiting final entry into recipient countries.

October 6—

MONEY supply at the end of August totalled P16,244 million, posting a P608 million or 3.6 percent decline from the preceding month’s level, the Central Bank reported. The decrease during the month was largely attributed to the P848 million contraction in externally-generated money which more than offset the P240 million expansion in money of internal origin. Compared with the level a year ago, that month’s money stock, however, reflected an increment of P1,463 million or 9.9 percent.

October 7—

THE FIRST Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, during a working dinner at Malacañang recently, cited seven roles she envisioned for the Pasig River. There are: 1)) Mode of transportation starting from Laguna de Bay down to Fort Santiago; 2) Source of income and livelihood; 3) Decongest Metro Manila’s traffic; 4) Fishing ground for the “miracle fish” aptly called Gintong Biyaya (Golden Bliss); 5) Catch-basins of excess water or flood control; 6) Sports and cultural center; and 7) Tourist spot. She appointed Admiral Hilario M. Ruiz as project officer of the Pasig development program.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: October 8-14, 1979

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

October 8—

THE PRESIDENT told rural electric cooperatives to develop their own self-reliance programs and not to continue depending on the National Power Corporation whose generated power will be needed for industrialization. He made this admonition when he signed the new charter of the National Electrification Administration which is designed to give the NEA added stature, funds and power. Under the new charter, NEA's capitalization is increased from P2 billion to P5 billion, and its borrowing authority from \$500 million to \$800 million.

DURING a dialogue with senior editors and deskmen of the print and broadcast media at Malacañang, the President disclosed that all senior officials in the Bureau of Internal Revenue, with the exemption of Revenue Commissioner Efren Plana, who would supervise the revamp, would be replaced in the impending revamp of the said government agency. Those to be affected by the revamp, according to the President, are deputy and assistant commissioners, service chiefs, regional directors, regional district officers and senior examiners. Commissioner Plana, upon his request, will be allowed to go back to the Court of Appeals after supervising the revamp.

DURING the same dialogue, the President also: 1) Directed the members of the Cabinet to prepare data books on government policies concerning their respective ministries to serve as guides for the print and broadcast media; 2) Disclosed that there are plans to reorganize all government boards, particularly the Board of Censors for Motion Pictures; 3) Directed the ministers to give regular briefings to journalists to acquaint them with government policies.

THE PRESIDENT said that even though the country has no space industry to speak of, advances in medical science and technology associated with the conquest of space have had their everyday applications from which even developing countries have benefitted. He cited the medical monitoring which had been developed for astronauts; it is now being used on patients in the intensive care units of modern hospitals as example of such application of space medicine to everyday life. He made these observations in a speech read for him by Dr. Pacifico E. Marcos, chairman of the Philippine Medical Care Commission, during the 27th International Congress of Aviation and Space Medicine at the PICC.

October 9—

THE PRESIDENT, meeting with 12 of the nation's biggest corporations, offered more incentives for export-oriented industries particularly for those who would set up trade offices in foreign cities. He said these trade offices would start the export acceleration campaign, to be patterned after those of Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore. The industrial leaders called this move timely in view of the productivity campaign. They said the trade offices would pave the way for new export markets.

TWO new deputy ministers of education and culture were sworn into office by the President. They were Dr. Abraham Felipe who assumed a newly created position of deputy minister and Hermenegildo Dumlao who replaced the retired Deputy Minister Narciso Albarracin. Also sworn in by the President was Antonio Carpio as general manager of the National Development Co., to replace Constancio Farinas, who remains as member of the NDC board of directors.

INFORMATION Minister Francisco S. Tatad clarified news items which made it appear that Commissioner of Internal Revenue Efren Plana was among those being replaced by the President. He said that Commissioner Plana will not be among those "to be ousted" in the projected revamp in the BIR but will be allowed to go back to the Court of Appeals. It was not "uniformly fair to BIR Commissioner Efren Plana who was lumped together with the other BIR officials" expected to be affected by the revamp, Minister Tatad added.

THE FIRST Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, said no vendors will be displaced in the drive to turn Plaza Miranda and the streets leading to it into a hawkers' paradise. "We are rushing the Plaza Miranda projects to accommodate all the vendors," she said. "We are not going to ease out any vendors because they have every right to live and earn a living." Barring unforeseen circumstances, the hawkers' haven to be named "Kabalikatan ng Bagong Lipunan," will be ready before the end of the month. The streets to be closed to vehicular traffic for the vendors aside from Plaza Miranda are Villalobos, Evangelista, Carriedo and R. Hidalgo. The streets around the Quiapo mosque, Globo de Oro and Gunao, were set aside by the First Lady for the exclusive use of Muslim vendors.

KUWAIT, which supplies about a fifth of the Philippines' crude oil supply, has raised the price of its crude by 10 percent, from P19.49 to \$21.48 per barrel. Initial computations of the Board of Energy indicate that the increase may raise local gasoline prices by roughly two centavos per liter. However, the BOE said, the Kuwaiti increase can be easily absorbed by the local companies. The two previous price order of the BOE—one last July and another last August—set up a fund to compensate the oil companies for any raise in their cost of importing crude oil up to a certain level. The fund, which comes from a collection of 9.4 centavos per liter of all petroleum products sold by the oil companies—is called "crude cost equalization differential."

October 10—

THE PRESIDENT, speaking before participants in the first seminar of the Islamic Affairs office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, called on Mindanao leaders to "stop this blood-letting and internecine strife in the south" and to bond together and work for the country's welfare. He said the time has come to put aside partisan interests and petty rivalries. The establishment of the two regional autonomous governments in Mindanao, he said, marks the beginning of a complete overhaul of society in the Muslim areas. These governments are crucial in the attainment of a lasting peace in the south. He pledged to direct all his efforts and powers to make sure that these governments would succeed, thereby letting the Muslim shape their own destiny. The First Couple were presented plaques of appreciation for what they have been doing for the Muslim communities.

October 11—

ACTING Chief Justice Claudio Teehankee, through a circular he issued recently, instructed CFI, city and municipal judges to order the release without bail of temporary detention prisoners accused of light felonies or criminal offenses punishable with six months' imprisonment and/or a P2,000 fine. Such judicially-ordered release of detention prisoners, however, must comply strictly with the conditions imposed by Republic Act 6036 which provides that instead of bail, the qualified prisoner shall be required to sign in the presence of two witnesses of good standing in the community a sworn statement binding himself, pending final decision of his case, to report to the Clerk of Court hearing his case periodically every two weeks. Among those excluded from the privilege are recidivists, previous escapees, sentence dodgers and those who have jumped bail before.

October 12—

THE PRESIDENT limited participation of national government personnel in the rural service to bureau directors, assistant directors, division chiefs and those with special skills. In case of employees working in government-owned or controlled corporations, only those in the third, fourth and fifth levels shall participate. The same holds true for those employed in the cities and municipalities in Metro Manila, Cebu and Davao. Through an unnumbered letter of instructions which took effect immediately, the President said that the rural service, also known as Paglilingkod: Bagong Lipunan will depend mostly on the perspective, maturity and special know-how of the participants.

THE FIRST Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos left for New York where she will address the United Nations General Assembly and take up various issues with some foreign delegations. This will be her fourth speech before the 152-member world body. The President and a large crowd of officials and friends saw her off at the Manila International Airport.

October 13—

THE PRESIDENT moved to stop the hoarding of dollars abroad by ordering eight government agencies to immediately check the reported undervaluation or misdeclaration of exports. The directive was given to the ministries of finance, trade and natural resources, under which the bureau of forest development and bureau of mines operate, the Central Bank, the Philippine Coconut Authority and the Philippine Sugar Commission.

October 14—

PAYMENT of salary adjustments was ordered by the President to not more than 15 percent for officers and employees of 10 government financial institutions effective as of May 1 this year. Known as the uniform classification and pay plan, the scheme will be carried out on the basis of the assets and profitable performance of each institution. Benefitted by the adjustments are officers and employees of the Central Bank, Development Bank of the Philippines, Government Service Insurance System, Home Financing System, Land Bank, Philippine Amanah Bank, Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp., Philippine Veterans Investment Development Corp., Philippine National Bank and the Social Security System.

THE COUNTRY has attained self-sufficiency in corn during the last crop year, the President announced. He made the announcement after he received a report from Agriculture Minister Arturo R. Tanco, Jr., on corn production from July 1, 1978, to June 30 this year. According to the report the country produced a record 3,167,000 metric tons of corn during the last crop year. This meant the country raised about 11 percent more than the previous year's production of 2,855,000 metric tons. The President after receiving the report, directed the Ministry of Agriculture to gear the country for export of yellow corn principally to Taiwan and Japan.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: October 15-21, 1979

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

October 15—

THE PRESIDENT called on Asia's accountants to help small and medium-scale industries to strengthen the industrial foundation of their countries and the region. He also called for a change from financial accounting to the more relevant practice of managerial accounting. Addressing the delegates to the 9th Confederation of Asian and Pacific Accountants meeting at the Philippine International Convention Center, he urged that the CAPA be strengthened so it can become the arbiter of a standardized and highly professional regional accounting system.

THE FIRST Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, challenged the 152-member countries of the United Nations to draw up programs in waste recycling as a means of raising funds for programs to save the starving children of the world. Speaking before the 34th session of the General Assembly in celebration of the International Year of the Child, she told the countries which have more "to go outside their wall of affluence" and do something concrete for the two-thirds of the world's children "who are hungry, in pain and ignorantly languishing in physical and moral decadence and poverty." She said that all it takes is compassion and the willingness to invest in socially-oriented projects.

October 16—

THE PRESIDENT announced seven major actions to boost Philippine exports. In a two-hour meeting with 500 exporters at the Heroes Hall at Malacañang, the: 1) Created a Bonded Export Marketing Board through Executive Order No. 565, with the wide ranging function to develop new exports products; 2) Eased rules to speed up processing of tax credits and refunds on duties exporters apply for; 3) Ordered removal of marginal deposits on imports used by export industries; 4) Abolished the 4 percent tax on shrimp and prawn export; 5) Ordered the Philippine Export and Foreign Loan Guarantee Fund to allot more funds to small and medium-scale industries which are exporting; 6) Ordered the transfer of registration of export producers and traders from the Philippine Export Council to the Board of Investment.

MAHARLIKA Lullaby, a lilting song espousing the values of Godliness, patriotism and love of fellowmen among the young, has been composed by the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, for the country's children. Competed during the two nights she worked on her speech, The Right to be Human, which she delivered before the UN General Assembly recently, the song is the second she has composed in a month. The first was written last September entitled Maharlika, a marching song with music by Prof. Lucio D. San Pedro.

BUREAU of Internal Revenue released the revenue regulations governing implementation of the energy tax on electric power consumption. The regulation provides that the energy tax imposed shall apply to every family dwelling unit whose energy requirements are serviced and measured through only one electric meter issued and installed by an electric power utility company. The graduated rates are as follows: 1) Not over 650 kilowatt-hours (kwh.) exempt; 2) Over 650 kwhs but not over 1,000 kwhs.—P0.10 per kwhs. in excess of 650 kwhs. 3) Over 1,000 kwhs but not over 1,500 kwhs.—P35.00 plus P0.20 per kwh in excess of 1 000' kwhs. 4) Over 1,500 kwhs.—P135.00 plus P0.35 per kwh in excess of 1,500 kwhs. The regulations take effect immediately and shall apply on electric consumption of residential consumers whose monthly billing periods start on Sept. 7, 1979 and thereafter.

October 17—

THE PRESIDENT, speaking at the annual Barangay awards presentation at Malacañang, called the country's barangay type of democracy more free, direct and participative than other forms of democracies. Reviewing the achievements of barangays throughout the country, he described the barangay as the life of the national reform movement which has resulted in improving the way of life of the people. At the ceremonies he presented trophies and cash awards to 13 outstanding barangay captains from different parts of the country who were presented to him by Vicente Besa, president of the Philippine Jaycees, and Mrs. Nora Z. Petines, PKB national president.

ENERGY Minister Geronimo Z. Velasco, after conferring with the President on the implications of the reported Iranian move of cutting off its oil supply to the Philippines, said the country is prepared to step up local oil production, produce more alternative fuels and buy oil from other sources. He stressed that he does not expect any oil shortage as a result of the reported cut-off. Iran is committed to deliver to the Philippines about 10,000 barrels daily for 1979. So far, it has shipped about 1.8 million barrels since April. A cut-off in deliveries at this point will mean 800,000 barrels of crude oil less to the national stock, Minister Velasco said. The Ministry of Energy estimates this to be less than one percent of the country's total oil imports of roughly 80 million barrels for 1979. Minister Velasco, however, stressed that "the government has not yet been officially notified about that reported cutoff."

THE FIRST LADY, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, who heads the Philippine delegation to the 34th session of the United Nations General Assembly, received Richard Holbrooke, assistant secretary of state for East Asian affairs. They discussed matters of mutual interest to both countries. Later, she also attended the plenary session of the General Assembly.

October 18—

THE PRESIDENT lauded the 12 outstanding farmers of Asia and the Pacific, stressing that their contribution to free trade and productivity is 'the key to the solution of world inflation and unemployment. In brief extemporaneous remarks at the award ceremonies for the farmers held at the ceremonial hall of Malacañang, he singled out the awardees, Saying: "All government and states are now concerned with inflation and unemployment, but if everybody were to have your industry and your initiative, there will be no problem of unemployment, and if there is true productivity there will be no inflation." The 12 awardees are Ian Jones of Australia (hog raiser), Bernard Duncan of New Zealand (sheep raiser), Roy P. Duenas of Guam (poultry raiser), Hashin Bin Mat of Malaysia (rice farmer), Akihiko Hiradate of Japan (rice farmer), Wan Sik Kin of Korea (rice farmer), Ezharul Hague Chowdhury Of Bangladesh (rice farmer), Tok Chen Kah of Singapore (hog raiser), Don Wilfred Weragoda of Sri Lanka (hog raiser), Hilarion de la Cruz of the Philippines (rice farmer), and Karo Vali of Papua New Guinea (coffee grower). The Philippine Jaycees and the Jaycees International were commended by the President for initiating the project of giving recognition to people regardless of race or creed, who set examples in agriculture.

THE PRESIDENT disclosed recently that several foreign corporations have shown interest in the search for oil as the Philippines gets set to drill 30 to 50 inshore and offshore wells this year to increase local oil production and offset the increasing cost of crude oil. During a dinner he hosted in honor of the officials and directors of Marcopper, a company supported by foreign investors, he said this could be attributed to the¹ discovery of new oil deposits in the Nido complex, which, he said, promises to increase production above the present 41,000 barrels daily.

THE FIRST Lady, Imelda Romuladez Marcos, met with senior executives of major multinational corporations doing business in the Philippines who assured her of their continuing confidence in the stability of the Philippine government and the economy despite recent adverse publicity on the Philippines. They said they still find the country a profitable investment area. The First Lady dropped in unexpectedly at the Philippine Center on Fifth Avenue during the monthly meeting "of the Philippine-American Chamber of Commerce board of directors and spoke with the businessmen for about half an hour. Earlier in the day, she attended the third and last plenary session of the United Nations" General Assembly on the national programs of action for the International Year of the Child.

October 19—

CRIMES committed with the use of unlicensed or illegally possessed firearms will now be tried by military courts and will no longer be bailable. This directive was issued by the President through Letter of Instructions No. 947. The directive amends Letter of Instructions No. 772 which directs the transfer to civilian courts of cases involving crimes perpetrated by the use of firearms and at the same time allowing the respondents to post bail.

THE FIRST Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, received an assurance of funding support from the United States government for the Indo-chinese refugee processing centers being put up by the Philippine government. Ambassador Richard Clark, US coordinator for refugee affairs, called on Mrs. Marcos and informed her that the United States

would like the contract for the administration of the refugee centers be signed as soon as possible. Mrs. Marcos told him that the cost for the operation of the processing centers has already been agreed upon by the Philippine government and the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). She said that although no funds have yet been released by the UN Commission, the Philippine government has gone ahead and set up the refugee camps.

October 20—

THE FIRST Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, briefed recently a Manila bound trade mission from Rhode Island on the economy of the Philippines with emphasis on its export-oriented program. It was the second business group she met since she arrived in New York to address the UN General Assembly. In an hour-long talk with Thomas R. DiLuglio and Joseph Lombardo, leaders of the 25-man trade mission, she expounded the country's resources and literacy rate, making it a vast source of skilled manpower. She also asked the group what products it would be interested in. DiLuglio replied that handicrafts and dried fruits are among the most popular items Rhode Island businessmen import. Mrs. Marcos instructed Alfredo Agustin, trade representative of the Philippines in New York, to see to it that mission members are placed in contact with right parties.

October 21—

THE PRESIDENT cited three-objectives in balancing government efforts and resources between big and small scale industries. These are: 1) Lessen imports of certain basic raw materials by producing them locally to save on foreign exchange; 2) Make full use of existing productive capacities to improve volume, quality and competitive price through modernization of land facilities; and 3) Build "downstream" projects to produce raw materials for manufacture or export instead of depending only on second stage processing facilities. The President said he was compelled to clear up the picture because of the resulting confusion in the interpretation of his announcement made last month before the UP alumni gathering.

MORE than 300 doctors who make up the nucleus of the Philippine Communities Executive Council in the eastern United States were urged by the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, to "be proud you are Filipino. We have so much to be proud of, especially now." The doctors were the second group of Filipinos specially invited to the Philippine Center during the First Lady's current working visit in New York to open up a regular channel of dialogue between Philippine officials and Filipinos working in the US.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: October 22-28, 1979

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

October 22—

THE PRESIDENT assured the people he would call for 'direct' local elections within 18 months whether or not the proposed Local Government Code is approved by the interim Batasang Pambansa during the period. He said, however, that the removal of erring local officials will continue even before the holding of the local elections. He made the statement in reply to questions by Batasan members in an open forum after his report to the assembly.

CONSUMER price index (CPI) shot up by 23.4 percent on an annual basis. Based on a Central Bank statistics, the biggest increase in prices, was in the non-food items which jumped by 24.9 percent. Fuel, light and water prices rose by 34.3 percent, services, 34 percent, and clothing, 21.5 percent. Food prices rose by 21.9 percent, with cereals topping the list with an increase of 33 percent. Fish prices rose by 27.7 percent; beverages, 20.2 percent; meat and dry products, 20 percent; tobacco, 17.1 percent; fruits and vegetables, 15 percent; miscellaneous foods, 13.1 percent; and egg prices, 12.5 percent.

TIN can manufacturing was deleted from the list of overcrowded industries, Economic Planning Minister Gerardo P. Sicat announced in a speech he delivered before members of the Management Association of the Philippines. He also disclosed that the investment coordinating committee (ICC) which he co-chairs with Finance Minister Cesar Virata, is finalizing a new set of guidelines that will determine the inclusion and deletion of investment areas from the list of overcrowded industries.

October 23—

THE PRESIDENT assured three foreign delegations that the Philippines is interested in tapping their countries' scientific and technical knowledge in furthering economic cooperation. He thanked the Finnish trade delegation led by Minister for Foreign Trade Esko Rekola, the French agricultural delegation led by Secretary of Trade for Agriculture Jacques Fouchier, and the Rhode Island trade delegation headed by Lt. Gov. T. Diluglio, who called at Malacañang for their efforts to promote economic and agricultural cooperation between their countries and the Philippines.

THE FIRST Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, received the commitments of officials of the "state and agriculture departments of the United States government, the USAID, the World Bank, the Rural Electrification Agency and The National Rural Electrification Cooperatives Association, of increased technical and financial assistance of the Philippines' rural electrification program. Prior to her informal talk with said officials she addressed the officials of the Cosmos Club on Massachusetts ave. during a luncheon hosted by Maj. Gen. Robert Partridge, NRECA executive vice president.

FINANCE Minister Cesar Virata, Economic Planning Minister Gerardo P. Sicat and Acting Internal Revenue Commissioner Efren I. Plana were directed by the President to draw up the mechanics of the tax on gross income tax scheme which would serve as the basis for the discussion by the Batasang Pambansa of the gross income taxation. In his speech before the Batasan recently, he asked the legislature to restructure the country's tax system, paving the way for the adoption of a tax based on gross instead of net income.

COCONUT oil and copper exports displayed remarkable increases for the first nine months of the year. According to a Central Bank report, coconut oil exports rose by 67 percent to \$530.06 million while copper, enjoying higher prices, increased by 66 percent to \$395.1 million. With these gains, exports of all coconut products grew by 40.9 percent to \$731 million and mineral products, 51.5 percent to \$395.1 million. These increases pushed total export receipts for the nine month period by 31.7 percent to \$2.75 billion from \$2.09 billion for the same period last year. Sugar and sugar products increased by 34.8 percent to \$175.9 million for the same period while forest products hit \$329.8 million, representing an increase of 51.6 percent. Electronics posted the biggest gains with 82.3 percent to \$74.8 million as it continued to overshadow the accomplishments of garments which still accounted for the bulk of

non-traditional manufacture exports with \$187.2 million, representing an increase of 34 percent over \$139.7 million for the same period last year.

CUSTOMS Commissioner Ramon J. Farolan said port collections as of October 19 totalled P8.8 billion, surpassing the target of P8.7 billion set by the Ministry of the Budget. "Barring major hitches, this year could be a banner year for the customs collection efforts," he said. He attributed the increase to intensified collection and the anti-smuggling drive of the government.

October 24—

THE PRESIDENT reiterated the government policy of encouraging joint ventures of local and foreign investors, especially in pioneer areas. He told Robert Bryant, president of Dobbs Houses, Inc., which had entered into a joint venture with the Sulo group, that the government has always encouraged foreign participation in economic development. Dobbs Houses, Inc., is reputedly the second largest airline catering operator in the United States, and the world's largest air terminal operator with over 250 restaurants all over the world.

JUSTICE Minister Ricardo C. Puno was ordered by the President through Letter of Instruction No. 946 to decongest and improve conditions in national prisons and correctional institutions "with emphasis on rehabilitation and inmate productivity." The President also said that priority attention should be given to Metro Manila jails with the support of the Metro Manila jail project jointly initiated by the Ministries of Human Settlements and Justice.

October 25—

THE PRESIDENT formally announced the holding of elections for the regular Batasang Pambansa in May 1984 and that the tenure of office of its members shall be for six-year term—from 1978 to 1984. He made the announcement at the end of a two-hour KBL caucus at the Heroes Hall at Malacañang which he presided over as KBL chairman. In the afternoon, the Batasan acted immediately to restore the 1,600 positions of vice governors and vice mayors.

THE FIRST Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, had a 45-minute conversation with US Vice President Walter Mondale at the White House. The talks centered mostly on the security situation in Southeast Asia in the light of the recent developments in Indochina. They also discussed the proposed refugee processing center to be set up in the Philippines as a first asylum for those fleeing Indochina. She came to Washington for the second day in a row to meet with officials of the US State Department, the Pentagon, and members of Congress.

October 26—

US ASSISTANT Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke recently called on the President at Malacañang. During their three-hour talk, they discussed the situation along the Thai-Kampuchea border. The US official who had just arrived from a personal inspection of Thailand's troubled areas, briefed the President on the border incidents, the plight of the Kampuchean refugees and the action taken by the US to help Thailand cope with the situation.

DFPUTY Prime Minister Brian Talboys of New Zealand gave the Association of Southeast Asian Nations his government's "fullest assurance" that his country would remain a "steady, reliable friend and partner in the testing time ahead." He said that the Vietnam-Kampuchea conflict which threatens the peace and security of Southeast Asia, has served to underline the "political interests" shared by New Zealand and the five non-communist ASEAN countries—Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and the Philippines. He flew in to Manila for a four day visit.

THE PRESIDENT declared Nov. 2 and 3 (Friday and Saturday) as special public holidays to give the people an uninterrupted four-day holiday during the observance of All Saints Day, Nov. 1.

October 27—

THE PRESIDENT assured the country's estimated 14 million workers of better income despite the economic crisis brought about by the oil price increases. He gave this assurance in a speech read for him by Local Government Minister Jose Roño on the 25th anniversary and 6th National Congress of the Associated Labor Union being held in Cebu City. He said that "again, as in the first crisis, the government is ready to promote the expansion of food production so that the farmers, who compose the overwhelming majority in this country, can have higher income, so that the consumers, particularly the wage-earners, can buy food at lower prices, because of its abundance." The government, he said, has already appropriated P1 billion for the expansion of fish production. Despite inflation, he reiterated "the government will not suspend development programs but press on it."

WITH the death of South Korean President Park Chung-hee, Asia and (be whole world have lost an able leader. In a message to the Republic of Korea, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he said that the Philippine government and the Filipino people extend their profound condolence to Park's family and the people of South Korea.

October 28—

THE COUNTRY'S economic growth measured by the gross national product (ONP) slowed down to 5.7 percent during the first six months this year, compared to 6.2 percent during the first half of 1978, Economic Planning Minister Gerardo P. Sicat said. The GNP is the total value of goods and services produced in the economy during a given period. Despite the slower growth during the first semester, Minister Sicat said he is optimistic that the rate will reach six percent to 6.5 for the whole of this year. He said the optimistic projection is based on the continuing favorable performance in several growth areas such as food production, mining, exports and the oil sector.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: October 29 - November 4, 1979

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

October 26—

THE PRESIDENT, during a chance meeting with Malacañang reporters after the luncheon he tendered in honor of New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister Brian Talboys, said that if all goes well in the next 18 months, he would "consider the matter of lifting martial law." Asked if there is a relationship between martial law and the 1984 national elections, he said "this is something which has no relationship at all." He cited the 18 months period on the basis of the analysis of world economic experts that the current economic crisis would settle down after a year and a half.

THE FIRST Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, spoke before some 8,000 Filipinos representing a majority of the 150 Fil-Am Community organizations in the bay area at the St. Francis hotel in San Francisco and an equal number at the Hilton hotel of Los Angeles. In her speeches, she lauded the Filipino immigrant who sends a small portion of his earnings in America to relatives in the Philippines. "You are the true heroes abroad, who in your own little way serve as the standard bearer of the Philippines' good name, unlike those oligarchs who bleed the country dry and then keep and spend their money here," she said.

October 30—

THE PHILIPPINES and the United States concluded the ten years of tariff and trade negotiations with the signing in Malacañang of a new agreement reducing duties on Philippine exports by 65 percent while granting only 5.7 percent duty reductions for US exports to the Philippines. The agreement also provides for the opening of more opportunities and market abroad for local products. The new trade agreement, concluded within the framework of the multilateral trade negotiations of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, was signed in the presence of the President by Acting Foreign Minister Manuel Collantes for the Philippines and by Ambassador Richard W. Murphy for the United States.

THE PRESIDENT, who swore into office provincial and city treasurers and assessors recently, told them to stick to the high standards of morality, legality and propriety imposed on government personnel under the New Society. He said that a vital commitment of the New Society was to clean the government. The administration is currently engaged in doing this not only in critical areas such as revenue collection agencies but also where there are points of contact between the government and the people. Sworn into office were nine provincial treasurers, five city treasurers, four provincial assessors and three city assessors. Also sworn in were the director and assistant director of the local government office of the Ministry of Finance plus 10 regional directors and assistant regional directors of the same office.

PRINCE Philipp of Liechtenstein who headed a fact-finding mission from several countries, called on the President at Malacañang recently. The group will set up a wood processing plant in Mindanao using timber by-products. The mission was composed of bankers, financiers, technicians, and industrialists from Germany, Sweden, Liechtenstein and France clans, and industrialists from Germany, Sweden, Liechtenstein and France.

AGRICULTURE Minister Arturo R. Tanco, Jr., was given the assurance of the study on the Philippine dairy industry being financed by the Asian Development Bank and the IFAD. The study is due for completion in March next year.

October 31—

THE PRESIDENT formally designated Presidential Assistant on Economic and Development Affairs Ruben Ancheta as acting deputy commissioner of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Judge Federico B. Alfonso, Jr., of the Quezon City Court of First Instance as acting commissioner of the Land Registration Commission. Ancheta took

over from BIR Deputy Commissioner Conrado Diaz who resigned for reasons of health and Judge Alfonso replaced Deputy Minister Catalino Macaraig who has been discharging the duties of LRC commissioner.

November 1—

THE PRESIDENT formed an 18-man action committee on food to help bring down the prices of fish, vegetables and fruits. At the same time, he spelled out the program for easy loans for fishermen and fish vendors. These twin moves are contained in two still unnumbered Letter of Instructions released by Malacañang. The 18-man committee, to be headed by Agriculture Minister Arturo R. Tanco, Jr. is policy-making body which will have an initial funding of P35 million.

EXPENDITURES of public funds will be shifted from centers of population to the rural areas. The President reiterated this government policy during the inauguration of the BLISS project in barrio Nanguyudan, Paoay, Ilocos Norte and the Paoay Palagad Road which circles Paoay Lake. He was accompanied by his two daughters, Imee and Irene, and some high ranking government officials.

November 3—

THE PRESIDENT has issued a decree, to take effect on Jan. 1, 1980, which calls for the compulsory coverage of self-employed persons by the Social Security System. Under PD 1626, monthly pensions will be increased by 20 percent and survivors pension will be granted to the surviving spouse of a retiree or disability pensioner who dies on or after Jan. 1, 1980.

THE FIRST Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, joined more than 200 dignitaries from 42 countries in paying homage to assassinated South Korean President Park Chung-hee. Later in the afternoon, she called on acting President Choi at the presidential palace. She was accompanied by Tourism Minister Jose D. Aspiras and Budget Minister Jaime Laya, and former Ambassador to Korea Benjamin Tirona. In the evening she attended the official reception for all delegations who came for the funeral of Park.

November 4—

THE PRESIDENT arrived from a four-day trip to the north during which he inspected infrastructure projects, conferred with local officials and attended commemorative services for his late father. With him were his mother, Doña Josefa, and his two daughters, Imee and Irene.

THE FIRST Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, had a full day schedule of meetings with Korean dignitaries, following her delayed arrival for the funeral ceremonies of the late South Korean President Park Chung-hee.

During a call on Park Keun Khea, eldest daughter of the slain president, Mrs. Marcos invited her to visit the Philippines soon with her brother and sister as guests of the Philippine First Family. Miss Park received the First Lady and her delegation at the presidential mansion, the Blue House, near downtown Seoul. Earlier in the day, Mrs. Marcos motored to the towering war memorial located midway between Seoul and Panmunjung and erected in 1975 by the Korean government to honor the 82 Filipinos of the Philippine Expeditionary Forces to Korea who lost their lives in the 1950 to 1953 conflict. From there she was taken to the village of Gwansan Samri, one of the new communities that have attained self-managing stage in the Saemul Undong movement. She was accompanied by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Seo Sung Hwa, Korean ambassador to Manila Kang Young Kyo, and Tourism Minister Jose D. Aspiras.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: November 5-11, 1979

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

November 5—

THE PRESIDENT appointed 34 officials to the Tanodbayan of Manila to strengthen the organization for the speedy dispensation of justice. Of the 34 officials appointed, 11 were named prosecutors, 12 investigators, one director for legal office, one director for the prosecution and investigation office, and nine legal officers. Manuel G. Herrera has been appointed director of the Tanodbayan prosecution and investigation office.

JUSTICE Minister Ricardo C. Puno ruled that the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) and other power firms must pass on to their customers the savings derived from the franchise tax reduction benefits granted to electric utilities by Presidential Decree No. 551 in the form of reduced power rates. The decree which was promulgated on Sept. 11, 1974, aims to ease the burden on consumers of electricity caused by rising cost of fuel oil. Minister Puno issued the opinion in answer to a query by the Board of Energy acting chairman who wanted to know whether Meralco can defer passing on to its customers such savings until the BOE shall have determined that the electric firm's rate of return on its investment has exceeded the rate recognized for public utilities which is 12 percent.

November 6—

THE PRESIDENT started the reorganization of the Bureau of Internal Revenue by accepting the resignation of 65 officials and employees, including the two assistant commissioners and promoted and reassigned 122 others. At the same time, he appointed as assistant commissioners Romulo de Villa, special counsel of the Asian Development Bank, and Tomas Toledo, a lawyer and a career BIR official. The two replaced assistant commissioner Bernardo Carpio and Lauron Abraham, whose resignations were accepted after indicating their desire to retire. The revamp was approved by the President during the call at Malacañang of Finance Minister Cesar Virata. Revenue Commissioner Efren Plana and Deputy Commissioner Ruben Ancheta. The announcement of the BIR reorganization came "6 days after the President directed Commissioner Plana to rid the agency of "notoriously undesirable" personnel.

THE PHILIPPINES pledged recently 815,000 to help the people of Cambodia and also offered to send an unspecified number of doctors to treat refugees from the war-ravaged country. Philippines Foreign Minister Carlos P. Romulo promised the aid at a one-day conference convened to receive offers of assistance for the people of Cambodia.

November 7—

THE PRESIDENT authorized the setting of a new pricing policy for sugar producers to help stabilize the sugar industry. Speaking at the one-day Sugar Industry Convention at the Philippine Plaza, he directed the Philippine Sugar Commission headed by Roberto S. Benedicto to come up with a formula to give sugar producers additional benefits and at the same time liquidate their indebtedness to the government. He suggested that the liquidation price be set at a level equal to the National Sugar Trading Corp. break-even cost plus 50 percent of the difference between the actual price and the Nasutra cost. The other 50 percent will be retained by the government and applied to advances to the industry during periods of low prices, the President said.

THE FIRST Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos said that the Filipinos in America are intensely proud and appreciative of the New Society that has brought considerable growth and development to the country. Reporting on her 27-day official mission which had brought her to the United Nations and six cities in the United States she said: "The most unforgettable and moving experience of our trip was our encounter with our countrymen in America, as we took time from our official conferences to share a few precious moments with Filipinos in New York, San Francisco, San Jose and Los Angeles." She added: "No confrontations marred that encounter. Indeed, it was an encounter of joy and love, an event that was truly Filipino in spirit. It was an experience I will never forget as long as I live." Accompanied by Tourism Minister Jose D. Aspiras, Budget Minister Jaime C.

Laya and a few other officials, she arrived in the country from Seoul where she represented the President and the Filipino people at the state funeral for assassinated President Park Chung-hee of South Korea. On hand at the airport to accord her a warm welcome were Philippine officialdom led by the President, his daughters Imee and Irene, his mother, Dona Josefa, other relatives, members of the diplomatic corps, and delegations of city and municipal officials, as well as of the Katipunan ng mga Barangay from the Metro Manila area.

JUDGE Reynaldo M. Alon was inducted by the President as district judge of the court of first instance of Negros Occidental. The induction was held at the Philippine Plaza during the 1970 Sugar Industry Convention in which the President delivered the keynote address.

THE PHILIPPINES was granted by the Asian Development Bank \$85 million in loans to finance three major projects. These projects are the development of the Bicol River Basin Irrigation Project (\$41 million), Northern Palawan fisheries development (\$18 million), and the Manila ports project (\$27 million). The loans have a maturity period ranging from, 20 to 30 years with a grace period of from four to seven years and an interest rate of 7.6 percent per year. The loan agreement was signed by Finance Minister Cesar Virata and ADB President Taroichi Yoshida.

METROPOLITAN Manila marks its fourth year today with activities in the four cities and 13 towns of the metropolis to focus on programs, specifically those benefitting the poor. The highlights of the celebration will include the inauguration of seven water supply projects and the opening of 11 Pera sa Basura redemption centers.

November 8—

SOME one million more individuals will join the ranks of the 7.5 million members of the Social Security System when the self-employed are included in the system's coverage on Jan. 1. Under Presidential Decree No. 1646, the self-employed—including lawyers, licensed professionals, artists and newspaper correspondents were included in the coverage of the SSS. Those who refuse to be covered are liable to fines and imprisonment. Unlike employees of private business, however the self-employed will have to contribute 8 percent of their monthly earnings not exceeding P1,000 per month as premiums and another 1.5 percent as Medicare contributions, for a total of 9.5 percent.

November 9—

THE PRESIDENT accused the United States of often being condescending and graceless in its relations, treating the Philippines like a small brother. Addressing a group of touring students from Japan and the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), he described the peculiar "love-hate relationship" between the Philippines and the United States. "But we are a bit older now: Over the running of our internal affairs, we have seen how awkward, often how graceless they are . . . they are committed to materialism but we are Asian and Asians are fundamentally spiritual," he said.

November 10—

MINISTER of Transportation Jose Dans, Jr., said the thrust and implementing policies of the seven year-old progressive car manufacturing program (PCMP) should be reviewed to prevent further deterioration of the country's public transportation system. Dan's who once headed one of the country's largest transportation companies, deplored the failure of government planners and policymakers to consider the implications of mass car production on traffic and road situation before launching the PCMP.

November 11—

THE PRESIDENT has approved the establishment of the National Institute of Biotechnology and Applied Microbiology at the University of the Philippines in Los Baños. He gave his approval during the conference with

Energy Minister Geronimo Velasco and Dr. Peter Farley, President of CETUS Corp. of Berkeley, California, who has been invited by the government to assess the progress of scientific research in the Philippines.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: November 12-18, 1979

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

November 12—

THE PRESIDENT through a Letter of Implementation, directed the setting-up nationwide of barangay courts (Katarungan Pang-Barangay) to ease the backlog of cases in the courts. He issued the directive during his conference with Justice Minister Ricardo Puno, Deputy Minister Catalino Macaraig and a group of judges and prosecutors in Malacañang. The system of barangay courts was established under Presidential Decree No. 1508, which took effect last Jan. 1, 1979, to amicably settle disputes at barangay level.

THE FIRST Couple awarded 552 land titles and 159 houses in the Bagong Lipunan Condominium-II to Tondo foreshore families, in simple rites at the community center on Herbosa st., barrio Magsaysay. During his speech, the President announced an additional P221 million to complete the Tondo foreshore and Dagat-dagatan development program, bringing the cost of the urban renewal program to a total of P357 million.

THE AGREEMENT for the construction and operation of the refugee processing center in Bataan was signed recently between the Philippines and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The First Lady and Minister of Human Settlements Imelda Romualdez Marcos, who is chairman of the task force on refugees, signed the agreement for the Philippines, while UNHCR resident representative Manfred Paeffgen signed for the world organization. Under the agreement, the Philippines will build and operate the refugee processing center while the UNHCR will provide the funding and make direct disbursements, as well as keep an accounting of all expenditures.

November 13—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the indefinite suspension of the construction of the \$1-billion Bataan nuclear plant until the contractors, Westinghouse Electric Corp., can guarantee its safety. The suspension order, he said, will only be lifted after the contractors have introduced fundamental changes in design and have adopted health and safety safeguards. The order was issued after he had received the 134-page report of Justice Minister Ricardo Puno, who heads a special probe commission organized last June to look into and conduct public hearings on the safety of the controversial plant.

THE PRESIDENT reversed the Batasang Pambansa's committee on local governments recommendation to divest the finance minister of the power to recommend for presidential appointment provincial city and municipal treasurers and assessors throughout the country. He directed the deletion of the proposal which was included in the draft of the proposed local government code.

November 14—

THE PRESIDENT approved the P4.8 billion infrastructure development program intended to accelerate implementation of major projects such as rural food production, electricity, water, and transportation. The approved budget is bigger by P403 million or nine percent than the 1979 level.

THE PRESIDENT, in a memorandum, directed Finance Minister Cesar Virata to review the economic and equity issues involved in the dispute arising from the refusal of the Manila Electric Company to lower its rates despite the granting of tax benefits by the government. The power rates controversy started when Justice Minister Ricardo Puno ruled recently that the Meralco should lower immediately its electric rates because of the granting of tax benefits by the government under PD No. 551.

THE FIRST Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, said that it was time the benefits being reaped by the tourism industry seeped down to more people in the provinces. In a speech read for her by Tourism Minister Jose D. Aspiras

at the opening of the second National Tourism Congress of the Philippines, she said she would be proud to be included in those planning to bring the blessings of tourism to the countryside.”

THE PRESIDENT took time off from his hectic schedule to welcome a boyhood friend, Eladio Lopez, 64, who once saved him from drowning in a creek in Batac, Ilocos Norte, 50 years ago. Lopez, a retired PC sergeant, was accompanied at Malacañang by one of his sons, Pablo, 26, an air force pilot.

November 15—

THE PRESIDENT said that the emergence of the so-called “third force” known as the “Nagkakaisang Partidong Demokratikong Sosyalista ng Pilipinas,” is a potential threat to stability. When asked during the recently held press conference in Malacañang about the magnitude of the threat posed to national security by the NPDSP, the President said: “To what extent, we are not sure, because we cannot separate the propaganda from the reality.” However, he added: “Presently, it is not a threat but if it should be able to obtain support from outside as well as bring about its avowed aims of unifying all opponents of the present administration, including the armed elements of the New People’s Army as well as the Moro National Liberation Front that might spell trouble for us.”

THE PRESIDENT has proclaimed Nov. 16 of each year a special public holiday in Ilocos Sur to enable the people there to commemorate the birthday of the late President Elpidio Quirino, one of the great sons of Ilocos Sur. In a still unnumbered proclamation, he cited the late Chief Executive for dedicated leadership, able stewardship of the government and personal virtues which had developed among Filipinos in general, and in Ilocanos in particular, a feeling of pride for the race inspiring in them a sense of patriotism.

THE FIRST Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos revealed recently that the government will soon convert the whole Candaba area bordering Pampanga-Bulacan-and-Nueva Ecija into a multi-purpose development project complete with facilities for a modern community. She made the disclosure during an interview with newsmen in Malacañang following the regular monthly audience with the President. According to her, the development strategy of the Candaba project will be patterned after the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) which has become a model community.

November 16—

THE PRESIDENT rallied the entire business community behind the government’s program for aggressive industrialization and the greater expansion of foreign trade during the closing of the two-day 5th Philippine Business Conference sponsored by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chamber’s of Commerce and Industry.

MINISTRY of Trade was restructured by the President recently by creating positions for two deputy ministers and three assistant ministers and two new bureaus under it. He effected the restructuring in a decree he signed in the presence of participants in a business conference that elided recently.

November 17—

GOVERNOR Imelda Romualdez Marcos named recently an inter-agency Metro Manila committee on justice to expedite the disposal of criminal cases in the national capital region, decongest local jails, and make prison conditions humane and livable. The committee, to be coordinated by Deputy Gov. Ismael Mathay, Jr., will consist of representatives from the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Justice, the solicitor-general’s office, the Metro Manila commission, and the metropolitan police force/ PC Metropolitan command.

November 18—

THE FIRST Lady, Metro Manila Gov. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, directed the Metro Manila commission to enforce strictly traffic rules and regulations in the metropolitan area, particularly along the 11 major thoroughfares.

She was apparently irked by persistent complaints against reckless and abusive drivers of Metro Manila transit buses, government and military vehicles, and even garbage trucks.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: November 20-25, 1979

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

November 20

THE PRESIDENT conferred the Order of Sikatuna, rank of datu, on outgoing Ambassador Kiyohisa Mikanagi of Japan. The award was conferred to him in recognition of his services in the field of international relations. In accepting the award, Ambassador Mikanagi said the firm foundation of cooperation between his country and the Philippines was made possible only through the able and determined leadership of the President. He also cited the successful implementation of the integrated and coordinated development of the country under the five-year plan.

THE FIRST Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos graced the ceremonies marking the 7th anniversary of the Bataan Export Processing Zone, declaring that the government would not allow industrialization to dehumanize man. In her speech, she ended speculations that the seven-year-old Export Processing Zone Authority (EPZA) was headed for a revamp. During her stay at the zone, the First Lady inaugurated the administration building, viewed the exhibits of products manufactured at the zone including apparel, footwear, electronic gadgets, toys and automotive spare parts. She later on laid the cornerstone for the 100-bed/hospital and prayed at the chapel. From the zone, she visited the site for the refugee processing center and was briefed by National Housing Authority Chairman Gaudencio Tobias on the development of the project.

November 21

COMMISSION on Elections was notified by the President that local elections will be held either before the end of the year, or in early 1980. He made the official notification when he met in Malacañang with Comelec officials headed by Comelec Chairman Leonardo B. Perez. Details of the two-hour meeting between the President and the Comelec officials who accompanied Chairman Perez were not disclosed.

JAPANESE Ambassador Kiyohisa Mikanagi informed the President during his call recently at Malacañang that the Japanese government has pledged to grant a 36-billion yen (\$146,484,000) loan to the Philippines to finance various impact projects. The Eight Yen Package Loan will be made through the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan. The loan is payable in 30 years at three percent annual interest including a 10-year grace period.

THE FIRST Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos cited the need for greater mutual cooperation among nations in the Asia-Australasian region. In a speech read for her by Health Minister Enrique Garcia at the opening rites of the 5th Asian Australasian Congress of Neurological Survey at the PICC, she noted that among the current problems confronting the region in the field of neurosurgery at this time was the need for closer rapport among the nations in the regions on the vital subject of neurosurgical education and training. She said there should be frequent exchanges of skills and resources in the area in so far as "mutuality of conditions and resources" which she described as necessary. On the subject of the proposed establishment of a brain center in the Philippines, she said that it would depend on the present situation in the country which she said would justify such an ambitious project.

November 22

THE PRESIDENT received Pierre Giraudet, board chairman of Air France, who came to pay his respects. The Air France official, whose company is reputedly the third largest in the world, offered to help promote Philippine tourism in Europe. "The Filipino people certainly welcome your offer and will extend all available cooperation to you," the President said. Giraudet was accompanied by Ambassador Raphael Leonard Touze, and Jacques Depardon and Jean Pierre Bourgneuf, AF director for Asian-Pacific route, and Manila office manager, respectively.

November 23

THE PRESIDENT welcomed the plan of the Paris-based *International Herald Tribune* to set up a publishing plant in Asia to cater to Asian readers. He told Lee Huebner, IHT publisher, that the idea was timely, considering the hunger for world news of the common people due to the fact that transportation and communication have made the world smaller and smaller. Huebner noted that the Philippines is assuming a key role in the Asian economy, and that the Philippine International Convention Center is fast making Manila a world convention city.

EARLIER, the President received Dr. N. C. Brady, director-general of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), who discussed the progress of research on rice at the IRRI. In reply to the President's query, Dr. Brady said the IRRI has been gathering rice varieties with nitrogen-fixing quality from all over the country to develop a variety that can grow under ordinary local conditions. He said this variety, the IR 50, is highly resistant to tungro infestation, and has long and slender grains, but is still in the testing stage. The President congratulated Dr. Brady for the good work and informed him of plans to set up the National Institute of Biotechnology and Applied Microbiology at U.P. Los Banos, so that scientific researches being carried out by the IRRI, the Plant Breeding Institute, and the new institution can be coordinated.

THE PRESIDENT conferred the Sikatuna (rank of lakan) Award on Dr. Robert James Whitelaw, Australian representative and executive director, of the constituency representing the Philippines in the International Monetary Fund. The award was given in recognition of Dr. Whitelaw's active promotion and defense of Philippine interests in the IMF Executive Board, enabling the Philippines to avail itself of the wide range of IMF facilities.

November 24

THE PRESIDENT conferred the Philippine Legion of Honor (degree of officer) on two members of the Elizalde family for extraordinary heroism in the resistance movement in World War II. The award was presented to Don Manuel Elizalde and his deceased brother Juan (posthumous). Pointing out that proper recognition had not been given the two brothers who, almost unknown, unrecorded and anonymously, offered their lives for the country during the dark days of the occupation, the President said he was greatly honored to be the one to give recognition to their heroism. Present at the ceremony were the First Lady and Minister of Human Settlements, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, members of the Elizalde family and their relatives, and friends, and members of the general staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines led by Gen. Romeo C. Espino, chief of staff.

November 25

THE PRESIDENT has declared Nov. 25 to Dec. 2 this year, and every year thereafter as "Electrical Engineering Week," to focus public attention on the vital role played by the profession in the economic development of the country.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: November 26 - December 2, 1979

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

November 26

THE PRESIDENT said it is "unhealthy" for the Philippines to keep the bulk of its trade principally with the United States and Japan and emphasized the need to develop more trade with Europe. He made this remark during a luncheon toast in honor of Crown Prince Albert of Belgium and members of his economic mission at Malacañang. He said the Philippines is diversifying its trade relations and is aware of the need for foreign investments and technology. He welcomed the arrival here of the Belgian economic mission to look at possibilities for trade with the Philippines.

SOME 120 officials and players from 29 countries participating in the forthcoming 9th World Tenpins Bowling Championships were welcomed by the President at Malacañang. Members of the Philippine team, including three World Cup Champions, were among those who called on the President. He told his guests, headed by Franklin Vega of the American Bowling Congress, and Soetupu Janantu of Indonesia, that the Philippines is engaged in promoting sports and upgrading local participation in world competition. He also expressed the hope that bowling would be picked up by more Filipinos and said it would not be a bad idea for the three world champions to go around the country and promote the game. He was referring to Bong Co, who won the World Cup (women's division) in Bangkok recently, Lita de la Rosa, the 1978 women's champion, and Paeng Nepomuceno, the 1976 men's champion.

THE PRESIDENT signed into law Parliamentary Bill No. 612 which seeks to promote investments in less developed areas of the country and accelerate the dispersal of industries to the countryside. The new law, signed by the President during a simple ceremony at Malacañang, provides additional incentives, in the form of tax deductions and financial assistance, to registered enterprises in less developed areas, as well as to their individual investors.

November 27—

THE PRESIDENT called for the collective support and cooperation of all airlines and governments to insure the success of the air transport industry. He sounded his call at the opening session of the 35th general annual meeting of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) at the Manila Hotel. Citing the fuel crisis as the major problem facing the industry, he said "it will take nothing less than the collective efforts of airlines and governments to meet what appears to be the major and most intractable problem, the fuel crisis." He urged the industry to devise an equitable method of distributing access to fuel supply, warning that the shortage and high cost of fuel should serve as a sobering antidote to any undue intoxication with unbridled, predatory, and ruinous competition.

November 28—

THE PRESIDENT told a 16-man trade delegation from Hawaii that all the reforms instituted under the New Society are intended to protect and preserve the human rights of the poor. "We respect human rights in the Philippines," he told the trade delegation headed by United States Congressman Cecil Heftel of Hawaii. "In fact we proclaimed martial law because the human rights of the poor were trampled upon. The delegation arrived recently and will remain in the Philippines for 10 days to explore investment and trade possibilities through consultations with government officials and private business leaders in Manila and Cebu.

SMALL nations can draw courage and strength from the efforts of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) to put more conscience in the relations among nations, the President said. In a dinner toast in honor of the IATA delegates at Malacañang, he cited the present unstable world conditions that compel small nations to despair for humanity." Where the efforts of statesmen have failed, the President said the IATA has succeeded in unifying the world. In response, Knut Hammarksjod, executive director of the IATA, thanked the First Couple for a "wonderful evening." The guests were entertained with a variety show performed by the Madrigal singers, the Bayanihan Dance Troupe, and the Pitoy Moreno models.

November 29—

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, received the members of the Governing Council of the ASEAN Law Association, who called to pay their respects. The council members invited the President to act as honorary chairman and to deliver the keynote speech in their general assembly meeting to be held in Manila on Nov. 25 next year. Chief Justice Enrique Fernando of the Supreme Court said the association was formed to create an ASEAN legal community so that when any of the five ASEAN countries is faced with problems involving principles of law, it can avail itself of the expertise of distinguished jurists from the other member countries.

THE PRESIDENT, concurrently Minister of Youth and Sports Development, assumed personal direction of the training of Philippine athletes, particularly those for international competition. He said he was assuming control of the training because of the very dismal showing of our athletes in international competitions. He made the announcement during his meeting with other officials of the ministry, heads of national sports associations, sports editors, and patrons of sports, at Malacañang.

November 30—

THE PRESIDENT said he will finalize plans for the economic social and political development of the four mountain provinces. He made the announcement when he addressed tens of thousands attending the opening ceremonies of Grand Cañao 1979 at Burnham Park in Baguio City. He promised to see to it that the culture and traditions of the minorities will be maintained because, he said, a country with limited resources has to fall back on spiritual strength when danger threatens.

WORLD'S major airlines belonging to the International Air Transport Association (IATA), agreed to raise air fares next year to compensate increases in the prices of aviation fuel. The extent of the fare adjustments, however, will depend on the outcome of the OPEC meeting on Dec. 17 in Caracas, Venezuela. Delegates to the 35th annual general meeting of the IATA which wound up recently admitted helplessness in dealing with oil price increases.

December 1—

THE PRESIDENT said that he has ordered a periodic reshuffle of the regional directors of all the ministries as part of the effort to rid the government service of deadwood and corrupt officials. In an interview with newsmen after holing out on the ninth green of the Baguio Golf and Country Club in Baguio City, he said that the regional reorganization, which will include the military, will be on a continuing basis every two years to prevent fraternization.

THE FIRST Lady and Metro Manila Gov. Imelda Romualdez Marcos disclosed that the Kilusang Bagong Lipunon (KBL) in Metro Manila will hold "an honest-to-goodness survey" to determine the party's mayoralty candidates in the area. She said that she wants to feel the pulse of the people on whom they prefer to be the KBL standard bearers in the four cities and 13 towns in the region. She was in Baguio City-together with the President to attend the Grand Cañao 1979.

December 2—

THE PRESIDENT said the government may reimpose price control if the price of oil is raised again. In an interview with newsmen at the Mansion, the presidential residence in Baguio City, he said the move is being studied by government financial experts as a means to cushion the impact of the projected oil price hike.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: December 4-9, 1979

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

December 4—

THE PRESIDENT said that the ruling Kilusang Bagong Lipunan will consider the date of the holding of local elections during its caucus on December 12. In talks with newsmen upon his arrival from Baguio City and Pangasinan, he said that the holding of local elections will depend on the world situation, oil price increases, the US-Iran crisis, the Indochina conflict, and the secessionist movement in the south. He was accompanied by the First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos.

THE GOVERNMENT is launching land assembly and other innovative land acquisition techniques and is also establishing official development registries in areas declared as Urban Land Reform Zones and Bagong Lipunan Sites. For this purpose, it will use the Lungsod Silangan site and its adjacent area being developed, as a model. In this connection, the President issued Executive Order No. 570 creating a task force to undertake land assembly operation in Lungsod Silangan and in the areas peripheral to the Marikina-Infanta Road identified by the Ministry of Human Settlements in its Lungsod Silangan Development Plan and approved by the President as Bagong Lipunan Sites and Urban Land Reform Zones.

December 5—

THE FIRST Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez, Marcos inaugurated a BLISS project in San Jose, Nueva Ecija and expressed assurance that towns in the province will soon have their own BLISS projects. Among her guests during the rites were Senator Patsy Young of Hawaii and actor George Hamilton. Also present were the town and provincial officials of Nueva Ecija headed by Governor Eduardo Joson. After the inauguration, the First Lady proceeded to Cabanatuan City to confer with the provincial and town officials of Nueva Ecija on a host of other problems.

December 6—

THE PRESIDENT gave the assurance that religious freedom will be respected and maintained in the country. He gave this assurance to delegation of the Methodist Church in the Philippines, headed by Bishop and Mrs. Paul Locke A. Granadosin, who made a courtesy call at Malacañang. The President assured the delegation that since he committed himself to public service, he had also committed himself to the basic principle in the Constitution which mandate not only freedom of religion but also all freedoms which go with it. Bishop Granadosin, speaking for the delegation, expressed gratitude "for the consistent position" taken in the implementation of the constitutional mandate to grant religious freedom to all citizens.

PHILIPPINE Legion of Honor, degree of commander, was conferred by the President on Real' Admiral Huntington Hardisty, outgoing representative to the Philippines of the commander-in-chief, U.S. Pacific Forces and concurrently commander of the U.S. Naval Base, Subic Bay, and acting co-chairman of the RP-US Mutual Defense Board. He was cited for having "pursued vigorously and with understanding the implementation of the existing defense agreement between the two countries when RP-US relations were undergoing re-evaluation on the military bases agreement."

BATASANG Pambansa was asked by the President to consider passing a law to ban the use of all non-biodegradable (cannot be dissolved in water) detergents. He made the suggestion following reports by ecology experts that non-biodegradable detergents pose a danger to the environment.

December 7—

THE PRESIDENT received recently the group headed by Jacques Fournier, board chairman of the Dumez Group of Industries of France, who paid a courtesy call at Malacañang following their arrival here in the course of an Asian tour to survey investment prospects. With Fournier were Christian Trouve and Jean Piere Chaufur, directors; and Andre Iconomoff, consultant.

THE FIRST Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos was awarded recently the Order of Friendship among Peoples by the Supreme Soviet of the union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) at the Philippine International Convention Center. Cited for her active work in developing friendly relations between the peoples of the Philippines and the USSR, Mrs. Marcos facilitated the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries with her historic visit to Russia in 1972. The award was presented to the First Lady by Ambassador to the Philippines Valerian Mikhailov on behalf of the Supreme Soviet.

THE PHILIPPINES was granted recently by the World Bank a \$27 million loan to promote the development of Samar. The project will include road and port rehabilitation, irrigation construction, and improvement of water supply facilities. The loan is for 20 years at an annual rate of 7.95 percent.

December 8—

THE FIRST Lady and Human Settlements Minister, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, said that the child “must have priority in our deeds, in our minds and in our hearts,” as she asked the Parent Education Congress at the Philippine International Convention Center, that it has to carry on and institutionalize at all levels “as the medium and network for the integration of knowledge, and skill in ‘parenting’.” Addressing delegations from all over the country on “The Development of the Child in the Face of Changing Family Patterns,” she said that we must realize that to serve and teach those we love—our children—we must always be equipped with a heart that thinks and a mind that feels and that in doing this our future is never a sacrifice.

STARTING next year, disabled workers covered by the Employees Compensation Commission will receive higher compensation benefits. This was disclosed by Labor Minister Blas F. Ople during the 47th anniversary of the Ministry of Labor. He said beneficiaries of the increased benefits under Presidential Decree No. 1641 are current pensioners and workers with service-connected disabilities or their beneficiaries in case of death. As EEC chairman, Minister Ople said that PD 1641 is a “companion”, decree to PD 1636 which upgraded the benefits of the Social Security System by 20 percent.

December 9—

THE PRESIDENT directed recently the regional and other local leaders of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL) to settle all party disputes before the KBL caucus at Malacañang on Wednesday. The directive was issued to clear obstacles to the organization of regional and other local chapters of KBL for the coming elections. This is a prerequisite to the holding of the local elections, the date of which is expected to be announced in the coming KBL caucus.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: December 10-16, 1979

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

December 10—

THE PRESIDENT was assured that the ASEAN has nothing to worry from the deepening friendship and cooperation between Japan and the People's Republic of China. In a letter to the President, Japanese Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira, who had just returned from talks with the Chinese leaders in Peking, assured the President that the growing cooperation between the two countries would be economic in nature and would not be extended to the military field. The Japanese prime minister also assured the President that financial assistance to China amounting to 50 billion yen this fiscal year would not in any way diminish Japan's economic assistance to the ASEAN countries. This assurance was conveyed to the President by Deputy Foreign Minister Yasue Katori who called at Malacañang.

December 11—

INFORMATION Minister Francisco S. Tatad recently said that the prospects for war and peace in the 1980s will be decided in Asia and that America's position and influence in the world will, in the end, depend on the role she chooses to, play or not to play in that region of the world. Speaking before the California Press Association in Sacramento, California, Minister Tatad said: "No matter how volatile and flammable the situation in Iran today, it should not distract us from the not so subtle developments taking place in the vast landscape of Asia . . . the course of international affairs will, in the next several decades, be shaped by what happens in Asia and the Pacific more than anywhere else."

MINISTRY of Public Works was instructed by the First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos to start the dredging of Pasig River as construction of the Love Boat terminals have already been programmed. These river terminals will allow Metro Manila residents living near river banks to take the Love Boats in going to and from their offices, thus helping ease up heavily congested land routes.

December 12—

THE PRESIDENT presided over a four-hour caucus of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan, which formally approved a new set of rules designed to strengthen the ruling party on the regional, provincial, city, municipal and precinct levels, preparatory to the forthcoming local elections. During the caucus, nominations were made for party vice presidents for Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Nominated for Luzon were Gov. Isidro Rodriguez of Rizal, Labor Minister Blas F. Ople and former Gov. Eduardo Cojuangco of Tarlac. The lone nominee for the Visayas was Gov. Benjamin Romualdez of Leyte, while the nominees for Mindanao were Gov. Ali Dimaporo of Lanao del Sur, Assemblymen Emmanuel Pelaez Constantino Navarro, and Region XI Chairman Antonio Floreindo. The caucus also unanimously nominated Minister of Local Governments and Community Development Jose Roño as party secretary general and Ambassador Roberto S. Benedicto as party treasurer.

THE PRESIDENT received Minister of Communications Zeng Sheng of the People's Republic Of China. In receiving the Chinese Minister, who is an official guest of the Philippine government, the President said there should be more exchanges of officials between the Philippines and the People's Republic of China in order to promote closer understanding between the two countries. He also took the occasion to thank the visiting official in publicizing the Philippines, especially the Philippine Air Lines flights which "are always full" and for the hospitality accorded by the people of China to Philippine visitors, including the President and the First Lady. With the minister were Directors Zhang Yung of protocol, Qi Xinhua of industry, Dong Jun of inland river transportation; Li Zhiran, Ren Jinghua and Shuo Rumei.

December 13—

CENTRAL committee of the KBL, with the President presiding, met in Malacañang to draw up plans for the forthcoming elections and thresh out party problems. During the more than three-hour meeting, the committee decided to :1) Set the date of the elections at another meeting of the committee next Dec. 20; 2) Hold the election of municipal and provincial officials ahead of the election of barangay officials. The central committee also confirmed the election of Minister of Local Governments and Community Development Jose Roño as secretary general of the party and Ambassador Roberto S. Benedicto as treasurer. The secretary general was also instructed by the President to draw up a new party platform with the assistance of seven presidential advisers.

December 14—

THE PRESIDENT called upon all Muslim leaders to participate actively in efforts to end the strife in the South to enable the Muslim areas in Mindanao to keep pace with the economic development and progress in other parts of the country. In his talks with Region XII leaders who called at Malacañang recently, he pointed out that the country is moving into a period of industrialization and the Muslim regions in the South may again lag behind other regions if peace and order is not restored in the area. Led by Gov. Muhammad Ali Dimaporo of Lanao del Sur, the Muslim delegation presented the President with resolutions approved during a conference of Muslim leaders from Regions IX and XII.

December 15—

THE PRESIDENT sent an urgent message to the Batasang Pambansa proposing that local elections be set for January 30 in view of recent international development, including the latest hike in the price of oil. The Batasan has deferred its scheduled Christmas recess in order to enact an election law governing the local election.

December 16—

THE PRESIDENT took steps to speed up fund releases for government projects even as he widened the participation of local officials in the implementation and monitoring of national government projects. At the same time, he ordered a more speedy payment of contractors' claims to avoid spiralling prices. In a two-hour meeting with the regional directors of various ministries at the Heroes Hall of Malacañang, he also ordered regional directors to coordinate with local officials and members of the Batasang Pambansa.

THIS FIRST Couple, with some government officials, lead the faithful in hearing the traditional *misa de gallo* which ushered in this year's Christmas season at the Cultural Center of the Philippines complex.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: December 17-23, 1979

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

December 17—

THE PRESIDENT said the effects of Martial Law will be lifted during the election campaign. This assurance was given by the President in an interview with newsmen after his speech at the ground-breaking ceremony of the \$91.3-million shipyard of the Philippine Engineering Corp. in Cabangan Point, Zambales. The lifting of the effects of Martial Law will cover not only speech but also mobility and assembly and printing of necessary campaign materials.

THE PRESIDENT pledged to provide more incentives to accelerate the development of the maritime industry which, he said, is vital to the country's economic self-reliance. Speaking at the ground-breaking ceremony of the Subic ship repair yard in Cabangan Point, Subic, Zambales, he noted the expansion of the industry because of various incentives granted to the private sector by the government. The ship, repair yard, which can accommodate vessels up to 300,000 dead weight tons, will be one of the 'biggest ship repair facilities in Southeast Asia, the President said. The First Lady, assisted by Makoto Watanabe, charge d'affaires of the Japanese embassy and Generoso Tanseco, president of the Philippine Shipyard Corp., officiated in the ground-breaking.

December 18—

THE PRESIDENT administered the oath of office to Col. Nicanor Jimenez, former general manager of the Philippine National Railways, as Chief of Mission, Class II, in Malacañang. Nominated as Philippine ambassador to South Korea to succeed Ambassador Benjamin Tirona, retired, Col. Jimenez served with the Philippine Expeditionary Force to Korea (PEFTOK) as commander of the 14th Battalion Combat Team in 1953-54. At the induction were Mrs. Maria Clara Vega-Jimenez, the inductee's wife, other members of his family, ranking PNR officials headed by Col. Salvador Villa.

THE FIRST LADY, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, cited the importance of the role of media in reaching the majority of the people during the inauguration of the DWIM-FM station at the Philippine Communications Center on Ortigas avenue in Pasig. "You have authority," she told radio broadcasters. "You are like teachers. You have credibility because the people listen to you," she added. At the same time, she urged top singers to sing the national anthem before every show or concert for "this is one way you can show fervor for your country."

December 19—

THE PRESIDENT received the letters of credence of Ambassador Todor Petkov Dichev as new ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary (non-resident) of the People's Republic of Bulgaria to the Philippines. In receiving the credentials of the new envoy, the President reaffirmed the country's policy of peaceful co-existence with other countries or the world and the promotion of closer understanding between the Philippines and Bulgaria.

THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, expressed gratitude to the French government and people for the grant of a large concessional loan to the Philippines for the development of alternate energy sources. The FF 200 million loan, consisting of 40 percent in treasury loan and 60 percent bankers credit, will be spent for the development of dendro thermal powers plants (FF 110 million), mini-hydro power plants (FF 80 million) and woodgas fired power plants (FF 10 million).

December 20—

THE PHILIPPINES was granted by the World Bank a \$38-million loan to finance the improvement of fisheries education in the country. The loan according to Education Minister Onofre D. Corpuz, who together With Finance

Minister Cesar Virata composed the negotiating team, will be used to convert seven fisheries schools into regional institutes.

December 21—

THE PRESIDENT took steps to promote closer coordination between the military and the civilian authorities to speed up the process of normalization. During a Command Conference held at the AFP General Headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, following the parade marking the 44th anniversary of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the President: 1) Ordered Justice Minister Ricardo C. Puno and Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile to prepare a decree creating local police committees with adequate investigative powers that would curb police abuses; and 2) Appealed to the military commanders to call the attention of their officers and men to the fact that they are expected to conduct themselves according to the norm of conduct that had been set for them. In issuing the directive, he pointed out that the responsibility for the exercise of governmental powers is in the hands of both the military and the civilian authorities.

THE PRESIDENT called on the men in uniform to play their role as impartial guardians- of the law in the campaign and elections of local executives scheduled for January 30. He issued his call during the 44th anniversary celebration of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. At the same time, he also announced his intention, if recommended by the Ministry of National Defense and the Armed Forces of the Philippines, to lift the effects of martial law in the entire country during the period of the campaign. He also placed under the local executives the operational control of police units in areas where criminality is on the rise, particularly by syndicates.

December 22—

THE PRESIDENT signed into law four bills passed by the Batasang Pambansa, paving the way for the holding of the first local elections under the New Society on January 30, 1980. Signed by the President were: 1) Parliamentary Bill No. 885, providing for the elective and/or appointive positions in various local governments, and for other purposes; 2) Parliamentary Bill No. 886, governing the election of local government officials; 3) Parliamentary Bill No. 889, defining the rights and privileges, of accredited political parties, and for other purposes; and 4) Parliamentary Bill No. 891, providing for the holding of a plebiscite, simultaneously with the election of local officials on Jan. 30, regarding proposed amendments to the Constitution.

SPEAKING before the members of the Batasang Pambansa before signing into law four bills covering the forthcoming local elections, the President said the worsening world situation had forced the political leadership to set the local elections on Jan. 30, 1980. Besides, he explained, the rising oil prices also threaten to double the P11 million daily oil subsidy granted by the government to oil users. "We could probably conclude, the President said, "that the Philippine government could not afford any election after Jan. 30, 1980." Because of financial problems, it has also been necessary to shorten the period of campaign to 30 days, he added.

THE- FIRST Couple started off the annual Task Force Maligayang Pasko project which distributed gifts to 18,000 families in Metro Manila. Twenty-six army trucks were fielded for each of the 26 distribution centers in Metro Manila. Rear Admiral Ernesto Ogbinar, task force commander, said that 200,000 gift packages were, also distributed to 73 provinces.

THE PRESIDENT proclaimed 60 gubernatorial and 35 city mayoralty candidates of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan in 11 regions for the Jan. 30, 1980 elections. He made the proclamation after approval of the KBL central committee of the partial list of candidates in the Jan. 30 elections, the first to be held since 1971.

December 23—

THE FIRST Lady and Metro Manila Gov. Imelda Romualdez Marcos has signed an ordinance creating the Metro-Manila Commission Cultural Development Fund., She directed Ismael Mathay, Jr., Assistant to the Metro Manila governor, to issue the guidelines, rules and regulations immediately for the effective implementation of the ordinance. Under the ordinance, the MMC will spearhead the promotion of cultural endeavors in Metro Manila

through an educational and financial assistance programs. The MMC shall operate and establish the cultural development fund and shall take charge of tapping all sources of funds for its programs.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: December 24-30, 1979

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

December 24—

THE PRESIDENT administered the oath of office to Datu Yahya "Jerry" M. Tomawis as duly elected representative of the non-agricultural labor sector to the Sangguniang Pampook of Region XII, comprising the Lanao and Cotabato province including the cities therein. Tomawis was proclaimed the winner by the Commission on Elections *en banc* over the protest lodged by a close rival in the said elections.

December 25—

THE FIRST COUPLE spent a quiet Christmas Malacañang with their children, Imee, Ferdinand, Jr., and Irene, the President's mother, Doña Josefa Edralin Marcos, and relatives and some close friends. All official engagements were suspended and the only activity at the Palace was the First Couple's reunion with family members.

CHRISTMAS gifts were distributed to more than 2,000 prisoners in Metro Manila jails by the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, who also paid for the bail of three youths jailed for light offenses. During the surprise visit to the Manila, Caloocan and Quezon City jails, Mrs. Marcos told the inmates that "it's another year, so please make it your New Year's resolution to change for the better." Lunch boxes containing chicken, an apple and candy, and a P50 cash gift each were distributed to 2,418 inmates along with Maligayang Pasko bags with canned goods and T-shirts. Policemen in the three city jails were also given Maligayang Pasko bags and P100 each.

December 26—

THE PRESIDENT said that restrictions of Martial Law will be lifted starting Saturday, December 29, for the 33-day campaign period for the Jan. 30 local elections. He said he will issue soon the order which will suspend the effects of Martial Law to encourage free debates and political rallies. However, he explained, laws on libel and subversion: will still be in force. He added that he was waiting for the final recommendation of the military and defense establishment for the lifting of Martial Law restrictions ail over the entire country.

EFFECTIVE next month, foreign nationals approved for issuance of student visas shall be required to obtain their visas, from Philippine missions in their country of origin, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced. In cases where the Philippines has no embassy or consulate in such places, the applicant will be given the option to choose alternative venues. This requirement is being emphasized in view of the increasing number of student visa applicants of various nationalities who, after coming to Manila either to file or follow up their applications locally, proceed to the Philippine consulate general in Hongkong to secure their visas.

December 27—

THE PRESIDENT inducted Brig. Gen. Ernesto Bueno of the Philippine Air Force, as mayor of Baguio City. Until his appointment to the mayoralty of Baguio, Brig. Gen. Bueno was vice commanding general of the Defense Division, PAF. Following his induction, the new mayor pledged to make the Pines City not only clean, beautiful and peaceful, but also the number one tourist spot in the country. Among those present at the oath-taking were close relatives and friends led by Tourism Minister Jose D. Aspiras, Assemblyman Andres Cosalan, former Baguio City Mayor Luis Lardizabal, members of the inductee's immediate family led by his wife, Mrs. Babe Bueno.

THE PRESIDENT, as chairman of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan, proclaimed the official KBL gubernatorial candidates for Cebu and Masbate. To run in the Jan. 30 polls under the banner of the KBL are incumbent Gov. Eduardo Gullas and Ramon Durano, Jr., for governor and vice governor, respectively, in Cebu and incumbent Gov. Emilio Espinosa and Raul Estrella for the same respective positions in Masbate. The official nomination of the four

KBL official bets came at the end of today's marathon six-hour session that the President had with the KBL central committee.

THROUGH General Order No. 64, the President announced the lifting of the effects of Martial Law for a 33-day period starting Saturday (Dec. 29) "except in such areas that the military authorities may consider critical in order to encourage our people to debate and hold political rallies during said period." During the suspension that will last till Jan. 30, no arrest, search and seizure order (ASSO) will be issued, except as a preventive measure, against such crimes as arson, murder or the illegal use of firearms and explosives. However, the laws on libel, subversion, sedition and rebellion will remain in force. The order further states that "the lifting, of Martial Law restrictions will cover not only speeches but also mobility, assembly and the printing of campaign materials."

December 28—

THE PRESIDENT inducted in Malacanang Judge Manolito L. Asok as acting governor of Siquijor, and Emmanuel Lebumfacil as acting mayor of Toledo City. Former Gov. Eulogio M. Omictin of Siquijor is being given a vice-consular post. Present at the oath-takings were members of the central committee of the KBL and close relatives and friends of the inductees.

JUDGE Jesus Borromeo of the Tacloban City Court of First Instance was appointed recently by the President to the position of deputy justice minister. He replaces Deputy Justice Minister Catalino Macaraig Jr., who will be named to a new post. Also promoted by the President were Chief State Prosecutor Juan A. Sison of the Court of Appeals and designated Tanodbayan special prosecutor and Manila Assistant Fiscal Artemio G. Tuquero as his replacement.

CENTRAL Bank allowed savings banks to accept demand deposits to act as depository banks of rural banks. The move may be interpreted as a step to expand the activities of savings banks and make their operations similar to those of commercial banks. In the past, only commercial banks were authorized to act as depository banks of Central Bank loan proceeds intended for rural banks.

December 29—

COCONUT industry chalked up record export earnings of \$1.01 billion this year to surpass foreign exchange receipts of \$908 million in 1978, Rolando de la Cuesta, chairman of the Philippine Coconut Authority, disclosed recently. He said that the industry receipt accounted for about 27 percent of the country's foreign trade income this year. PCA records showed that coconut oil led dollar earnings of coconut export products with \$740 million. It was followed by dessicated coconut with \$100 million; copra, \$89 million; copra meat/pellets, \$77 million; activated carbon, \$7.8 million; and coconut shell charcoal, \$4.8 million.

December 30—

THE PRESIDENT decreed recently that all provincial, city, municipal or municipal district officials running for reelection in the Jan. 30, 1980 local elections may remain in office. The decree modified Section 30 of the 1978 Election Code which provided that "governors, mayors, members of the various sanggunians, or barangay officials shall, upon filing of a certificate of candidacy, be considered on a forced leave of absence from office," whether or not they are running for the same office. The still unnumbered decree states that applying the provision in the coming elections "may give rise to chaos and confusion due to the difficulty of designating promptly and immediately the replacements of such officials to assure the continuity and stability of local governments."

THE PRESIDENT has appointed Albina Manalo Dans and Filemon W. Fernandez Jr., former Civil Service Commission executive director and Merit Systems Board commissioner, respectively, as new commissioners of the CSC. The appointments were made as a result of the appointment of CSC Commissioner Jose A. R. Melo as associate justice of the Court of Appeals. Promoted to the positions vacated by Dans and Fernandez were Mario D. Yango, former director of the CSC office of recruitment and examination, and Alejandro Madamba, former CSC-MSB associate commissioner.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: December 31, 1979 - January 6, 1980

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

December 31—

THE PRESIDENT, in his capacity as president of the ruling Kilusang Bagong Lipunan and chairman of its central committee, asked the Commission on Elections recently to grant all official KBL candidates the right to enjoy block voting. He submitted to the Comelec the list of official KBL provincial and city candidates for the Jan. 30, 1980 local elections, together with the names of KBL committee chairmen and representatives empowered to proclaim and nominate the party's candidates for governors, vice governors, mayors and vice mayors. Under the law, official candidates of a political party accredited by the Comelec are entitled to block voting while those of a registered but not accredited party can only be voted upon individually.

January 1—

THE PRESIDENT expressed optimism that the new year might just turn out to be the "turning point in our economic development." In his New Year's message, he also expressed hopes that the government and its people will be equal to the task of meeting the problems facing the country in the new year. The, problems which he said are critical, are the coming local elections, the final settlement of the conflict in the south and the deepening energy crisis. The January 30 local elections, he said, is "a test of the political maturity we have attained since the promulgation of Martial Law, a test we must pass before the full restoration of our normal political process."

January 2—

THE FIRST Couple, with their three children, motored to the Iglesia ni Kristo (INK) Palace in Diliman, Quezon City, to personally felicitate Ka Erdie on the occasion of his natal day. The President also expressed his appreciation for the support given by the INK in the maintenance of peace and order throughout the country, and in promoting the image of the New Society abroad. It was during the birthday festivities for the INK supremo at the INK pavilion that the President administered the oath of office to Court of Appeals Justice Onofre Villaluz and Chief State Prosecutor Artemio G. Tuquero.

EMPLOYEES of private companies who are earning less than P1,500 a month will receive an additional P80 monthly emergency living allowance starting last January 1. Labor Minister Bias F. Ople said the additional allowance was included in Presidential Decree No. 1634 which had earlier ordered the payment of a P60 allowance for these workers effective September last year. He said the increase was agreed upon during the conference attended by representatives of labor, government and management held at Puerto Azul in Cavite last year.

January 3—

THE PRESIDENT recently upheld the right of the Nacionalista Party to field candidates in the January 30 local elections. In an interview with newsmen after a marathon meeting of the central committee of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan, he said that the policy should be "to allow fair, free and open fight among aspirants from the gubernatorial to the sanggunian position." It is obvious, he told newsmen, that in most places the tight will be between the KBL and the NP. "That would make the NP the opposition in the coming elections," the President added.

EDUCATION Minister Onofre D. Corpuz said that some 268,000 public school teachers will receive another round of salary increases this year. He said that he was informed by the President about this during a talk last December 30. However, the education minister did not disclose the amount of the increase and the date the wage hike will be given. The teachers received last year a 5 percent salary increase, raising their minimum monthly salary to P603 from P574 in 1978. The present minimum monthly salary of teachers is P666.

NATURAL Resources Minister Jose J. Leido, Jr., urged all sawmill operators without timber concession to submit within the year their supply scheme for approval of the ministry otherwise they face closure. He issued the instruction following the implementation of Presidential Decree No. 1559, which allowed the continued operation of sawmills that can present their supply schemes for approval by either the ministry or the bureau of forest development to ensure their log supply for their operations.

BUREAU of Land Transportation (BLT) reported recently that the number of the country's drivers has reached 1,663,873 while motor vehicles on the roads now total 1,199,359. BLT Director Mariano R. Santiago said his office collected a total of P226,208,700 in 1979, making it the third biggest revenue-generating arm of the government next to the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs.

January 4—

THE PRESIDENT expressed fears that the Afghanistan incident "may spill over to Southeast Asia." In an interview with newsmen, he said that a "continuing study" is being made of the situation. The Philippines, he said, "has been exchanging information with the Soviet, American and the ASEAN ambassador' on the matter. Pakistan has also been asked "to inform us what the situation is."

THE COUNTRY suffered a deficit of \$570-million in its foreign exchange transaction in 1979, a sharp increase from the \$54-million shortfall registered in 1978, Central Bank Governor Gregorio S. Licaros said in his report to the President. The deficit in the balance of payments (BOP) was caused mainly by the continuous increase in the prices of imports, particularly oil. "In the face of uncertainties that pervaded the economies of most countries of the world, the Philippine economy proved its resilience and capacity to sustain moderate growth despite adverse external influences, the most disruptive of which were the increase in oil prices," Governor Licaros said.

January 5—

THE PRESIDENT, through a letter of instructions, ordered that women employees, both in private and government offices, be given equal opportunities as men to occupy positions that involve planning, policy and decision-making in local, national and international levels. The First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, made the announcement during the closing day session of the Fifth Congress of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women. The order provides that all practices which discriminate against women contrary to the laws of the constitutions, international conventions and other agreements entered into by the Philippines safeguarding her rights and privileges, shall be eliminated.

THE PRESIDENT said that he will wait until the oil price increase stabilizes before convening, the tripartite congress to assess its effects on income and prices. In answer to questions by newsmen about his plans in this regard, he said, "we have been trying to delay the convening of the tripartite congress as much as possible because there is nothing sure about the prices of oil nor the amount of-supply." The tripartite congress made up of representatives from government, management and labor recommends measures to the President to help cushion the effects of the oil price increases.

THE PRESIDENT inducted Ismael Mathay, Jr. as vice governor of the Metro, Manila Commission at ceremonies held in Malacañang recently. Mathay was formerly assistant to the Metro Manila government for administration and operation. Present during the induction was the First Lady and Metro Manila Governor Imelda Romualdez Marcos.

January 6—

THE PRESIDENT formally fired the opening salvo for the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL) campaign in the January 30 elections by calling for national unity to meet problems facing the country. Speaking at the proclamation rally for the KBL ticket in Bulacan, headed by incumbent Governor Ignacio Santiago, the President stressed that the nation can ill afford "division and quarreling" at this time. He also appealed to the people to support the KBL ticket over other groups who would use, he said, force and violence to achieve their political ends.

THE FIRST Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos, during the same rally, asked the voters to rally behind the ruling party “because voting for the KBL means helping yourselves.” At the proclamation site, the First Couple laid the cornerstone for the BLISS project and inaugurated the Hiyas Nutrition Center. Beside Governor Santiago, those proclaimed were Director Bernardo Ople of the National Manpower and Youth Council (NMYC), who will be Governor Santiago’s running mate, the eight candidates for the provincial board, 23 mayors, 23 vice mayors and the aspirants for positions in the town councils.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: January 7-13, 1980

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

January 7—

THE FIRST Couple proclaimed the official candidates of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL) in the January 30 elections for city and municipal mayors and vice mayors of the four cities and 13 towns in Metro Manila. The proclamation of the KBL candidates was held at a mammoth proclamation rally at the Folk Arts Theater this morning. During the meeting, the President announced that "he had rejected the request of Chairman Leonardo Perez of the Commission on Elections to extend the deadline for the filing of certificates of candidates for the January 30 elections from January 4 to January 10. In turning down the request, he said it was the Batasang Pambansa which set the deadline for the filing of certificates of candidacy and he will not use his reserve power to legislate and to amend legislation but would allow the Batasan to establish the policy, especially during elections.

THE PRESIDENT proposed the establishment of an Asia-Pacific Forum on Economic Cooperation, and offered the initial support of the Philippines, until an institutional arrangement is made. He made the proposal in his keynote address at the UNCTAD Asian Regional meeting on Economic Cooperation Among Developing Countries (ECDC) at the Philippine International Convention Center. As one deeply committed to the ECDC concept, the President said, "the Philippines is prepared to provide initial support to the undertaking until such time as an institutional arrangement is made."

January 8—

THE PRESIDENT endorsed the idea of establishing a foundation for the preservation of marine life, in the Philippines. The idea was broached by Sir Arthur Norman, chairman of the de La Rue company of London, who is the chairman of World Wildlife Fund (U.K.) and trustee of World Wildlife Fund (International). During his call, he proposed to the President the establishment of a foundation with the idea of linking it with an international organization such as World Wildlife Fund (International). The President suggested that the plan be discussed with Natural Resources Minister Jose Leido Jr. and Director Felix Gonzales of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

ANOTHER caller, Dr. Giancarlo Ligabue of Venice, presented to the President the first copy of his book, "*Filipino, Isole in Controloce*," which is based on the lifestyle of Philippine cultural minorities like the Ifugaos, the Tasadays and the Tao't Bato. The President lauded the Venetian writer, who had lived with various Philippine tribes by way of research, and said his book "will interest all Filipinos."

January 9—

THE PRESIDENT presided over the first joint Cabinet-NEDA meeting for the new year to review development programs of the government and assess the achievements in the previous year. In the two-hour meeting, the President also received a report from Foreign Affairs Minister Carlos P. Romulo on international tensions which could possibly affect the Philippines. Among the reports on development plans for the 1980 submitted to the President were those from: 1) Minister of Energy Geronimo Velasco, who said that by the end of the year the Philippines would be producing 25 percent of its petroleum requirements. 2) Central Bank Governor Gregorio S. Licaros who said that inflation had not very adversely affected the working man since the wage increase rate had so far outstripped the inflation rate. 3) Economic Planning Minister Gerardo P. Sicat reported on the rationalization of industry in view of pressures created by world economic trends. 4) Minister of Public Highways Vicente Paterno who reported on work in the establishment of priorities in the road-building program of the government.

THE PRESIDENT conferred the Order of Sikatuna, rank of datu, on outgoing Ambassador Guillermo Corona of the United Mexican States. The award was presented in recognition of the envoy's services in the field of international relations as the representative of his government and people in the Philippines.

EARLIER, the President welcomed Sir Campbell Fraser, chairman and chief executive of Dunlop Holdings, Ltd., who paid his respects accompanied by British Ambassador William Bentley, Sir Campbell expressed the desire to engage in the plantation industry, the manufacture of adhesive and sealing materials, and the opening of an export base in the Philippines.

January 10—

THE FIRST Lady, in her capacity as Metro Manila governor, inducted into office Ernesto Domingo as acting mayor of Mandaluyong. Mayor Domingo replaced former Mayor Renato Lopez who resigned due to ill health. Mrs. Soledad Lopez, wife of the former mayor, is running as vice mayor with Mayor Domingo as mayor under the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan. Among those present at the induction were close relatives and friends, including Metro Manila Deputy Governor Ismael Mathay, San Juan Mayor Joseph Estrada, PNRC Governor Johnny Dayang, Mrs. Corazon Domingo and daughter Carolyn, and Agelyn and son Ernesto Jr.

January 11—

THE PRESIDENT urged all political parties fielding candidates for the local elections to present their respective programs of government to enable the electorate to vote wisely. He made the proposal during his conference with local executives and KBL candidates of Batangas at the People's Mansion in Batangas City. He said the KBL stands for clean and good government. He maintained that the KBL being the party in power, under the parliamentary form of government, has the sole responsibility for the success of the administration, and therefore, everyone in government is duty bound to support it or has no business staying in the government. Following his brief remarks, the President, together with the First Lady, took up local problems with the local executives, during which he ordered the release of P2.2 million for the repair of roads. After a late dinner with them, the First Couple motored to the city pier where they boarded the *RPS Ang Pangulo* for Cebu City.

PUBLIC Works Minister Alfredo L. Juinio, said his ministry would embark this year on an integrated venture to convert dredging spoils into cash. He said that spoils dredged from rivers and harbors could be used to reclaim nearby marginally productive areas, rather than being disposed of at sea and to other distant places. He said the move would save the government millions of pesos.

January 12—

THE PRESIDENT during a political rally in Cebu City, disclosed: 1) The Philippine National Bank had approved a loan of P12 million for the asphaltting of 150 streets in Cebu City. 2) The Land Bank has approved a loan of P24 million for improvement of the city market. 3) The approval of a letter of credit for \$2.5 billion for the purchase of modern firefighting equipment for Cebu City. 4) Initial release of P4 million for port work projects in Region 7. 5) Release of a P70-million augmentation fund for the Mactan processing zone which will mean an additional labor requirement of 6,000 to 10,000 people. At the start of the evening's proclamation rally, the President swore into office as deputy minister of justice Judge Jesus Borromeo.

THE FIRST COUPLE had earlier attended in Tagbilaran a big rally. During his speech, the President lashed back at certain officials in Region 7 who, he said, criticized his administration but keep on going to him at Malacañang asking for special favors. He also signed a decree creating the Rural Waterworks Development Corporation to attend to the watersupply needs in the outlying communities. He also made a sentimental journey to Tubigon, a place where he hid during the war, and released P3 billion for communal irrigation project to service some 600 hectares of rice lands in Tubigon and Calape.

January 13—

THE PRESIDENT said that the Philippines through ASEAN, would initiate a move to have the raging conflict between Thailand and Vietnam settled through peaceful means. In an interview with newsmen before he and the First Lady boarded the *RPS Ang Pangulo* for Dumaguete City, he also said he had directed the Philippine

representative to the United Nations to initiate resolution for the UN General Assembly to debate on the matter of Afghanistan.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: January 14-20, 1980

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

January 14—

THE PRESIDENT presented Foreign Affairs Minister Carlos P. Romulo a picture of himself with the inscription "To General Romulo, the best foreign minister the Republic ever had." Minister Romulo celebrates his birthday anniversary today "with the best birthday gift I have ever received, referring to the President's gift. A mass was held this morning at the Santuario de San Antonio at Forbes Park and was followed by a breakfast for senior officials of the foreign ministry at the Hotel Intercontinental. This evening, a black-tie dinner was given at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel to which members of the diplomatic corps, the Cabinet, the Batasang Pambansa, the Armed Forces, and close friends were invited.

January 15—

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady received United States Ambassador-at-large and Coordinator on Refugee Affairs Victor Polinieri, who came to pay his respects at Malacañang. He informed the First Couple that he was very much impressed by the plans and operations of the processing center in Bataan which could very well be the model for the refugee processing centers in Thailand where there are between 300,000 to 600,000 displaced Khmers, Laotians and other displaced people in border refugee camps. Polinieri arrived from Thailand where he observed the enormity of the refugee problem and met with the people handling the refugee problem. He was accompanied at Malacañang by U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian Affairs John Negroponte, Ambassador Richard Murphy, and staff personnel of the U.S. State Department and local embassy.

January 16—

THE PRESIDENT ordered the legal panel of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan to file with the Commission on Elections the KBL position paper questioning the right of the Nacionalista Party to be accredited as a political party in the coming elections. He also put on record the fact that as titular head of the defunct NP, he had not authorized the candidacy of anyone running under the NP banner. "The KBL reserves the right to question the election of NP candidates before the Comelec and the Supreme Court to stop them from taking their oaths of office because they are disqualified," the President pointed out. The issue was raised during the proclamation rally of the KBL at the Batangas provincial capitol ground, which coincided with the 399th anniversary celebration of the founding of Batangas province. Earlier, the First Lady unveiled the "Diwa ng Batangueño," a monument which depicts the five outstanding virtues of the Batangueño: Kagitingan, Katalinuhan, Kasipagan, Katapangan and Karilagam. The First Couple flew by helicopter to Batangas City from the Manila International Airport where earlier in the day they stood as sponsors during the blessing of the Philippines Airlines' new Boeing 747 jumbo jet and Airbus 300.

January 17—

THE PRESIDENT received a delegation composed of leaders of the Katipunanang Manggagawang Pilipino (Trade Union Congress of the Philippines) who called at Malacañang to formally reiterate their support of his leadership and to pledge to campaign actively for all KBL candidates in the forthcoming local elections. The delegations which called at Malacañang was headed by Democrito Mendoza, TUCP president; BP Assemblyman Roberto M. Oca Jr., labor coordinator, and Aurelio S. Intertas, chairman of the committee on political action.

UNITED States Senator S. I. Hayakawa (Republic, California), called on the President at Malacañang together with Ambassador Richard W. Murphy. The visiting senator informed the President that he was impressed by the efficiency with which the Philippine government was handling the refugee problem and also surprised by the reservoir of goodwill which the people of the Philippines have not only for the United States but also for Americans. The President in turn pointed out that Filipinos and Americans have been through very traumatic experiences together, and it was not easy to forget men who died or were wounded as comrades-in-arms.

January 18—

THE PRESIDENT received the letters of credence of Ambassador Hideho Tanaka as the new ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Japan to the Philippines. Ambassador Tanaka succeeds former Kiyohisa Mikanagi as Japan's envoy to the Philippines. In accepting the new envoy's letters of credence, the President expressed the hope that Japan will continue to pursue a policy of close cooperation with the Philippines, and to play an important role in promoting peace, stability and progress throughout the world, particularly in Asia. Present at the ceremony were the First Lady, Cabinet ministers, members of diplomatic corps.

FOLLOWING the ceremony, the President received Speaker Al Haj Abdul Bakeer Markar of the Parliamentary of Sri Lanka, together with his wife, who called to pay his respects. An official guest of the Philippine government, the presiding officer of the Sri Lankan Parliament visited Cotabato and Zamboanga City and lauded the government's efforts to maintain peace and order and implement a massive development program including resettlement projects to help Filipino Muslims. He was accompanied at Malacañang by R. N. Seneviratne, acting secretary-general of the Sri Lankan Parliament and Ambassador Franas Wanigasekera.

THE FIRST Lady and Metro Manila Governor, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, recently enjoined the people of Taguig and Pateros at two separate KBL rallies to vote for the official candidates of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan come January 30 to afford the national government opportunities to give to the local government the aid and assistance needed to complete and implement its proposed plans and programs. For Taguig, the First Lady informed the residents that there are plans underway to provide Taguig with 45 kilometers of pipelines around the town to solve its water problems, and that this alone would cost some P38 million. In addition, she also directed NAWASA Director Oscar Ilustre to complete the waterworks system in Pateros not later than early next year.

MINISTER of Information Francisco S. Tatad, reacting to the President's letter censuring him, announced at a press conference he was submitting his resignation from the Cabinet effective immediately. During a press conference in his office at Malacañang, Tatad who has been press secretary to the President for ten years, thanked the First Couple for their kindness to him and assured them of his continued good wishes. His resignation was prompted by a letter sent to him by the President castigating him for throwing his support to the Nacionalista Party candidates in Catanduanes in his fight with the Alberto brothers, Jose and Vicente.

January 19—

COMMISSION on Elections Chairman Leonardo B. Perez said political parties or candidates have until January 25 to file with the Court of First Instance exclusion proceedings against voters who were alleged to have been registered illegally. He explained, that the Comelec has no power to decide on the right to vote and that this is purely a judicial power. Therefore, the remedy for the parties concerned in cases of illegal registration is to file exclusion proceedings in accordance with Section 94 of the 1978 Election Code.

January 20—

THE PRESIDENT assured a United States congressional delegation headed by Rep. Lester L. Wolff (D-New York) that American presence in the Pacific is welcome depending on its intentions and policies. Addressing the 16-man delegation at Malacañang, the President discussed, among others that: 1) During the meeting of the ASEAN countries of the, Group of 77 on economic cooperation among developing countries (ECDC) he had proposed formation of a permanent regional forum for discussions and consultations in Asia, similar to the one proposed by Rep. Wolff providing for an Asian non-government consultative council. 2) The Mindanao situation is no longer a problem to the government and Col. Khadaffy of Libya and the secretary-general of the Islamic Conference have informed the government of their desire to participate in the final settlement. 3) The international situation and worsening world economic crisis do not warrant the lifting of Martial Law at present. 4) Violation of human rights is not an issue in the Philippines since the government is very strict about the care of prisoners.

THE FIRST Lady and Metro Manila Governor, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, said that there was no plan to phase out passenger jeepneys in the metropolitan area. Speaking at a rally held at the Folk Arts theater where some

10,000 jeepney drivers and their families were present, she said, however, that there may be changes in the present routes to ease traffic congestion and avoid so much overcrowding. Transportation Minister Jose Dans, Jr., and Chairman Don Ferry of the Board of Transportation attended the final phase of the campaign for candidates of the KBL to assure the jeepney drivers there was no such phase-out plan.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: January 21-27, 1980

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

January 21—

THE PRESIDENT said that the establishment of the refugee center in Bataan is an international commitment of the Filipino people. Speaking at the inauguration and blessing of the center in Barrio Sabang, Morong, Bataan, he expressed gratification over the chance for the Philippines to be of some help and to show its compassion towards displaced people of a neighboring country, Vietnam. He pointed out that the sprawling 300-hectare processing center, which is the biggest in Asia, is a joint project of the Philippines and the United Nations and financed from contributions of different countries. The President was accompanied by the First Lady who is chairperson of Task Force on Refugee Assistance and Administration, US Ambassador and Mrs. Richard W. Murphy and Japanese Ambassador and Mrs. Hideho Tanaka.

January 22—

EDUCATION Minister Onofre D. Corpus; announced that the ministry will limit college enrolment of public and private schools in Metro Manila next school year. Exempted from the plan were schools with wide campuses, state colleges and universities. He said the plan will be made in coordination with the Metro Manila Commission.

January 23—

THE PRESIDENT directed his top advisers to update "contingency plans" in the light of ominous development in Southeast Asian region and the Near East. At the two-hour closed door joint session of the National Security Council and the National Economic and Development Authority held at Malacañang, the President and his key advisers were: 1) Briefed by the National Intelligence and Security Agency under Gen. Fabian Ver on developments in critical areas or points of tension around the world, particularly in the Near East (Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan), Indo-China (Vietnam, Kampuchea and Thailand) and South America, and the possible impact of the 3e developments in the Philippines; 2) Given background information by Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Ingles on various treaties entered into by the Philippines with other countries, particularly the Manila Pact of 1954 and the possible implications of Philippine commitments under this agreement in the face of a "security threat" to the region; 3) Briefed by Energy Minister Geronimo Velasco on possible twists and turns of the oil situation and a possible trade war.

INDONESIAN Foreign Minister Mocktar Kusumaatmadja was conferred by the President the Order of Sikatuna, rank of datu, for service in the field of international relations. Earlier, the Presiding and the foreign minister conferred for 45 minutes on matters of mutual interest, particularly on security. Sitting in on the meeting were Minister of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo and Indonesian Ambassador Soedarmono.

ADDRESSING a mammoth rally at the Bonifacio monument in Caloocan City, the President appealed to the people to give him a fresh mandate in the coming local election. The First Couple asked the people of the land to vote KBL to insure the election of local officials who will serve as "the hands and fingers of the First Couple," in the implementation of these programs. During the rally, the President and the First Lady also proclaimed the official KBL candidates, Macario "Boy" Asistio, Jr., for city mayor, and Macario Ramirez, for vice mayor.

January 24—

THE PRESIDENT sounded a call recently for all eligible citizens to, vote in this coming Jan. 30 election even as he provided additional days of registration: January 26 and 29. He said that at present the number of voters stood at 22 million. He predicted that after the two additional registration days the number of eligible voters would swell to 24 million.

THE FIRST Lady and Metro Manila Governor Imelda Romualdez Marcos, continued to hammer away at her theme that only the election of Kilusang Bagong Lipunan official candidates could maximize implementation of the New Society's programs for the uplift and betterment of the people, especially the urban poor. Addressing rallies in Valenzuela and Malabon, she said that she was aware of "the specific and most urgent needs" of the people in the metropolitan area. As governor of Metropolitan Manila, she declared, she had actually allocated more than 50 percent of the Metro Manila Commission's budget to the municipalities in her domain "if only to give to the poor a better life, a better future."

January 25—

THE PRESIDENT said he would have to issue immediately two decrees to amend Batas Pambansa Blg. 53, known as the Election Law, concerning the political affiliation of members of various parties, as well as the controversial block-voting issue. Both decrees would take effect before, the Jan. 30 election. "The cases pending in the Commission on Elections and the Supreme Court have resulted in a restudy of the Election Law as to the date of affiliation of officers and members of the various parties who have been registered as of 1978," he said.

THE FIRST Lady and Metro Manila Governor Imelda Romualdez Marcos urged recently Marikina and Pasig residents to vote KBL on Jan. 30 to enable the government to cope with dangers confronting the country. She said that since under the present set-up, the KBL is responsible for the success of the government and the implementation of its various programs, it needs the reaffirmation of the people's mandate on Jan. 30. She warned that if the people become disunited at this time, it could be the worst thing that could happen to the country.

LABOR Minister Blas F. Ople said that Jan. 30, being Election Day, shall be treated as a legal public holiday under Article 94 of the Labor Code. Consequently, workers will be paid regular salary if they do not report for work and twice as much if they work on that day. To be entitled to this benefit, workers should have reported for work on the last working day preceding the legal holiday. He said the benefits arising from, the special holidays proclaimed by the President Jan. 29 and 31—shall be also governed by the Labor Code and its implementing regulations. Workers who report for work will get additional 30 percent of their regular rates. Those who do not will not be paid under the principle of "no work, no pay."

January 26—

THE PRESIDENT issued three decrees recently laying down additional rules on the holding of the local elections on Jan. 30, specifically on "flying voters," bloc-voting, and "turncoats." Presidential Decree No. 1668, designed to curb "flying voters," inserted a new section in the 1978 Election Code, providing for the postponement or suspension of election whenever the Commission on Elections finds that rampant irregularities had been committed in the preparation of the registry, of votes. PD No. 1667, dealing with "turncoats," provides that "it shall be unlawful for a registered or accredited political party to nominate and or support as its official candidate any person belonging to another accredited or registered party unless he has affiliated with, the nominating party at least six months before the election." PD No. 1666 sought to clarify the issue of bloc-voting. The amendment to the Election Code says: "Sec. 28-A. If a voter has written in the proper space of his ballot the name of the duly accredited political party which omitted or failed to include nominees for, provincial, city or municipal elective offices and, at the same time, wrote names of individual candidates in the spaces provided therefor corresponding to positions to which the political party did not nominate candidates, the ballot shall be counted in favor of the candidates nominated by the political party and the candidates whose names were written in the spaces provided for individual voting, even if not belonging to the said political party."

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, met at the Manila; International Airport Austria's Chancellor Bruno Kreisky and took him to Malacañang where he conferred with the President for more: than two hours. During the said conference, the visiting chancellor confirmed a \$150-million loan for Philippine community development plus another loan of still undetermined amount for any deserving project having a laudable social effect on the country. They also discussed the geopolitical situation in Europe and the Middle East as well as trade relations, economic and cultural exchanges, technology transfers, and other topics. Chancellor Kreisky is in the country for a four-day state visit.

January 27—

THE PHILIPPINES and New Zealand governments sealed recently a five-year energy agreement in simple signing rites in Malacañang. The President signed the memorandum of understanding between the two governments for the Philippines and Prime Minister Robert Muldoon in behalf of New Zealand. The formal signing took place shortly after the two chiefs of state conferred in the Palace a few hours after Minister Muldoon planed in aboard a Singapore Airlines flight.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: January 29 - February 19, 1980

OFFICIAL WEEKS IN REVIEW

January 29—

THE PRESIDENT issued a last-minute appeal to the electorate to vote for the candidates who will serve the nation best and to help in the conduct of an honest and clean election. In an interview with Malacañang newsmen at the National Regional Community Center in Barrio Mabilao in San Fabian, Pangasinan he also expressed confidence that the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan candidates will sweep the election tomorrow, the first to be held since 1971. The President, accompanied by Director Gregorio Cendana, officer-in-charge of the Ministry of Public Information, stopped over at the said barrio and at the Sta. Rita beach house in Agoo of Tourism Minister. Jose Aspiras to confer with local officials regarding the progress of various development projects before proceeding to Batac, Ilocos Norte where he will cast his vote.

THE FIRST Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos accorded Bruno Kreisky, federal chancellor of the Republic of Austria, a warm send-off. The head of state who was in the country for a three-day visit, started his last day in the country with an early breakfast with the First Couple at the Maharlika Guest House where he and his party; were billeted during their stay. The two heads of state exchanged their farewells at the Maharlika threshold after which they went in two different directions. The President started his trip northward to Laoag, Ilocos Norte to cast his vote in his hometown. Chancellor Kreisky, accompanied by the First Lady, headed south for the Manila International Airport.

January 30—

THE PRESIDENT and his daughters, Imee and Irene, cast their votes in Batac, Ilocos Norte at noon today. Asked how he felt to be voting for his son, Bongbong, he said: "It is something I have looked forward to." Bongbong, 22, is the official KBL candidate for vice governor of the province. Local leaders had teamed him up with his aunt, incumbent Governor Elizabeth Marcos Rocka. Bongbong Marcos is in the United States; working for his master's degree at the University of Pennsylvania.

THE FIRST Lady and Minister of Human Settlements Imelda Romualdez Marcos expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Robert D. Muldoon for supporting the geothermal energy development program of the country. The First Lady, in the absence of the President, led the official send-off for Prime Minister Muldoon at the Manila International Airport, who left after a four-day state visit.

EXPRESSING her confidence that the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan will win in this election, the First Lady cast her vote at Precinct 643, Zone 66, which is located at the V. Mapa High School on San Rafael, San Miguel, Manila. She was accompanied by Vice Governor Ismael Mathay Jr. and Manila City Mayor Ramon D. Bagatsing who is the official, KBL candidate for mayor of Manila. Noting that the elections had so far been peaceful and orderly, the First Lady enjoined the nation to go out and vote and prove to the whole world that the Filipino people have the maturity to hold peaceful and orderly elections.

January 31—

THE PRESIDENT thanked the people for the peaceful and orderly election. He also thanked the electorate for the overwhelming support for the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan. In a message made for broadcast in Northern Luzon, he expressed the gratitude of the Marcos family to the people of Ilocos Norte for having elected his only son, Bongbong, as vice governor of the province. Motoring back to Manila, he dropped by Agoo, La Union where he had a three o'clock lunch. There he also conferred with national, provincial and municipal officials headed by Tourism Minister Jose Aspiras, Engr. Bernardo Vergara, general manager of the Philippine Tourism Authority, Assemblyman Joaquin Ortega, a Governor Tomas Asprer and town mayors.

February 1—

THE PRESIDENT underscored recently the role of tourism as an “indispensable agent for peace and fruitful exchange between East and West,” especially in the face of current threats to the global order. Addressing the closing session of the 29th annual conference and workshop of the Pacific Area Travel Association (PATA) at the convention center, he drove home his message to the delegates: “We must think once more of tourism as a bridge—a bridge to understanding and knowledge among the nations and peoples of the world.” Before he delivered his address, he presented a plaque of special recognition of the services of the late Ambassador Modesto Farolan, acknowledged father of tourism in the Philippines.

KILUSANG Bagong Lipunan (KBL) continued to widen its lead over the opposition in all the country’s 13 regions, even as the victory of some of the KBL candidates was threatened in a few places in Mindanao. The KBL headquarters reported the ruling party was assured of winning at least 98 percent of the 16,065 local elective seats in the 73 provinces, 60 cities, and 1,501 municipalities, as well as in the two municipal districts.

February 2—

THE FIRST Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos led the nation in paying final tribute to Antonio J. Molina, National Artist for Music, who was laid, to rest at the *Libingan ng mga Bayani*. During the *Pagdadalamhati* (Necrological Services) for the late artist at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, the First Lady said “he had not really left us for he has given us his art and his music which will stay with us or always.” She cited among the famous compositions, of the late artist, the haunting and world famous *Hating Gabi, Ang Balingaw Choral Symphony*, which he regarded as his most significant composition, *Pandanguhan, Misa Antoniana* and a lot of others. Following her brief remarks, the First Lady, through whose initiative the Philippines is now witnessing the flowering of the arts, presented the National Artist Medal to Monserrat Molina Bejar and: Exequiel “Lito” Molina, who received it on behalf of their father.

February 3—

THE PRESIDENT ordered Major Gen. Fabian Ver of the National Intelligence and Security Agency and the Presidential Security Command, Philippine Constabulary Chief Major Gen. Fidel Ramos and Brig. Gen. Andres Ramos, commander of the Philippine Constabulary in Region IV, to take into custody and bring back to Batangas the provincial Comelec registrar, Fulgencio Castillo, so that the canvass of the election returns in the province can be resumed and completed. At the same time, he also ordered them to “see to it that the ballot boxes are doubly secured and in no way tampered “with.” The board of canvassers of Batangas were also ordered to conduct the canvass quickly and expeditiously night and day and to proclaim the winner without further delay and without prejudice to the rights of any candidate aggrieved to file a formal protest in accordance with the election law. The orders paved the way for the proclamation of Jose Laurel V, NP gubernatorial candidate, who was reported in earlier tallies as leading incumbent Gov. Antonio Leviste before the canvass was suspended by Comelec upon petition of the Leviste camp which alleged election law violations.

February 4—

THE PRESIDENT expressed hope for the stabilization of the sugar industry so that the technological advances” in production could work effectively. Speaking at the XVIIth Congress of the International. Society of Sugar Cane Technologists at the convention center, he asked the sugar cane technologists to continue their efforts with vigor, citing their contributions to the sugar industry which were characterized by the spirit of cooperation in technical research and the free exchange of technological information—resulting, in greater productivity. He said that while problems may arise from the instability of global trade, the long term stability of the sugar industry rests on the success of the efforts to maximize efficiency in production and reduction of production costs to levels which assure profitable prices in the midst of abundance.

DELIVERING the welcome address at the same convention, the First Lady and Human Settlements Minister. Imelda Romualdez Marcos reminded technologists that man is the core and focus of all development and that all

advances must be made to uplift him and serve his purpose. "We must aim for democratic technologies that will reach most and profit all," she added.

LATER at the Second Conference of Engineering Institutions of Southeast Asian Nations at the Philippine Plaza, the First Lady said that while development is economic stability, and, to others, the "acquisition of the good things in life, in the Philippines, it assumes a different imperative which is the whole of man—the core and focus of all development efforts and other priorities. She warned that the forces of development should not submerge man nor push him out of his center position, but must be the means to give him a better quality of life. She pointed out that the Philippines had evolved a humanistic approach in development which proceeds according to the needs of man.

February 5—

THE PRESIDENT met the general military council recently at Malacañang to assess and update security contingency plans in the light of the world tension brought on by the Kampuchean, Afghanistan, and Iranian conflict. He asked about the needs of the major services of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, asking each to list down its requirements and to draw up contingency plans to improve its capability.

EARLIER in the morning, the President received Habib Al Chatti, secretary-general of the Islamic conference, who came on a courtesy call. Chatti is in the country to observe the progress of various development projects being undertaken, by the government to uplift living conditions in Mindanao, particularly in Muslim communities, there.

February 6—

THE PRESIDENT issued an "arrest and seizure order (ASSO) against all drug pushers facing" charges before the courts but who are out on bail and continuing their nefarious activities. "I consider the drug pusher as a dangerous criminal in the same category as any of the subversives that seek to destroy our Republic," the President declared. Malacañang said that with the issuance of the ASSO, drug-pushers would no longer be released on bail.

MINISTER Ricardo G. Puno of the Ministry of Justice was directed by the President to investigate and prosecute reported violations of election laws and alleged irregularities committed during the last elections. The President identified at least three areas where irregularities were reported. They were in Batangas, Nueva Ecija, and Cabanatuan City.

THE PRESIDENT cited the need to strengthen the hand of the United Nations in the maintenance of peace, particularly in small developing countries such as the Philippines. "Today we see that the fabric of International Law and international relations prove to be weak in many ways, much more than expected when the UN was organized or even dreamed of," he said. He spoke before delegates from 47 countries attending the fifth session of the-Special UN committee studying ways to strengthen the UN role in peace-keeping.

THE FIRST Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos directed the Metro Manila commission to increase the number of medical teams serving the city's depressed areas because of the coming summer months when seasonal diseases are prevalent, particularly among children. She also ordered that a number of rolling stores serving these areas be doubled as soon as possible to ensure continuous supply of low-priced essential commodities to poor families and daily wage earners. She noted that MMC has only seven medical teams making daily visits to 126 known depressed areas in the four cities and 13 municipalities. She said this was not enough to cover effectively these places.

LABOR Minister Blas F. Ople directed three offices in his ministry to set up a wage and price stability council to monitor current wage and price trends. The creation of the council was made in the wake of an impending price increase in oil products. According to Minister Ople, the wage and price stability council would be made up mostly of people from the wage commission, institute of manpower studies and the labor statistics service.

February 7—

THE PRESIDENT announced the unanimous Cabinet decision to throw the entire tax burden on gasoline, “the rich man’s fuel” while not tacking on any new tax on diesel, kerosene, bunker oil and other petroleum products. As a result the price of gasoline will go up 50 percent; which means the price of a liter of premium gasoline, now P3, may become 4.50. This includes both the tax and the additional cost asked for by the oil companies. Ministry of Energy sources indicated, though, that for premium gasoline, the increase would be P1.33 per liter. For regular, which now sells at P2.80 per liter, the increase would be P1.173 per liter. Speaking to newsmen after the meeting of the Cabinet and the National Economic and Development Authority, said that this was to “save the common people from the burden of additional cost of oil products.”

EDUCATION ministers of Southeast Asia were asked by the President to take proper steps with the world crisis on education. He made this call in his keynote speech before the 15th Conference of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Council (SEAMEC) at the Manila hotel. Expressing confidence in the ministers’ ability to cope with the problems on the agenda, he counselled: “The Southeast Asia Ministers of Education would do well to hear international developments in mind in its deliberations.” He added that although nations have learned to live with crisis in the last 40 years, every crisis imposes new problems and burdens on “the nations’ education goals.

THE FIRST Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos reiterated the Philippine commitment to help refugees as she welcomed a fresh batch of 1,401 Vietnamese refugees from Malaysia at Napot point, Morong, Bataan. She flew to the refugee processing center in barangay Sabang, Morong, where she also greeted another group of 1,528 refugees who had been transferred to Bataan from Tara island in the “south. With her were US Ambassador Richard Murphy, Manfred Paeffgen, representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and retired Gen. Gaudencio Tobias, chairman of the National Housing Authority.

February 8—

THE PRESIDENT mapped out a seven-point agricultural program to cushion the impact of the world economic crisis. Addressing the golden anniversary celebration of the Bureau of Plant Industry at the Heroes’ Hall of Malacañang, he barred a wide-ranging agricultural program: 1) Full attainment of self-sufficiency in food crops through continued increase in cereal production. 2) Continued development of plants as sources of protein for the people. 3) Continued and intensified development of energy crops such as cassava, corn, and sweet potatoes. 4) Planting of a variety of exportable crops and development of import-substitute crops. 5) Quality improvement and greater production in the country’s traditional export crops. 6) Increase of farmers’ productivity and income through greater processing of farm products. 7) Institutionalization of multicropping strategy.

February 9—

THE PRESIDENT said he told Habib AI Chatti, secretary-general of the Islamic Conference, that the government would meet with whoever representative who could guarantee enforcement of whatever agreements arrived at “provided there are no pre-commitments and no publicity.” He told Chatti that “we do not wish to give a status of belligerency to the Moro National Liberation Front because from our point of view, they are Filipino nationals and not belligerent.” The two men agreed that the Mindanao issue should finally be settled.

February 10—

ALL city and municipal treasurers were ordered recently by the Ministry of Finance to submit immediately to the National Police Commission all documents required in the liquidation of salary subsidies granted to members” of the police forces. In a memorandum circular issued by Acting Deputy Minister Pedro M. Almanzor, treasurers were directed to submit without delay the transmittal letter, subsidy payroll, list of disqualified policemen and the acknowledgement receipt, which accompany treasury warrants drawn in their favor for payment of salary subsidies of the members of the police forces. The directive was issued following a letter by Defense Deputy Minister Jose M. Crisol, officer-in-charge of the Napolcom, saying that “municipal treasurers are not complying with our requirements, thereby giving us difficulties, in rendering reports to higher authorities regarding proper disposition of salary subsidies.”

February 11—

THE PRESIDENT called on the Batasang Pambansa to look into the flaws of the Jan. 30 election: some having to do with voter registration, some with the system of policing and balloting and others with political violence and intimidation of voters. In his report to the nation opening the second regular session of the Batasan, he called for a permanent registry of voters to be placed before the public view two weeks before elections, copies to be given all chairmen of citizens election committees. He also warned against increasing prices of oil and called on the people “to support the initiatives of government to conserve the use of energy.” He called on the legislators to pass a law imposing tax on air conditioning or motor vehicles.

EARLIER, the president observed that the results of the last local election has laid the groundwork for the victory of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan for the parliamentary elections of 1984. He made the observation during the caucus of KBL assemblymen, victorious provincial governors and city mayors at Malacañang this afternoon. Among the decisions arrived at the caucus: 1) That the election of barangay captains and other barangay officials be postponed indefinitely in view of the economic problems confronting the nation, as well as other problems spawned by the last election. 2) To encourage the development of a strong opposition, possibly the Nacionalista Party, under the parliamentary form of government. In this connection, he directed KBL lawyers to withdraw the petition filed with the Supreme Court questioning the status of the NP. 3) Assemblymen who ran and lost in the last local elections will be allowed to retain their seats at the Batasang Pambansa.

THE FIRST Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos called on mayors of Metro Manila “to create livelihood opportunities for the poor in their communities to offset effects of a higher cost of living precipitated by increased fuel prices and worldwide inflation. She stressed this MMC thrust in a dialogue with Metro Manila mayors after she inducted them in Malacañang. The Officials will formally assume their respective duties on March 3 as stipulated under the law. She urged the mayors to go to the people to ascertain and identify their needs as entry points of their 11 basic requirements.

THE PRESIDENT was presented a copy of a resolution approved by the AMVETS, an organization of American veterans of World War II, Korean and Vietnam, urging the United States congress to extend greater military and economic assistance to the Philippines. Joseph Korelewski, AMVETS national commander who made the presentation, informed the President that the resolution was unanimously approved in a regular meeting of the AMVETS national executive committee in Washington, D.C. Korelewski arrived in the country recently at the head of a group of American war veterans which participated at ceremonies commemorating the 35th anniversary of the liberation of the city. He and his group paid a Courtesy call at Malacañang recently.

February 12—

THE PRESIDENT issued an executive order creating a national coordinating committee for sports development and prescribing a uniform governing structure for accredited national sports associations. In Executive Order No. 579, he pointed out that various amateur sports organizations, otherwise known as the national sports associations, have been tapped to accelerate the task of developing respective sports. He said that the developmental activities of this various amateur sports organizations need to be coordinated in a meaningful manner consistent with national commitments to participate in regional and international competitions. Stressing the need to further rationalize the use of scarce resources to support the development activities of the national sports, associations, he ordered the creation of the national coordinating committee for sports development under the Ministry of Youth and Sports Development. The committee shall be composed of a deputy MYSD minister to be designated by the President as ex-officio chairman, and four members to be appointed by the President from among persons who have shown keen interest in sports development. Term of office of the appointive members, shall be at the pleasure of the President.

MALAYSIAN Foreign Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen called on the President at Malacañang and had an exchange with him on the latest world developments. In the 50-minute meeting, the Malaysian foreign minister gave the President his personal assessment of the Kampuchean and Afghanistan situations as well as his recent meeting with Vietnamese leaders in Hanoi. With Minister Rithauddeen were; Malaysian Ambassador Yusoff Zainai and

former Ambassador Abdul Hamid bin Pawanchee. Accompanying them was Deputy Foreign Minister Manuel Collantes.

February 13—

THE PRESIDENT ordered that three steps be considered immediately to further increase customs collections. These are: 1) Termination of the barter trade in the South; 2) Prevention of goods manufactured in the export processing zone from entering the domestic market; and 3) Agreement with the United States government for the taxing of PX goods entering the country. The ministries of finance, and trade, the National Economic and Development Authority, the Bureau of Customs and the Bureau of Internal Revenue will sit down to study the President's instructions. The directives were issued in the course of his speech during the 78th anniversary of the Bureau of Customs at the Port Area.

SPECIFIC instructions were given by the President to the National Economic and Development Authority and the Cabinet standing committee into reported violations of the three-month price freeze on basic commodities. Expressing concern over the implications of possible price violations of the government's price stabilization program, he told his "super Cabinet" it should determine whether violations, if any, would warrant the immediate reimposition of price controls.

ALL persons, regardless of party affiliation, who are found guilty of committing abuses and irregularities in the Jan. 30 election, will be punished according to the President. Director Gregorio S. Cendaña, officer-in-charge of the Ministry of Public Information, said that the President noted newspaper reports that the clergy in Zamboanga del Norte and Pampanga were taking to the pulpits to denounce election irregularities in their areas. Cendaña said the President "has taken positive steps to bring to justice all who tried to subvert the people's will in the last polls."

February 14—

THE PRESIDENT congratulated the Knights of Columbus and expressed profound appreciation for its services to the country and people during its 75 years of existence. He was keynote speaker at the opening of the diamond jubilee convention of the Knights of Columbus of the Philippines at the convention center. He pointed out that more than ever before, the high traditions of the organization—its civic activities, the quiet way in which it performs many services to communities, the inner passion it shows for the cardinal principles of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism—can teach leaders and statesmen in meeting the contemporary predicaments and anxieties today.

February 15—

THE PRESIDENT gave official recognition to two United States nationals who had made invaluable contributions to the country's economic development and the betterment of Philippine society. Conferred the Presidential Merit Medal was Raymond Shoff who had rendered valuable services to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) consultants team for almost eight years, from October 1970 to January, 1979. The Order of the Golden Heart was conferred to Peter T. McNeill in recognition of his distinguished service as leader of the USAID-NRECA rural electrification team for over five years, from October, 1974 to date of its stint here. In expressing gratitude on behalf of his government and people, for the honors bestowed on Shoff and McNeill, Ambassador Richard W. Murphy said that while the NRECA has always offered its expertise to developing countries, only the Philippines, which has adopted a self-reliance policy, has taken advantage of the offer, so that today there are about 1.5 million households organized into rural electric cooperatives. He expressed the hope that with this as the take-off point, the National Electrification Administration will carry on and rise to greater heights. Present at the ceremony were Philippine and US officials led by the First Lady and Minister of Human Settlements Imelda Romualdez Marcos Brig Gen Pedro Dumol of the NEA, Finance Minister Cesar Virata and others.

PRICE control, according to the President, would be imposed on nine food products tomorrow if reports reaching him of violations of his order freezing the prices of these commodities were confirmed by the Cabinet Standing Committee headed by Finance Minister Cesar Virata. The nine commodities are: canned fish (mackerel and sardines) canned milk (evaporated and sweetened condensed), poultry, eggs pork cooking; oil and sugar. The President

directed Minister Virata to look into reports of violations of his order and to prepare a decree controlling the prices of the paid commodities.

February 16—

THE PRESIDENT has authorized the release of P10 million to finance the program to produce alcogas as a substitute for premium motor fuel, in line with country's program to develop indigenous energy resources and lessen dependence on imported sources of energy. In Letter of Instructions No. 983, he said that in compliance with his directive to accelerate the program to produce alcogas, the Philippine Sugar Commission has entered into a lease contract with Victorias Milling Co. in Negros Occidental for the use of their distillery in the production of alcohol for blending into alcogas. He pointed out that because existing distilleries are geared only towards production of hydrous alcohol, which is incompatible for blending with gasoline, there is need to install a dehydration facility in Victorias to further process alcohol to the desired quality. He then directed the PNOC to submit to him a report, accounting for the disbursement and utilization of the fund.

February 27—

THE PRESIDENT called on the officers of the Philippine Association of Water Districts to adopt the policy of strict austerity in view of the problems brought about by rising oil prices. During the induction of the officers of the PAWD at the Mansion House, the President emphasized that everyone must be pragmatic and save money beginning with the government which has been ordered to cut spending by 10 percent in addition to previous cuts. Later, on request of the PAWD officials led by their national chairman, Moises Cating, the President directed LWUA General Manager Carlos Leaño, to submit as soon as possible a list of water districts classifying them into depressed or not depressed districts to determine which water districts will need a government assistance and which can stand on their own.

FORMER Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco died at 79 today of a stroke just two days after his birthday anniversary last February 15. As budget commissioner from February 15, 1960 to September 19, 1975, he served well beyond retirement age at the behest of the President. At one time he was concurrently the commissioner of import controls and of customs, after which he became deputy commissioner of the budget.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: February 18-28, 1980

President's Month in Review: March, 1980

President's Month in Review: April, 1980

President's Month in Review: May, 1980

President's Month in Review: June, 1980

President's Month in Review: July, 1980

President's Month in Review: August, 1980

President's Month in Review: September, 1980

President's Month in Review: October, 1980

President's Week in Review: November 1-23, 1980

President's Week in Review: November 24-29, 1980

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

November 24—

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) will launch a massive tax campaign next year against tax evaders.

BIR Commissioner Ruben Ancheta said in a speech before the Kagitingan Lions' Club of Makati that the BIR had already set up the machinery by bolstering the personnel of the BIR tax fraud division, obtaining a memorandum agreement with the Ministry of Justice to give priority to tax fraud cases, and giving the BIR regional and district offices the capability to investigate their own tax fraud cases.

November 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS moved to save the government's dialogue with the Moro National Liberation Front in Jakarta by expressing readiness to deal with MNLF leaders other than Nur Misuari.

Misuari, who claim leadership of the divided MNLF, has set back the Jakarta talks scheduled this month with the announcement through the foreign media that he intends to send only his representatives.

His presence at the talks was deemed necessary because any agreement reached in Jakarta would bind the remaining MNLF holdouts in the South.

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Starting Jan. 1, the government will relax import rules for more than 200 imported food products so low-income consumers can afford them.

Customs Commissioner Ramon J. Farolan said the Central Bank authority to import these food items will be scrapped.

Also, the customs duty on the more than 200 items will be reduced, from 100 to 80 percent.

* * * * *

Medical findings that link smoking to cancer have raised the moral issue of whether or not the government should encourage the production and consumption of tobacco, President Marcos said yesterday.

For this reason, the President said he has initiated the study on the replanting of tobacco lands to cotton.

This announcement on a possible shift in policy on tobacco was well received by the 39th plenary meeting of the International Cotton Advisory Committee which opened its conference at the PICC Nov. 24, 1980.

* * * * *

The Batasan passed on second reading a new law increasing the penalty for the corruption of minors. The penalty was raised from six months and one day to six years, to six years and one day to 12 years.

The approved measure also eliminated a requirement in the old law which said that for a person to be convicted of said crime, he should have habitually engaged in such misdemeanor.

The measure's principal author, Assemblyman Hilario G. Davide, Jr. of the minority Pusyon Bisaya defended the bill before the committee on revision of laws.

November 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS proposed the formation of an ASEAN economic community even as he underscored the necessity of a new constitutional framework for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations which, he said, would make for greater integration of the five ASEAN member-states and enable them to extend regional cooperation on a far broader range.

Addressing the opening session of the first General Assembly of the ASEAN Law Association at the Philippines International Convention Center, the President said that while development in contemporary times demands a more advanced state of economic integration, ASEAN's existing constitutional set-up is inadequate for the increasingly demanding role required of ASEAN for regional economic development.

He called upon the association membership to create an inter-governmental committee to work out the early attainment of this objective.

* * * * *

THE BATASANG PAMBANSA finally started plenary consideration of the proposed local government code. One of its features is a system of recall to weed out undesirables in local government units.

The final draft of the voluminous document (158 pages) was the result of more than two years of study and public hearings on various proposals for the full development of local units as self-reliant communities.

In a sponsorship speech, Local Government Minister Jose A. Roño said the local government committee followed the broad themes enunciated by President Marcos in drafting the proposed code.

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Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile said that contrary to what some sectors of the public think, the armed forces fully supports the government normalization moves which, barring unforeseen developments, are expected to culminate in the lifting of martial law next year.

The defense chief made this affirmation in a speech before a joint meeting of all eight Rotary clubs in this city and Cebu province.

Enrile also called on the opposition "not to foment violence or incite the people to take violence" against the government.

"It is the commitment of each and everyone now to dismantle martial law. This is imperative to the process of normalization which barring unforeseen development, is expected to culminate with the lifting of martial law by next year," he said.

US military bases in the Philippines, especially those at Subic Bay are probably the most important to the US Navy in the world says a report by the Georgetown University Center for Strategic and International Studies here.

The report calls the bases "simply irreplaceable" and says the United States must study how to keep them intact, minimize their cost and prevent their cost, and prevent their degradation.

* * * * *

Labor Minister Blas F. Ople said starting December, Filipino workers who have been evacuated from the war zones in Iran will return to that country after they were recalled by the construction companies that employed them.

The return of the Filipino workers was agreed upon after a series of consultations with Philippine contractors.

Ople revealed the mobilization of workers during talks with Labor Minister Ali Ahmed Al-Ansari of Qatar.

The guidelines for the immobilization plan are expected to be signed by Ople during the International Labor Organization meet for Asia and Pacific from Dec. 2 to 11.

November 27—

THE FIRST LADY, Imelda R. Marcos, expressed the hope that the ASEAN Law Association will come up with legal norms that would conform with the principles of basic human justice and compassion.

The First Lady advocated for “humane justice” at the special “Ladies Day” session of the assembly honoring the wives of the more than 1,500 delegates which include three chief justices, jurists and lawyers from Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, and the Philippines.

“I know that you the distinguished delegates of this august body will examine existing legal structures to see if they pass the test of concern and focus for the common man,” the First Lady said.

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THE ARMY has pulled out an entire brigade, two infantry battalions, and an artillery group from the Southern Philippines “because of the greatly improved peace and order conditions.”

The disclosure came in the wake of a statement made by Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile in Cebu City that “the problem posed by the Moro National Liberation Front has now been dissipated.”

Enrile attributed the breakthrough in the Mindanao conflict to the government’s policy of reconciliation which was won over-increasingly members of MNLF members and thereby isolated recalcitrant leaders of the secessionist movement.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS directed that two members of; the five-member Cabinet standing committee be rotated every three months starting Jan. 1, 1981.

The order was designed to give the other ministers the chance to participate in decision-making in the national level.

The Cabinet standing committee was created by the President early this year to act on matters requiring immediate action and which do not need the action of the President.

The President’s directive, contained in a memorandum addressed to Finance Minister Cesar Virata, chairman of the committee, Virata, Industry Minister Roberto Ongpin and Budget Minister Jaime Laya will remain as permanent members of the committee.

The two non -permanent slots in the committee will be rotated among the other minister every three months. There are 24 Cabinet ministers with portfolio.

The other member of the committee at present is Economic Planning Minister Gerardo Sicat, Former Public Highways Minister Vicente Paterno used to be the committee vice chairman.

* * * * *

EDGARDO J. Angara, president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, was elected president of the newly-formed ASEAN Law Association. The IBP is composed of the region's lawyers, judges and law professors.

Elected vice presidents were: Nasrun Shaharun, secretary-general, Indonesian ministry of justice; Lord President Tun Mohamed Suffian, Malaysian federal court; Dean Tan Sook Yee, Singapore; and Justice Sansern Kraichitti, Thailand.

Teuku Mohammad Radhie of the Indonesian ministry of justice was chosen secretary-general. The ALA secretariat will be set up in Jakarta.

November 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said the government is reestablishing its oil sources in the Middle East to keep the oil situation in the country stable.

He made this disclosure in an interview with newsmen on the 18th hole of the Puerto Azul golf course, where he is participating in the President Marcos Invitational tournament.

The President said that there is nothing to worry at the moment because the country's 120-day oil supply is still intact.

According to the President, Iraq has started to export oil through Turkey and "we would like to know what could be done, to resume the country's oil import from that country."

* * * * *

PRESIDENT MARCOS reaffirmed yesterday the country's commitment to the goal of a "just, comprehensive and lasting solution" to the Palestinian question based on the recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

The President renewed the commitment as he conveyed the greetings of the government and people of the Philippines to Falilou Kane of Senegal, chairman of the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestine people on the occasion of the Independence Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people which falls on Nov. 29.

November 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS created the Construction Industry Authority of the Philippines to give the fast-growing construction industry a bigger say in matters of concerning overseas contracts.

With a P5-million outlay to start with, the agency will rely heavily on the advice and expertise of the Philippine Contractors' Association.

The new agency, created through a presidential decree, will be headed by Industry Minister Roberto V. Ongpin. It will have six board members, among them Rodolfo Cuenca, president of the Construction and Development Corp. of the Philippines and the PCA president Antonio Diokno.

The CIAP will absorb the entire Overseas Construction Board, which until yesterday was the sole body supervising overseas contracts entered into with local construction firms. Its chairman, Ruben Ancheta, will now be one of the six board members of the CIAP.

* * * * *

“LABOR is people and solutions to labor problems must center on people.”

The First Lady, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, gave the reminder to delegates to the Eighth Conference of Asian and Pacific Labor Ministers. They are meeting at the Philippine Plaza Hotel, the third such conference in Manila.

Calling for humanity in labor, she said “man is more than just a factor of production, he is what it is all about.”

Mrs. Marcos gave her views on the four major topics of the conference—labor migration, protectionism, working conditions and regional cooperation—and called for bilateral and multilateral agreements to protect overseas workers.

She suggested a joint representation for overseas workers “such that, where we don’t have official representatives in a labor-importing country, we may ask Thailand or Indonesia to intervene for us in labor disputes.”

* * * * *

IRKED by the slow pace with which regular courts are prosecuting smugglers, Customs Commissioners Ramon J. Farolan recommended yesterday the creation of customs circuit courts to try smuggling cases exclusively.

“It will be the major deterrent against smuggling,” Farolan said, as he submitted his formal proposal to Finance Minister Cesar Virata.

As this developed:

—Airport customs authorities seized 1,350 8 oz. bottles of American-made coffee worth P1 000,000. Imported coffee in commercial quantities is banned as it competes with local coffee products.

—Airport authorities said they have uncovered a group forging documents to facilitate the release of cargo at a bonded warehouse at the Manila International Airport.

Farolan’s proposal to establish courts to try smuggling cases exclusively came a day after Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile issued orders for the military to step up the manhunt for 12 remaining suspects in South Harbor hijackings. Two of the suspects are said to be Chinese millionaires.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: December 1-6, 1980

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

December 1—

MALACAÑANG said the Philippine government has turned over to the United States government the evidence against Philippine and foreign terrorists based in the United States.

The evidence, consisting of a two-and-a-half-inch-thick sheaf of documents together with exhibits, was submitted to the US embassy.

Minister Estelito Mendoza, Philippine solicitor-general, said that the Philippine US governments have established a "satisfactory working procedure" regarding the investigation and prosecution of terrorists including those residing in the US.

Government sources said, by way of a backgrounder, that the opposition had originally adopted non-violent means in their efforts to "restore democracy in the Philippines." But they soon changed their strategy and tactics by adopting violent means including bombings and officials but of private businesses and people.

* * *

THE FIRST joint cooperation committee meeting between the European Economic Community and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations ended Saturday night with approval of a package of cooperation agreement.

In a joint statement, the committee established a working group to facilitate consultation trade issues related to commercial cooperation.

It also noted ASEAN's request for additional product listings in the new EEC general scheme of preferences (GSP) and reviewed the development of trade in textiles and other commodities of interest to ASEAN.

In a press conference after the closing session, Wilhelm Haperkamp, vice president of the Commission of the European Community External Relations said the EEC will apply the GSP for ASEAN for another 10 years.

December 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and New Zealand Prime Minister Robert Muldoon announced the organization of a firm under a joint venture which will provide engineering, technical, and related scientific services in the development of Philippine geothermal resources.

The new outfit, Philippine National Oil Company Geothermal Technology Corp., will be jointly owned by the PNOC and the Kingston Reynolds Thorn Allardice, a consultancy firm from New Zealand.

The announcement was made during a lunch given by the President in honor of Muldoon in Malacañang.

Muldoon arrived Sunday night to preside over a meeting of a special committee created by the International Monetary Fund to discuss the issue of Palestinian Liberation Organization representation in that body.

* * *

TAXPAYERS who did not pay their income taxes or those who filed erroneous or false income tax returns from 1974 to 1979 were given yesterday until June 15, 1981 to pay their correct income taxes.

This condition was among those laid down by the Bureau of Internal Revenue which issued the guidelines to implement Presidential Decree No. 1740. The decree condoned penalties for certain tax violations upon voluntary disclosure of undeclared income.

The tax condonation applies to resident citizens, non-resident citizens, resident aliens and estates or trusts.

The BIR said that those who did not pay income taxes from 1974 to 1979 will be allowed to file their tax returns, while those who declared inaccurate or false income will be allowed to amend their income tax returns.

* * *

THE EIGHTH conference of Asian-Pacific Labor Ministers yesterday urged developed countries to lower trade and tariff barriers to enable goods and services to flow more freely between countries in the region and other nations.

This was contained in a 10-page communique issued at the end of the four-day meeting held at the Philippine International Convention Center.

Assailing the protectionist policies of developed countries, the delegates who included 16 labor ministers in Asia and the Pacific, said more workers in the region have become unemployed due to such policies.

December 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS underscored the need for the workingmen to exercise their rights in accordance with public interest.

He said at the opening of the ninth International Labor Organization Asian Regional conference at the Philippine International Convention Center, that the freedom of the workingmen to organize is both “liberating and constraining.

The President admitted that the dignity of the workingmen cannot be dissociated from his right to form a union or to bargain from his employer.

However, he said, “where the right is exercised without regard for the public or national interest, and therefore ceases to be a right in order to become irresponsible license, the developing society as a whole feels both threatened and abused.”

* * *

A NATIONAL election for a transition President is expected to be held before the 1984 scheduled election for the regular National Assembly.

This was revealed yesterday by the Batasan special committee on constitutional amendments which indicated that the transition President to be voted upon will be empowered to supervise the running of the government during the transition period until members of the assembly are elected.

The plan was agreed upon in a meeting of the 46-member special committee which the Batasan created to study various proposals to amend the Constitution.

Majority Floor Leader Jose A. Roño, who was named chairman of the special body, hinted that the transition President will have all the powers of the President and Prime Minister as stipulated in both the 1935 and 1973 Constitutions.

December 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said yesterday he is ready to submit himself to an election if the Batasang Pambansa feels that there is need for a Presidential election even before 1984.

PRESIDENT MARCOS said he is ready to submit himself to an election if the Batasang Pambansa feels that there is a need for a Presidential election even before 1984.

A 46-man special committee studying constitutional changes, headed by Majority Floor Leader Jose Roño, has proposed the election of a transition president.

The proposed amendment would fix the end of the transition period at 1984 and provide for an election of a transition president to serve from 1980 to 1984.

Under the transitory provision of the Constitution, there is no fixed period for the transition period.

Some 350,000 public school teachers will be given P100 each next year by the government as cash assistance in buying teaching aids and classroom supplies.

Jesus T. Manipula, officer-in-charge of the Ministry of Education and Culture's financial management services, said the government has set aside P35 million for that purpose under the 1981 budget.

He said the amount is in addition to the classroom instructional material or allowance to be given to the teachers next year under the maintenance and operating funds of the MEC's school divisions.

Teachers have been encouraged by the MEC to prepare their own teaching aids such as flip charts, flash cards and pictures to improve their teaching standards.

December 5—

PRESIDENT MARCOS was assured by Batasan Majority-Floorleader Jose Roño that the opposition will be properly consulted regarding the proposed election for a transition president.

The President and Roño, head of the special committee on Constitutional amendments of the Batasan Pambansa, conferred in Malacañang on the three pending resolutions in the Batasan calling for the amendment of the Charter.

Roño informed the President that starting Tuesday, the opposition will be invited to give their views and to offer suggestions during the public hearing at the Batasan on the proposed Presidential election before 1984.

The special committee on Constitutional amendments had presented to the Batasan a resolution calling for the election of the transition President and the setting of a definite period for the transition.

* * *

THE FIRST LADY, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, has left for New York to attend to vital matters involving national security. This was disclosed by President Marcos in an interview with newsmen.

In a stopover in Honolulu, the First Lady addressed the Pacific Forum, which is a study group of Americans involving those of the present and the incoming administration.

"The First Lady has quite a lot in her hands," the President said as he enumerated the numerous things that the First Lady has to attend to in the United States.

THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos in a speech in Honolulu said the Philippines has attained significant breakthrough in its energy development that will help cushion the impact of the worldwide oil crisis.

The First Lady spoke before the Pacific forum seminar on the Makaha side of Oahu island being attended by some 50 American and Asian delegates. The seminar was held to discuss the US role in Asia and the concept of a Pacific community for regional consultation and cooperation

Mrs. Marcos arrived in Honolulu enroute to the US mainland to undertake a special mission for President Marcos.

Tuesday night, she was special guest at a dinner hosted by Hawaii Gov. George Ariyoshi and his wife.

In her speech, the First Lady said the Philippines has harnessed hydro and geothermal power as alternate sources of energy.

Aside from this, productive oil wells have been drilled in Palawan providing the Philippines with “at least 10 percent of our oil so we have to look for alternate sources,” Mrs. Marcos said.

The First Lady also told the gathering about prospects to transform the ipil-ipil into gas and into electric power.

* * *

THE SUPREME COURT paved the way for the government to collect unpaid taxes on “unreasonably accumulated” corporate surplus profits when it ruled that there is no time limit for the government to assess the 25 percent tax on such surplus profits.

The ruling was contained in the tribunal’s resolution reconsidering its decision of April 8, 1976, on the case of Commissioner of Internal Revenue vs. Ayala Securities Corporation and the Court of Tax Appeals.

December 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS convened the Batasang Pambansa into a constituent assembly from Monday, Dec. 8, to Dec. 19 to consider eight amendments to the Constitution.

Foremost among them are those calling for direct election of the President by the people and limiting his tenure as transition President to six years.

In his proclamation, President Marcos said the amendments are of crucial importance and dictated by recent developments. Without this urgency, he said, the amendments could have been considered in a Constitutional Convention like the one held in 1971.

However, the President said, irrespective of how the Constitution will be amended, a plebiscite must be held to determine whether the people approve of the changes.

The Batasan’s 46-man special committee on constitutional amendments presented to the assembly yesterday the following six changes, under resolution 272, to be known as the 1981 amendments.

* * *

A DECREE granting amnesty to offenders in cases of mere illegal possession of firearm, ammunition and explosive has been issued by President Marcos.

Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile said the new law, Presidential Decree 1745, was signed by the President last Nov. 20.

The decree is effective for three months or until Feb. 20, 1981, Enrile said.

As defined in the decree, illegal possession of firearms, ammunition or explosive shall be deemed simple if no other offense is committed with the use of such firearm, ammunition or explosive.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: December 8-14, 1980

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

December 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that those involved in the cold-blooded murder of a newsman in Iligan City Friday will be punished to the fullest extent of the law.

The assurance was given by the President in an interview with newsmen shortly before leaving for Paoay, Ilocos Norte, regarding the killing of *Bulletin Today* correspondent Demosthenes Dingcong.

“We will see to it that those involved in the atrocious murder (of Dingcong) will be punished,” the President stressed.

The President said that he has ordered the military and defense authorities to conduct an investigation.

In a telegram to the President, the National Press Club had sought the intervention of the President because “the case unveils a new threat to press freedom and undermines the normalization effort of the government.”

* * * * *

PRESIDENT MARCOS indicated he plans to lift martial law before the elections for the transition President expected to be held next April.

In an interview here with newsmen, the President said that elections can be held even with martial law. But he said he prefers that martial law shall have been lifted when the elections are held.

“It is a probability that martial law shall have been lifted before the elections,” the President said.

The President placed the possible date of the holding of the Presidential elections—the first since 1969—in April.

He recalled what he said last year that he would consider the lifting of martial law, imposed more than eight years ago, by March of next year and “I presume the elections will be after March.”

The President said it is hoped that the amendment to the Constitution would be approved by January by the constituent assembly which opens its session tomorrow in Quezon City.

* * * * *

December 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ruled out the granting of subsidy to political parties in the proposed election for a transition President expected to be held in summer next year.

In a talk with newsmen, the President pointed out that the granting of government subsidy or financial aid to political parties will only confuse politics in the country.

Some political sectors have proposed the granting of subsidy to encourage a strong opposition candidate in the coming elections.

The President said, however, the granting of such subsidy as in American elections will only “open the floodgates to nuisance candidates.”

“You will have the two political parties subject to the whims and caprices of nuisance candidates,” the President said.

* * * * *

THE BATASANG Pambansa convened as a constituent assembly to propose changes to the Constitution and prepare for the election of a transition President either in April or May next year.

The measures referred to the Batasan special committee which convened last night included:

Resolution No. 272 providing for the election of a transition President by popular vote, introduced by Majority Floor Leader Jose Roño and Assemblymen Ronaldo B. Zamora, Antonio Ceniza, Frisco San Juan and Arturo Pacificador.

Resolution No. 273 granting certain economic right to natural-born Filipino citizens but later naturalized in a foreign country, introduced by Assemblymen Mariano Agcaoili, Emilio Abello, and Manuel Garcia.

Resolution No. 274 seeking to remove present prohibitions on elective officials to accept additional posts in the government.

Resolution No. 277, granting to the Prime Minister immunity from suits during his incumbency, introduced by Assemblymen Pacificador, Espina and Albano.

Resolution No. 278 granting immunity to the president from suit for all his official acts performed, during his incumbency.

Resolution No. 280 seeking to lift present prohibitions on Batasan members to become deputy prime ministers, introduced by Assemblyman Manuel Garcia.

Resolution No. 281 granting representation to political parties in all election boards.

A resolution setting the transition period until 1984 after the members of the regular National Assembly shall have been elected.

* * * * *

PRESIDENT MARCOS approved the giving of Christmas bonuses to government employees and those in government corporations.

1. For national government employees—one week pay.
2. For local government employees—one week pay, provided money is available in the local unit’s coffers.
3. For government corporation employees—either one-month basic salary plus allowances or last year’s bonus, whichever is higher, provided the corporation is making money.

The President approved the bonus on recommendation of Budget Commissioner Jaime C. Laya “in recognition of the dedicated service rendered by government workers and the unusually high expenses normally incurred during the Christmas season.”

This is the first time since proclamation of martial law in 1972 that government workers will get a Christmas bonus.

* * * * *

December 10—

FOR Humanitarian reasons, President Marcos ordered the immediate release from military detention of former Senator Eva Estrada Kalaw, former Con-Con Delegate Ernesto Rondon, and 23 others,

All will be placed under house arrest.

One other accused, former Senator Raul Manglapus, although covered by the presidential directive, is in the United States.

Kalaw and her co-accused were arrested on Dec. 4 on orders of a seven-man military court headed by Brig. Gen. Pacifco Lopez de Leon.

Charges against them include illegal possession of firearms, ammunition and explosives, conspiring to assassinate the President, and conspiring to commit rebellion and inciting to rebellion.

* * * * *

December 11—

CHILDREN—both the gifted and the deprived—will come under a big plan of the President to give them most of the benefits of development. In a speech in Malacañang addressed to 600 delegates to the 2nd President's National Conference for the Development of Children and Youth, the President outlined his goals:

1. Immunization of every Filipino child below two years of age against tuberculosis and polio; and every seven-year-old against respiratory and communicable diseases.
2. Doubling day care centers in the barangay from the present 5,000 to 10,000 by 1985.
3. Further emphasis on mental feeding in the rural areas, including children's literature.
4. Creating more opportunities for gifted and talented children. Neither the energy crisis nor inflation will deter the government from pursuing these goals, the President said.

* * * * *

THE BATASAN asked President Marcos for more time to pass proposed amendments to the Constitution in its role as a constituent assembly.

An indefinite extension of the deadline was recommended by the special committee on constitutional amendments headed by Majority Floor Leader and Local Government Minister Jose A. Roño.

Under Proclamation 2040, the Batasan is to act as a constituent body from Dec. 8 to 19.

Assistant majority Floor Leader Arturo Pacificador observed that the public hearings on the proposals are scheduled up to Dec. 18, leaving the Batasan no time to debate on the proposed changes and pass them on second and final readings.

To facilitate discussions, the various resolutions proposing Charter amendments were grouped into four general topics:

The election of a transition president by a direct vote and the fixing of the end of the transition period in 1984;

The issue of succession of the Office of the President during the transition period;

The manner of electing the members of the regular National Assembly, a definition of the constituency for the election whether by district or by region or by any other constituency;

The accreditation of political parties, including the determination of which parties shall be entitled to representation in electoral bodies, and the definition of turncoatism.

* * * * *

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that the government will encourage more foreign investments “to help sustain the momentum of the country’s economic growth.”

In a talk with newsmen, the President said, “I am looking forward to encouraging more equity or outright investments instead of loans because the atmosphere seems to be just right.”

Already, the President said, several international banking institutions, including some in the United States and Japan, have openly pledged support to the country’s 11 major industrial projects.

He also mentioned bankers from West Germany, Sweden and Britain as among those interested in investing in the country, particularly in mining.

* * * * *

December 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said the Philippines would seek an active role in finding a “just and lasting” solution to the Iran-Iraq war, now on its 81st day.

He said it would be possible for the country to participate actively in this effort by virtue of its membership in the United Nations Security Council.

The President made this assurance to Dr. Saadoun Hammadi, foreign minister of Iraq, who called on him at Malacañang.

President Marcos underscored the vital role played by the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, in the renewal of the government contract for the Philippines to import crude oil from Saudi Arabia.

The President said that the First Lady went to the United States for various missions but that the most important was on oil and the reinstatement of the Philippines in the good graces of Saudi Arabia.

He said that the First Lady had to go to New York to talk to Middle East representatives and other officials because the cancellation of the government contract to import oil from Saudi Arabia became a political matter.

“It was necessary for the First Lady to personally go because the alternative was for me to go and explain what had happened (in Mindanao).”

* * * * *

THE SAUDI ARABIAN government has agreed to renew the contract of the Philippines to import crude oil from that Middle East country.

President Marcos announced this during his speech at the ceremonies commemorating the 7th anniversary of the Philippine National Oil Company at Malacañang.

The President read a telegram from Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Achmed Zaki Yamani which, in effect, “reinstated the Philippines in the good graces of the Saudi Arabian government.”

The renewal of the government-to-government contract restores a 10,000-barrel daily supply for the Philippines.

* * * * *

December 13—

THE BATASANG Pambansa spelled out in two separate resolutions filed the rule on succession to the presidency during the transition period which ends in 1984.

One resolution provides that before the end of the transition period, the successor to the President/Prime Minister as determined by law in case of the latter’s death or permanent disability shall, within six months following his assumption of office, submit himself to a plebiscite called by, the Batasan for the purpose of affirming the mandate of his leadership.

The other resolution provides that in case of death, resignation, or permanent disability of the incumbent President/Prime Minister, the speaker shall act as Prime Minister until the Batasang Pambansa convenes and-elects the Prime Minister within 72 hours.

The two resolutions seek to amend Presidential Decree 1514 which provides that the speaker shall act as acting President and perform the duties under the Constitution and then call the Batasan to session and elect the successor.

* * * * *

PRESIDENT MARCOS said it was his intention to lift martial law “by the end of January”—if all legal questions on the matter are resolved by then by the Supreme Court.

Chief Justice Enrique M. Fernando said in an interview that “martial law” cases pending with the high court would be resolved before the end of January.

In a speech before the University of the Philippine Law Alumni Association at its homecoming the President also announced he would release before Christmas all persons charged merely with illegal possession of firearms if these guns had not been used in crimes.

In his 45-minute address, the President ordered the release from military custody of Nilo Tayag and Leoncio Co, president and secretary general, respectively, of the Kabatang Makabayan, described by the military as a subversive group, Tayag was convicted of violation of the anti-subversion law (RA 1700) and Co had a pending case on the same charge. Both were released for humanitarian reasons.

The President also:

Declared that a plebiscite on constitutional amendments would cost P75 million, a presidential elections P80 million, and a “misdirected” election P200 million.

Urged adoption of a Constitutional amendment setting a mechanism for the succession to the presidency.

Proposed the holding of public hearings on the proposed election of a transition President, stressing that the people, including the opposition, must decide whether they want such an election before the election in 1984 of members of the regular National Assembly.

Asked the Batasang Pambansa to resolve the issue of whether the elections shall be by district, as mandated by the Constitution, or by region as now proposed by certain sectors.

Urged opposition groups to unite to resolve the issue of accreditation in political bodies such as the boards of election inspectors and canvassers.

Expressed determination that while he wanted the active participation of the opposition, he was opposed to the participation of those who have sought the violent overthrow of the government.

The proposals were among several resolutions introduced in the Batasan.

December 14

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered the immediate enforcement of a general order which grants bail to certain criminal offenders arrested under the strength of an arrest, search and seizure order.

General Order 68 also expanded the coverage of the ASSO to include not only crimes which directly affect or undermine national security but also those which do not directly affect security but are so pernicious; as to frustrate the goals of government.

Under the order dated Oct. 20, 1980, any offender arrested either through an ASSO or court order may be released from detention upon the filing of charges against him and upon his posting of bail.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: December 16-22, 1980

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

December 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered the buying of copra under a price support scheme to enable the farmers to maintain their income until the price in the world market improves.

The price of coconut oil in the world market: has dropped from 28 US cents a pound to as low as 23 cents a pound. This drop would result in a copra mill gate price of P100 per 100 kilos.

“A price support scheme is needed to maintain the farm gate income of our coconut farmers until we can get better prices for our coconut oil.” the President said.

* * *

THE BATASAN special committee on constitutional amendments approved a proposal granting certain economic rights to overseas Filipinos subject to enactment of the assembly.

In a marathon session, presided over by Local Government Minister and Majority Floor Leader Jose A. Roño, the committee also recommended that a date of the election for members of the regular National Assembly be fixed on the second Monday of May, 1984.

The committee agreed to scrap a provision in Batasan Resolution No. 28 prescribing a specific area of real estate an overseas Filipino wishing to return may acquire in the Philippines. The resolution, introduced by Assemblymen Emilio Abello, Mariano Agcaolli, Manuel Garcia and 30 others, seeks to grant certain economic rights to natural-born Filipino citizens who have been naturalized in a foreign country, like owning a piece of land.

* * *

PRESIDENT MARCOS has authorized the release of P40 million for the repair of schoolbuildings, ports and flood control projects in five regions badly hit by typhoon “Aring.”

Public Works Minister Alfredo L. Juinio said the President authorized the release of the amount, or 50 percent of the P80 million needed for the repair of the projects.

The amount was based on reports on the extent of the damage in Regions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

* * *

PRESIDENT MARCOS instructed Health Minister Enrique Garcia to review the government's medical care program in view of the rising cost of hospitalization.

The President gave the instruction after his talks with Dr. Constantino Hawaiian and Dr. Raul Fores, director and assistant director respectively of the Makati Medical Center, who called on him at Malacañang.

* * *

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered the investigation of the Food and Drug Administration for alleged irregularities.

The President directed Health Minister Enrique Garcia to conduct the probe and authorized him to call for legal assistance from other government agencies.

The FDA has been under fire from Batasang Pambansa members and from some sectors of the public for reported “acts of commission and omission that endanger the public health.

December 17—

PRESIDENT MARCOS asked the Batasang Pambansa to decide before Christmas whether or not to hold this summer an election for a transition President.

The President pointed out that there may not be enough time to hold an election this summer if a decision is not made as soon as possible.

“If there is a plan to call an election by not late than May during summer when the season is good for campaigning, they should make the decision now,” the President said.

The matter will still have to be submitted to a plebiscite, which will take one or two months, he added. This will be followed by a two-month campaign period.

* * *

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that the First Lady might have to go to Saudi Arabia to follow up Philippine request for more Arab oil.

The President said that the First Lady is trying to see some of the high-ranking officials of the Islamic Council.

The First Lady left for the United States early this month on a special mission for the President, the principal one of which is to look for more sources of oil.

* * *

PRESIDENT MARCOS directed the PC and the police to “spare no one” in going after the killers of former governor and opposition leader Jose Lingad of Pampanga.

The President instructed police authorities “to arrest and immediately prosecute and punish whoever is guilty.”

He decried the killing which, he said, was “not any different from the terrorism that I have been denouncing for the past several months.”

December 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS was assured that Abu Dhabi is always ready to help the Philippines meet its oil requirements.

This assurance was conveyed to the President, by Dr. Mana Saeed al Otaiba, minister of petroleum and minerals of the United Arab Emirates and former president of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, after the latter was conferred the Sikatuna Award.

“We have oil and whatever we have we are prepared to contribute to enable your country to reach the target which you are aiming to reach.”

* * *

MALACAÑANG announced the acceptance by President Marcos of the resignation of Amado G. Inciong as deputy minister of labor.

Malacañang said the President accepted with “reluctance” Inciong’s resignation in a letter dated Dec. 15. The President, acknowledged Inciong’s “high degree of competence and dedication and his contribution to labor administration which are of highest significance.”

Inciong’s letter of resignation, dated Nov. 25, was announced by Labor Minister Blas F. Ople.

* * *

THE BATASAN special committee on constitutional amendments appeared set to reject proposals to hold a national election next year for a transition President.

Nothing what they said was the growing sentiment against such an election as expressed in public hearings conducted by the Batasan throughout the country, a majority of the committee’s 60 members said that they will vote against the proposal when it is presented for approval.

The special committee on character amendments will meet en banc today to make a decision on proposals to hold a transition election.

A bi-partisan group of assemblymen, meantime, drew up a new resolution seeking, the abolition of the position of the ceremonial president as provided in the present constitution.

* * *

ALL JUDGES and employees—except those disqualified for “sufficient reason —will be reappointed if the proposed reorganization of the judiciary is approved.

President Marcos gave this assurance to allay fears of some members of the judiciary that the proposed reorganization, now pending approval of the Batasang Pambansa, would result in mass lay-offs.

“I would like to emphasize that if this reorganization is carried out as now proposed, the policy shall be that all incumbent shall be re appointed unless there is good reason for their non-reappointment to the new positions,” the President said.

December 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus will remain suspended in the two autonomous regions in Mindanao and other troubled areas even if martial law will be lifted.

The President explained that it is necessary to suspend the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus in certain areas to keep peace and stability in the country.

The President also assured that the gains of the New Society will be protected by existing laws which will continue even after the lifting of martial law.

The suspension of the writ allows the military to arrest civilians without securing warrants from civilian courts and to detain them indefinitely.

* * *

PRESIDENT MARCOS and visiting Saudi Arabian Minister of State Fayez Ibrahim Badr pledged closer economic and technical cooperation between their countries.

During a luncheon tendered by the President in honor of the visiting dignitary and his party, the President conveyed his gratitude to the Saudi Arabian government for its “understanding of the problems confronting the country and its readiness to help.”

The President expressed gratitude, particularly for the continued supply of Saudi crude oil to the Philippines, the \$1-million assistance for the amelioration of Muslim Filipinos through roads and irrigation projects, and the establishment of the Islamic Institute at the University of the Philippines.

* * *

THE BATASAN special committee on constitutional amendments voted against the election of members of the regular National Assembly by district and opted instead for regional elections.

In another action, the committee also formally turned down two resolutions seeking the election next year of a transition President.

The committee decision to reject the transition presidential election was influenced by public clamor in recent public nationwide hearings.

December 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered the military to turn over the subversion and sedition cases against former Sen. Eva Estrada Kalaw and former Constitutional Convention delegate Ernesto Rondon and their 24 co-accused to the civil courts for trial.

Malacañang said the President’s order is in line with the policy of reconciliation and normalization.

Kalaw and Rondon are part of a group, which also includes former Sen Raul Manglapus, accused of subversion and plotting to topple the government by seizing Camp Aguinaldo and assassinating the President.

The case is pending before Military Commission No. 34, headed by Brig. Gen. Pacifico Lopez do Leon.

* * *

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that plans to lift martial law before the end of January still stand notwithstanding the decision of the Batasang Pambansa to scrap the election for the transition President.

The President said that with no elections to prepare for, there will be more time to work out “the more complicated problems” attending the move toward normalization.

The President cited the Security Code, a compilation of orders, decrees and decisions promulgated by him, and the Public Order Act, which deals with some rights of an individual.

December 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS granted amnesty to 1,200 persons and ordered the temporary release of 530 others detainees all over the country.

Those granted amnesty are either under arrest or investigation, on trial or convicted of charges of simple illegal possession of firearms and ammunition or explosives.

The granting of amnesty and temporary release of these individuals is considered another move by the President to hasten efforts at normalization.

The President first announced his intention to release all prisoners who have been charged merely with illegal possession of firearms but who have not utilized these firearms for the commission of any crime during his speech at the University of the Philippine alumni celebration last Dec. 12.

* * *

WITH PROPER training and facilities, the Filipinos can become Olympic champions.

This observation was relayed by American Olympic swimming champion Mark Spitz yesterday to President Marcos in a brief exchange of views at Malacañang.

Spitz, is in the country to give clinics during the current national championship on the invitation of Ambassador Roberto S. Benedicto, the project director for the sport of swimming.

* * *

PRESIDENT MARCOS witnessed yesterday the signing of a technical cooperation agreement for the development, management and operation of ports between the Philippine Ports Authority and the Saudi Ports Authority.

The agreement was signed in simple ceremonies at Malacañang by the Saudi Minister of State Fayez Badr, who is also chairman of the board Saudi Ports Authority, and Public Works Minister Alfredo Juinio, PPA chairman.

The President and Saudi Ambassador Fauzi Shoboksi signed the agreement as witness.

December 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS granted amnesty to 1,457 former rebels belonging to the Communist Party of the Philippines' New People's Army and the Moro National Liberation Front in a gesture of national unity and reconciliation.

The President's move raised to 2,657 the total number of persons given executive amnesty this week. Yesterday, 1,200 persons were included in a presidential amnesty order.

All were either under arrest and investigation, trial or convicted of simple illegal possession of firearms, ammunition and explosives.

In addition, the President directed yesterday the temporary release of 530 detainees all over the country accused of various minor crimes, including involvement in offenses against public order.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: December 23-25, 1980

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

December 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS listed some of the implications of the lifting of martial law, especially as it affects individual rights. He discussed them in his speech at the AFP Day celebration at Camp Aguinaldo.

They are:

1. The President will stop making laws, a function reserved for the Batasang Pambansa.
2. The President will stop issuing arrest, search and seizure orders (ASSOs).
3. Curfew will not be imposed, except in the few critical places where martial law may be retained.
4. The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus will be restored, except in cases involving public order or security.
5. Movements of individuals will not be curtailed.
6. The press will have greater freedom and access to information, but the media councils and censors board will stay.
7. The freedom of peaceful assembly will be enhanced, except when used to torment disorder, sedition and rebellion.

* * *

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered the dismantling of military tribunals and detention centers to help complete “the process of bringing martial law to a close.”

The President issued the orders during his speech at the commemoration of the 45th anniversary of the armed forces at Camp Aguinaldo.

With the dismantling of military tribunals, which were set up more than eight years ago with the proclamation of martial law, all cases before the tribunals, except those cases already submitted for decision, will be transferred to the civil courts.

There are 11 military commission and provost courts, 32 of which were set up last August, and 14 detention centers, including two in Metro Manila.

December 24—

THE FIRST LADY, Imelda R. Marcos, came home laden with gifts for the Filipino people—oil from Saudi Arabia and strengthening of relationship with the incoming administration of US President-elect Ronald Reagan.

After a 20-day trip that took her to two thirds of the world from Hawaii to North Africa on official missions for President Marcos, the First Lady reported that her talks with the incoming Reagan administration was undertaken at the “highest level and with only positive results.”

On negotiations for oil, the First Lady said she:

—Succeeded, with the help of Prince Fadh, Prince Saud, and Ambassador Shoboksi, Saudi Arabia ambassador to the Philippines, in asking King Khalid of Saudi Arabia to restore the supply of oil to the Philippines. The country gets 50 percent of its oil needs from Saudi Arabia.

—Negotiated with Middle East suppliers of crude oil in the United States for a steady supply of crude oil for the country.

—Sought the cooperation of the American Petroleum Institute for the acceleration of the drilling program in the Philippines.

—Obtained the assistance of scientists of the National Academy of Sciences in the United States for the broadening of applicable technology in the development of local energy resources.

* * *

SAUDI ARABIAN OIL Minister Sheik Ahmed Zaki Yamani said he hopes that the friendly relations between the Philippines and his country will grow stronger and deeper.

Yamani expressed this hope after the conferment on him by President Marcos of the ancient Order of Sikatuna, rank of datu, in recognition of his invaluable services as one of the world's most distinguished statesmen.

In accepting the "great honor," Yamani said he would "try (his) best to translate (his) feelings into action rather than words, and will go home with best memories of my visit to this great country and the overwhelming hospitality extended to me and my wife."

December 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has ordered the release of two American pilots who landed Nov. 12 at the Manila international airport with an unauthorized load of Claymore mines and other explosive devices.

In a directive issued on Christmas Day, the President set the two Americans—Duane Heist, 33 and Robert Rummel, 30—free under the principle of "nolle prosequi," which meant that they were forgiven for whatever violations of Philippine laws they have committed.

The two pilots were held by the authorities after they landed at the Manila international airport on a twin-engine Aero Commander with the mines and other explosive devices.

* * *

PRESIDENT MARCOS has appointed Assistant Minister Vicente Leogardo Jr. and Labor Relations Director Carmeio C. Noriel as deputy ministers of the Ministry of Labor and Employment.

Labor Minister Blas F. Ople recommended the appointment of the two to fill up two slots for deputy ministers, including the one vacated by resigned Deputy Minister Amado G. Inciong.

Until his appointment to his new post as deputy minister, Leogardo was officer-in-charge of the office of Deputy Minister Inciong.

METRO Manila Gov. Imelda R. Marcos has earmarked some P1 million for the squatters who may wish to return to their hometowns.

Vice Gov. Ismael Mathay Jr. made the announcement as he ordered a stepping up of the “Balik-probinsiya” program.

Mathay said the First Lady has assured the squatter families of the government’s assistance under the dispersal program launched two years ago.

An average of 150,000 migrants stream motropolis every year and the population may reach 18 million by the year 2000 if nothing is done to contain them Mathay said.

* * *

PRESIDENT MARCOS appointed two deputy labor ministers and shuffled two ambassadors.

Named were Vicente Leogardo Jr. and Carmelo Noriel two veteran officials in the labor ministry. Reassigned were Ambassador Rafael Ilete and Manuel Yan.

Ilete was transferred from Iran to Thailand while Yan was sent to Indonesia.

The new deputy labor ministers were recommended by Minister Blas F. Ople who cited the youth, integrity and competence of the appointees.

* * *

PRESIDENT MARCOS said the strike ban in vital industries will remain even after martial law is lifted to prevent sudden dislocation in the economy.

There has been some apprehensions in the business community that with the lifting of martial law next month eight years of industrial peace will be threatened.

While stressing that he will not agree to any sudden dislocation of the economy, the President said that he will consult with both labor and management leaders to work out a plan to gradually phase out the strike ban in vital industries.

* * *

PRESIDENT MARCOS was informed by the United States embassy that the two American pilots ordered by the President released from Philippine custody last Christmas Day and their employer have waived all claims to the explosives and related devices confiscated from them by the Philippine government.

* * *

PRESIDENT MARCOS declared that even with the lifting of martial law next January the policy that there should be no strikes in essential industries would stand.

This policy would stand, he told Malacañang reporters in an interview, “until we can get everybody settled down.”

He allayed fears of business sectors that the lifting of martial law next month would bring on a spate of strikes, adding that industrialists need not fear “that there will be sudden dislocations, sudden changes.”

The President said that the no-strike policy is a part of the Labor Code, General Order No. 5, and other special laws.

* * *

THE BATASANG Pambansa, sitting as a constituent assembly, decided to conduct more public hearings on five major political issues to enable it to finalize proposed amendments to the Constitution and submit them to the people for approval in a plebiscite.

Speaker Querube C. Makalintal urged citizens in the Bicol region and Western Visayas to participate by sending representatives to the hearings scheduled for Jan. 8-10 in Iloilo City, Legaspi City, and Naga City on the following issues:

1. A constitutional provision which would guarantee that in a regional election for members of the regular National Assembly each province will have at least one seat.
2. Accreditation of political parties and their representation in all election boards.
3. Succession to the presidency during the period of transition.
4. Prohibiting elective officials to occupy other government positions during their tenure.
5. Immunity of the President and Prime Minister from suit for official acts during their tenure.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: December 26-31, 1980

Official Week in Review: December 29, 1980 – January 2, 1981

December 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS appointed Minister Juan Tuvera as presidential executive assistant and presidential staff director Joaquin Venus, Jr. as deputy presidential executive assistant with the rank of minister.

The President also signed the promotion of Commodore Simeon Alejandro, flag officer-in-command of the Philippine Navy, to the rank of rear admiral.

Tuvera succeeds Secretary Jacobo Clave, who was designated presidential adviser on civil service and government reorganization affairs. Clave is concurrently vice governor of Pangasinan.

* * *

THE UNITED STATES government is expected to have a tougher policy against terrorists under the in-coming Reagan administration.

This assessment was made yesterday by President Marcos in a talk with newsmen as he noted the irritation by President-elect Ronald Reagan over the prolonged captivity of 52 American hostages in Iran.

The President said that he is certain that the adviser of Reagan have told him of how the permissiveness of the United States has helped to develop the terrorist organization not only those operating against the Philippines but also against other countries.

“Good sense, rationality and a wider perspective will now compel the United States to enforce its own laws” against foreign terrorists or political dissidents, the President said.

December 31—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said he is retaining certain powers to prevent anarchy once martial law is lifted.

The first of these is the right to suspend the writ of habeas corpus in the event of any plot or conspiracy against the Republic and there is evidence about these. The other is his power to call out the armed forces to stop any disorder, riot or rebellion.

The President stressed these safeguards’ significance in the normalization process in his speech before a joint affair of the Annac Ti Batac and the Bataquenna Jaycees at the Imelda Cultural Center in Batac, Ilocos Norte.

January 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said he plans to release all subversion suspects under detention, except those whom he described as “viciously militant.”

In a brief talk with newsmen, the President said “I am considering actually forgiving everybody, as many of them as possible, and turning them into productive members of society.”

Although the President had ordered the release or granted amnesty to a large group of detainees under arrest or convicted of simple illegal possession of firearms or explosives or facing subversion charges, a number of those accused of major crimes against the state are still under detention.

Source: Supreme Court Library

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1981). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 77(1), iii.

President's Week in Review: January 5-8, 1981

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

January 5—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered an immediate census of disabled persons in the country to determine their exact number and to give agencies working for their rehabilitation an accurate assessment on their needs.

At the launching the International Year of Disabled Persons at the Philippine International Convention Center, the President said all local officials will be mobilized to ascertain the number of disabled in their areas so that program” can be based on accurate statistics and not just on speculations and postulates..”

The President made the observation after Dr. Antonio O. Periquet, IYDP secretary-general, said there are 4.8 million disabled in the country based on the statistical formula that 10 percent of any given country’s population is disabled.

* * * * *

PRESIDENT MARCOS is scheduled to convene the Cabinet at 11 a.m. today to take up the implications of the lifting of martial law this month.

Also invited to the meeting, the first this year, are key military officers, including Gen. Romeo Espino, AFP chief of staff.

Malacañang sources said the budgetary implications of the lifting of martial law will be among the main points.

After announcing that he will lift martial law before the end of January, the President directed his ministers and other government officials to study the effects of the lifting of the emergency rule on the functions of their ministries and offices.

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January 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered the suspension of all permits to carry firearms outside places of residence, except for a limited group of individuals.

The order, issued during a three-hour meeting of the Cabinet, was one of the measures taken by the President in preparation for the lifting of martial law before the end of the month.

Exempted from the ban to carry guns outside their residences are persons who have actually received threats and have to carry guns for protection, and certain persons holding positions of authority like judges, fiscals, military officials, and those on official duty.

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January 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said the energy development program will be given top priority by the government this year.

Disclosing his projections for 1981, the President said that energy development is still the main concern of the government because of the escalating prices of crude oil.

After energy, the other projects to be pursued by the government are the 11 industrial projects costing some P6 billion, labor-intensive projects and short-gestation, productive enterprises.

* * * * *

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered the adoption of an improved routing of papers to Malacañang by making the office of the Presidential executive assistant as the executive officer of the office, responsible for all incoming and outgoing communications, papers and documents.

The President directed that all papers from the ministries, bureaus, offices, government-owned or controlled corporations, as well as from the private sector shall be coursed through the office of the Presidential executive assistant.

The following exceptions were, provided:

1. All papers requiring action within 24 hours.
2. All papers containing information that the President Prime Minister must know immediately.
3. All papers arriving in Malacañang after 6 p.m.
4. Papers of a personal nature.

These papers shall be coursed through the President's private offices headed by Col. Irineo Zabala.

* * * * *

THE FIRST LADY, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, met with leading industrialists and businessmen to pave the way for open communications and better relationship between the government and the private sector.

The First Lady said she sees the importance of this partnership particularly now, she said, "when the climate is favorable for investments abroad."

"The government and the private sector have to work hand in hand for each other's mutual advantage," the First Lady said.

* * * * *

PRESIDENT MARCOS called on the local women's movement to align its program of action in the next five years toward advancing the cause of Filipino women "amid uniquely Philippine conditions."

In a message read for him by Labor Minister Blas F. Ople before the Second National Women's Congress at the Philippine International Convention Center, the President gave his encouragement and support to the movement's plan of action which integrates its feminist goals with national development objectives.

"The task at hand is to apply these strategies and tactics to advance the cause of women amid uniquely Philippine conditions," the President said.

* * * * *

January 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and Japanese Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki will take up measures to boost economic cooperation between their countries and assess regional security during their talks this afternoon in Malacañang,

Although there is no prepared agenda, the two leaders are expected to exchange views on a wide range of subjects, including the conflicts in the Middle East and Kampuchea.

The only scheduled talk between the President and his guest will start at 4:45p.m., barely three hours after the arrival of the Japanese Prime Minister for the first leg of his 13-day tour of ASEAN countries.

* * * * *

PRESIDENT MARCOS conveyed to Pope John Paul II the Filipino nation's "great anticipation of your historic visit on the third week of February." This was contained in the President's response to the Day of Peace message of the pontiff. The message called for peace built upon justice, which President Marcos referred to as a "reverential plea (which) gives the world the most needed hope that peace is still an attainable dream."

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: January 12-18, 1981

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

January 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has called a meeting of the National Security Council on Jan. 15 to review the security situation in preparation for the lining of martial law, most likely on Jan. 17.

The expanded NSC meeting will include not only the regular council members but also the General Military Council, all task force chiefs and PC provincial commanders.

Normally, NSC meeting are attended only by the President, the defense minister, the AFP chief of staff, chiefs of the major service commands, the commander of the Presidential Security Agency, the foreign affairs minister, the justice minister and other Cabinet members who may be called by the President.

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January 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS declared six provinces and three cities in Northern Mindanao under a state of calamity following continuous rains that flooded 24 towns and killed at least 18 people since Dec. 19.

The President issued the declaration in response to the request of provincial government officials who have been coordinating relief operations in the flooded areas which had displaced 9,015 families or 50,377 persons.

Government relief agencies had initially placed the damage to both public and private properties at P50 million, but destruction could be much more once final reports are completed.

* * * * *

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that decisive changes in various sectors last year, including sports development, indicate bright prospects for the Filipino athlete.

The President, gave this optimistic assessment in a speech read for him by Michael M. Keon, president of the Philippine Olympic Committee during the awarding ceremonies for the Outstanding Athletes for 1980 under the auspices of the Philippine Sportswriters Association at the Philippine Plaza.

He stressed that sports development is part of national development of any country.

* * * * *

THE FIRST LADY, Imelda R. Marcos, hailed the municipality of Navotas as an example of what a small community with limited resources can do in a program of development and emerge ahead of bigger and richer towns and cities engaged in the same endeavor.

Mrs. Marcos presented Navotas Mayor Victor B. Javier P1 into for his municipality as over-all winner in the Town Hall Plaza Improvement and Beautification Contest and two other prizes of P100,000 each for topping the office interiors and building exterior categories of the contest.

A total amount of P2.5 million was awarded by the First Lady to the winners of the contest. Second-placer Mandaluyong won P500,000. Parañaque, which placed third, won P200,000.

The other five runners-up were awarded F100.000 each. They are Malabon, San Juan, Manila, Caloocan, and Pasig, in this order.

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January 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS appointed Manuel S. Alba as acting minister of the budget.

The President told Alba to start discharging his duties immediately and to furnish the Office of the President and the Civil Service Commission with the copies of his oath.

Alba, 38, replaces Budget Minister Jaime Laya who was appointed governor of the Central Bank with the retirement of Gregorio Licaros.

Alba was deputy budget minister and concurrently deputy director-general (deputy minister for economic planning) of the National Economic and Development Authority.

He also holds various positions at the Ministry of Human Settlements, Philippine Export Council, Statistical Advisory Board, and other government boards and agencies.

* * * * *

January 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS is scheduled to convene this morning the National Security Council and the Cabinet to finalize strategies to cope with problems that may arise after the lifting of martial law.

The meeting, set at 10 a.m. in the Cabinet room, is part of the final round of policy consultations being conducted by the President before the lifting of emergency rule, possibly on Saturday, which is Constitution Day.

Tomorrow, the President will call a caucus of the ruling Kilusang Bagong Lipunan to discuss the implications of the lifting of martial law on the functions of the Batasang Pambansa.

* * * * *

PRESIDENT MARCOS approved the grant of additional aid this year to local governments, particularly those adversely affected by the recent drop in coconut and sugar prices.

The aid which will come from the national government, was earlier recommended by outgoing Budget Minister Jaime C. Laya. The President's approval came shortly before Laya was appointed Central Bank governor.

Laya recommended to the President two measures concerning the grant of aid to local governments. They are:

—The grant of additional aid to local government whose incomes declined in 1980 due to low prices of coconut and sugar, in an amount not exceeding the actual drop in these local governments' local revenue from recurring sources between 1979 and 1980.

—The adoption of guidelines to implement a new decree which allows year-to-year increase in allotments from Bureau of National Revenue collections to local governments beyond the 25 percent ceiling imposed by law.

In Presidential Decree No. 1741, certain local governments may receive increases in their BIR allotments of more than 25 percent, depending on their needs.

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that the Central Bank under the leadership of former CB Gov. Gregorio Licaros played a vital role in the progress of the country's economy in the past decade.

The President made this assessment in his remarks after inducting former Budget Minister Jaime C. Laya as the new governor of the Central Bank.

Laya replaced Licaros who retired after 50 years of service in the government, including 11 years as CB governor.

* * * * *

PRESIDENT MARCOS conferred the Order of Sikatuna, rank of datu, on outgoing Ambassadors to the Philippines Joachim Pierre Maurice Pallard of the Republic of Gabon and Mohammed Yussof bin Zainal of Malaysia, for their services in international relations. Ambassador Pallard has completed a four-year tour of duty in the country, while Ambassador Zainal is retiring from the diplomatic service.

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THE FIRST LADY, Imelda R. Marcos, approved a massive food production program aimed at bringing down the cost of food, particularly in Metro Manila.

The program called the Kadiwa Sa Bagong Liputan Production Program will be participated by 10 major government agencies concerned with the production of the country's staple foods.

The First Lady thought of integrating the functions of these agencies and harnessing their technology, manpower, and resources, as an assurance that the total plan of action towards an intensified food production will have long lasting effects and not "merely touch the surface of the problem."

The program is premised on the First Lady's concept of establishing food granaries in different provinces in the form of plantations, ranches, and by the maximum harnessing of waterways to step up on fish culture, to ensure the people of an abundance of vegetables, fish, beef and pork.

* * * * *

January 16—

THE RESPONSIBILITY of maintaining peace and order in the country will be shifted to local authorities and police forces when martial law is lifted, except in areas where there is actual conflict.

This was stressed by the President during the meeting of the National Security Council and the Cabinet during policy consultations before the formal announcement of the lifting of martial law, possibly tomorrow.

The President said that while the responsibility of maintaining peace and order will be given to the local police, military units should stay in their posts and continue to perform their main responsibility of safeguarding national security.

During the one-hour 40-minute meeting, the President reviewed the gains of the new society and restated the implications of the lifting of the emergency rule, imposed more than eight years ago.

* * * * *

PRESIDENT MARCOS underscored the impact of the movies as the most “pervasive influence” on the culture of peoples.

In a short after-luncheon speech before the delegates to the “Manila ’81 Event,” a prelude to next year’s Manila International film festival, the President said -that the history of the culture of the world will be written underlining the significance of the movies as an influential factor in its evolvement.

The President received a standing ovation from the delegation composed of well-known producers, actors and actresses led by Jack Valenti, Franco Nero, Peter O’Toole and the now very popular 15-year old Brookes Shields, who drew much of the attention from her peers.

* * * * *

THE 60-MEMBER Batasan committee on constitutional amendments adopted a proposal to elect by region the members of the regular National Assembly in 1984.

The plan was one of six resolutions endorsed by the committee for Batasan enactment beginning on Monday when the chamber convenes as a constituent assembly.

The committee gave in to proposals to allow individual amendments when the plan to hold regional elections is discussed in the plenary session.

A major amendment to the original proposal would guarantee every province representation in the legislature.

* * * * *

THE LIFTING of martial law and the changes it will bring to the country is still the most predominant subject foreign correspondents are interested to know more about.

This surfaced when the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, held a no-holds barred dialogue with some 30 foreign correspondents covering the Manila International Film Festival ’81.

In a half-hour question-answer session at the Technology Resource Center, writers from leading American, Asian and European magazines and newspapers, asked a variety of questions ranging from the lifting of martial law to the evolvement of a national identity.

* * * * *

January 17—

PRESIDENT MARCOS called on the people to be more militant to enable the country to achieve greatness in the years ahead.

The call was issued by the President after formally proclaiming the end of martial law rule and the beginning of “a new era and a new day.”

In his address highlighting the ceremonies of Constitution Day in Malacañang, the President issued Proclamation No. 2045 ending the emergency rule which he imposed eight years and four months ago.

During the emotion-filled ceremonies, the President reminded the people that martial law does not carry with it the passing of all burdens.

There will be more tests for our capacity, for our resiliency, for our strength as a people,” the President stressed.

The President said the militancy of a concerned citizenry and the social commitment of a responsible elite are needed more than ever now because, the end of martial law does not mean the end of all needed reforms.

“As I now sign this proclamation in full view of our nation and the world at large, I am profoundly conscious of the tasks that remain, hoping that we shall not lose the momentum of our achievements so that those who shall come after us may carry on the quest of a greater society,” the President said.

The President signed the 18-page document at exactly 11:45 p.m.

The First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos was touched and was misty-eyed at the end of the solemn rites.

* * * * *

THE OPPOSITION group called the United Democratic Opposition (UNIDO) “constitutes a dangerous element,” President Marcos said in his opening remarks during the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan caucus in Malacañang.

Reacting to statements by the UNIDO, the President said a socialist form of government would be established by the opposition once they assume power.

The President cited what he described “a very innocuous paragraph” in the 30-page document issued by the opposition which stated that if they control the government, they will determine what private enterprises will be taken over by government.

* * * * *

January 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered the release of 341 detainees, including two women, for humanitarian reasons and in line with the government’s policy of compassion and national reconciliation.

Of the number, 159 have been charged with violation of the laws on public order and national security while the remaining 182 are common criminals.

The President issued the order after approving- the recommendation of Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile to release the detainees.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: February 16 – February 22, 1981

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

February 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that it is wiser for the present crop of young leaders to adopt the executive committee type of training for future leaders of the government.

The executive committee, as embodied in the proposed constitutional amendments, will act as government caretaker if anything happens to the President.

As envisioned, the committee will be composed of the members of the Batasang Pambansa, city or provincial officials or other qualified individuals who will be appointed by the President.

* * * * *

February 17—

THE GOVERNMENT has set aside a P1-billion seed fund to assist priority industries that are suffering from financial difficulties.

President Marcos issued recently a letter of instructions directing the setting up of the seed fund following the financial debacle that hit a multi-million peso textile company owned by fugitive businessman and banker Dewey Dee.

The P1-billion seed fund forms part of an industrial financing program being worked out by government financial institutions to help major borrowers in the money market that are faced with financial difficulties.

* * * * *

PRESIDENT MARCOS cited a World Bank report to debunk, he said, claims by the opposition that the country's economic situation is not as rosy as it appears.

Quoting S. Shahid Hussain, vice president for East Asia and the Pacific of the World Bank, in his recent statement in the meeting of the consultative group for the Philippines in Paris, the President said the record of the Philippines is "one of the most impressive in the developing world."

* * * * *

February 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said the historic visit of Pope John Paul II raises fresh hope for the elimination of the weakness of society not only in this country but in the whole world as well.

In heading the government and church welcome for the Pope upon his arrival at the Manila International Airport for the second leg of a 12-day visit to Asia, the President said the people look at the church as a source of spirituality. "Yet," he added, "in our society we see the erosion of the moral base of our country and our people."

* * * * *

February 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, saw a brighter future for the country, including improved relations between church and state, as a result of the visit of Pope John Paul II.

The First Couple said the papal visit, now on its third day, has had a unifying effect on various segment of society.

The President noted that the Pope's concern over the effects of the activities of liberals and Marxist elements in the Church raised hopes of improving a distressing situation.

* * * * *

February 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS expressed gratitude to the United Nations Development Program for the assistance it has extended to the country and hoped that the world organization will continue to extend its aid.

The President expressed his gratitude through B.R. Devarajan, UNDP permanent representative to the Philippines, who made a farewell call before assuming his new post as director of the Regional Center for Technology Transfer for Asia and the Pacific, stationed in Bangalore, India.

"I can only express our gratitude for your cooperation with the government and the help you have extended us," the President said. "I do hope you can continue cooperating with us, especially in your new post."

* * * * *

February 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS witnessed the signing of an agreement formally effecting the long-awaited sale of the Republic Telephone Company to the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company.

The agreement was signed by PLDT President Ramon Cojuangco and RETELCO Chairman Severo Santiago in Malacañang.

Under the agreement, the PLDT will buy out the RETELCO for P220 million and assume all debts and liabilities as of January 1, 1981.

RETELCO plans to engage in domestic telegraph service.

* * * * *

PRESIDENT MARCOS attacked the "Western Press," claiming it exaggerated alleged human rights abuses in the Philippines as well as conflicts between his government and the Catholic Church.

In an interview carried on the ABC network, Mr. Marcos denied that his government is guilty of human rights abuses as charged by groups such as Amnesty International. He said there are only about 6 to 10 cases of alleged torture on record. He said this "was a pretty good record considering we have 150,000 men in the field."

"It's a good record particularly when you compare it to New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, or even Florida," he said.

* * * * *

THE FIRST LADY, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, urged the Muslim leaders and heads of cultural minorities in Mindanao to heed whatever advice Pope Paul II would give them.

The leaders of the two groups sought to meet with the First Lady before their scheduled encounter with the Pope after the Mass at the airport.

The First Lady arrived an hour ahead of the Pope and led in the blessing and inauguration of the new Davao International Airport.

February 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS flew to Baguio City to join Pope John Paul II and returned to Manila ahead of the pontiff.

The President told a huge crowd at the Manila International Airport that the Filipino people, irrespective of religion, had manifested love and affection for His Holiness.

He also expressed gratitude that the Pope had come to the country “to bring Christ back to those who have forgotten him, to replace hatred with love, anger with affection, arrogance with humility and quest for temporal power with spirituality.”

The President delivered his message during departure rites for the Holy Father.

Pope John Paul II left for Japan, his next itinerary, after a five-day pastoral visit to the Philippines during which he held masses in Metro Manila, Davao, Cebu, Negros, Iloilo, Legaspi and Baguio City.

He also had talks with the President, leaders of the Catholic hierarchy in the country, civic and religious organizations and the studentry.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: January 19-25, 1981

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

January 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS will outline this morning the government's priority goals as the Batasang Pambansa, resuming its third regular session today, assumes its role as the sole representative lawmaking body in the land.

The President will address the members of the Batasan at 10 a.m.

He is expected to inform the Batasan of the reason for his decision to hit martial law and why he imposed it initially more than eight years ago.

The appearance of the President before the Batasan today is considered significant because it will be the first time that he will be attending the session after the lifting of martial law.

* * * * *

January 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS pledged he will avoid reimposing martial law in coping with any serious national emergency in the future.

Speaking at the resumption of the third regular session of the Batasang Pambansa, the President pointed out that there are enough "safety valves" in the Constitution to enable him and the legislative body to meet such emergencies.

The President said that any crisis must be faced and must be fully dealt with, but "let us pledge to each other right now and pledge to our people that we shall ever avoid invoking the martial law necessity."

He asked Batasan members to pledge that whenever there is need to meet any situation not covered by ordinary legislation, they would provide for any requirement needed to meet such emergency.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS signs Parliamentary Bill No. 1220 creating the town of Sto. Niño in South Cotabato. The new town is composed of nine barangays, seven of which are from Morala town and two from Banga town in South Cotabato. The bill was authored by Assemblymen Benjamin V. Bautista, Jose Sison, Jose Puyat, Jr., Jorge Royeca, Teodoro Palma Gil, Rodolfo del Rosario, Rogelio Sarmiento, Felicidad Santos, and Alejandro Almendras.

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HUMAN Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos instructed the Mindanao assemblymen to make sure flood victims in Northeastern Mindanao, particularly in Surigao and Agusan, are adequately housed, fed and clothed.

Mrs. Marcos met the assemblymen at her Batasang Pambansa office after the address of President Marcos at the opening of the third session of Batasan.

Although relief goods have been sent without letup to the stricken areas and evacuation centers, Mrs. Marcos said that she will ask the President to mobilize the armed forces, including the air force, to move the people to areas where they will be safe and cared for.

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THE SUPREME Court dismissed a petition of 32 detainees asking the court, among other things for the opportunity to present before the military tribunal trying them for alleged rebellion and conspiracy, evidence in support of their allegations that the cases filed against them by the military “have been built on confession obtained by torture.”

In an 11-page decision, the high court also reaffirmed the jurisdiction of military tribunals over national security cases as it upheld the legality of the trial of Jose Luneta and his 31 co-petitioners by Special Military Commission No. 1. The court denied their bid for release on a writ of habeas corpus and trial by a civilian court.

Justice Antonio P. Barredo penned the decision.

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MAJ. GEN. Fidel V. Ramos, PC chief and police director-general, ordered all PC and police commanders to reintensify and conduct a sustained drive on the strict enforcement of the firearms ban in then-respective areas.

The President, in a memorandum issued to Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Ramos, had ordered the suspension of all permits to carry firearms outside residence, except those issued to persons who have received threats of bodily harm or injury or whose lives are in danger by reasons of their positions in the government service like judges, fiscals and other similarly situated, and the cancellation of all appointments of special agents and special mission orders who are not members of the Armed Forces with specific assignments to on-going operations.

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January 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said the Philippine economy has achieved significant gains and has maintained its growth momentum in the past decade because of political stability.

This assessment was conveyed by the President to Shaliid Husain, vice president of the World Bank for East Asia and the Pacific, who called on him in Malacañang.

The President also noted that institutions developed over the last eight years under the crisis government have allowed the “graceful” political transition in the country.

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January 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS swore in Plant Industry Director Domingo Panganiban and Animal Industry Director Salvador Escudero III as concurrent assistant secretaries of agriculture.

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THE FIRST LADY, Imelda R. Marcos, said the lifting of martial law will make the Filipino people and the whole world realize that President Marcos is the “real and true libertarian.”

In an interview with reporters at Malacañang yesterday, the First Lady made this statement in answer to a query as to how she thought the country will be affected by the lifting of martial law.

The First Lady paused for a long while and said that she could best answer the question by reiterating the sentiments she expressed last Jan. 17 to friends, relatives and disclose associates.

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January 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and the leaders of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan adopted disciplinary measures to enable the ruling party to efficiently chart government policies and work for a smooth transition to a full parliamentary system.

During a two-hour caucus of the ruling party at Malacañang, the President told the assemblymen that more than mending political fences there is no better argument for the coming 1984 elections than performance.

The disciplinary measures adopted by the caucus include the designation of regional party whips, the appointment of a Batasan press relation officer and the holding of frequent consultations among party members, including the President.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS thanked the royal family of Saudi Arabia for treating the Philippine oil requirement “with sympathy and understanding.”

In a luncheon toast in honor of Saudi Prince Saud bin Naif Abdul Azis at Malacañang, the President cited the recent decision of Saudi Arabia to renew oil deliveries to the Philippines.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS joined world leaders yesterday in congratulating President Reagan on his inauguration.

The President noted Reagan’s call for the renewal of American greatness, saying it was a welcome message not only for the United States but also for the whole world.

Marcos’ message:

“I join the rest of the world in expressing to you my congratulations on your inauguration as the 40th president of the United States of America.

“The people and government of the Philippines look forward to working with you and your government in the same spirit of friendship and understanding that has marked relations between our countries for so many years, and in high hope and resolve that we shall in this decade widen global cooperation, strengthen the peace, and promote global progress.

“Your inaugural call for the renewal of American greatness is a welcome message not only for Americans but for a world long inured to crisis and instability. For as your country recovers and nurtures the world move more confidently towards stability, peace and development.

“At this solemn hour of your taking office, please accept, Mr. President, my warmest personal good wishes for your success in the tasks which you undertake.”

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PRESIDENT MARCOS proclaimed the whole of Region X (Northern Mindanao) in a state of calamity and directed all government agencies concerned to “implement and execute fully” rescue, relief and rehabilitation work in the area.

Through Proclamation No. 2044 A. the President widened the area covered by his earlier declaration making flood-ravaged northeastern Mindanao a calamity area.

Now also in a state of calamity are Misamis Occidental and Bukidnon, the sub-province of Camiguin, and the cities of Ozamis, Oroquieta, and Tangub, all in Misamis Occidental, and Cagayan de Oro City in Misamis Oriental.

Also declared as such were Surigao del Sur and Davao del Norte, which belong to Region XI.

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ANYONE can publish a newspaper without going through the Philippine Council for Print Media.

This clarification was given by President Marcos during the caucus yesterday of the ruling Kilusang Bagong Lipunan party in Malacañang.

The President said the PCPM is a body organized by its members and is only self-regulatory. This means that those who do not wish to be a member of the body are not bound by its rules and regulations.

The only requirements that a new newspaper has to fulfill are the basic requirements under the Constitution—that it has to be owned and controlled by Filipinos, he said.

In the case of radio stations, the President said that anyone can open a radio station as long as he has the required frequency.

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THE FIRST LADY, Imelda R. Marcos, announced that a massive livelihood program in barangays will be carried out through the women and youth barangay brigades all over the country.

The program will mean an enlistment of some 1,350, 000 women drawn from the 45,000 barangays, based on a calculation of 30 members to each brigade. The potential youth manpower will be about the same number.

Under the political structure of the barangay, the women’s brigade is one of 17 brigades in each barangay assigned to deliver basic needs and auxiliary services in a community.

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January 24—

MALACAÑANG announced that President Marcos has abolished the print and broadcast media councils, which were created in 1974 as self-regulatory media bodies.

The abolition of the two media bodies is contained in Presidential Degree No. 1784 dated Jan. 15, 1981.

The decree repealed Presidential Decree No. 576 issued Nov. 9, 1974 which authorized the organization of print and broadcast media councils.

Malacañang said the signing of the decree abolishing the councils was in preparation for the termination of martial law two days later, Jan 17, 1981.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS has increased personal exemptions on individual income taxes by 50 to 100 percent effective this filing season.

Presidential Decree No. 1773, which was signed Jan. 16, increased personal exemptions and removed the ceiling on optional deduction effective taxable year 1980.

The new schedule of personal exemptions is:

—Single or legally separated individuals increased from P1, 800 to P3,000, up by 66.67 percent.

Married persons from P3,000 to P6, 000, up by 100 percent;

—Single but head of family, from P3, 000 to P4, 500, up by 50 percent;

—Children or dependents below 21 years of age from P1,000 to P2,000 each, but not to exceed four children, per family. Those born before Dec. 31, 1972 regardless of their number, are included in the new schedule.

The Decree also exempts payment of income taxes by married individuals with four children, and whose annual earnings do not exceed P14,000. However, the tax code still requires that they file their income tax returns.

PRESIDENT MARCOS directed his economic ministers to meet with Dutch trade officials and businessmen now in Manila on means of expanding trade between the Philippines and the Netherlands.

A group, consisting of Ministers Roberto Ongpin of industry, Luis Villafuerte of trade and Arturo Tanco of agriculture, National Food Administrator Jesus Tanchanco and representatives from the Ministry of Human Settlements was scheduled to meet with a Dutch delegation to consider various trade proposals.

Several Dutch trade officials and businessmen are in Manila in connection with the opening of Holland Expo '81," a flouting exposition displaying the latest products and technology of the Netherlands.

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January 25—

STRIKES and lockout in industries considered by the Ministry of Labor and Employment (MOLE) as "vital" will remain banned in spite of the lifting of martial law.

However, Labor Minister Blas F. Ople said he has ordered a review of the policies affecting the right of workers to stage a strike.

He said the list of "vital" industries in which strikes are banned might now be trimmed.

Ople said labor leaders, management, and government will sit down at a tripartite congress on March 15 'on possible labor disputes in "vital" industries."

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PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered the National Commission Concerning Disabled Persons (NCCDP) to extend all possible cooperation in promoting the goals of Rehabilitation International.

The President issued the order to Mrs. Julita C. Benedicto, chairman of the NCCDP, during the call of Dr. Harry S.Y. Fang, president of Rehabilitation International, who presented to him the "Charter of the 80's."

Prepared by a world expert group, the charter enunciates the priorities for concerted world action in rehabilitation work during the coming decade.

Dr. Fang congratulated the President whom, he said, he considered as the President in his part of the world who had done the most for his country.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: January 26 - February 1, 1981

President's Week in Review: February 2-8, 1981

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

February 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that the banking system is not affected by the defalcation (misappropriation of funds) by some, bankers.

The assurance was given by the President in answer to questions of newsmen on whether the P581-million Dewey Dee scandal has affected the banking system.

“One should distinguish between the integrity of the bank and the defalcation by individual bankers,” the President said.

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February 3—

THE SEVEN-MEMBER super committee of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan agreed to provide a strong system of checks and balance in legislature in whatever form of government would be adopted and constitutional changes approved.

The committee, presided over by Justice Minister Ricardo Puno, met for more than two hours but failed to arrive at a consensus on other proposals to amend the Constitution.

Puno said that the committee would recommend a government set-up combining the features of various models, including those of Egypt, Great Britain, France and West Germany.

February 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said the opposition is being insincere by injecting personal issues in the proposed presidential elections to be held possibly this May.

In an interview before his speech at the 79th anniversary of the Bureau of Customs, the President said that it appears the opposition is not interested in the elections.

Apparently referring to the demand by the opposition he step down from the presidency before calling an election, the President said:

“If they keep on attacking on personal issues, I will begin to believe that they are not interested in clean elections.”

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PRESIDENT MARCOS warned that he will continue to weed out incompetent and corrupt officials and men in the government no matter what the political consequences may be.

Speaking at the 79th anniversary celebrations of the Bureau of Customs at Malacañang, the President said the political leadership is determined to protect the gains made under the crisis government and to pursue with vigor programs of reforms.

While the collecting arm of the government had showed marked improvement over the last eighty years, there is still plenty of room for improvement, he said.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS, the country's 59th top taxpayer, will launch today the government's tax information campaign of the Bureau of Internal Revenue at the Philippine International Convention Center.

The President will clarify the government's post martial law fiscal and tax policies and award plaques of appreciation to the country's top 10 corporate and top 500 individual taxpayers.

The President himself paid P417, 086 for his 1979 joint income with his wife. They grossed P807, 698 for that year, BIR records showed.

February 5—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that direct taxes, especially income tax, will be kept at their present levels.

This assurance was given by the President in his speech launching the Bureau of Internal Revenue's tax information campaign for 1981 at the Philippine International Convention Center.

The President said the move to maintain the present tax levels will encourage local capital formation far investment and to reduce dependence of foreign capital.

Besides income tax, other direct taxes include professional, capital gains, real estate and sales taxes.

February 6—

THE BATASANG Pambansa, sitting as a constituent assembly, approved a resolution granting property rights to former Filipinos but only for residential purposes.

Resolution No. 28 was adopted by a vote of 122 in favor and 5 against.

The passage of the measure ended more than a month of deliberation on the resolution which is a consolidation of about seven separate measures introduced by about 30 assemblymen.

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THE KILUSANG Bagong Lipunan unanimously approved the draft of a modified parliamentary form of government providing for a strong President to be elected at large by the people for a term of six years beginning June 30.

During a three-hour caucus, the ruling party also set a political time table ending with the election of the president possibly this May.

The new set-up was recommended by a seven-man committee headed by Justice Minister Ricardo Puno. It called for the election only of the president.

February 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said there will be no radical shifts in the economic policies of the government to maintain free enterprise and political stability.

The assurance was given by the President in his dialogue in Malacañang with, the business community, including officers and members of eight national and international chambers of commerce and industry.

“I can assure you that the government is for continuity of policy and stability and, with respect to economic policy, there will be no radical changes unless you and I get together and decide to make such changes,” the President said.

The members of the business community have expressed fear that with the lifting of martial law industrial peace might be disturbed.

The President also assured the businessmen that there will be no confiscation of private property, contrary to the opposition policy of taking over private enterprise.

February 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS rejected a proposal by the opposition to elect a Constitutional Convention to amend the Constitution.

The President said that the calling of another Constitutional Convention “is not only a waste of time and money but it also divides responsibility.”

The United Democratic Opposition demanded the calling of a new Constitutional Convention because, it claims, the Batasang Pambansa has no authority to amend the charter.

The opposition assemblymen also questioned the authority of the Batasan to amend the Constitution, saying that the Batasan is a partisan body.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: February 9-15, 1981

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

February 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said the position taken by some members of the opposition not to participate in the presidential elections in May amounted to “political blackmail.”

The President said the opposition, specifically the United Democratic Opposition (UNIDO), has taken so many positions and utilized many spokesmen.

He said that the proposed polls were intended to enable the people to judge him and his performance under martial law.

“If the people don’t want me, all they have to do is to vote against me or not to vote at all,” the President said.

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February 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered the National Intelligence and Security Authority (NISA) to investigate the P50-million loan frauds in Metro Manila involving the use of spuriously-titled lands as loan guarantees.

In another move, the President also issued Executive Order No. 649 reorganizing the Land Registration Commission into the National Land Titles and Deeds Registration Administration to improve the land agency’s services and operation.

In reorganizing the LRC, the President said “it becomes necessary to reorganize and restructure the LRC in the light of changing circumstances and developments.”

The LRC revamp was recommended by First Lady and Human Settlement Minister Imelda R. Marcos and Justice Minister Ricardo Puno.

The NISA investigation will center on the questioned P30-million loan obtained by the Ramawil Realty Sales and Development Enterprises and another P20-million loan by Sweet Acres Agro-Industrial Corporation. Both loans were taken last year from the state-owned Land Bank of the Philippines, allegedly with the use of fake land titles.

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THE GOVERNMENT ordered the mobilization of substitute disaster brigade teams in the calamity areas in Northeastern Mindanao to replace relief workers engaged in almost non-stop operations in 51 days of flooding.

About 3,500 persons were reported marooned in the Kalilid logging camp in San Luis, Agusan del Sur, where floodwaters had risen to more than 26 feet- They were isolated after three bridges were washed away by rampaging floods.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS has ordered an investigation of the reported irregularity in the construction of a road in Northern Luzon.

Highways Minister Jesus Hipolito who had conducted initial investigation of the reports said the pavement constructed by a private contractor was inferior based on test conducted by the ministry's soils and materials quality control services.

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February 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said the plan to hold a presidential election this May will go through with or without any candidate to oppose him.

"You cannot stop an electoral process by the minority refusing to field a candidate," the President said in a press interview.

Since the ruling Kilusang Bagong Lipunan decided two weeks ago to allow, the President to submit himself to a direct vote by the people in a national election, the opposition leaders have not made up their minds whether to put a candidate or not.

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BUDGETS of cities and towns in Metro Manila will be placed under the supervision of the Metro Manila Commission.

This was one of the policies set by Gov. Imelda R. Marcos to insure tighter control on the disbursement of funds. Other guidelines Mrs. Marcos gave were:

Any disbursement above P100, 000 must be approved by the Metro Manila Commission.

—The budget, together with a statement of expenditures, shall be regularly published in newspapers to keep the people posted on how their money is being used.

Local officials should study the use of investible funds, carefully always taking into consideration that the money of the people is a sacred trust and greater care should be taken in its use "a million times more than if it were your personal funds."

—Local officials should not go into investments where the risks are high.

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February 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS approved the additional outlay of P2.5 million that Jaime Cardinal Sin requested to complete the preparations for the five-day visit of Pope John Paul II on Feb. 17-22. The First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, who was asked by the Cardinal to present the church's request to the President, said that with the additional amount, government participation in the Pope visit will reach approximately P10 million.

She said the amount was approved by the President in recognition of the fact that the Philippines, with a predominantly Catholic population should do its best to make the visit of the Pope "truly meaningful."

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February 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said he will never allow the return of the pork barrel system in allocating public works funds.

The President pointed out that the pork barrel system, practised before martial law to gain patronage especially during elections was wasteful, and funds, intended for public works projects were diverted elsewhere.

Under the system, public works funds were released through congressmen enabling them to use the funds for political leverage and generate temporary employment. The practice was discarded by the President when martial law was imposed.

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February 15—

CIVILIAN and military officers are immune from suits arising from official acts or orders issued by the President during the period of martial law.

This guarantee is contained in Presidential Decree No. 1791 signed last Jan. 16, but which was made public only yesterday.

President Marcos said he has informed the members of the Batasang Pambansa of the decree, designed to institutionalize reforms undertaken during the crisis government, for their guidance.

In issuing the decree, the President said that it is essential “that all public officials and employees be encouraged to perform their functions efficiently and expeditiously free from vexations and time consuming delays and litigations.”

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Source: National Library of the Philippines

Official Week in Review: February 23 – March 1, 1981

February 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said he will wait for the recommendation of the Oil Industry Commission before acting on the move for fuel price increases even as an aggrupation of nationalist groups opposed the price hikes.

The President made the response in answer to questions from newsmen regarding his position on the petition of some oil companies to increase the prices of petroleum products.

According to the President, the petitions for fuel price increase are addressed to OIC Chairman Ponciano Mathay and “I suppose we will have to wait for his recommendation.”

The President explained that the law requires 21 days of study and deliberations on the matter.

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JAIME CARDINAL SIN, president of the Catholic Bishop’s Conference of the Philippines and archbishop of Manila, thanked President and Mrs. Marcos and the entire Filipino nation for what he said was a most successful five-day visit of Pope John Paul II.

Accompanied by Msgr. Bruno Torpigliani, papal nuncio, and Bishop Cirilo, Almario, Cardinal Sin went to Malacañang to personally thank the First Couple for the government’s participation in the papal visit.

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THE FIRST LADY, Imelda R. Marcos, has set the upgrading of depressed areas in the country as a priority project of the Ministry of Human Settlements this year.

In a meeting with heads of various agencies of the ministry, the First Lady reviewed the programs and ordered that priorities be made on the following livelihood, power, water food and shelter.

She named Metro Manila Vice-Gov. Ismael Mathay, Jr. and Housing Administrator Gaudencio Tobias in charge of the upgrading of Tondo and of making the place an attractive village. Architect Jorge Ramos will design the plans.

She cited the Walled City of New York which was a ghetto before it was converted into a financial center. She said that the offices of the Metro Manila Commission will be established in Tondo so that the problems of residents can easily be attended to.

February 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS directed members of the Cabinet to discuss potentials for establishing trade relations with British Columbia.

“I have anticipated to my ministers the great potentials of opening relations between the Philippines and British Columbia,” the President told the visiting British Columbia economic mission led by Premier William R. Bennett that called to Malacañang. “So you can be sure this is not a mere formality.”

The President cited coal and industrial tree plantations as two fields in which the Philippines is most interested.

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THE FIRST LADY, Imelda R. Marcos, signed an agreement yesterday with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in the Philippines for the turnover of the UNHCR of P65 million to the Philippine government for the operation and various programs of the Philippine Processing Center for Refugees in Morong, Bataan.

The First Lady said the agreement will serve to better define the responsibility of the Philippine government and the United Nations in relation to the center. She also expressed gratitude to Pope John Paul II for his appeal to all nations of the world for increased aid for the refugees.

Total commitment on the part of the persons involved in the service of the refugees has contributed to the efficient and smooth operation of the center, the First Lady said.

She also cited the efforts of Manfred Paeffgen, representative in the Philippines of the UNHCR, and Gaudencio Tobias, administrator of the center, who, she said, have been "very devoted to the service of the refugees giving freely of their time and effort to their care."

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February 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said the visit of Pope John Paul II to the Philippines has revitalized the spiritual and moral values of the Filipino people.

"Someone has come to reiterate these absolutes without wavering and impressed both those who belong and not belong to the church," the President said during an appreciation dinner given by Jaime Cardinal Sin at Villa San Miguel in Mandaluyong for members of the hierarchy, religious, government officials and laymen who contributed to the success of the Pope's visit.

"Since the arrival of the Holy Father, people go about with the feeling of lightness and inner glow," he said.

But, he said, the greatest beneficiary of the Pope's visit is the simple, common Filipino. "Everywhere you turn, you see a light of gleaming from the common man as if Christ Himself has come upon the earth once more," he observed.

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February 26—

THE FIRST LADY, Imelda R. Marcos, organized a projects management service group that will be made up of engineers, architects and contractors from the private sector.

She said the group will manage the infrastructure projects of the government at a cheaper cost, within a specified timeable, and according to high quality standards.

Leading the group will be Jorge Ramos, an architect, and Ruperto Gaite, Rizal vice governor, who is both engineer and architect. Serving as consultant for the government will be Highways Minister Jesus S. Hipolito and Public Works Deputy Minister Aber Canlas.

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February 27—

THE RULING Kilusang Bagong Lipunan decided to tentatively set the holding of plebiscite for the ratification of the proposed amendments to the Constitution on March 27 and the election for President not later than May 28.

The dates were arrived at after the caucus approved in principle the omnibus resolution amending the Constitution that would provide a modified parliamentary system.

Presided over by President Marcos, the caucus also agreed that special session of the Batasang Pambansa will be held on April 6 to pass a law calling for Presidential election.

The Batasang Pambansa, sitting as a Constituent Assembly, is expected to pass the omnibus resolution amending the charter within the week and will subsequently pass a law calling for a plebiscite.

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February 28—

THE POLITICAL performance of the martial law government was far superior than any of its predecessors.

This assessment was made by President Marcos in a speech to the 76th Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association at the Philippine International Convention Center.

“By taking the country’s destiny into our own hands and courageously charting our future, we were able to avoid the disastrous consequences that could have destroyed the nation if martial law had not been declared,” the President emphasized.

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March 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS warned that he will order the immediate arrest of persons who resort to violence in the coming presidential elections.

In a talk with newsmen, the President said that intelligence groups have a list of “target personalities” who are reported set on using or fomenting violence.

“These are the men who are apparently preparing to use violence under the pretext that the only way to change the present system is by rebellion,” the President said.

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Source: National Library of the Philippines

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1981). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 77(9), 1v-1vii.

President's Week in Review: March 2-8, 1981

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

March 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said in Tuguegarao yesterday that the proposed constitutional amendments are designed not only to set up an indigenous parliamentary government, but also to accelerate the process of normalization.

Addressing athletic delegations participating in the Palarong Pambansa, the President said the proposed amendments would be submitted to the people in a plebiscite March 27, and the presidential elections may be held June 7.

He explained that the proposed system of government is a parliamentary system suited to the culture and traditions of the Filipino people, with a strong president to be elected directly by the people.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS said the government will continue with its nation-wide sports development as part of the training process for future leaders.

The President made this statement at the opening of the Palarong Pambansa at the Marcos Sports Complex here, where he spoke before the cream of Filipino youth who will compete for honors in a week-long sportsfest.

"I consider it as my obligation today, as president and leader of the country for about 16 years to train succeeding leaders so that whatever political accident may occur or whatever crisis may confront us the republic will survive and progress," he said.

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March 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS discussed with Fred Hartley, chairman of the, Union Oil Co. of California, the possibility of increasing the geothermal power plants in Tiwi, Albay, to 12 units of 55 megatons capacity each.

Union Oil, which is based in Los Angeles, is in a joint venture with the National Power Corporation through the Philippine Geothermal Inc. in the development of geothermal sources of power in Tiwi and in the Makiling-Banahaw (Mak-Ban) areas in Laguna.

Units 1, 2, 3 and 4 are now in operations in Tiwi. Units 5 and 6 are currently under construction.

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THE BATASANG PAMBANSA last night set for April 7 the plebiscite on proposed constitutional amendments which would overhaul the country's parliamentary government structure.

The Batasan was previously set to fix for March 27 the plebiscite but the leadership resorted to a last minute change of decision because of an announcement of President Marcos that the presidential election may take place on June 7.

Political Affairs Minister Leonardo B. Perez, who sponsored Parliamentary Bill No. 1339 providing for the plebiscite, explained that the change in the plebiscite date would allow enough time for the required activities, like the printing of ballots, the campaign period and the translation into dialects of the questions to be asked.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS conferred yesterday with former Senator Lorenzo Tañada, chairman of the opposition party Lakas ng Mayan (LABAN), raising the possibility of opposition participation in the coming Presidential elections.

Details of the hour-long meeting behind closed doors were not disclosed but it was understood that the President and Tañada discussed “ground rules” in the elections that could be acceptable to all concerned.

Tañada, who has just returned from the United States, where he met with former Sen. Benigno Aquino, Jr., carried a message from opposition leaders abroad as well as from his party.

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March 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS extended the “balikbayan” program for overseas Filipinos for another live years from March 1, 1981, to Feb. 28, 1986.

Acting on the recommendation of Tourism Minister Jose D. Aspiras who first conceived the idea in 1973, the President granted the extension—actually the eighth since Aspiras introduced the program to the President on Sept. 1, 1973—to enable overseas Filipinos to visit their homeland and see for themselves the positive changes under the New Society.

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WORKERS in non-vital industries are now required to take a strike vote through secret ballot before their union can declared at strike.

This is contained under Policy Instructions No. 61 issued yesterday by Labor Minister Blas F. Ople due to the rash of strikes after the lifting of martial law.

Ople said strikes in non-vital industries may be legally staged only by the recognized or certified collective bargaining agent of the workers.

Unrecognized and uncertified trade unions may not legally strike or file notices of strikes, he said.

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March 5—

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue said government officials suspected of amassing wealth cannot avail themselves of the administrative tax amnesty.

Revenue Commissioner Tomas C. Toledo said that these erring officials are liable to be investigated anytime and charged in court with graft and corruption.

PRESIDENT MARCOS will convene today the ruling Kilusang Bagong Lipunan party to draw up a campaign strategy aimed at getting the “yes” votes in the April 7 plebiscite on constitutional amendments.

The caucus is expected to discuss details on how to strengthen the party machinery down to the barangay level and on how the information campaign will be waged to enable the people to understand the issues.

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March 6—

PUBLIC SCHOOL superintendents will soon get salary increases, Malacañang said. The salary adjustments may even come sooner, as the labor ministry said government employees will likely get pay increases before April.

President Marcos ordered Education Minister Onofre D. Corpuz and Budget Minister Manuel Alba to immediately upgrade the salaries of public school superintendents all over the country.

Responding to the fears expressed by the public schools superintendents the President said “there is no reason for the grievances of the public schools officials.”

According to the President, there is a continuing effort to upgrade the salaries of school officials. ‘Unfortunately, superintendents are in the last groups to be attended to,’ he said.

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THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos approved a three-year plan yesterday for the transformation of Tondo into an ideal community.

The project will cover 31 hectares of blighted areas and affect 27,000 families.

No families will be displaced and loans of P10,000 to P20,000 each will be given the families to improve their homes, with the assistance of architects and engineers.

Families will be allowed to choose from two scale models prepared by a team of architects and engineers drawn from the private sector.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS said the strength of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations lies in the spirit of cooperation among its members.

“Compared to the European Economic Community and the African Organization of Unity, I think ASEAN has moved further ahead,” the President said.

This assessment was made by the President in a talk with Adm. Maurice Weisner (ret.) former commander-in-chief of the United States Navy in the Pacific, who called on the President.

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THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos announced that a Malacañang of the South will soon be established in San Carlos city to bring the presidency closer to the Visayan and Mindanao.

She said that the First Couple intend to go there more often to make the national leadership more intimate with the problems of the people in this region.

The First Lady made this announcement toward the end of her keynote address at the joint district conference of the Rotary International at the University of San Carlos Cultural Center.

March 8—

THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos has directed Mindanao leaders to undertake a “totally integrated” program in the flood-stricken region in the South.

She said the rehabilitation efforts should be designed not only to accelerate production and tame the mighty Agusan river but also to relate the efforts of government to preserve the culture of the people.

The First Lady directed all ministries to rush full rehabilitation of the food-ravaged areas in cooperation with local executives.

Mrs. Marcos directed State Minister Antonio Tupaz, chief regional action officer for Region X to confer with regional directors and match the program drawn up by the various ministries to the actual requirements of the different provinces, cities, municipalities and barangays.

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THE COMMISSION on Elections deputized the Ministry of Public Information for a more effective nationwide campaign on the plebiscite questions to be answered by the electorate on April 6.

Under resolution No. 1468 unanimously approved by the Comelec, the MPI shall be the deputy of the poll body to supervise the use of press, radio and television facilities to give the pros and cons equal time and space for discussion of the plebiscite issues.

Chairman Vicente M. Santiago Jr. said the poll body is empowered both by the Constitution and the 1978 Election Code to deputize, with the consent of the Prime Minister/President, instrumentalities of the government to insure free, orderly and honest elections, plebiscite and referendums.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: March 9-15, 1981

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

March 9—

MAJ. GEN. FIDEL V. RAMOS, PC chief, directed all regional PC commands to review contingency plans to ensure the peaceful holding of the April 7 plebiscite on the amendments to the Constitution.

Ramos also reminded PC personnel "to refrain from partisan politics, to remain neutral and to stick to their statutory functions of maintaining law and order."

Ramos said that the firearms ban shall be strictly enforced. He has also recalled PC/INP personnel assigned as security to civilian officials and agencies.

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March 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has ordered the Ministry of Agriculture to embark on a nationwide planting of the "hanga" or miracle tree.

Director Domingo Panganiban of the bureau of plant industry said 45 hectares of land have been planted to the tree and several cuttings of the tree are being nursed at the BPI central experimental station on San Andres.

He said propagation of the tree will be finished by 1985.

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March 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS declared that a "yes" vote in the April 7 plebiscite would regain for the people the right to elect their President directly—a right removed from them by the 1973 Constitution.

"The issue is whether the people must have the power to elect directly the chief of state, the President, or whether this power should remain with the National Assembly as provided for in the 1973 Constitution," he told the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce at its 13th biennial convention in Malacañang.

* * * * *

THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos stepped up the conversion of Tondo into a model community complete with livelihood centers, parks and playgrounds and a hub for industrial and commercial establishment.

She said timetable for most of the ongoing projects in Tondo, especially the basic infrastructure program under the project and loan agreement of the World Bank, would be advanced by at least one year to fit into an accelerated BLISS development program which she had earlier approved.

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March 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS urged local officials to explain to their constituents the proposed constitutional amendments so that the people can vote wisely in the April plebiscite.

The President told local officials from Nueva Ecija who called on him that although the proposed amendments are not political in nature and might not arouse much interest among the people, they are important in determining the future of the country.

He stressed that under the “immunity from suit” proposal, abuses committed by his subordinates are not covered, because abuses are not in accordance with legal orders. One of the proposed amendments grants immunity from suit for presidential subordinates who carried out the President’s legal orders during martial law.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS conferred the Presidential Merit Medal on Ichito Fujimoto, chairman of the Kawasaki Steel Corp., one of the biggest Japanese corporate investors in the country.

The President conferred the award in recognition of Fujimoto’s “foresight and leadership” in providing the Philippines the important role of intermediary between iron exporters and importers through the establishment of the P1.5 billion Philippine Sinter Corp. in Cagayan de Oro City.

In the citation read for the President by Industry Minister Roberto Ongpin, Fujimoto was lauded for his high degree of confidence in the economic future of the Country.

By establishing the Philippine Sinter Corp., Fujimoto was able to promote economic cooperation among the Philippines and Latin America, Australia, South Asia and China, all exporters of iron ore processed in the Philippines.

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The FIRST LADY and Metro Manila Gov. Imelda R. Marcos directed the Mayors and vice mayors in Metro Manila to submit by March 17 a performance report on the delivery of 17 basic services.

She said the reports will determine the areas where the government thrust will have to be accelerated. She asked officials in the area to be more sensitive to the needs and problems of the barangays as well as of the lowly employees.

She urged the assemblymen and the mayors to exercise strong leadership so that the 17 basic services may be delivered to the people more effectively and efficiently.

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March 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS launched a nationwide campaign for a “Yes” vote for constitutional amendments that would establish, he said, a “stable and democratic” modified parliamentary system.

Opening the two-hour “Pulong-Pulong Pambansa” radio television program, the President said an affirmative vote in the April 7 plebiscite on charter changes would enable the people to regain control over their government because the right to vote for their President would be returned to them.

“This is not only more democratic but it conforms to the culture, the traditions, habits and customs of the Filipino people,” the President said.

He explained in detail the meaning of the three questions to be asked the voters in the plebiscite.

The President said the plebiscite is “crucial to the future of the country” and that the only issue involved is the form of government that the people would want for the nation.

lie pointed out that the modified parliamentary system is a combination of the parliamentary and presidential form a government removing the ills of both systems.

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March 14—

FACTIONALISM which could lead to civil war would ensue if the Constitution was not amended, President Marcos said as he pressed his campaign for a “yes” vote on proposed charter amendments.

The President also sounded the warning in his concluding statement the other night in the “Pulong-Pulong Pambansa” radio-television program.

He said that under the present system, there is a possibility that the Batasang Pambansa will elect a ceremonial president who will have a party affiliation different from that of the prime minister.

Because of this, he said, the occasion arise where there will be factionalism “instead of a unified parliamentary system that we seek to establish.”

Continuing, the President warned: “We will divide the country and court possible civil war.”

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THE FIRST LADY, Imelda R. Marcos said she would enlist the support of the top 500 taxpayers in making Tondo a model community within three years.

She disclosed this plan in her remarks before the Career Executive Service Officers at Malacañang. The group went to the Palace to launch an information drive for the April 7 plebiscite.

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March 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS reiterated his call for the print and broadcast media to give equal time and space in the discussion of issues of the April 7 plebiscite.

This was conveyed by presidential spokesman Adrian Cristobal who sounded out the opposition on a debate.

Media editors were asked to formulate with the spokesmen of both camps the rules for the public discussion of the plebiscite issues.

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SOME MEMBERS of the Batasang Pambansa and other elected officials who have shifted party affiliation face forfeiture of their seats for the remaining period of their terms of office.

This punitive action against turncoatism is expressly provided for by law, under Presidential Decree No. 1667 dated Jan. 26, 1980.

The decree was brought to light by President Marcos during the nationwide “Pulong-Pulong” Thursday night when he was asked whether the proposed constitutional amendments in the April 7 plebiscite would bring back the old political evils, particularly turncoatism.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: March 16-22, 1981

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

March 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS warned both military and civilian officials in government against the use of the proposed immunity amendment as a cloak to commit abuses,

The President sounded the warning at the commencement exercises of the Philippine Military Academy at the Baguio Convention Center.

“Immunity from suit is intended to prevent harassment of civil and military personnel for acts committed on lawful order and should not be made as a mantle for the commission of abuses,” the President said.

The President said under the Constitution, officers who carried this order are liable but could be used before the court. “Thus,” he said, “they could be open to future harassment.”

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PRESIDENT MARCOS said the political leadership will continue to strengthen in Regions IX and XII to preserve peace and order in Mindanao.

Speaking at the graduation exercises of the Philippine Military Academy at the Baguio Convention Center, the President said that the autonomous government will be pivotal in stopping rebel activities in the area.

Apparently referring to the recent incident on Pata island where some 119 troopers were massacred, the President said, “For just as the strength and the autonomy of this government that have proven to be vital factors in providing and availing solutions to the once festering rebellion in the South, so are they now integral to meeting the occasional flashes of terrorism that have recently visited some local communities in the South.”

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PRESIDENT MARCOS has directed all government offices throughout the country to deduct withholding taxes from their employees' salaries.

Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) Commissioner Ruben B. Ancheta said the President issued the order because of many complaints of government employees that their offices have not been withholding taxes from their pay envelopes.

As a result, many taxpayers run short of cash to meet their annual income tax obligations.

Ancheta reminded taxpayers with fixed income that the deadline for the filing of income tax returns and payment of the taxes due is Wednesday, March 18.

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March 17—

PRESIDENT MARCOS told his leaders from Northern Luzon that the government would never tolerate nor compromise with terrorism.

He met with Region I leaders at the conference hall of the Mansion house as he capped a busy weekend in Baguio City.

The leaders led by Minister of Tourism Jose D. Aspiras of La Union and Minister Jacobo C. Clave, concurrently vice-governor of Pangasinan, and Ministry of Public Information officer-in-charge Gregorio S. Cendaña who is also from Pangasinan, were from the provinces of Mt. Province, Benguet, La Union, Ilocos Sur, Abra, Ilocos Norte, and Pangasinan, and the cities of Laoag, Dagupau, San Carlos and Baguio.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS rallied mayors and career executive service men behind the campaign to enhance government service by banishing red tape from the bureaucracy.

He delivered the exhortation in Baguio before a large group of Region I political and civil service leaders who gathered to see him induct the first set of officers of CES Development Program Alumni association in that Northern Luzon area.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS indicated there was no question that prices of gasoline and other oil products would go up the only thing is when. In a talk with Malacañang newsmen just before leaving Baguio city for Manila, the President said:

“Every month that we delay the change in prices of gasoline, the government has to pay a bill of P95 million a month. We cannot continue to subsidize the price of gasoline in that manner.”

The last time the government increased gasoline prices was in August of 1980 when the oil-exporting countries increased their prices. That was when gasoline went up to P4.95 a liter.

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March 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS expressed confidence that as long as there are young achievers and leaders there is no need to worry about the human race or the Filipino people.

“I am certain there are many more like the TOYM awardees,” the President said as he presented the trophies to the Ten Outstanding Young Men for 1980 in ceremonies held in Malacañang, “and there is no need to worry about the human race or the Filipino people.”

The President said he is not a believer in elitism or exclusivism but that he believes civilization moves not by the great mass of people but by the leader class, the innovators who are born with creativity, imagination and ingenuity, and use old concepts successfully to solve new problems.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS said yesterday Kilusang Bagong Lipunan teams will fan out the provinces to help familiarize the people with the issues in the April 7 plebiscite.

The President invited opposition groups to form similar teams to enrich public discussion of the issues.

In accordance with the wish of the President for both the ruling party and the opposition to discuss all aspects of the proposed Constitutional amendments, Local Government Minister Jose Roño and information ministry officer-in-charge Gregorio S. Cendaña invited opposition groups to participate in a public discussion of the issues.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS has approved a two-pronged measure to extend additional aid to local government units, according to the Ministry of Local Governments and Community Development (MLGCD).

The measures, which were recommended by former Budget Minister Jaime C. Laya before his appointment as governor of the Central Bank include:

1. The granting of additional assistance to local government units whose incomes last year were adversely affected by declines in the process of sugar and coconut. This aid shall be “in an amount not exceeding the actual drop in the local revenue from recurring sources between 1979 and 1980.”
2. The adoption of implementing guidelines for Presidential Decree No. 1711 under which “local government units concerned will receive increases in their BIR allotments of more than 25 percent from one year to another on case-to-case basis and depending on the justification and actual need.”

Under PD 1741, the following increases for third-class to sixth-class local government units may be allowed over their previous year's BIR allotments, subject to certain conditions: third class, up to 30 percent; fourth class, up to 35 percent; fifth class, up to 40 percent; and sixth class, up to 45 percent.

The conditions include adequate justification for any such increase in BIR allotments, a recommendation from the MLGCD, and availability of funds.

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March 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS deplored pronouncements by some members of the opposition treating the proposed amendments to the Constitution as political issues.

In a meeting with local officials from Quezon province, the President pointed out that the amendments “are not political issues since they will benefit everyone, not just the members of any party.”

Because of the proximity of the plebiscite, set for April 7, the President urged all local officials to mount an information drive to help inform the people about the importance of deciding whether or not to adopt the proposed amendments.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS issued yesterday Executive Order 664 and 665 requiring all government agencies to purchase only electrical materials and devices as well as portable fire extinguishers, that are duly authorized by the Philippine bureau of standards or those purchased from authorized manufacturers.

The two presidential directives were spurred by the proliferation in the market of unlicensed and substandard electrical wires, materials, components and fire extinguishers which pose a great danger to the public.

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The national food authority headed by the First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos approved a plan to boost food production and keep food prices low for consumers through an expanded Kadiwa program.

She called the NFA council to its first meeting since its creation Jan. 14 under Presidential Decree 1770.

The NFA took over the functions of the defunct national grains authority with broader powers to stabilize prices of basic goods aside from grains.

Mrs. Marcos called on the council members, some representing the country's financial institutions to launch a crash program of national food sufficiency.

Beyond this, the council will make plans for the exportation of any food surplus as an ultimate goal.

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March 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered stricter rules regarding the handling of government funds because of recent findings that public money had been invested in risky ventures and questionable deals.

One recent case was the P30-million Land Bank loan to Ramawil Realty and Development Enterprises, which was found to have been guaranteed by fake land titles.

The President issued Letter of Instructions No. 1115 setting new guidelines and directing government agencies and state-controlled firms to withdraw or phase out funds they have invested in the money market or lent to individuals and private companies.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS told a visiting US State Department official that he is satisfied with the policies of the Reagan Administration, particularly in revitalizing alliances with friendly nations.

"I am happy about the new orientation, particularly about the projected visit of State Secretary Alexander Haig (to Manila)," the President told John Negroponti, deputy assistant US secretary of state, who called on him in Malacañang.

Accompanied by US Ambassador Richard Murphy, Negroponti is here on the first leg of his visit to members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Earlier the President received Ambassador Nazif Cuhruk, who presented his credentials as the new envoy of Turkey to the Philippines.

The President lauded Turkey as a dependable partner in the search for peace, understanding and harmonious relations among nations.

The new Turkish envoy noted that since the establishment of the United Nations, the Philippines has been a staunch supporter of international solidarity for peace and understanding, and strong advocate of a new international economic order.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS approved hardship allowances amounting to P6.8 million for personnel of the Ministry of Education and Culture in Region 10 (Northern Mindanao).

Over 17,600 Region 10 teachers will each receive P100 per month retroactive from January to April 1981.

The President was prompted to grant the hardship allowance as an emergency measure to MEC Region 10 personnel upon the recommendation of Education Minister Onofre D. Corpuz.

Reports reaching the President and the MEC disclosed that the recent flood in the region has caused hardship on the teachers, besides wide spread destruction of school facilities, books, supplies and equipment.

* * * * *

DEFENSE MINISTER Juan Ponce Enrile ordered the recall of all standing and unserved arrest, search and seizure orders (ASSO) except those issued against persons linked to crimes involving public order or national security.

Enrile said the authority to issue ASSOs ceased when martial law was lifted last January.

In a memorandum to Maj. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, PC chief, Enrile said exemption of ASSOs on national security cases is in line with pertinent provisions of Presidential Proclamation No. 2045, the edict that ended martial law, which states that the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus remains suspended in Regions 9 and 12 and on cases involving national security.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS has rescinded the controversial executive order which detractors of the Philippine Olympic Committee used as leverage in taking up the issue of government intervention with the International Olympic Committee.

Executive Order 663 signed by the President last March 13 also clears the different project directors whom he had appointed in 1979 for the different sports associations, of any government supervision or control.

The new Executive Order suspended implementation of EO No. 579 creating a national coordination committee for sports development.

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March 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS approved in principle the raising of basic wages.

The President's action was in anticipation of the possible approval by the Board of Energy of increases in prices of petroleum products by the end of the week.

To determine by how much wages will be raised, the President ordered Labor Minister Blas F. Ople to call as soon as possible a tripartite conference between representatives of labor, management and government to discuss the matter.

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THE FIRST LADY, Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos, has ordered an intensified drive to provide the people with adequate supplies of nutritious food at low prices.

She directed the Nutrition Foundation of the Philippines to coordinate with the Kadiwa centers throughout the country so that locally produced food with high nutritional content can be sold to the masses at cheap prices.

The First Lady said the Kadiwa centers serve not only as convenient distribution outlets of low-priced food, but also as effective channels to instill healthy eating habits among the people.

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March 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has granted 10 to 15 percent salary increases to all the national government employees, including members of the armed forces and the Integrated National Police.

According to the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, government employees receiving P700 or less a month will get a 15 percent increase, while those whose monthly salaries exceed P700 will get 10 percent.

The pay raises are retroactive to March 1. They were authorized in Executive Order No. 668 signed last March 19 by the President, the First Lady said.

Mrs. Marcos announced the pay increase in a speech at the seventh anniversary celebration of the Metropolitan Police Force at Camp Crame.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS has authorized the release of 1M0 million, for a start, for the large-scale production of a machine that produces hydro-gas from charcoal.

The machine, known as gasifier, can run jeepneys and irrigation systems and can generate electricity for rural areas.

The gas now being marketed, the one that fuels stoves, is still largely from oil.

The President issued the order for the funding- after he and the First Lady were shown the latest models of the machine, vastly improved versions of those they saw a month ago. The President tried out the vehicles with the First Lady as his passenger. After making two rounds of the Malacañang grounds, his comment was "Okay, Okay."

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Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: March 23-28, 1981

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

March 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS announced yesterday five measures which the government will undertake to help cushion the impact of the new increase in the prices of oil products.

Speaking at the 81th foundation anniversary of the Philippine Army in Fort Bonifacio, the President said these steps are being taken "to meet any possible dislocation."

"I appeal to all elements of society to look at this (price increase) with sobriety and not impulsive anger nor anxiety," the President said.

To cushion the effect of the new oil price increase on the purchasing power of wage earners and the prices of other commodities, the President directed that the following steps be taken:

—For the Ministry of Labor to immediately call a tripartite conference among labor management and government to determine the proper adjustment in wages.

—A steady monitor on the problem of transportation and prices of commodities after which appropriate action will be taken to conciliate demands and to provide relief to consumers.

—Increases in tuition fees will be suspended until a policy is adopted. It may be necessary for the government to import newsprint to keep the prices of school supplies from going up.

—The Cabinet standing committee will study the reorientation of the capital budget, which means drawing from other sources funds for infrastructure and financial assistance to industries that the government is encouraging'.

—Food production and energy development programs will be accelerated.

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March 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS yesterday granted a 35-day reprieve to a death convict, only 20 minutes before he was scheduled to die in the electric chair at 3 p.m. at the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa.

The reprieve was the third given in a month to Adelaido B. Ramos, who was convicted in 1970 by the Cebu circuit criminal court for the rape and murder of his cousin's wife, and the slaying of two children witnesses. The woman was then four months pregnant.

* * * * *

PRESIDENT MARCOS has directed Brig. Gen. Pedro Dumol, general manager of the National Electrification Administration, to conduct further test runs on hydro-gas powered vehicles.

The President gave the order after noting that charcoal-fed hydrogas powered vehicles will utilize indigenous waste materials, thereby saving millions of foreign exchange needed for oil imports.

"This may mark a new era," the President said.

Dumol informed the President that the jeepney developed by Commodore Alfredo Protacio of the Sta. Barbara Project, is 75 percent more economical than diesel-fueled jeepneys and can run 160 kms, on full load of charcoal.

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March 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS directed the Cabinet standing committee and other concerned agencies to study the impact of the increase in prices of oil products on wages and prices.

The President said the study should cover all price increases and corresponding wage increase since 1971 so that a new minimum wage can be determined.

The National Wage Council has been conducting public hearings on wages since the government authorized the new round of oil price increases. The council, headed by Labor Minister Blas F. Ople, is expected to submit today its recommendations to the President.

Agencies that will work with the Cabinet standing committee, headed by acting chairman Minister Roberto Ongpin, are the National Economic and Development Authority, the Ministry of Labor, and the National Wage Council.

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FIRST LADY and Metro Manila Gov. Imelda R. Marcos has approved a new zoning ordinance that would “guide and control the future growth and development” of the metropolitan area.

An announcement of the approval was made by Nathaniel von Einsiedel, Metro Manila planning commissioner.

The ordinance, Einsiedel said, would regulate the location and use of buildings and lands in Metro Manila to prevent overcrowding, inconvenience and discomfort among its residents.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS said yesterday the death of former Senate President Gil J. Puyat was a great loss to the country and that the former senator’s “sense of dignity, decency and compassion” in his many role in public life made him truly outstanding among the country’s politicians.

Puyat, 73, died last Sunday after a heart attack.

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March 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS expressed disappointment over stories which he said smacked of yellow journalism in some major Manila newspapers and asked Gen. Hans Menzi, chairman of the Publishers Association of the Philippines, to police their own ranks.

The President said he was particularly appalled by stories on sex. They do not only smack of yellow journalism but are going down to the level of the gutter, the President said.

In a letter sent through Presidential Executive Assistant Juan C. Tuvera, Mr. Marcos said that the publishers “are duty bound to establish standards” for printed materials.

General Abat, who served for 35 years, five of them as PA chief, was replaced by Brig. Gen. Josephus Ramas, PA chief of staff and intelligence chief.

Turnover ceremonies were held at Fort Bonifacio.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS inducted into office former congressman Eduardo Cojuangco of Tarlac as ambassador-at-large of the Philippines.

Cojuangco has served as councilor of Paniqui, governor and later congressman of Tarlac, and member of the board of governors of the Development Bank of the Philippines.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS told a group of students and professors of America's National War college yesterday that subversion remains the main threat against nations in this region.

"From our point of view, the principal threat against Southeast Asian countries is not outright aggression but the export of wars and subversion," he said.

Cdr. Steve F. Kino of the United States Navy headed the war college group, part of the National Defense university.

The President said that the answer to subversion is economic development plus the capability to meet indigenous subversive groups like the Huks and the New People's Army.

He briefed the delegation on the growth of the communist government in the Philippines and the secessionist movement in Mindanao.

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March 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS set the stage for a "democratic confrontation" when he invited opposition leaders to a face-to-face discussion of the plebiscite and other national issues in a three-hour nationwide "pulong-pulong" on Thursday.

Reacting to the issues by the opposition in connection with the proposed constitutional amendments which will be submitted for ratification in the April 7 plebiscite, the President said he was willing to face the opposition as a group or in a one-on-one confrontation on the plebiscite issues and other questions of national interest they would like to take up.

The opposition leaders can have their pick of either a debate or a question-and-answer exchange with him, the President added.

He specifically mentioned former Senators Gerardo Rosas and Ambrosio Padilla, chairman and legal counsel of the United Democratic Opposition, respectively; Assemblyman Salvador Laurel of the Nacionalista Party; Assemblyman Reuben Canoy and Misamis Oriental Gov. Homobono Adaza of the Mindanao Alliance; and Francisco "Soc" Rodrigo of Laban.

The President extended the invitation in letters sent to the opposition leaders through Presidential Executive Assistant Juan C. Tuvera.

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He asked the PAPI to establish its set of standards and to furnish him with a copy.

The letter to Menzi followed a meeting with the directors of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkasters ng Pilipinas, during which they informed the President that they had already set their own standards for broadcast media.

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March 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS granted additional mandatory living allowances for workers in the private sector effective March 22.

Expected to benefit from the new allowances are 91 percent or 5.6 million of the country's six million work force in the private sector.

The granting of the allowances is contained in Wage Order No. 1, series of 1981, which the President issued on recommendation of the Cabinet Standing Committee and the National Economic and Development Authority.

Under the order, the allowances will be granted as follows:

—P2 a day for non-agricultural workers whose salary or wage is not more than P1,500 a month.

—P1.50 a day for agricultural plantation workers.

—P1 a day for agricultural non-plantation workers.

The granting of additional allowances does not apply to:

—Household or domestic help, including family drivers and persons in personal services of another.

—Handicraft industry workers.

—Workers in retail and service establishments regularly employing not more than 10 persons.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS directed yesterday Islamic Affairs Commissioner Romulo Espaldon to establish settlements for returning members of the Moro National Liberation Front and other displaced persons to bring about normalcy in Mindanao.

The President issued the order during Malacañang ceremonies marking the formal return to the folds of the law of about 60 MNLF commanders with hundreds of followers.

Those who gave up were the groups of Hadji Acmad A. Balowa, alias Commander Tatapan, based in Kauswagan and belonging to the Nur Misuari faction; and Sultan Lampa Mutia, or Commander Lampa, of the Hashim Salamat faction, based in Tangkal. Lanao del Norte.

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March 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has approved the retirement of Maj. Gen. Fortunato U. Abat, Philippine Army commanding officer, touching off speculations that many of 17 generals whose terms had been extended will also be retired.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: March 30 - April 6, 1981

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

March 30—

PRESIDENT MARCOS extended additional invitations to former President Diosdado Macapagal, Ex-Sen. Jose Diokno and former Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr to participate in next Thursday's nationwide "Pulong-pulong."

The President also outlined the rules and format of the telecast so that televiewers and radio listeners can address questions to him and the participants from the opposition.

The President ruled out suggestions that the discussion be held on a one-on-one basis between him and an appointed opposition representative because of lack of material time.

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March 31—

PRESIDENT MARCOS stressed that the all-embracing, issue at stake in next Tuesday's plebiscite was political stability which could only be attained through the proposed constitutional amendments.

In an interview with newsmen the President said there can be no economic development without political stability which, he said, must be the basic foundation of almost any kind of progress.

He said that in the search for such stability and progress, not only good leaders or good legislators are required but also political institutions which are strong yet flexible enough to changes.

"We want to be prosperous. We want to develop industries. We want to increase the per capita income. So we must have a machinery in government which can react to all of these with flexibility and resolution," the President said.

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THE FIRST LADY, Imelda R. Marcos, urged Filipino artists to come out of isolation and face modern day realities with a new sensitivity and a fresher approach to problems.

She spoke before the graduating scholars of the Philippine High School of the Arts at the National Arts Center on Mt. Makiling, Los Baños.

She said that far from making artists more withdrawn, the advance in technology should impel them to reach new heights of creativity.

"Through his modern perspective, without abandoning the traditional cornerstone of aesthetics, he (the artist) should be capable of interpreting the realities of contemporary times for the humanistic enlightenment of his people," the First Lady said.

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THE FIRST LADY inaugurated yesterday the Eye Center to fulfill a vow that no Filipino would ever lose his sight because he is poor.

To get the new center operational, she raised on the spot P2 million as the center's trust fund.

The simple ceremony at Teodoro Kalaw st. was attended by about 50 of the leading ophthalmologists in the country and the directors of the Ophthalmology Foundation, Inc.

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April 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered yesterday Budget Minister Manuel Alba to release the necessary funds to cover the outstanding balance of the P250 annual clothing allowance of public school teachers and the salary adjustments for superintendents all over the country.

The President also told Alba that salaries of public school teachers should be paid promptly on a fortnightly basis instead of the current practice of paying them only once a month.

Some 300 public school teachers and 400 superintendents and assistant superintendents stand to benefit from the President's order.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS honored a fireman who returned a box containing P500, 000 worth of jewelry to a Chinese family whose house was razed by fire last March 22.

The President presented in ceremonies yesterday in Malacañang the Integrated National Police merit medal to Fire Corporal Edgardo S. Santos for his exemplary integrity and devotion to duty and service.

He also promoted Santos, a member of Fire District 2 of Metropolitan Police Force, to fire sergeant.

The President also inducted Narciso M. Cabrera, Jr., superintendent of the Western Police District, as police brigadier general.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS expressed disappointment at the posture taken by the opposition in their projected dialogue on national issues in the nationwide "Pulong-pulong" slated tomorrow night.

The President said in a statement that the opposition "miss the point of this exercise completely," adding that the Pulong-pulong is not a sophomoric debate where the participants seek to win college medals.

"The Pulong-pulong is part of the information campaign which is I repeat, non-political and non-partisan, where all of us would act as guides rather than as combatants and explain the nature, purpose and intent of the Constitutional amendment," the President said.

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THE FIRST LADY and Metro Manila Gov. Imelda R. Marcos approved a plan to set aside 127 hectares of government land in Mandaluyong Metro Manila, for an urban renewal project for housing for the homeless.

The area, bounded by Ortigas Avenue, Wack Wack Golf Club and Fabella street, is presently occupied by the National Mental Institution, Welfareville and the Women's Correctional Institution.

Under the plan, the mental institution and the Welfareville will be relocated to the Lungsod Silangan while the Women's Correctional Institution will be transferred to a site still to be chosen for the Prisoner's Rehabilitation Center another project of the Metro Manila Commission.

Representatives of the ministries of justice, health and the social services will thresh out with MMC officials the transfer of the property from their jurisdiction to the city government.

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NATURAL Resources Minister Jose J. Leido, Jr. yesterday warned fishermen all over the country from catching or transporting *subalo*.

Leido made the warning as the total ban on catching, selling and transporting of sabalo took effect in all areas of the country.

The ban is embodied in Fisheries Administrative Order No. 129. according to Fisheries Director Felix R. Gonzales who recommended the ban "to assure adequate bangus fingerling for the multi-million peso bangus industry."

Sabalo are full grown bangus (milkfish in English and Chanos chanos Foreskal, scientific name) and refers to both male and female measuring more than fill centimeters from the tip of its mouth to the extreme end of its caudal fin or tail.

The new order amends FAO 120 issued September 1975 banning the catching of sabalo for a period of live years.

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APRIL 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, with or without the participation of the op position, will take today at 7 p.m. on the issues of the April 7 plebiscite on constitutional amendments during a "Pulong-pulong" on a nationwide radio-television hookup.

The President is expected to underscore the need for the people to approve the proposed amendments to assure, he said, political economic stability.

During the two-hour meeting with the people which will be held at the Maharlika Broadcasting System studios in Quezon City, the President will also answer issues which have been publicly raised by the opposition.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered Constabulary authorities to coordinate with justice ministry officials in speeding up prosecution of the suspects in the gun-slaying last Dec. 6 of Iligan City newsman Demosthenes Dingcong.

The President issued his order to Maj. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos. PC chief, during the induction of the new officers of the Federation of Provincial Press Clubs, led by Leon Meer Manipol, in Malacañang yesterday.

Aside from Manipol, the other EPPC officers are: Casiano Navarro Jr., executive vice president; Max Sangil, vice president for Luzon; Fraulin Peñasales, vice president for Visayas; Leonnie Tan, vice president for Mindanao; Fred Martinez, treasurer; Manny Movido, business manager; Alfonso Combong, Jr., auditor; Emmanuel Enriquez, Assistant Treasurer Juan Triviño and Jose Mendoza, directors for Luzon; Ronquillo Tolentino and Rolando Espina, directors for Visayas; Jose Marchan and Abarico, directors for Minanao. Nick I. Marte is FPPC secretary general.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS inducted Davao City Mayor Elias Lopez and the members of his Sangguniang Panglunsod (city council) in Malacañang.

Among those who witnessed the oath taking were the First Lady Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, and Assemblyman Alejandro Almendras of Davao Mayor Lopez was proclaimed mayor of Davao City after more than a year of litigation.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS declared that next Monday, April 6, would be a special non-working public holiday to enable the people to take part in plebiscite on constitutional amendments scheduled the next day, Tuesday.

He did this in Proclamation No. 2972, which provides that teachers and other officials required by law to assist in the conduct of the plebiscite would stay in their respective posts Monday.

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APRIL 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has suspended until Oct. 1 the 50-percent increase in specific taxes of locally-produced liquor.

In Executive Order No. 672, signed March 31, the President said that the 50-percent increase would be adopted in two stages: 25 percent starting October 1 and the other 25 percent on April, 1982.

Batas Pambansa Blg. 82, which increased the rates of specific taxes on liquor and other fermented drinks by 50 percent, took effect Sept. 17 last year. Local producers, led by San Miguel Corp., Tanduay Distilleries Inc. and La Tondeña Inc., asked for a two-year deferment.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue, however, recommended only a one-year and two-stage deferment.

Revenue Commissioner Ruben B. Ancheta said that a two-year deferment would mean a loss to the government of P812 million, whereas the one-year relief would result only in a loss of P156 million.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS called last night on the people “to move resolutely” and help refine the country’s political structure through the proposed amendments to the Constitution.

The President issued the call during the nationwide “Pulong-pulong” during which he answered the issues raised by the opposition regarding the amendments up for ratification in a plebiscite on Tuesday.

Apparently addressing himself to the opposition, the President said:

“These are critical times and I believe that in this study as to the proper form of government and the provisions of the fundamental law we should discard petty partisanship and join hands to resolve these issues which will affect not only our generation but also many generations to come.”

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THE FIRST LADY, Imelda R. Marcos, sought yesterday to harness Filipino creative skills to produce new products out of the country's raw materials to generate more income in the countryside.

Mrs. Marcos, who is also human settlements minister directed project managers of the 120 livelihood centers of the Ministry of Human Settlements for this drive.

She also enlisted the cooperation of the Design Center of the Philippines and the Technology Resource Center to help in developing these new products.

To find markets abroad the human settlements ministry will coordinate with the ministries of foreign affairs, trade and industries.

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April 4

PRESIDENT MARCOS appealed today for support to amend the Constitution in a lug rally in Cebu City the seat of the opposition in Central Visayas.

It was the second campaign appearance of the President in the vote rich city since 1972. He campaigned for the local officials in the region early last year.

Accompanied by the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, the President arrived aboard the RPS Ang Pangulo.

The political leadership is giving importance to Central Visayas (Region 7) because the Pusyun Bisaya gave the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan a thrashing during the election for the members of the Batasang Pambansa in 1978, winning all the 13 seats.

During the local elections last year, the KBL regained lost prestige in Cebu by winning the mayorship and governorship.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS predicted a 4 to 1 victory for the "Yes" vote in the plebiscite on constitutional amendments on Tuesday.

Interviewed by newsmen shortly after his arrival in Cebu City, the President said that he based his prediction on random surveys being conducted by various groups. President Marcos laughed off reported efforts of former President Macapagal to reconvene the defunct Constitutional Conventions as an "April Fool's" joke.

"Perhaps, this is just coincidental, but I don't know why this has to happen on April Fool's Day," the President said, recalling Macapagal's "flight" to the American embassy in Manila where he sought "asylum" for an imagined danger to his person after writing an anti-Marcos administration book.

The President at the same time dismissed as "ridiculous" charges by some opposition leaders that the ruling Kilusang Bagong Lipunan is engaged in a massive vote-buying in the coming plebiscite.

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THE FIRST LADY and Metro Manila Gov. Imelda R. Marcos assured yesterday jeepney drivers and operators that the government will stand by them in their striving for a better life.

“I would like to know that you have nothing to worry about the future because the administration is behind you in your striving for a better life,” Mrs. Marcos told a delegation of the 100,000-member Katipunan ng mga Kooperatibang Pangsasakyan ng Pilipinas.

The leaders of the group called on the First Lady at Malacañang to pledge support for the constitutional amendments in the April 7 plebiscite.

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April 5 —

TUIC SUPREME COURT yesterday upheld the power of the interim Batasang Pambansa to propose amendments to the Constitution as it dismissed the petition of two former Con-Con delegates.

At the same time, the high tribunal ruled that the 1973 Constitution is the fundamental law of the land.

Chief Justice Enrique M. Fernando, who penned the decision, said “it is much too late in the day to deny the force and applicability of the 1973 Constitution.

Fernando fell back on a previous case—*Javellana vs The Executive Secretary*—which dismissed petitions for prohibition and mandamus to declare invalid its ratification.

The chief justice of the Supreme Court then concluded: “This being the vote of the majority, there is no further judicial obstacle to the new Constitution being considered in force and effect.

“It made manifest that as of January 17, 1973, the present Constitution came into force and effect,” he said.

As to the Batasan’s power to propose amendments, Chief Justice Fernando said the applicable provision in the 1976 amendments is quite explicit.

He said it states thus: “The interim Batasang Pambansa shall have the same powers and its Members shall have the same functions, responsibilities, rights, privileges, and disqualifications as the interim National Assembly and the regular National Assembly and the members thereof.

He explained that one such power is precisely that of proposing amendments.

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April 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and a battery of KBL speakers summarized before an overflow crowd the reasons why a “Yes” vote for Constitutional amendments would redound to the people’s welfare.

The President explained how these refinements being made on the charter would mean political stability, economic progress and dignity for the Filipino.

The one-hour extemporaneous speech of the President in Pilipino and English nearly went beyond the midnight deadline for the plebiscite campaign. The speeches were interspersed with songs of name stage and television artists.

He made telling points as he hammered away at the opposition being greedy (“sakim”), insincere and, inconsistent. He cited history and Supreme Court decisions to refute some legal points earlier raised by the opposition.

A “Yes” vote will refine the present parliamentary system, providing, among others, for a strong and effective President and will give back to the people the right to pick their own leader, the President said.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS has authorized the release of P3.3 million to implement a Bureau of Forest Development program for forest fire prevention and control.

Director Edmundo V. Cortes said that the funds will be used for a two-pronged approach on forest fire control.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: April 7-12, 1981

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

April 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS urged last night all qualified voters to go out and vote in today's plebiscite on Constitutional amendments.

The opposition made a similar call, prompting observers to say the turnout may be bigger than expected. The earlier estimate was 24.4 million, or 85 percent of registered voters.

In a brief message, the President said "I urge everyone who is qualified to vote, to reflect deeply on the issues and to make his wishes known through his vote."

The President said that "from the moment the people make known their sovereign will by vote, a great step forward will have been taken in the normalization of the country's political life and in the shaping of national future."

Last Sunday, the President made his final appeal for the people to support the proposed amendments in a huge rally in Plaza Miranda.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS has ordered Metro Manila Vice Gov. Ismael Mathay to suspend the implementation of an MMC ordinance increasing market stall rental fees.

The President told Mathay to suspend the implementation of MMC Ordinance No. 4 until public hearings are conducted on the rental increases.

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The chief executive issued the order on board *RPS Ang Pangulo* while en route back to Manila after a one day visit to Cebu.

The order apparently was a result of Metro Manila vendors' outcry against the increased rentals.

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April 8—

AS THEY have done in the past, President Marcos yesterday voted in Batac, Ilocos Norte, and the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, cast her ballot in the V. Mapa high school in Manila.

The President arrived in Batac by land at 3:15 p.m. and proceeded immediately to the Don Mariano elementary school, near his ancestral home, to vote in his old polling place, Precinct No. 1, in barangay Lacub.

He cast his vote at 3:30 p.m., the 177th of 291 registered voters in the precinct.

Voting with him were his son, Vice-Gov. Ferdinand Marcos, Jr., and daughters Imee and Irene.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS has ordered the immediate implementation of the government's fish-breeding program after receiving reports from the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center that milkfish can now be induced to spawn in captivity.

Some P7.9 million was ordered released to finance the four-year program.

The breeding program intends to increase the supply of bangus fingerlings, minimize their transport costs and mortality rate and produce bangus fry for export.

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SAN FABIAN, Pangasinan, April 7—President Marcos said today that the Batasang Pambansa will have to pass an amended election law to determine the political parties to be accredited in the June 7 presidential elections.

In an interview with newsmen at the regional center here, the President said that he has already directed Majority Floorleader Jose Rono and Political Affairs Minister Leonardo B. Perez to organize a group to study possible accreditation alternatives to be presented to the Batasan for consideration.

Provisions for the accreditation of political parties will pave the way for the June 7 presidential elections, the first since 1969, when Mr. Marcos won in his re-election bid.

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April 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS called last night for national unity and asked all concerned to give way to the people's mandate in the just-concluded plebiscite.

The message follows:

"The campaign and the voting are over and the nation now awaits the full canvass of the plebiscite results.

"The recent plebiscite will be recorded in our history as one of the most peaceful and orderly that we have held in our country, and for this I wish to congratulate and thank all our people and the many agencies of government and civic organizations which stood vigil over the voting, and now stand watch over the canvass of returns.

"It is important at this time, when the official Comelec canvass is being undertaken, that we allow the dust of the campaign settle and we prepare ourselves for the verdict of our people. As in elections past, the campaign has fully reflected the division of opinions in our national life. But now, with the voting over, the divisiveness must give way to the people's mandate."

PRESIDENT MARCOS requested the Commission on Elections to investigate complaints of reported anomalies in Tuesday's plebiscite in Zamboanga City and all other violations of the Election Code.

In a letter to Comelec Chairman Vicente Santiago, the President said: "I would be gratified to see that said investigation is conducted immediately and thoroughly because we want to set a precedent and impress upon everyone that the KBL, and particularly the President of the Philippines does not and will not tolerate, any violation of the Election Code or of rules and regulations by any individual, irrespective of political affiliation."

The President requested the investigation after Zamboanga Mayor Cesar Chmaco appeared on television the other night claiming that members of the city council raided a hotel room in Zamboanga City and seized what he said were forged tally sheets.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS said yesterday he will call a caucus of the ruling Kilusang Bagong Lipunan party soon to find the person the party wants to be the first prime minister.

The prime minister, under the amendments to the Constitution, shares executive functions with the President and is head of the executive committee, a new feature of the modified parliamentary form of government which appears to have been ratified in the last plebiscite.

Among those being considered for prime minister are Finance Minister Cesar Virata, who now heads of Cabinet standing committee; Assemblyman Arturo M. Tolentino, whose stock soared during the plebiscite campaign; and Assemblyman Emmanuel Pelaez, who could be foreign minister again and concurrently prime minister.

The President arrived yesterday on board a presidential plane from Batac, Ilocos Norte, where he cast his vote.

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April 10—

THE FIRST LADY, Imelda R. Marcos, appealed to the private sector to participate more actively in the Ministry of Human Settlements' housing and livelihood program.

The First Lady, who is minister of human settlements and Metro Manila governor, made the appeal in a three-hour meeting with other ministers, heads of government housing and financing institutions and the newly-organized Project Management Service Group.

She said that assistance from the private sector and government financing institutions is needed to speed up the housing and livelihood program.

The First Lady took officials on a tour of barrio Magsaysay in Tondo, to enable them to experience how it is to be in a slum and with the poor.

At the Barrio Magsaysay Multipurpose Center where a large crowd had gathered, the First Lady explained the Tondo improvement program with the aid of charts and photos.

As she was taking the officials around Tondo, word came from the PNA in Los Angeles that Mrs. Marcos had been selected by the Pan-Hellenic Council of the University of Southern California in Los Angeles as one of the "10 most influential women of 1980."

The criterion for the award is that the recipient be a "trend setter whose activities present women with new options." The other nine chosen included Nancy Reagan, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Mother Theresa Princess Grace of Monaco, former Rep. Barbara Jordan, Irene Kassoria, a psychologist, actresses Goldie Hawn and Barbra Streisand and Georgia Frontiere, owner of the pro football team Los Angeles Rams.

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April 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS is scheduled to convene his Cabinet this noon to work out details of the coming presidential elections, including the possibility of resetting the date of the presidential polls to June 11.

The Cabinet meeting is also expected to consider nominees for prime minister and possibly enabling laws to implement new amendments to the Constitution.

The President said there is a possibility that the coming Presidential elections may have to be reset from the original date of June 7 to June 11 because the Batasang Pambansa may not finish passing the election law bill during the Holy Week.

He said he had just received word from some assemblymen that they do not wish to work during the Holy Week.

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April 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS virtually ruled out a demand of the opposition for a longer campaign period in the coming presidential elections.

He said at the inauguration of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines” building in Pasig, Metro Manila, that a campaign period longer than 45 days, makes it “more bitter, more expensive, more personal, more vitriolic, and more dangerous.”

In his speech, the President summarized the rationale behind the amendments to the Constitution in three words—stability, continuity and representation.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS formally proclaimed the ratification of the constitutional amendments submitted in the April 7 plebiscite and immediately called the Batasang Pambansa to a special session starting April 14 to enact a bill holding a presidential election either on June 7 or June 11.

The President declared the ratification of the amendments after receiving the report of the Commission on Elections, acting as the national board of canvassers, on the official results of the plebiscite.

The canvass showed the ratification of all the amendments contained in the three plebiscite questions on the adoption of a modified parliamentary form of government, electoral reforms, and the grant of right to own residential land here to natural-born Filipinos who have lost their citizenship.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS called the Batasang Pambansa to a special session starting Tuesday to set the date for the presidential election authorized by the recently ratified amendments to the Constitution.

The President called the session after declaring the new Charter amendments in full force and effect.

Both presidential actions were embodied in Proclamation 2077 and 2078.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: April 13-19, 1981

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

April 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS went last night on his traditional Lenten spiritual retreat, accompanied by Cabinet members and others, aboard the Presidential yacht *RPS Ang Pangulo*. The retreat will end Tuesday noon.

The Rev. Fr. Severino Pelayo, parish priest of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Quezon City, will act as retreat master and deliver the inspirational talk in the retreat. He is a graduate of the San Jose Seminary and the Angelicum University in the Vatican.

The First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, joined the President for Mass aboard the *Ang Pangulo*, then went back to Malacañang.

Among the officials in the retreat are Ministers Ricardo Puno, Blas F. Ople, Enrique Garcia, Jesus Hipoiito, Manuel Elizalde, Central Bank Gov. Jaime Laya, NMPC director Gregorio S. Cendaña, chairman Angel Limjoco of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Commissioner Edmundo Reyes, Maj. Gen. Fabian Ver and Rear Admiral Simeon Alejandro, navy flag officer-in-command.

Also in the group is Msgr. Ruperto R. Fernandez, AFP chaplain. The retreat coordinator is Ricardo Cu-Unjieng.

During the retreat, prayers will be offered for retreat members who have died. One of them is the late Budget Commissioner Faustino Sychangco.

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April 14—

The Kilusang Bagong Lipunan, in a 55-minute caucus with President Marcos decided to make June 16 election day when the legislature enacts the bill authorizing the presidential election in June.

The caucus, held just before the Batasang Pambansa started its special session, agreed to have the election bill passed next Tuesday, April 21.

The President would sign the bill into law on the same day, which would officially open a 55-day campaign lasting up to June 14—two days before election day.

The conference also decided to hold the KBL convention to select a candidate on April 25.

The deadline for the filing of certificates of candidacy was fixed at 30 days before election day, which is May 16.

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April 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS urged the opposition yesterday to organize for the June presidential election so that the people would have serious choices—"not a circus show" featuring the majority candidate against "multiple candidates with nary an organization to support them."

Speaking at the opening of the Batasang Pambansa special session he said:

“It is precisely in keeping with this desire to see a united opposition contesting the presidency with the majority party, that we in the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan are submitting to government a scheme for the accreditation of political parties, consonant to the second of the approved amendments.”

While the No. 1 priority in the special session is the bill calling for the June election, No. 2 priority is given the bill on accreditation of political parties.

The President said that basic to the task of implementing the constitutional changes is “the passage of legislation calling for the holding of presidential elections at the earliest possible time.”

He said that it is only with the inauguration of the new presidency as provided for by the amended Constitution “that the force of the amendments will come to life and effect.”

With this, he said, would follow the appointment of a new Prime Minister, the organization of the cabinet and the executive committee, and the start of the new relationship between parliament and presidency.

April 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered all copra buyers to pay a uniform price of P2 a kilo to coconut farmers.

He took this emergency measure to help more than a million coconut farmers ride out the current depressed world coconut oil market.

He also issued several directives to stabilize the domestic coconut oil industry. These are:

- Central Bank support to commercial banks financing hard pressed coconut oil mills.
- Buying of copra by all qualified dealers, instead of limiting purchases to authorized buyers.
- Purchase of an estimated surplus coconut oil production of 160,000 to 170,000 tons by the government.
- Payment in cash of oil millers’ copra purchases from coconut farmers.
- Study the possibility of putting up one marketing committee to stop the cutthroat competition among copra buyers through uniform pricing.

The farmers have met difficulty in selling copra in recent months as some of them could not transport their produce to authorized buyers which sell at P2 a kilo. Instead of selling their copra to the United Coconut Oil Mills, a group of 16 oil milling companies, the farmers were selling to buyers for as low as P1.10 a kilo.

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A COMPETENT prime minister will stay on the job indefinitely to give him the chance to carry out long-range economic plans.

President Marcos gave this assurance yesterday to correct the impression that the premiership would change hands every year.

Mr. Marcos said, however, that if the prime minister does not show the qualities expected of him, he should give up the position gracefully.

An effective prime minister will be allowed to continue in office with a deputy prime minister gaining experience and competence by working with them.

He said he is now trying to measure the capabilities of possible candidates for the post of prime minister and other ranking positions between now and June 30.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS said that the opposition demand to postpone the presidential election to next year "is out of the question."

He told Malacañang newsmen in an interview that the Batasang Pambansa had already approved the election bill on second reading.

The bill is scheduled to be enacted next Tuesday, with the President ready to sign it on the same day, thereby setting off the campaign period for the June 16, presidential election.

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April 17—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has ordered the immediate implementation of a fuel mix program by using excess coconut oil in the local market, in a move to help small coconut farmers.

The move will ease the oversupply of copra and coconut oil in the market which, along with other factors, had brought down the prices of these products, adversely affecting the livelihood of more than one million Filipino coconut farmers.

The President's directive involves the purchase and use of surplus coconut oil by the government and will not affect the country's export commitments.

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IF ELECTED on June 16, President Marcos said he would undertake a top-to-bottom reassessment of the performance of officials in various government agencies, including the Cabinet.

The performance audit plan was disclosed by President Marcos in a brief talk with newsmen shortly before he left for Baguio City.

Accompanied by the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, the President will inspect government projects, such as the Export Processing Zone, in the Pines City.

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April 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS warned that former Senator Benigno Aquino Jr. will have to face legal consequences if he returns to the country.

Answering questions from newsmen in Baguio City on the possibility that Aquino may return to the country for the coming presidential elections, the President said:

“If Aquino comes to the Philippines that will pose a problem because he is still facing a number of charges.”

Aquino, who left the country last May for a heart operation in the United States, went to Tokyo to confer with former Sen. Salvador H. Laurel, an opposition leader said to be interested in the presidency.

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THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister, Imelda R. Marcos, said she welcomed the coming international conference on human settlements in Manila as an opportunity for the Philippines to showcase her own programs and achievements in this field.

Mrs. Marcos told newsmen in Baguio City that she wanted the more than 600 human settlements experts from all over the world to see for themselves “what we have been doing in terms of making every settlement here a human settlement where the goal is not just economic wellbeing but a better quality of life and a sense of fulfillment for every Filipino.”

The First Lady was referring to the fourth session of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements (UNCHS) scheduled at the Philippine International Convention Center April 27 to May 6.

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April 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said former Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. faces arrest should he return to Manila, and will be treated like any other Filipino facing charges before the courts.

“We will have to let the law take its course.” the President said in an interview with newsmen after his speech at the inauguration and blessing of the administration building of the Export Processing Zone in Loakan, Baguio City.

The President was commenting on reports that the opposition might boycott the June 16, presidential elections if Aquino is arrested upon his return.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS denied that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is being slowly transformed into a military organization.

In an interview with newsmen at the mansion house, the President emphasized that the ASEAN “is an organization that is oriented towards economic development and social integration.”

The President made this statement when asked to comment on reports said to be from a US defense publication that the ASEAN is slowly becoming a military organization.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS said that the export processing zones are the answer to many deficiencies of the country’s economy.

The President was principal speaker at the inauguration and blessing of the Baguio City Export Processing Zone, the third in the country.

The First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos, assisted by Mrs. Bebe A. Bueno and Mrs. Edelwina F Peña cut the ceremonial ribbon and unveiled the BCEPZ administration building marker.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: April 20-26, 1981

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

April 20—

CLASSES will open June 22, instead of June 15.

President Marcos ordered a one-week delay in the opening of classes because of the June 16 presidential elections.

With the new schedule, students of voting age in the province can vote in their hometowns before going to the cities to enroll.

The decision to postpone the opening of classes was reached during the caucus of the ruling Kilusang Bagong Lipunan last Tuesday at the Batasan building in Quezon City.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS has asked the youth to take early interest in national affairs, reminding them of the disastrous consequences of a misguided leadership.

The President, in a speech read for him before graduates of the Don Mariano Marcos State university in Batac, Ilocos Norte, last Saturday, stressed the need for the youth to recognize, their stakes in the national life.

He reminded the youth that the course of action they take or the indifference they display affect those around them. He told the graduates:

“However we act—rightly or wrongly, with vision or with narrow-mindedness—our actions have consequences for more than just the life around us.

“And we need only remember the examples of militarist Japan and a surging Nazi Germany to realize the terrible discontinuities that can overtake a nation when it is blighted by misguided leadership.”

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April 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS signed into law last night a Batasan Pambansa bill calling for presidential elections on June 16, the first since 1969. But a three-cornered fight looms as a grouping of a Pusyon Bisaya faction and other regional opposition groups said it will field its own candidate to face President Marcos and whoever is put up by the UNIDO.

The election law provides for an election of the president by direct vote of the people in accordance with the newly-ratified modified parliamentary system.

Signing of the law, witnessed by members of the Batasang Pambansa, was made a few hours after the Batasan had approved the bill on third reading.

Under the law the deadline for the filing of candidacy and nomination of candidates by political parties is April 28. The election campaign period has been set for 52 days starting April 24, and the election has been set on June 16.

The new law also calls for the registration of all voters by the Citizens Election Committee starting May 30 until June 5.

No further registration shall be allowed within 10 days prior to the election and for this purpose, the election registrar shall deliver to the Citizens Election Committee the precinct book of voters corresponding to the voting center concerned.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS warned that he will be forced to take drastic measures if terroristic activities continue in Mindanao.

The warning was issued by the President in reaction to the grenade explosion incident inside the San Pedro Cathedral in Davao City during an Easter Sunday Mass. At least 13 persons were reported killed and more than 100 others injured when two grenades exploded one after another.

“If the terrorism continues in Mindanao. I’ll be compelled, elections or no elections, to take more forceful measures.” the President said.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS lauded President Jose Lopez Portillo of Mexico for initiating the move to break the impasse in the North-South dialogue by calling a summit meeting in Acapulco this October.

The President made the commendation in brief remarks before the Mexican delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference, headed by Sen. Joaquin Gamboa-Pascoe, which called on him in Malacañang.

“President Portillo is doing great service to Third World countries with his efforts to bring about resolution of the issues in North-South dialogue,” the President said.

President Marcos has been invited to attend the summit.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS asked assemblymen from the coconut regions to monitor copra trading in order to ensure that his directives to help coconut producers are being followed.

The President told some 20 lawmakers during an hour-long meeting in Malacañang that he had fixed the millgate price of copra at P2 per kilo, the buyers to buy all copra brought to them and to pay cash on delivery.

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ASSEMBLYMEN from the coconut-producing regions have formed a watchdog committee to see to it that copra is sold to coconut farmers at the uniform millgate price of P2 a kilo.

They formed the group as President Marcos urged them to see to it that every possible help be given the coconut farmers, who are suffering from the currently low price of copra abroad.

The President told 23 assemblymen from the coconut-producing areas to see to it that copra buying is kept open to all coconut farmers and farmers are paid in cash.

The measures are intended to protect the farmers, specially at this time of year when they need cash for tuition and other school expenses of their children.

The President reiterated that effective May 1, the government will buy all the excess oil that cannot be sold by local millers in the world market.

The coconut oil will be mixed with diesel oil at the ratio of 90 percent diesel and 10 percent coconut oil. The mixed fuel will be used by the National Power Corporation and the navy will require 260, 000 tons of coconut oil annually.

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April 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS called for urgent global reforms to help “defuse the bomb” that threatens to destroy the world.

Speaking at the opening of the liter-Parliamentary Union spring meetings at the Philippine Convention Center, the President said the world is astride a “current of ferment” and that immediate solutions are needed.

The President cited the turmoil and the uneasiness in international life resulting mostly, he said, from the widening gap between the rich and the poor nations.

“Unless the superpowers finally realize the futility of arms race and the perilous course of rivalry and unless we begin” now to revise the charter of the United Nations and rebuild a system truly reflective and effective structure that shall bring about order to international life, we will continue to move irrevocably towards incineration of all nations in the world,” the President warned.

However, the President said that moral persuasion on the conduct and policies of nations may yet turn around the present situation decisively towards reform of the global system.

April 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered the production of more gasifiers and their mass distribution after the June 16 election.

Several types of vehicles fitted with gasifiers were presented to the President and the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, in Malacañang. Among the vehicles presented for demonstration were Kadiwa mobile store jeepneys and garbage disposal trucks.

The gasifier models attached to the vehicles had been improved and the method of producing the hydro-gas refined.

Vehicles with combustion engines that run on hydrogen gas developed by Filipino experts over the past few months were earlier demonstrated to the First Couple.

Filipino scientists working on the project have advanced the already known use of gasifiers to turn charcoal into gas by introducing the use of steam to form a combustible mixture for gasoline and diesel engines.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS assured the government of Nigeria that the Philippines is ready to extend agriculture technology expertise to Nigeria.

The President gave the assurance to Nigerian Agriculture Minister Ibrahim Gusau, who called on the President.

The Nigerian Minister is leading a mission exploring areas of cooperation in agriculture, particularly rice production, storage, milling and marketing and fish farming.

Minister Gusau said he was impressed by the strides made by the Philippines in agricultural production, and would like to invite agricultural technicians to help improve his country's agricultural production.

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April 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, quoting a cabinet standing committee report submitted to him, said that the country's inflation rate went down to 12.64 per cent last March.

The President said that this figure was the lowest registered since 1979.

According to the report, there was a pronounced decrease in the inflation rate from February to March in Metro Manila. In February, the inflation rate was down to 12.21 percent, then declined further to 11.19 in March.

The cabinet standing committee cited figures from the National Economic and Development Authority which said that outside Metro Manila, the rate decreased from 14.92 percent in February to 12.88 in March.

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THE FIRST LADY, Imelda R. Marcos lauded Japan's generosity and concern in helping Third World countries fight and conquer tropical diseases.

Speaking at the inauguration of the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine in Alabang the First Lady noted that Japan, having conquered what is commonly called tropical diseases, like malaria, tuberculosis, schistosomiasis and leprosy, has turned her attention and energies to helping other nations fight similar health problems.

Citing the institute as an example, the First Lady said: "That she has generously endowed us to establish this institute is a manifestation of her sympathy and identification with the health problems of Third World nations."

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April 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS declared that the university is for quality education, not for ideological and partisan politics, which "can tear the academic community apart."

Speaking at the University of the Philippines alumni homecoming at the Manila Hotel, he said that the great political issues dividing society cannot be resolved in the university.

He said the university does not represent all sectors nor does it command majority votes in a referendum, plebiscite or election.

On the other hand, he called for academic freedom, with every citizen having the right to hold and express his political opinion.

“Academic freedom means we must listen, not force our ideas on the students or on any others,” he said. “Let us listen to everybody. Let us not riot and demonstrate to coerce and intimidate, but demonstrate in favor of intellectual quality.”

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PRESIDENT MARCOS appears to be an unbeatable choice in the June 16 Presidential elections with prospective opposition candidates trailing far behind, according to an independent opinion poll released yesterday by the Malacañang press office.

The results of the survey, which apparently had also been reflected in polls commissioned by the opposition themselves, seemed to have triggered off the decision of Unido to stay out of the elections.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS granted yesterday a 35-day reprieve to a death convict who raped a pregnant woman then killed her and her two children in Cebu 11 years ago.

This was the fourth time the President stayed the execution of Adelaido B. Ramos who was convicted by the Cebu circuit criminal court for murder and rape on Sept. 27, 1970.

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April 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, accepting the presidential nomination of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan, warned the opposition that its decision to boycott the June 16 election would consign it to oblivion.

“Let history bypass those who refuse to participate in the democratic processes of the country,” he said as he wound up his acceptance speech at the KBL convention in the Manila hotel. “Let them be forgotten in the dustbin of posterity.”

A day earlier, the United Democratic Opposition (Unido) had announced its decision not only to refuse to put up a candidate but also to boycott the election totally.

“If we must do it alone, we will do it alone,” Mr. Marcos said.

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The ruling Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL) mobilized some 6,000 local leaders from 73 provinces and 60 cities, who attended yesterday’s KBL national convention, and directed them to campaign immediately for the election of President Marcos on June 16, with or without an opponent.

In his report to the convention, Local Governments Minister Jose A. Roño KBL secretary general, said the ruling party under the leadership of the governors, Batasan members, mayors, barangay captains, the youth, and local chairmen, was strong and willing to vote even if the President has no opponent.

Roño said it is obvious that the United Democratic Opposition (Unido) has taken the decision it announced as a means of providing itself with an excuse in advance for the defeat it will suffer in the hands of the KBL.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: April 27 - May 3, 1981

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

April 27—

A HUMAN settlements conference, attended by 58 countries, opens in Manila this morning amid hopes that it will help push forward development programs throughout the world.

The conference marks the fourth session of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements.

Six hundred delegates are expected to take part in the discussion at the Philippine Convention Center.

The First Lady and Human Settlements Minister, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, cited the importance of the conference in an interview yesterday at the Manila International Airport, where she welcomed Sri Lanka Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa.

Premadasa will lead his country's delegation to the conference.

According to Mrs. Marcos, the human settlements conference will discuss such 'basic community needs as energy, housing, livelihood opportunities and related topics.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS will meet with Sri Lanka Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa this morning to discuss wider cooperation between their countries.

The talks are scheduled shortly before the President leaves for the Philippine International Convention Center to keynote the fourth session of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements.

Besides discussing possible areas of cooperation between the Philippines and Sri Lanka, the President and his 56-year-old guest are expected to exchange views on security, economic development in Asia and other topics.

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THE FIRST LADY, Imelda R. Marcos, said the thrust of the coming election campaign will be on development and not on personalities.

This was disclosed by the First Lady in a brief talk with newsmen at the airport shortly before the arrival of Sri Lanka Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa at the Manila International Airport.

"The election of President Marcos is only incidental," she told newsmen. "After all, the needs of the people is my No. 1 concern."

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April 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said the involvement of all government agencies in human settlement programs and the cultivation of self-reliance among the beneficiaries differentiate the Filipino concept of human settlements from those of Western countries.

Speaking at the opening of the fourth session of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements at the Philippine International Convention Center, the President pointed out that while the tasks of human settlements are delegated to single office in Western nations in the Philippines, these are carried out by all government offices which bring to the people their 11 basic needs.

The Ministry of Human Settlements acts as a mere catalyzer of all these ministries, the President said.

The President added that instead of giving out doles to the poor, an idea espoused in the welfare state concept, the government puts up settlements based on self-reliance.

Houses must eventually be amortized, he said, but the government helps the people put up the money by employing them in income-generating livelihood projects established near their settlements.

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April 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and 15 others filed yesterday with the Commission Elections their certificates of candidacy for president in the June 16 elections.

Assemblyman Alejandro D. Almendras and Reuben Canoy were also reported last night as being considered by the Nacionalista Party and the Philippine Alliance, respectively, for their standard bearers.

Registered political parties have until May 16 to file their presidential nominations, while the deadline for individual candidates was at 12 last night.

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THE FIRST LADY, Imelda R. Marcos, said that for the presidential campaign, she would work with the people in speeding up countryside development.

She said she will “spread the gospel of development and self-reliance.” Mrs. Marcos said she would like to see the resources of the government, especially in science and technology, fully harnessed and combined with the people’s ability and desire for a better quality of life.

Mobile teams composed of representatives from the various agencies have long been at work with local citizens in improving the delivery of the 11 basic services, she said.

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SRI LANKA would like to be a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa informed President Marcos during their meeting yesterday.

He later told a press conference that he has sought the assistance of the President in informing the other members of the ASEAN on the matter.

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April 30—

PRESIDENT MARCOS lauded Sri Lanka for its role in helping the Third World look for its identity and its efforts to promote better understanding, cooperation and mutual benefits among nations.

The President spoke during a dinner in honor of Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa of the Democratic Socialist of Sri Lanka at Malacañang.

The visiting Sri Lanka Prime Minister, in his return toast, likewise praised the Philippines for its significant contribution in bringing together countries in the region.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS yesterday directed the Philippine National Oil Corp. to increase its coconut oil purchases from 5,000 to 15,000 metric tons per month to meet the coco oil-diesel fuel mix requirements of the government starting May 1.

The President said the increase was necessary to facilitate implementation of his earlier directive for selected government-owned or controlled corporations to use coconut oil as part of their fuel requirements.

He said that the viability of coconut oil as fuel mix for power generation and transportation purposes has been proved in initial tests conducted by experts.

Under the program initiated by the President, PNOC will buy the coconut oil from United Coconut Oil Mills (Unicom) or any of the accredited oil mills for mixing in Petrophil bulk plants and eventual distribution to identified agencies.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS said yesterday that with the country being relatively peaceful today, the government is now pressing forward with its human settlements program as well as the training of leaders.

The President, honoring at lunch in Malacañang some 600 delegates to the Fourth Session of the United Nations Human Settlements commission, said:

“You have come at a time when we have settled down from internal violence to comparative peace and are now attending to such things as human settlements.”

The First Lady, Minister of Human Settlements Imelda R. Marcos, was elected chairman of the UN conference by acclamation at its opening Monday.

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May 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Labor and Employment to look into the safety and possible evacuation of Filipino workers in Lebanon.

Filipino workers had sent a cable to the President requesting government action.

The President directed the two ministries to protect Filipinos who said they were caught in the middle of continuous bombing in all parts of Lebanon and that the airport has been temporarily closed.

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THE FIRST LADY, Imelda R. Marcos urged yesterday a re-examination of the effects of technology on the environment to protect natural processes that are crucial to man’s survival.

Addressing the First Environmental Meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the First Lady pointed out that although technology has touched people's lives in positive ways, it could also be destructive.

The First Lady, who is also the Philippines' human settlements minister, was elected' chairman of the one-day conference attended by ASEAN environmental ministers. The conference was held at the Philippine Plaza.

Under her leadership, the conferees unanimously adopted a Manila Declaration on the ASEAN Environment which seeks, among others, the protection of the environment in the region.

PRESIDENT MARCOS directed yesterday Health Minister Enrique Garcia to suspend moves to close Quezon Institute and to transfer its patients to the Lung Center and other hospitals.

"We will restudy this whole plan to find out if it should go through or not," the President said.

Previously, the plan was to close the 44-year-old Quezon Institute and move the patients to the Lung Center and other hospitals, and to discharge those who can be treated at home.

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May 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said yesterday he will ask the Batasang Pambansa for early approval of a bill restoring the right of workers to strike.

This assurance was given by the President in his speech at ceremonies commemorating Labor Day at the Philippine International Convention Center.

He said that he had earlier hoped to sign in the presence of the workers who attended the ceremonies a law that will signify further "our transition to a normalized state of national stability." But, according to the President, there was not sufficient time for the Batasang Pambansa to act on the bill.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS and the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, marked yesterday their 27th wedding anniversary by launching the "Kalusugan sa Bagong Lipunan" project which will provide free medical assistance to the poor.

The First Couple inaugurated a MARCOS (Medical Assistance for the Rural Communities and Other Sectors) free clinic in San Andres which started operating yesterday simultaneously with 42 clinics in other parts of Metro Manila.

The President called the "Kalusugan sa Bagong Lipunan" project "a new movement for the poor and the underprivileged."

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May 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS pledged yesterday to continue building up the nation's defense to preserve its freedom, but under the principle of self-reliance.

The President made this pledge during the 46th anniversary celebration of the Philippine Air Force on Nichols, air base.

“We will remain free only for as long as we can defend ourselves,” he said. “And that defense must be enduring for our freedoms to endure.”

The bitter lessons of the past, he said, teach the country “not to depend on a system of replenishment whose line can be easily cut off but on its own for its own requirements, to the point of improvisation if need be.”

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: May 4-10, 1981

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

May 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said labor and student organizations which have been infiltrated by subversives have been identified.

"We know the labor unions that are being infiltrated; we know the student organizations that are being utilized as front organizations," the President said.

He said government intelligence agencies are gathering evidence against individuals. "As soon as we have gathered the evidence, we will move."

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May 5—

PRESIDENT MARCOS reiterated his determination to prosecute grafters in order to maintain a strong, effective, and professional treasury and assessment service.

In a speech before 3,000 local treasurers and assessors attending the 59th national conference-workshop of the Provincial, City, and Municipal Treasurers and Assessors Association of the Philippines at the Manila Midtown Ramada hotel, he said:

"I shall continue to be resolute in my drive against graft and corruption, against dishonesty, against defalcation and the misapplication of public funds, but be assured I shall likewise remain equally steadfast in maintaining strong, effective, and professional local treasury and assessment career services."

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PRESIDENT MARCOS directed the city fiscal's office to dismiss the charges of breach of the peace levelled by the police against opposition Assemblyman Salvador H. Laurel's wife and children "in the spirit of compassion and understanding."

City Fiscal Jose B. Flaminiano said that the President had directed the city fiscal's office "to forego the criminal prosecution of the respondents in accordance with the principle of nolle prosequi, which means that the state formally declares and makes of record its intention not to proceed with the prosecution of the case."

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PRESIDENT MARCOS said that oppositions groups are trying to confuse the issues in the June 16 presidential elections by hurling "irrational, illogical and libelous" attacks on him.

Speaking at the opening of the 59th National Conference-Workshop of the Provincial, City and Municipal Treasurers and Assessors Association of the Philippines at the Midtown Ramada, the President said that the coming election is not "a confirmation" of his authority as president as claimed by the opposition.

"That's not true," the President said. The election, he said, will give the President a chance to submit himself to the people for "judgment" on his performance during the martial law period.

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THE FIRST LADY and Metro Manila Gov. Imelda R. Marcos has approved a 10-15 percent across-the-board salary increases for 12,000 Metro aides.

The salary increases would enable the region's street sweepers to cope with the increased cost of commodities and services, Metro Manila Vice Gov. Ismael Mathay, Jr. said yesterday.

Mathay said Metro aides receiving below P700 monthly will get an additional P105, while those receiving more than P700 will receive an additional P70.

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May 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said he is not "personally opposed" to admitting new members in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

The President gave this position in answer to queries by newsmen in connection with the desire of some countries to join the ASEAN.

The latest to express willingness to join the ASEAN is Sri Lanka. The other nations who earlier expressed their wish to join the ASEAN are Papua, New Guinea, the Sultanate of Brunei and Burma.

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May 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS called on the people yesterday to continue meeting the challenges confronting the nation to make the country secure and stable.

The President made the call in his speech highlighting the "Araw ng Kagitingan" rites at Fort Santiago, a joint commemoration of the Fall of Bataan, Fall of Corregidor and the Battle of Bessang Pass.

He said that the heroes of World II died in the pursuit of stability and security.

He said the image of the link among the past, the present and the future "commits us surely to labor relentlessly against the shadow of conflict that now hovers upon the world, and occasionally hovers upon our life, and to make our nation secure and stable."

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THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister, Imelda R. Marcos paid tribute to the social conscience of Filipino businessmen which she said has provided the breakthrough in the solution of the once formidable housing problem.

The First Lady made the observation in a speech at ceremonies marking the Chamber of Thrift Banks' participation in the government's social housing program, held at the Philippine International Convention Center

Mrs. Marcos said the decision of the private sector, through the Chamber of Thrift Banks, to participate in the government's housing program has given the people, particularly those in the low-income groups an opportunity to own homes.

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May 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS launched the crop insurance program designed to protect farmers from the devastating effects of erratic climatic conditions.

Speaking before some 1,000 farmers at ceremonies in Malacañang, the President said “rather than fatalistically succumb to the harsh meteorological vagaries, we have chosen to arm ourselves with a potent mechanism that can blunt the capriciousness of nature.”

The President said that farmers in typhoon-prone areas face bankruptcy every time storms and typhoons devastate their crops.

Under the program, the President said, crop insurance will cover all types of farm products but initially, this year, it will cover standing palay crops, including cost of production such as labor, fertilizers, pesticides and farmers’ share of the insurance premium and other cost items qualified for financing under the government’s supervised credit program.

The President said 300,000 of the 1.6 million rice farmers will be covered this year, the number to increase next year.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS said Nacionalista Party candidate Alejo S. Santos should not be taken lightly in the June 16 presidential elections.

This assessment was made by the President in answer to questions from newsmen as to how he rates the NP standard bearer.

The President said he has received Santos’ letter of resignation from his position as chairman of the Philippine Veterans Bank.

“So this means that he has accepted the nomination of the Nacionalista party,” the President said.

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May 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS warned against violence, particularly in Mindanao, from terrorist organizations like the Moro National Liberation Front and from oppositionists during the June 16 election campaign.

In an interview he said terrorism in Mindanao was confirmed by Arnulfo Alba, the suspect who was caught with his confederates for the grenade throwing incident in the San Pedro cathedral in Davao city where 16 were killed and more than 100 wounded.

He said Alba confessed to having received word from two MNLF officials to step up terrorism, one, a certain Faisal who was a rebel returnee released two years ago and the other, a commander now hiding in the Middle East.

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May 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS granted complete and absolute amnesty to 45 former Moro National Liberation Front commanders who pledged to help maintain peace and order and participate in economic development

“Today I embrace you as brother Filipinos in the full meaning of the word,” the President told the returnees.

The returning rebel leaders came from Tawi-tawi, Basilan, Zulu, Zamboanga del Norte, Lanao and South Cotabato.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS directed that regular judicial procedures be followed in the arrest and detention of persons involved in subversion and other similar crimes, even in areas where the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus is suspended.

The President issued the order in response to a request for the issuance of a Presidential Order of Arrest against Marino Jefferson, Joaquin Beturin, and several others.

Jefferson was identified as having led a group which ambushed a PC patrol in barangay Labaan, Bucloc, Abra last March 3.

Beturin and several others, on the other hand, were arrested last April 5 at San Jose and Baliwasa Grande, Zamboanga City, while posting subversive leaflets and stickers.

The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus remains suspended in the two autonomous regions in Mindanao and in all other places with respect to persons now under arrest or those to be arrested for subversion and other similar crimes.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS said that he will start May 16 to campaign “in earnest” for the presidency.

The President disclosed his campaign plans in brief remarks to visiting American judges and lawyers who called on him in Malacañang.

The President said that by starting his campaign on May 16, he will in effect limit his campaign period to only one month.

May 16 is also the last day for political parties to submit to the Commission on Elections their nominees for the June 16 presidential polls.

Nacionalista Party standard-bearer Alejo S. Santos will also lack off his campaign on May 16 in Cebu City.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: May 11-17, 1981

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

May 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that the ruling Kilusang Bagong Lipunan faces the coming presidential election with “a record of achievements” unmatched in Philippine history.

The President gave this view in a talk with newsmen as he compared the platform of the KBL with opposition groups, including the Nacionalista party.

The President pointed out that the KBL stands on actual achievements while the NP shows a platform full of promises.

Citing an example, the President said that the KBL, whose program, he said, has been embodied in the new Constitution, makes social justice not a promise but a reality.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS said yesterday that the North-South dialogue in Mexico in October is an opportunity for Third World countries to seek solutions to their problems with developed nations.

These problems, the President said, include the need for a pragmatic approach to the transfer of technology to developing countries, elimination of protectionism, and establishment of a new international economic, or even a new monetary order.

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THE IMPORT duties on hospital materials and equipment will be reduced 30 days after May 8, under an order issued yesterday by President Marcos.

The order modified rates of import duty on some imported articles to stimulate commercial transactions.

The import duty on hygienic, medical and surgical articles and surgical gloves were reduced from 50 to 10 percent, hospital rubber sheeting and electric filament lamps and electric discharge lamps (including infra-red and ultra-violet lamps) from 40 to 10 percent, electrocardiograph paper from 80 to 10 percent; X-ray films and other photographic plates and films, sterilization indicators, laboratory, hygienic and pharmaceutical glassware, sterilizing apparatus, tubas for X-ray machines, optical appliances and instruments and methaphy, massage apparatus and aptitude testing apparatus from 20 to 10 percent.

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May 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS launched the “Alay sa Tao” Development Caravan yesterday at Freedom Park in front of Malacañang with the promise to provide everyone with a means of livelihood to generate production—the best solution to inflation.

The caravan is designed to accelerate the delivery of the 11 basic needs of man.

“The answer to inflation is production,” he said. “So we must convert every man woman and child into a producer not only of the things they need but also of things to sell to other countries.”

The First Lady, Minister of Human Settlements Imelda R. Marcos said that the delivery of basic services would be a permanent and continuing commitment of the government under President Marcos.

She said that 5,000 volunteers consisting of 2,000 doctors and 3,000 nurses are working in 390 towns all over the country and that in 45 days, they would have attended to 14 million people.

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The government’s 393,711 extension workers are being organized into a massive civilian force to transform the countryside into what state leaders describe as “critical areas” of change and development.

A top-level inter-agency core of career executive service leaders ironed out yesterday kinks in the mobilization of what has been described until then as “this moribund and almost forgotten work force.”

Malacañang has tapped the Career Executive Service Development Program Alumni association, headed by acting Education Minister Hermenigildo C. Dumlao, to steer the project designed to spur the development of the countryside at practically no added cost to the government.

The extension workers include some 43,711 who are attached to the 18 ministries and other offices, complemented by some 350,000 barrio teachers.

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May 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that the division of the Nacionalista Party is “unfortunate,” but said that he would campaign just as hard as if the opposition party did not split up.

The President gave his view on the breakup of the NP during a dialogue with the foreign and local press in Malacañang.

“It is unfortunate that the division of the Nacionalista had to come at a time like this,” the President said.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS said that former Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. is now in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, but has not met Moro National Liberation Front Leader Nur Misuari.

The President said that the presence of Aquino in Jeddah has been confirmed by his men but that he (Marcos) could not understand why Misuari is snubbing Aquino.

The President told newsmen in a dialogue in Malacañang that Aquino is supposed to meet with Misuari to firm up the tie up between the MNLF and the New People’s Army, the military arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

“Nothing is definite about the linkup and everything is still up in the air,” the President said.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS received officials of Armco International, and the Armco-Marsteel Alloy Corp., who informed him of the expansion of their operations in the country and putting in additional investment worth \$7.8 million.

The Armco-Marsteel Corp., initially capitalized at \$25-million, produces grinding media for the mining and cement industries.

The company supplies 65 percent of the local market for grinding media in the domestic market and exports 15 percent of its production to ASEAN countries like Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand. It has an annual production of P250 million.

With the infusion of an additional \$ \$7.8 million, the corporation hopes to adopt the continuous caster” process of producing steel, designed to control and reduce costs and improve the quality of production.

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May 14—

THE GOVERNMENT will soon launch a program covering not only receivers of health care but also “co-deliverers” of health services.

The program was announced yesterday by President Marcos at the 74th annual convention of the Philippine Medical Association.

To lay the foundation for a wide-ranging national health program, the President said, the government is adopting the approach developed in collaboration with the World Health Organization.

“If we appeal for greater social concern and greater selflessness from our private sector, this is not meant in criticism but in the spirit of promoting a vital service,” he said.

Noting the problem of fake drugs, the President said that those found selling adulterated medicines or involved in the dishonest purchase and sale of medicines will be prosecuted.

“We shall take every measure necessary to correct this blight and we shall bring before the bar of justice all those perpetrating these misdeeds for there is simply no way we can allow these contemptible practices in our midst,” he said.

Citing reports that free medicine is being sold by government personnel, the President said that in a society where funds for health care are almost always taken from equally important programs, “there is no excuse for their being squandered or eroded by graft.”

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MUSLIM religious leaders told President Marcos that they have organized themselves to effectively help the government maintain peace and spur development in Mindanao.

The Marawi-based Ulamas, who called at Malacañang, were led by Sheik Iman Ismali Yahyah, director and imam of the Jamio Mindanao-al-Islamiyah; and Macud Baunto, director-secretary of the Jamio Mindanao-at-Islamie and secretary general of the Ansar-el-Islam.

The religious leaders said they have organized a National Association of Ulamas and Ustadz and hope to put up mosques in other parts of the country, starting from Cebu.

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May 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS invited yesterday the opposition and the public to discuss with him the June 16 presidential elections, including policy problems in government and possible alternative programs.

The President issued the invitation during the kick-off rally of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan at the Folk Arts Theater.

Citing what he said was the unparalleled record of the KBL, the President said that in the campaign, the KBL will bring the people “the cause which we represent as a party and the program of government which we pledge to carry out.”

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PRESIDENT MARCOS denounced what he called the “senseless” attack on the Pope. This must now be denounced by all right-thinking men and governments and must now take forthright action against merchants of blood and sadistic violence,” he said.

He expressed bitter sentiments because “until now there are some elements in the world who think that violence can be justified because of an alleged noble cause.” Under no case nor purpose can violence be justified, he said.

The First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, said she regretted the terrible deed of madness” done on “a man of love needed by the world which is so filled with confusion, selfishness and hate.”

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PRESIDENT MARCOS directed government agencies to extend help to the rural banks by sharing in bank losses and granting more loans.

In a speech before the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines, the President ordered the Development Bank of the Philippines to extend loans to rural banks.

Under this scheme, loans by rural banks may be rediscounted with the DBP. This would increase the loan funds of rural banks.

The President also directed the finance and budget ministries and the Central Bank to come up with ways of increasing the annual budget to help boost the capital of rural banks.

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May 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered the increase in the price of palay and corn to enable the country’s 1.6 million farmers meet the rising cost of production.

The President signed the order during his speech commemorating Farmers’ Day at the Folk Arts Theater.

Under the order, the price of palay will be increased from P1.45 to P1.50 per kilo on June 17 and the price of corn from P1.20 to P1.30 per kilo effective immediately.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS said that government lawyers serve as units of production in the country.

Speaking at the “Thank You” program for the First Couple by the Ministry of Justice, the President said that a man who feels an injustice had been committed against him cannot be a producer.

It is in this regard that the Ministry of Justice, the President said, must perform very efficiently as a grievance machinery.

Otherwise, he said, you have social tension resulting in political instability and economic recession.”

The rationale behind the continuous training of personnel in all the ministries as well as the upgrading of salaries is to have an efficient government machinery.

Earlier, the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, underscored the need for justice for all, especially for the poor.

It is only in an atmosphere of justice that the people can only harness their resources and talents for constructive ends, she said.

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May 17—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos will be the special guests at the 4th “Tawid”, awards tomorrow, at the Fiesta Pavillion of the Manila Hotel.

Under the auspices of the Ilocano Heritage Foundation Inc., “Tawid” awards are given every two years to deserving Ilocanos who have achieved excellence in their respective fields of endeavor, and to those who exemplify and symbolize true Ilocano culture and the arts.

* * * * *

PRESIDENT MARCOS will review the national reforms under the New Society and answer questions from all comers in tonight’s “Pulong-Pulong” program broadcast nationwide from 7 to 9 from the Philippine International Convention Center.

Editors and columnists from Metro Manila newspapers will be in the panel that will interrogate him at the PICC.

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Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: May 18-24, 1981

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

May 18

PRESIDENT MARCOS called on all Filipinos to help maintain the momentum of progress which he said has been achieved by the crisis government.

The President sounded the call in two separate dialogues (pulong-pulong), and held at the Philippine International Convention Center, and the other with leaders of the Affiliated Filipino Organizations (AFO) in-the United States.

The dialogue between the President and the AFO officials was held via satellite, with Mr. Marcos answering questions from Malacañang and the expatriates making queries from San Francisco, USA. It was telecast nationally.

The AFO was organized recently as an umbrella organization of various associations of Filipino-Americans in the US to thank the President for making it possible for former Filipino citizens to own lots in the Philippines.

* * * * *

THE commission on elections reminded public officials yesterday about the ban on the hiring of new employees and giving of salary increases in all government offices, including government-owned or controlled corporations, during the current election campaign period.

Chairman Vicente M. Santiago Jr., said these are prohibited acts which constitute election offenses punishable by one to six years imprisonment and disqualification to hold public office.

He said the warning was directed at any head, official or appointing officer of a government or agency, whether national or local, including corporations and enterprises owned or controlled by the government.

Santiago also said the law prohibits the transfer or detail of any official or employees in the civil service, including public school teachers, within the election period, except upon prior approval of the Comelec.

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THE FIRST LADY, Minister of Human Settlements Imelda R. Marcos, announced that the Asian Development Bank has granted the Philippines a new P57.5 million loan for its electrification projects.

The loan, signed by Philippine government officials headed by Mrs. Marcos and by ADB officials, will be used exclusively for "brightening up further," the Bicol region.

Mrs. Marcos, arriving in Bicol Saturday in her "campaign for development," said that the loans would be used for the following projects:

1. Five rural electrification projects, P33,123,000.
2. Two mini-hydroelectric projects, P17,647,000.
3. Dentro-thermal projects, P6,395,000.

* * * * *

THE MINISTRY of Foreign Affairs reported that the 2,500 Filipino workers in Lebanon were safe but were anxious to come home-Foreign Minister Carlos P. Romulo said Filipino workers have been asking if Philippine Airlines planes could land at the Lebanon airport to take them home.

Some of the workers, who were without proper documentation, were in a predicament, and were also seeking Philippine government assistance, a telex message received by Romulo indicated.

The government expressed concern over Filipino workers in Lebanon due to the worsening situation there. President Marcos has ordered the MFA and the Ministry of Labor and Employment to send a government team to look into the situation of Filipinos there.

May 19

PRESIDENT MARCOS during his “Pulong-pulong” program Sunday night, said he might synchronize the barangay election with the June 16 election.

There has been a strong clamor for barangay elections and the President said he would consider this.

The last time the barangay election was held was in 1972 and that was for barrio captains, whose positions were converted to barangay captains in 1975.

It was pointed out that the barangay elections would help justify the huge expense involved in a presidential election.

The President said that a barangay election would be the best counterattack against the election boycott promoted by the opposition.

For the first time in the President’s series of “Pulong-Pulong” programs, an opposition leader took part.

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May 20

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that contrary to the charges of opposition leaders, the government has taken every measure to bring to justice killers involved in celebrated murders.

The President mentioned at least four well-known murder victims former Pampanga Gov. Jose B. Lingad, shot down in the Pampanga highway; newsman Demy Dingcong, shot in his home in Lanao del Norte; Jesuit father Godofredo Alingal, killed in Bukidnon, and Dulag Macling, killed in Kalinga-Apayao.

“In the case of Jose Lingad, who happened to be my classmate, I have ordered the investigation not only by the CIS and the NBI, but also by other agencies,” he said. “And the reports seem to indicate contrary leads.”

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THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos inaugurated the 194th Kadiwa center in Valenzuela, Metro Manila, yesterday. She promised that Kadiwa operations would stabilize prices of other prime commodities, aside from rice and corn.

The First Lady, who is also Metro Manila governor, cut the ceremonial ribbon in the Valenzuela Kadiwa sa Bagong Lipunan center. Assisting her was Metro Manila Vice Governor Ismael Mathay and Valenzuela Mayor Gerry Angeles.

She announced that the growing chain of Kadiwa stores had already serviced 11 million Filipinos since the program started in February, 1980.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS said yesterday that he would refer to the Batasang Pambansa for consideration during its next session the matter of letting the vice mayor assume the mayorship in case the mayor is temporarily incapacitated.

This was one of the matters taken up by 210 vice mayors from the Southern Tagalog region who called at Malacañang to pledge their support in the June 16 presidential election as well as take the opportunity to discuss local problems.

The Southern Tagalog officials presented two festering problems:

1. Rectifying the hazy provisions of the law on succession to the mayoralty.
2. Future of the vice mayors in fourth, fifth and sixth class municipalities to receive their salaries.

Vice Mayor Eufemio Calaguio of Mamburao, Mindoro Occidental and president of the Region IV Vice Mayors league, informed the Chief Executive that under the present provisions a vice mayor does not automatically assume the mayorship in case the mayor is temporarily incapacitated.

The mayor is authorized to designate an officer-in-charge, not necessarily the vice mayor Calaguio said.

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THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos surveyed yesterday the mountain areas east of Manila to look for new “breathing spaces” for Metro Manila’s teeming population.

Mrs. Marcos toured the hillsides of Antipolo, Tanay, Teresa and Morong in Rizal to and proposed sites for new housing projects.

She was accompanied by Administrator Jesus Tanchanco of the National Food Authority, Vice Gov. Ismael Mathay, Jr., Deputy Minister of Human Settlements Jose Conrado Benitez and Public Works Deputy Minister Aber C. Canlas.

The whole, area will become accessible to travelers upon completion of the Marcos Highway linking Metro Manila to Infanta, Quezon.

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THE COMMISSION on Elections exempted yesterday the grant of salary increases to 21,000 Manila government employees from the ban imposed during the election period.

Members of the commission headed by Chairman Vicente M. Santiago Jr. decided that the pay hike authorized by the Metro Manila Commission last April 28 was not covered by Comelec resolution No. 1504 promulgated last April 24.

Santiago said that the ruling applies to all government offices and units which have also been authorized to grant pay hikes to their employees.

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May 22

PRESIDENT MARCOS agreed to restudy the controversial capital gains tax imposed on profits derived from stock transactions.

He also approved two Letters of Instructions designed to encourage investments in the securities industry and to boost the sluggish trading in the stock market.

The President made the twin moves during a dialogue with officers of the Manila and Makati stock exchanges in Malacañang.

In the presence of the new officers of the two stock exchanges, the President signed:

LOI No. 1183 forbidding the Bureau of Internal Revenue to inquire into the source of funds used in the acquisition of stock listed in the exchanges.

LOI No. 1134 ordering the Central Bank to establish a P70-million special financing program to provide funds for secondary trading in non-speculative common and preferred stocks.

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May 23

PRESIDENT MARCOS called yesterday upon career state executives to lead the change in the bureaucracy and usher in “my dream of higher equality of society” for the future.

He commended the formation of the Career Executive Service Development Program Alumni association which he said was necessary to unify the bureaucracy in improving performance and speeding up the delivery of public service.

The President appeared moved by the mass expression of commitment by the more than 700 middle-and upper-level managers of government at the Palace.

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THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister Mrs. Imelda R Marcos inaugurated yesterday the first of 1,000 schoolhouses being constructed around the country as a joint project of the Philippines and the United States.

The rest of the schools will be finished before the opening of classes on June 22.

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THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos ordered the selling of school supplies in all Kadiwa centers throughout the country at prices 10 to 15 percent cheaper than those prevailing in traditional outlets.

The move was aimed at stabilizing “runaway prices” of school supplies foreseen in the wake of the opening of classes, Administrator Jesus Tanchanco, overall Kadiwa coordinator said.

Tanchanco said some P10 million worth of school supplies will be distributed immediately by Kadiwa centers in various parts of the country in line with the directive of the First Lady.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS declared he would need the backing of the people to expose a large number of fraudulent land titles issued between 1902 and 1925—now in the hands of “well-entrenched enemies.”

Apparently he was referring to the so called oligarches, owners of vast tracts of land which they got almost for free.

He said these people “know what I have in mind” and that “this is why these people are opposing me now and blocking my moves.”

Speaking before the alumni of the Career Executive. Service Officers Development program in Malacañang, Mr. Marcos said they knew and understood what he was talking about—and hence he chose the occasion as a forum to discuss the mission of this generation.

He said his fight against the oligarchy exploiting the people was not just his fight.

“I want all of you to participate,” he said.

* * * * *

May 24

PRESIDENT MARCOS expressed a six-point plan designed to broaden the base and improve the quality of elementary and secondary education, and upgrade educational management skills.

The blueprint, he said, is intended to meet present and future challenges of development. The President spoke at the closing of the first executive congress of public and private school officials at the Baguio Convention Center.

The President drew a lengthy applause when he said; “We are working towards at P1.000 monthly salary for teachers.”

The basic pay of most of the 240,000 public school teachers in the country is P693 a month. An increase in the salary of teachers to P1,000 a month will mean an additional P800 million expense annually for the government.

The President earlier lashed at the opposition for regarding the June 16 presidential elections as “a mere contest for political power.

He said that for some of the opposition, the election is simply a war without values and national purposes.”

“They (opposition) are casualties in the pervasive erosion of moral and ethical values in the modern world,” he said.

* * * * *

GOVERNMENT officials and soldiers can cast their votes in their places of assignment on June 16, the Commission on Elections said.

The Comelec promulgated a resolution to this effect to enable government officials and soldiers assigned outside their places of residence to vote the in the coming presidential elections.

Affected by the resolution are thousands of government officials and employees and soldiers who have been sent to various places on official mission.

The resolution was adopted pursuant to a provision of the Election Code.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS said there will be no increase in real estate taxes this year in Metro Manila or any part of the country.

The President was reacting to reports reaching Baguio City that the Manila city government plans to raise realty taxes in July by 15 percent. This move was reportedly intended to generate additional P34 million.

The President, however, categorically stated that he has not authorized such an increase.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: May 25-31, 1981

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

May 25—

GUIGUINTO, Bulacan—PRESIDENT MARCOS issued this afternoon Proclamation No. 2088 calling for a referendum simultaneously with the June 16 presidential elections to ascertain the will of the people on the holding of barangay council election.

The President issued the proclamation in response to the resolution of the Pambansang Katipunan ng mga Barangay and the Katipunan ng mga Barangay sa Kalakhan Maynila during a KBL rally at the barangay center in Tabong.

The two barangay groups explained that the holding of barangay elections simultaneously with the presidential elections is “untimely and inadvisable” and instead recommended that a referendum be held on the matter.

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GUIGUINTO, Bulacan,—PRESIDENT MARCOS accused the opposition of “cheapening” the quality of the presidential campaign by “gross misstatement of administration policies.”

Speaking at a KBL rally here attended by some 20,000 people from five provinces comprising Region 3, the President said:

“I formally charge the opposition with cheapening the democratic process and converting every politician into a demagogue.”

He said that politics is a noble art but in the hands of demagogues (apparently referring to the Nacionalista Party propaganda), it can be used to destroy.

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May 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS hit the foreign media yesterday for making “the news rather than merely report news,” thereby influencing the readers mind along the directions they choose.

He told delegates to the 7th annual convention of the International Association for Educational Assessment at the Philippine International Convention Center that this issue should be taken up in their agenda.

Foreign media, he said, would create personalities that ultimately present supposed facts which “we cannot and do not verify because they come from celebrities and the western media.”

Citing the human rights issue as an example, he said:

“I have no quarrel with media militancy over the cruelties of some governments against their peoples. I support human rights. We support the sensibilities about individual rights that are enshrined in our respective constitutions.”

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PRESIDENT MARCOS drastically revamped the Manila International airport set-up yesterday due to complaints about deplorable conditions at the country's premier port of entry.

In simultaneous directives, the President:

1. Ordered Brig. Gen. Jesus Z. Singson (ret.), director of the bureau of air transportation, to take over MIA operations.
2. Directed Commissioner on Immigration and Deportation Edmundo M. Reyes and Customs Commissioner Ramon J. Farolan to change the entire immigration and customs personnel at the international airport.

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THE FIRST LADY and Minister of Human Settlements Imelda R. Marcos announced additional funds for the national food authority authorized by President Marcos to stabilize food prices through increased production.”

She said the Ministry of the Budget would reimburse the NFA of P220 million “which it had advanced from its corporate funds in the construction of warehouses and post-harvest facilities.

She said that in another order, the President authorized the Philippine National Bank and the Land Bank to give the NFA additional credit lines of P250 million each to enable it to pay for its expanded food buying programs.

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May 27—

LUCENA CITY—President Marcos ordered this afternoon the Philippine Coconut Authority to establish more copra buying stations and implement government regulations to give coconut farmers in Southern Tagalog a good price for their produce.

The President gave the order in response to complaints by coconut farmers in the region during a KBL rally at the Marcos Sports Complex here.

The President told the PCA, the United Coconut Mills, and other agencies concerned “to put everything in order” in a week’s time or “they will be fired.”

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MALACANANG said that P43 million has already been released to the Commission on Elections for payment to teachers for services rendered in the 1980 local elections and in the April 1981 plebiscite.

President Marcos said he had directed that the funds, which were released last week, be paid immediately to the teachers who had worked with the citizens election committees in the 1980 local elections and in the April 7 plebiscite.

The Malacañang statement also said it was “impossible” that some 50,000 provincial public school teachers had not been paid for two months because the funds intended for their salaries were used in repairing municipal and provincial roads.

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May 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has accepted the resignation of Postmaster General Felizardo Tanabe and has named a new man as acting postmaster, general, paving the way for a complete revamp of the Bureau of Posts.

In appointing J. Roilo S. Golez of the Maritime Industry Authority to take over the post of Tanabe, the President told Golez, "You have complete authority to reorganize, kick out and recommend prosecution of the corrupt and dishonest, and reassess the procedures and introduce Hovel ideas to improve the system."

The President told Golez to "use the broom and not to hesitate in punishing the dishonest, through legal means," assuring him that if additional financing is needed to improve the system the President will authorize their release.

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ALL GOVERNMENT policies, particularly those involving national security, will be reviewed after the June 16 presidential elections.

This was announced by President Marcos in his speech at the conferment exercises of the 15th regular class of the National Defense College of the Philippines in Malacañang.

"After the presidential elections, which I hope I will win, it is my intention to review all the policies of government, including national security, and the self defense project of the armed forces," the President said.

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THE FIRST LADY, Imelda R. Marcos, assured yesterday that the government will act immediately on all significant proposals of the food industry sector to spur food production and improve food distribution.

The First Lady gave the assurance in her speech before delegates to the current First National Food Congress at the Philippine International Convention Center.

The First Lady, in her directive to Minister Jesus Tanchanco of the National Food Authority, ordered the creation of a "Food Action Center" that will evaluate all recommendations and endorse, them to proper government agencies.

The center will also follow up all proposals needing government action, the First Lady said.

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May 29—

President Marcos and the First Lady Imelda R. Marcos pledged to continue working for the poor, particularly those in the slums of Tondo.

The First Couple made the pledge during a "Pagoda sa Pasasalamat banca rally by Tondo fishermen on the historic Pasig river fronting Malacañang Palace.

The fishermen, riding on 200 gaily festooned bancas, staged the rally to express their gratitude and support for the President in the coming presidential elections.

The Tondo fishermen have just been resettled at the Dagat-Dagatan resettlement project in Navotas from the Tondo channel and Isla Puting-bato areas.

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The Saudi role in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries decision to freeze oil prices and maintain the present supply level was described yesterday by President Marcos as "reassuring to other nations.

Welcoming Saudi Prince Faisal Bin Yzid Bin Abdullah in Malacañang, the President said that “the stand has guided the world to a channel of rationality, sensibility and communality.”

He commended Saudi Oil Minister Shik Ahmed Zaki Yamani for successfully asserting this position at the OPEC meeting.

May 30—

PRESIDENT MARCOS organized yesterday the Ministry of Muslim Affairs and appointed former Commissioner on Islamic Affairs Romulo Espaldon as its minister.

The MMA was created under Executive Order No. 697 to integrate Muslim Filipinos into the mainstream of Filipino society, giving due regard to their beliefs, customs, traditions, and institutions.

Creation of the MMA brings the number of line ministries to 25.

Espaldon immediately took his path before the President at ceremonies held in Malacañang

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May 31—

THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister, Imelda R. Marcos, yesterday urged natives of Leyte and Samar residing in Metro Manila to form an action group that will look into the problems and needs of the region.

The natives of the other 11 regions in Metro Manila will also be organized into similar action groups to look after the welfare of their own regions, she said.

Mrs. Marcos announced this move during a luncheon in Malacañang for members of An Leyteno Inc., who brought the image of the Sto. Niño de Tacloban for a few days' stay in the Palace.

The Metro Manila Commission will create a section that will coordinate with the different action groups, and extend them possible assistance, she said.

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Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: June 1-7, 1981

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

June 1—

CEBU CITY—The First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos, called on the people of Cebu and other provinces in the Central Visayas to rise above petty and partisan politics and rally behind the KBL to continue, she said, progress and development.

The First Lady issued the call in her first formal press conference carried by television and radio in the Visayas and Northern Mindanao at the session hall of Mandaue City.

She also minimized the boycott, movement, saying that this is against the tradition and culture of Filipinos.

* * * * *

June 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS indicated that the clean-up drive in government will be intensified after the June 16 elections.

“We are working deeper into many things that have been pestering us and which were not acted upon for varied reasons,” the President said.

According to the President, the reorganization initiated at the Manila International Airport and the Bureau of Posts “is just the tip of the iceberg.”

In a talk with newsmen, President Marcos said, the political leadership will go after grafters in government and those who exploit the people for selfish, personal ends, “whoever they may be, friend and foe alike.”

He said that a new mandate from the people in the coming elections is necessary to enable him to intensify reorganization in government and a review of basic policies requiring drastic action.

The President also told of the need to review the objectives of the country's economic development.

While basic objectives of agriculture development have been more or less achieved, there, remains the principal purpose, of development, which is a balanced agro-industrial economy, the President explained.

“This is something which can mean almost anything,” he said. “It could mean the processing of agricultural products into processed or semi- processed products or it could mean a take-off into industrialization.

* * * * *

CEBU CITY—The First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos signed yesterday a loan of P18.3 million for the electrification by mini-hydro of 208 barangays in Southern Cebu.

Mrs. Marcos said the loan was for the Cebu Electric Cooperative I to build, within a year, six mini-hydros in the towns of Barili, Badian and Dumanjug, with a total output of 1,300 kilowatts.

Eighteen towns with 208 barangays will get their electricity at lower rates upon completion of the project.

China, which has made extensive use of mini-hydros to generate electricity, will supply the equipment.

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June 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered the scrapping of fuel adjustment cost of electric power consumption in the Bicol region which was imposed recently by the National Power Corp. and the Ministry of Energy.

The President acted on complaints of Bicol housewives, who informed the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, during her recent visit to the region, about the rising electric bills due to the imposition of fuel adjustment charges.

In his order, the President noted that the Bicol region, through its Tiwi geothermal plant, produces 220 megawatts compared to its total electric consumption of only 30 to 40 megawatts.

Because of this, the President said, Bicolanos should pay lower electric bills than other consumers in Luzon.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS has prohibited tax examiners from inquiring into' the sources of money by investors to buy shares in companies listed at the stock exchanges.

The President's move, contained in Letter of Instructions No. 1133, is an assurance to investors that, information on their investible funds would be kept confidential.

To give the directive teeth, it provides for the immediate dismissal of Bureau of Internal Revenue examiners who will violate the presidential directive.

The directive limited the investigators' powers of the BIR to stock transaction returns needed to verify the price at which stocks are bought and sold and allowable deductible expenses.

Looking into these returns helps the BIR determine the capital gains tax that the investor should pay out of profits from stock market deals.

"In no case shall the bureau inquire into the sourcing of funds used in the acquisition of stocks listed in the stock exchanges," the President's order said.

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June 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has ordered an immediate increase in the night differential and overtime pay of employees of the Bureau of Post, newly appointed Postmaster General J. Roilo S. Golez said

Golez said the President gave the order last May 29 after he took his oath as the new postal chief.

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THE FIRST LADY and Minister of Human Settlements Imelda R. Marcos told government officials to spend more time with barangay folk in order to understand their problems.

She said in a talk with officials of the Technology Research center that the last thing the country needs today are armchair executives.

The first duty of the action officers of the livelihood centers of her ministry would be to go to the barangays and get a feel of the problems of the people, she said.

The First Lady, chairman of the Technology Research center, welcomed Prince Faisal Zayeed Bin Abdullah Bin Al Saud to the center and briefed him on its computer operations and data storage facilities.

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The commission on elections designated each of the country's 82,000 barangay voting centers as an electoral zone to monitor all election activities and protect voters from harassment, coercion, or undue influence from whatever source on election day.

Chairman Vicente M. Santiago, Jr., said each electoral zone will be placed under one or more barangay brigades to be assigned by the barangay captain with prior approval of the election registrar.

As approved by the pool body, the election registrar, in consultation with the barangay captain and other barangay officials, shall verify the number of voting centers in each barangay and ascertain the area of the electoral zone, including sitios, streets, houses, and other habitations in each voting center.

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June 5—

PRESIDENT MARCOS described the Development Academy of the Philippines as a "futuristic institution" with a will to attain the good life for the people "efficaciously, equitably and even elegantly."

The chief executive led national leaders in praising the DAP on its eight anniversary which falls on Sunday, June 7, but whose celebration starts today with ceremonies at the DAP in Tagaytay City.

DAP President Onofre D. Corpuz, who is also education minister, outlined a program to meet development demands of the 80s. It consisted mainly of new approaches in enhancing food production, energy conservation and utilization, exports development and livelihood generation.

Corpuz said the DAP mission "necessarily springs from the condition of the people, for we cannot afford the luxury of separation and alienation from our national situation."

THE COMMISSION on elections has deputized all city and provincial fiscals and their assistants in the prosecution of cases involving violations of the Election Code.

The deputation was contained in Resolution No. 1525 issued by the Comelec en banc.

The Comelec said the deputation of fiscals would augment the joint Comelec-Ministry of Justice task force handling the prosecution of election cases.

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June 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS asked the new owners of the Hacienda San Antonio in Ilagan, Isabela, to set aside 4,000 hectares of choice lands out of the 11,000-hectare property for distribution free of charge to the tenant-farmers.

Taking a direct hand in solving the conflict between the hacienda owners and their tenants, the President also ordered the security guards of the hacienda headed by former PC Brig. Tomas Diaz to stop their harassments and maltreatment of the tenants.

The President received recently representatives of the tenants who called at Malacañang to intervene in behalf of 800 to 1,000 families in the hacienda.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS pledged to maintain the University of the Philippines' position as the mainspring of academic freedom.

In his brief remarks after inducting Edgardo U. Angara as the new president of the state university, the President:

—Asked the Batasang Pambansa, through Speaker Querube Makalintal, to give more consideration to the budgetary requirements of the state university.

—Directed the Budget Minister to release after the June 16 elections the sum of P5.4 million to cover the merit increase of the university faculty.

—Asked Angara to submit recommendation on upgrading the facilities and faculty of the university.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS launched a nationwide propagation of the petroleum tree known as *hanga* regarded as a possible answer to the current energy problem.

In ceremonies at Malacañang grounds, the President planted a *hanga* tree and distributed saplings of the tree to the 12 regional directors of the Ministry of Agriculture for propagation in their regions.

The President also directed the propagation of natural fertilizers in the form of *azolla*, a floating fern or *lumot*.

In combination with a blue green algae, the *azolla* makes possible the capture of nitrogen from the air and enriches the soil when used as green manure usually for lowland rice.

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June 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS warned that the full force of the law will be applied to those who will boycott the June 16 presidential elections.

In an interview with newsmen, the President said that he does not have plans of “playing lenient nor of playing magnanimous once the elections are over” for those who will violate the provisions of the Constitution.

The President also described his two political opponents in the coming elections as “mere pawns of other forces” out to demolish the gains and achievements of the government.

In separate interview, the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, said the country's development will be much faster if the people will give the President a fresh mandate in the coming polls.

Mrs. Marcos, in a talk with newsmen before the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan caucus at Malacañang last night, said that once the political will of the people is expressed, the President will be prodded to do more for the welfare of the people, particularly the poor.

She said that the President is submitting himself to the judgment of the people to find out whether the President still has the support of the people in pursuing development of the country.

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ON CAMPAIGN expenses, President Marcos told leaders of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan, that they should not spend more than 50 centavos per voter as provided by law.

The President gave the reminder during a three-hour caucus at Malacañang attended by key party leaders, including Cabinet members, assemblymen and some 120 governors and city mayors.

He also asked the KBL leaders to work for a clean, orderly and honest election not because foreigners are forcing them to do it, but because it is the right thing to do to strengthen democracy in the country.

Various governors and mayors briefed the President on the political situation in their areas and are optimistic of an overwhelming victory for the President.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: June 8-14, 1981

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

June 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said precautionary measures will be taken to thwart terrorist plan of assassination, bombing and arson timed with the June 16 presidential elections. Twelve more said to be involved in the plot have been arrested.

In an interview with newsmen after his caucus with local officials from Batangas in Malacañang, the President said that he will not allow disorder in the coming elections.

If necessary, the President said, guards will be posted near precincts to prevent anybody from carrying any explosives near polling places.

The massive terrorist plot, known as "Operation June Bride." was made public the other day by intelligence officials.

* * * * *

June 9—

THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos announced that small hydroelectric plants would soon supply remote barangays with cheap power.

Mrs. Marcos, chairman of the national electrification administration said that such a plant is now lighting 13 homes and a school-house in barangay Talampas, Bustos, Bulacan.

The Bulacan plant was developed by the Mitsubishi Electric Corp. and can generate 3.2 kilowatts from river current with a speed of 2.2 meters per second. The Bulacan tests were said to be the first to be conducted throughout the world.

One hundred of the small plants, worth \$2 million, were donated by the Japanese government for the Philippine national electrification program.

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THE COMMISSION on elections assured it was prepared to meet any threat to the safety of voters and the citizens election committees on June 16.

Comelec Chairman Vicente M. Santiago, Jr., said the poll body's assurance was made to allay fears of possible violence on election day, following discovery of a plot to disrupt the balloting.

Santiago said the Comelec had deputized the Armed Forces, the Philippine Constabulary, and the integrated national police to ensure an orderly election.

The barangay brigades had also been deputized to help maintain peace and order in the electoral zones and protect voters from any form of harassment, coercion, intimidation, or undue influence from any source, Santiago said.

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June 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS yesterday cited a papal encyclical and a pastoral letter of the Catholic hierarchy of the Philippines which he said, consider an election boycott a mortal sin.

The President made the observation in a speech after receiving a unanimous declaration of the Assembly of Lawyers' Association of the Philippines condemning the boycott proposal and informing the Filipino citizens of their duty to vote.

The assembly's declaration was presented to the President at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang.

The President said the obligation to vote is both a legal and moral obligation.

On moral grounds, the President quoted from an encyclical of Pope Pius XII and a joint pastoral letter on elections issued by the Catholic hierarchy on Sept. 12, 1953, which said that a poll boycott amounts to committing mortal sin.

Both the Pope's statement and the pastoral letter are contained in a textbook, "Government and Politics of the Republic of the Philippines," which is used in most local Catholic schools. The book is authored by Gregorio F. Zaide and Sonia M. Zaide.

On page 146 of the book, the President noted, there is a section on the topic "Duties of the Citizens," which says:

"4. To Vote Honestly and Intelligently, Filipino citizens are duty-bound to participate in elections. They must go to the polls on Election Day and cast their ballots for 'a vote is man's weapon to protect his freedom.' Any citizen who voluntarily and willfully refuses to vote commits not only an offense against democracy, but also a mortal sin. As Pope Pius XII said: 'It is strictly obligatory for whoever has the right to vote, man or woman, to take part in the elections. He who abstains, particularly through indolence or from cowardice, commits thereby a grave sin, a mortal offense!'"

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June 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS told those taking part yesterday in the 1981 Q'ran reading contest that the nation faces many enemies and "it is necessary that our country be unified."

"To stay united," he said, the government has made it a policy to make Mindanao as progressive as other regions of the country."

He would have the people of the Southern Philippines, "the Muslim brothers, join the mainstream of political and cultural life of the entire people."

In his unification program, he said, education should play an important role.

Under my administration, there is no second-class citizen, and Muslims and Christians are treated alike as Filipinos united under one flag," he said.

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THE FIRST LADY and Minister of Human Settlements Imelda R. Marcos launched Project Kabalikatan sa Lansangan, promoting the use of gasifiers to replace gasoline engines.

The project, jointly, implemented by the Metro Manila commission and the University of Life, will have 27, 000 jeepney drivers and operators take part in a seminar-workshop to train them in the use of gasifiers.

Speaking at the University of Life campus, the First Lady told some 10,000 jeepney men that the gasifier was invented with the welfare of the drivers foremost in the mind of the President.

The device, introduced early this year, used to run on charcoal, but has now been adapted to run on wood chips, the First Lady said.

* * * * *

June 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS called on all leaders of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan to demonstrate during the June 16 elections the “integrity and sense of honor” upon which the KBL was founded.

In a letter-circular to party leaders and members, the President expressed the hope that beginning with the elections, the KBL will forge ahead to inaugurate “a renaissance of the Filipino spirit.”

The President thanked his fellow workers in the KBL in their efforts to bring about a continuation of the government’s reform program.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS and the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, distributed yesterday 10,000 land titles to former squatters who now live in 13 areas in Metro Manila improved under the BLISS program.

Some 200,000 beneficiaries braved a heavy downpour to attend the ceremonies held at the Del Pan BLISS Settlement project in Tondo built by the National Housing Authority.

“No Filipino shall be a squatter in his own land,” the President told the crowd, some of whom carried placards proclaiming “Squatters no more.”

* * * * *

PRESIDENT MARCOS leads the nation today in observing the 83rd anniversary of Philippine Independence.

The celebration will be ushered in with the raising of the flag at 8 a.m. by the President, followed by the First Couple’s offering of flowers at the foot of the Rizal monument at Rizal Park.

An Independence Day program will follow at the Quirino grandstand, to be highlighted by the President’s address to the nation, carried live on radio and television.

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THE FIRST LADY, Imelda R. Marcos, has recommended to the Commission on Elections the granting of amnesty to those who failed to vote in the April 7 plebiscite, but will vote on June 16.

Mrs. Marcos announced her recommendation during a rally at the Folk Arts Theater organized by the United Metro Manila Market Stallholders Association and the Chamber of Filipino Retailers to pledge their support to the President in the coming elections.

The First Lady said she made the amnesty recommendation to the Comelec in her capacity as Metro Manila governor because of many representations from their constituents,

June 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said yesterday that the country will succeed in the struggle for national freedom despite efforts by what he called the “colonial elite” to gain power.

In his speech during the Independence Day celebration at the Luneta, the President said that after 35 years of independence, these remnants of the old society, under the guise of opposition, still do not grasp the significance of national freedom.

The President lamented the “most pathetic characteristic of this ‘remnant colonial mentality is its mendicancy towards foreigners, especially towards the United States.

“A people can only be free if they are masters in their own land and architects, of their destiny,” the President said.

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THE COMMISSION on Elections said it will study a proposal to grant amnesty to voters who failed to vote in the April 7 plebiscite.

The Comelec was reacting to published suggestions of the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, to grant amnesty to voters who failed to vote in the plebiscite provided that they vote in the June 16 presidential elections and referendum.

Comelec Chairman Vicente Santiago, Jr. said, however, that the poll body has not received any formal proposal to that effect.

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June 14—

THE GOVERNMENT announced that poor families in depressed areas and other housing sites in the country may avail themselves of some P32 million in small business loans this year.

The extension of loans is in line with President Marcos’ and the First Lady’s efforts to hasten the socio-economic uplift of some 90,000 low and marginal income families in government housing sites general manager Gaudencio Tobias of the national housing authority said.

Tobias said that the P32-million fund will go to poor families who will engage in cottage products making and other home-based industries in housing sites of the government being administered by the NHA.

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Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: June 15-21, 1981

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

June 15—

REJECTING the opposition's bitterness, hatred and extremism, President Marcos asked the people to give him a fresh mandate. He also warned that the achievements of the New Society would be negated unless the citizenry affirmed its support for them by participating in the elections.

In a dialogue with the nation, the President said a massive turnout of voters tomorrow will serve the interests and future of the nation.

"It is the clear and constitutional duty of every qualified voter to cast his ballot," he stressed.

The President also spelled out the platform of the ruling Kilusang Bagong Lipunan and asked the people to compare it with those of the other parties.

The KBL's four-point platform:

- Greater participation of the people in government.
- A stronger government machinery.
- Unequivocal and unswerving commitment to the national development.
- Continued efforts to promote the country's standing in the community of nations.

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June 16—

THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos yesterday inaugurated the country's first gasifier manufacturing plant in Carmona, Cavite, paving the way for the mass production of the fuel-saving device that could help hold down oil consumption.

The plant, operated by the government-owned Gasifier and Equipment Manufacturing Corporation (GEMCOR) for the fabrication and marketing of gasifiers, will have an initial capacity of 4,000 units.

Mrs. Marcos said the first units expected in August will be made available to Metro Manila jeepney operators and drivers, many of whom are taking part in seminars on the new technology at the University of Life.

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June 17—

BATAC Ilocos Norte, June 16—President Marcos said here today that he will 'consult the opposition, including those abroad, to help bring about national unity following the election he is expected to win.

The President disclosed this move after casting his vote at Voting Center No. 1 at the Mariano Marcos Memorial Elementary School in barangay Lacup.

“We should ask all our friends, including those abroad to now come and submit their recommendations as to how we should bring about not only a reunification but also a reconciliation,” the President said.

The President said there are only two alternatives open to him— either he does it with a soft hand or does it with a tough hand.

“I intend to do it softly,” the President said. Although he did not mention names. It was understood that the “friends” he referred to are the opposition both here and abroad.

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BATAC, Ilocos Norte, June 16—Protectionism by Western countries, including the United States, will top the agenda of the talks between President Marcos and US State Secretary Alexander Haig, Jr. on Thursday.

In his talk with newsmen, President Marcos said that he will discuss with the American official pending issues between the two countries, although no new items will be taken up between them.

Haig is scheduled to attend the opening of the ASEAN ministers meeting tomorrow at the Philippine International Convention Center.

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THE FIRST LADY, Imelda R. Marcos, was third to vote in her voting center in San Miguel. She arrived in Mapa High School, near Malacañang, 10 minutes before the balloting ahead of the 404 registered voters in Voting Center No. 2, Barangay 643, San Miguel.

Hundreds of voters, including priests and nuns from the nearby Pro Cathedral, St. Benedictine Abbey and St. Jude’s church, were on hand when the precinct at Mapa High School opened.

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BATAC, Ilocos Norte, June 16—President Marcos said that Minister of Finance Cesar A. Virata, “right now is on top of the heap” in the race for the position of prime minister.

He said members of the cabinet standing committee would become members of the new executive committee which, under the constitutional amendments, is to be headed by the prime minister.

Since Virata is chairman of the cabinet standing committee now, he would be the acting chairman of the new executive committee, and hence, the acting prime minister.

President Marcos said Virata “has to watch his performance, because many of the cabinet members are after the same job.”

Among those in the cabinet standing committee are Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, Labor Minister Blas Ople, Local Governments Minister Jose. Roño, Industry Minister Roberto Ongpin, Economic Minister Gerardo Sicat, and Central Bank Governor Jaime Laya.

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June 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said he will set up a new government structure after his inauguration on June 30.

The President also expressed satisfaction over last Tuesday's turnout saying that it was a demonstration of the people's capacity to meet the threats of widespread terrorism which he said were intended to paralyze or disrupt the electoral process.

Election of the president is the initial step that gave "life and effect" to the modified parliamentary form of government approved by the people in the April 7 plebiscite, he said.

* * * * *

PRESIDENT MARCOS declared yesterday that the forthcoming United Nations conference on Kampuchea would effect the future of the region of Southeast Asia and the peace of the world.

Keynoting the opening session of the fourth-day 14th annual meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) foreign ministers at the Philippine International Convention Center, the President called for greater cooperation among ASEAN countries in the face of world economic crises and recent international events.

"I consider it an urgent need that we adopt new and innovative approaches to economic cooperation," the President said.

"Greater economic cooperation is an attractive option among ASEAN members because of recent developments characterized by world economic crises, rising protectionism among many major ASEAN markets, and the statements in the North-South dialogue," he added.

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June 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, citing the new American administration's pragmatic and forthright approach to foreign affairs, said he was gratified over the statement of visiting Secretary of State Alexander Haig, Jr. that "the first offense against human rights is terrorism."

In a toast during luncheon given by himself and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, in Malacañang for Secretary and Mrs. Haig, the President said that US decision makers in the past, depending on their media for the facts, would consider any opposition in a regime fighting for survival as legitimate opposition even if it uses "violence, intimidation, and terrorism and spouts the Marxist or leftist line."

Thus, Haig's statement that "the first offense against human rights is terrorism" has strengthened the will and morale of "all freedom-loving men and leaders throughout the world," Mr. Marcos said.

The President said that after Vietnam, Afghanistan, Yemen, Somalia and other areas of US debacles, plus repeated statements of influential US figures that the US would never again fight on Asian soil, Asian leaders took it to mean that Asia was to be abandoned.

He added that this was not helped by the fact that America could not seem to distinguish between political or democratic dialogue and terrorism.

He said that the Reagan administration, with its pragmatic approach to foreign affairs, has changed all this.

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June 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said the United States government has agreed to consider the terms of an extradition agreement with the Philippines.

The President told newsmen this information was given him by US Secretary of State Alexander Haig, Jr. Details of the agreement between the President and Haig were not disclosed but it was understood that the classification of the crimes to be covered by the agreement will be a main consideration.

An extradition treaty will allow both countries to effect the returns of fugitives seeking refuge in the other country.

The Philippines has extradition treaties with Indonesia and. Thailand.

The President also said that Haig furnished him a letter informing him that the State Department is following up with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Justice the prosecution of American-based terrorists operating in the Philippines.

The President, through the Ministry of Justice, sent documents to the US government tending to show that American-based terrorists were responsible for the series of bombing in Metro Manila last year.

The President said he expressed his thanks to Haig “for the interest that they (American authorities) have shown.”

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FOREIGN Minister Carlos P. Romulo said US Secretary of State Alexander Haig, Jr. has assured him of US cooperation in energy development program of the Philippines.

Romulo had an hour-long conference Thursday with the US official during the latter’s visit to the PTCC, site of the 14th ASEAN ministerial meeting and the ASEAN Dialogue with Third World.

The foreign minister said Haig stressed possible additional US financial support for the Philippine nuclear power plant.

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June 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS led his closest rival for the presidency by a 10-to-1 ratio on the basis of official reports of the June 16 presidential elections tabulated at the Batasang Pambansa.

With what the Batasan considered as an “irreversible trend” already established, the legislative body tentatively set for 2 p.m. today the proclamation of the President at the Batasan session hall.

As of 4:30 p.m. yesterday, the Batasan seven-man committee headed by Assemblyman Emmanuel Pelaez, which was created at the start of the special session, tabulated the certificates of canvass from 101 provincial and city board of canvassers, after the opening of the sealed envelopes containing the results by Speaker Querube C. Makalintal.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS received Canadian Foreign Minister Mark MacGuigan and party when they called at Malacañang. The President also received New Zealand Foreign Minister Brian Talboys, who was accompanied by Deputy Foreign Minister H. C. Templeton and Ambassador Barbara Angus.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: June 22-28, 1981

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

June 22—

WITH A FRESH mandate and a six-year term ahead of him, President Marcos vowed to lead the nation toward the establishment "not only of a New Society, but of a New Republic."

The idea of a New Republic will dominate the government programs in the next six years, sources said, after President Marcos was proclaimed yesterday by the Batasang Pambansa as the winner in the June 16 elections.

In his brief remarks after his proclamation, President Marcos talked of the partnership among the Batasan, the Presidency, the Prime Ministership and the Cabinet which, he said, "will now organize a renewed structure of government."

He cited two general goals of the government and the people working together:

1. The true national liberation of the people, which presumably will attempt to erase all vestiges of colonialism.
2. The establishment of a New Republic, to be built on the gains of the New Society which was ushered in with the proclamation of martial law in September 1972.

* * * * *

PRESIDENT MARCOS disclosed yesterday that several attempts to assassinate him were made during the last presidential campaign.

In an interview with newsmen after his proclamation by the Batasang Pambansa, the President said "so many miracles have been wrought in these elections which perhaps more than anybody else I appreciate."

For instance, the President said, very few people know that he was supposed to have been ambushed in Baguio City during a public rally at the Baguio Convention Center last May 24.

"For some reason or other it didn't turn out very well" for the supposed assassins, the President said.

* * * * *

PREPARATIONS began yesterday for the inauguration of President Marcos as president under the modified parliamentary system before noon on June 30.

The President directed earlier in the day that proper preparations made for the inauguration during his remarks following acceptance of a resolution of the Batasang Pambansa declaring him as the winner of the June 16 presidential elections based on the nationwide canvass conducted by the Batasang Pambansa.

The resolution was presented by Batasan Speaker Querube Makalintal to the President in ceremonies held at the Hall of Brotherhood and Unity in Malacañang.

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June 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, who at one time said that he would welcome qualified opposition men to become members of the executive committee—the new constitutional body in charge of day-to-day operations of government—probably will start” looking for candidates closer to home.

Although the executive committee can have a maximum of 14 members—not including the prime minister who heads it—the President has repeatedly said it would start with seven members.

Considering that five members would come from the Cabinet Standing committee, only two slots would be open.

Informed sources said that two leading candidates for these slots could be Assemblymen Emmanuel Pelaez and Arturo Tolentino.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered the clearing of clogged esteros and drainage mains and laterals. He also wanted the road excavation problem in Metro Manila solved before the opening of classes on July 6.

Ordered to act on the flood and road problems were the Ministries of Public Works and of Public Highways and the metropolitan waterworks and sewerage, system (MWSS).

The President directed MPW Minister Alfredo L. Juinio and his deputy, Abes P. Canlas to hasten the clearing of waterways to prevent inundation of streets in the event of more rains.

The President, it was said, attributed recent “flash floods” to clogged drainage and laterals.

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June 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered yesterday the suspension of Pasig Mayor Emiliano Caruncho Jr. for one month during which an investigation on the charges against him will be conducted.

The President issued the order upon the recommendation of the First Lady and Metro Manila Gov. Imelda R. Marcos.

Caruncho has been accused of manhandling radio news reporter Salvador Reyes, 46, on election day (June 16) inside a voting center in Pasig.

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THE PRIVATE sector will play a bigger role in the self-reliance defense programs of the armed forces to enable the government to shift resources to other priorities.

President Marcos announced the shift of producing military equipment to the private sector in a speech during the 83rd anniversary celebration of the Philippine Navy at Fort Bonifacio.

Noting that the government has been spending to keep the momentum of the self-reliance defense program, the President said the AFP should now look towards the private sector to pursue such projects.

“It must be a Partnership where the initiative for the impetus of growth is equally: shared by both the government and the private sector.” he said.

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June 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS is scheduled to convene the Cabinet at 11:30 a.m. today to discuss plans for the New Republic which will be ushered in on June 30 with the inauguration of the President. The agenda was not announced.

The President will discuss his immediate plans under the new government structure.

The members of the Cabinet are expected to tender their courtesy resignations to give the President a free hand in forming his new Cabinet under the modified parliamentary system of government.

Labor Minister Blas F. Ople wired in his resignation two days ago from Geneva where he is attending a conference of the International Labor Organization.

The President is also expected to get a consensus of the Cabinet members on possible appointments to the Executive Committee to expand the present five-man Cabinet Standing Committee.

As indicated by the President, the present five members of the Cabinet Standing Committee will automatically be appointed to the Executive Committee. The President is expected to add more members to make it a 14-man body.

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THE FIRST LADY, Imelda R. Marcos, last night called on writers from the member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to feel, not just know, what they are writing about.

She also expressed disappointment that most books written on the 14-year-old regional alliance were written by Westerners who “rarely show sensitivity.”

In remarks at a reception honoring delegates to a four-day ASEAN writers conference here, Mrs. Marcos asked ASEAN writers to not only know but also feel what they are writing about “to make their creation complete and total.”

She also endorsed the establishment of a writers’ village in Metro Manila and in Baguio City.

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June 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, presented yesterday with the courtesy resignation letters of all his Cabinet ministers in the Cabinet meeting, decided to keep them all as caretakers of their respective ministries until his inauguration on June 30.

In a talk with Malacañang newsmen after the meeting the President said that he would take his oath of office before noon next Tuesday, June 30, then appoint the new Cabinet.

Informed sources indicated that reappointments might turn out to be the rule.

It was pointed out that the Constitution provides that the majority of the Cabinet members must be elected members of the legislature.

But of the 22 Cabinet ministers with portfolios, half are elected and the other half appointed as Batasang Pambansa members.

The President was thinking of reducing the ministries to 21 in order to increase the preponderance of elected Batasan members in the Cabinet.

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A FESTIVAL of Filipino arts has been organized by the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, to highlight the June 30 inauguration of President Marcos as head of the New Republic.

Mrs. Marcos said the festival from June 27 to July 4, will offer visions of the past, present and future as perceived by Filipinos.

She said the series of celebrations will display the “intricacy, the vibrancy and the variety of Philippine culture which could define the totality of the Filipino spirit and reflect in all dimensions the true, the good and the beautiful within him.

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June 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS was invited to attend the summit meeting on the North-South dialogue to be held in Mexico City this October.

The invitation was sent by Mexican President Jose Portillo and Chancellor Bruno Kreisky of Austria, the joint sponsors of the dialogue, through Mexican Ambassador Joaquin Garcia Bernal and charge d'affaires Herbet Kroll of the Austrian embassy.

After thanking Portillo and Kreisky, the President said he will discuss the matter with his Cabinet and Foreign Minister Carlos P. Romulo.

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June 28—

THE INAUGURATION of President Marcos as the President of the New Republic on Tuesday will be a “simple brief and dignified ceremony.”

This was announced by the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, who desided over the dress rehearsal of the inaugural rites at the Quirino grandstand yesterday morning.

The ceremony, which includes a 15-minute inaugural address by the President, is expected to be over in a little more than an hour.

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Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: June 29 - July 5, 1981

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

June 29—

THE FIRST LADY, Imelda R. Marcos, did a diplomatic balancing act of sorts yesterday as she welcomed ranking officials of China and the Soviet Union, the estranged leaders of the Communist world.

The officials came, within one hour of each other for the inauguration tomorrow of President Marcos.

Yang Shangkun, vice chairman of the standing committee of the National People's Congress of China, arrived on a regular flight from Peking on Philippine Airlines at 3:10 p.m.

Ivan Kalin, president of the Moldavian Republic and vice president of the presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, arrived on board a Malaysian Airlines System at 4:10 p.m.

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June 30—

PRESIDENT MARCOS is expected today to stress national unity and non-partisanship in his address during his inauguration as the first President of the Fourth Republic at the Quirino grandstand at the Luneta.

Some two million people, including 26 foreign dignitaries, are expected to attend the ceremonies starting at 7 a.m., that will usher in a new government structure under a modified parliamentary system.

The President will proclaim the birth of a New Republic which he calls a turning point in the country's history.

* * * * *

July 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS yesterday set the tone for the New Republic by calling on the people to unite to achieve national liberation.

The President issued the call in his 30-minute inaugural address shortly after sunrise yesterday before some two million people at the Quirino grandstand.

In proclaiming the birth of the New Republic which, he said, is a turning point as the country ventures into the future, the President stressed:

"It shall be our task as a people to break with the force of our will and our energies, the tradition of discord and suspicion that characterized our efforts in the past to build one nation."

He spoke on an extended red-carpeted platform of the grandstand with a 20-by-40-feet Philippine flag in the background.

Before his speech, the President took his oath of office before Chief Justice Enrique Fernando. The President placed his left hand on top of the family Bible and the Koran as he recited his oath of office.

* * * * *

PRESIDENT MARCOS agreed in his meeting yesterday with Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew to push hard for a vigorous trade cooperation scheme within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

The two men met privately for 30 minutes after a three-way meeting among them and Thai Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda.

Mr. Bee said that a trade cooperation scheme would bring the Asean countries closer to one another, that investments would come in and exports would increase.

Mr. Marcos and Mr. Lee also discussed the Kampuchean problem, the European Economic Community, and the Mexico conference next October to break the logjam in the North-South dialogue.

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July 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said the New Republic will seek to further strengthen Philippine relations with other countries during his six-year term.

The President made this pledge to several foreign dignitaries who called to bid goodbye after attending his inauguration as the first President under the modified parliamentary system of government the other day.

“I shall endeavor to devote my time as President of the New Republic to strengthening the ties between the Philippines and your country,” the President told each of the visiting dignitaries.

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July 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered yesterday the suspension of all military action in Regions 9 and 12 for 30 days starting today to allow Muslim Filipinos to observe the 30-day Feast of Ramadan, as quietly and freely as possible.

The President emphasized in his order that even members of families of known rebels should not be hindered by the military in the observance of the Ramadan.

Mrs. Marcos drove to barangay Magsaysay at 10:30 a.m. to inaugurate the two-story concrete building called the People’s Technology Center.

News of her visit spread like wildfire among the residents who quickly gathered at the center to greet her.

Mrs. Marcos expressed her thanks that the inauguration of the center and the graduation of the first batch of 60 trainees on garment-making coincided with her birthday.

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July 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, holding fast to his campaign promise not to appoint the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, to the post of Prime Minister, turned down yesterday a popular draft for her, accepting instead the nomination of Minister of Finance Cesar Virata for the position.

At the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan caucus in Malacañang, Negros Oriental Gov. Lorenzo Teves made an impassioned nominating speech for the First Lady, pleading with the President not to “shut the door” on the nomination just because she was the First Lady.

“The First Lady and I acknowledge your noble intention,” Mr. Marcos said. “But remember, the people’s mandate was based on credibility, honesty and faithfulness.”

He recalled that “twice I said I would not appoint the First Lady, so how will you now make me an honest man? I believe we may lose our credibility.”

The First Lady thanked the KBL leaders for their show of “confidence, esteem and affection” for her, then proposed that Virata be made Prime Minister.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS created the special presidential reorganization committee to trim the fat off bureaucracy, channeling the savings to livelihood centers to be called Kilusang Bayanihan.

During his Kilusang Bagong Lipunan caucus, he said this reorganization would cover every office, including his own.

It would get rid of excess personnel, eliminate red tape and corruption, avoid work duplication and generate savings.

On duplication, he cited the case of one family which was asked the same question 21 times in one year by various government agencies.

Savings to be realized from this move would come to between P500 million and P1 billion, he said.

This money would finance economic enterprises in every barangay in the country, converting each into a productive economic unit.

The President said local executives would take part in the active implementation of the development programs, particularly in the reorganization plan and in the Kilusang Bayanihan.

July 5—

PRESIDENT MARCOS enjoined yesterday Kilusang Bagong Lipunan leaders to adhere to the parliamentary practice of “working together” as a party government and supporting party-sponsored bills.

The President issued the call as the Batasang Pambansa prepares for its fourth regular session starting on July 27.

“The party (KBL) must now operate as a party and survive as a party,” the President said.

While there will be freedom of debate in caucuses—either in chamber or outside, the Batasan—party decisions arrived at during such caucuses should be fully supported on the floor, the President said.

The President cited the need for a united party position on such vital pending legislation as the bills on strikes, education and the local government.

Information officer-in-charge Gregorio S. Cendaña, meanwhile told newsmen that the Cabinet standing committee, which will soon become the Executive Committee under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, is preparing an economic development program for the next five years.

The program will be presented to the Batasan by the President when it opens its session on July 27.

The President is also expected to present the reorganizational plan of the government and the national budget for the next calendar year.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS said that the presidential reorganization committee would submit to him a study on whether to keep the regional offices in the 13 regions of the country or to abolish them.

He said there were criticisms against the regional set-up. Governors and mayors complained that they have no say in the planning of projects, expenditures of funds and even appointment of personnel within their jurisdiction.

The committee will take up the question of the regional offices and their relations with the various ministries and local governments.

At the same time, the President told the cabinet standing committee to prepare an economic development program for submission to the Batasang Pambansa at its opening session July 27.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS is sending Foreign Minister Carlos P. Romulo to the international conference on Kampuchea sponsored by the Asean and approved at last year's session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Romulo, who will head the Philippine delegation to the July 13 conference in New York, will leave Monday.

After the Kampuchean conference, Romulo will attend the July 29-30 meeting of foreign ministers of developing countries invited to the North-South summit in Cancun, Mexico.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: July 6-12, 1981

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

July 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS listed down legislative priorities for the Batasang Pambansa to tackle in its Fourth Regular Session starting July 27.

Measures the President wants to be given top attention by the Batasan are bills on strike, local government code, education code, judiciary and government reorganization.

With the exception of the government reorganization, all the other measures are already pending actions by the legislative body.

The President asked the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan assemblymen to adhere to the parliamentary practice of working together and support all party measures when they are brought to the floor for deliberation.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS yesterday asked all ministries and other government offices to coordinate their news releases with the Ministry of Public Information under Officer-in-Charge Gdegorio S. Cendaña.

The directive is aimed at implementing smoother, well-knit information dissemination under the New Republic and in pursuit of the intensified development goals of the administration under the party government system of parliament.

The President stressed he would not tolerate image-building by individual government officials at the expense of the overall development thrusts of the government.

Cendaña said he would call a meeting of all government information officers at 1 p.m. tomorrow at the MBS Channel 4 offices in Quezon City to draw up the guidelines on information coordination focused on national development efforts.

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July 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan agreed yesterday to broaden cooperation between their two countries and to pursue the "search for freedom, peace and prosperity in East Asia."

The need for more effective cooperation among Asian nations was stressed by the two leaders in their speeches during the state dinner in Malacañang.

Chun, the first South Korean head of government to visit the ASEAN member states, arrived yesterday for a four-day state visit. Manila is the last stop in his ASEAN tour.

The Korean leader arrived with his wife, the former Lee Soon Ja, and 18 other Korean officials, including four ministers.

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July 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said the New Republic will pursue a system of party government, as mandated by the electorate.

In a talk with newsmen, the President outlined the basic foundations of his administration.

“The mandate that we received is based principally on credibility, honesty, forthrightness, straight-forwardness,” he said, pledging these would be the touchstones of the programs and policies of his government.

“We are converting our country into a politics of development—a politics of honesty and integrity,” he added.

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THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos yesterday showed Mrs. Chun Doo Hwan, wife of the Korean President, around the city, giving her a glimpse of Philippine culture and some of her projects.

While their husbands were holding talks at Malacañang Mrs. Marcos accompanied Mrs. Chun on a tour of the Nayong Pilipino, the Coconut Palace and the Lungsod ng Kabataan.

The two First Ladies drove around the sprawling Nayong Pilipino to give Mrs. Chun a quick look at the country’s cultural diversity, from the Ilocos in the north to the Muslim provinces in the south.

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THE PHILIPPINES and South Korea yesterday concluded a scientific and technological cooperation agreement. The Presidents of both countries also pledged to strengthen their nations’ ties of friendship.

The agreement was signed on the second day of the state visit of South Korean President Chun Doo-hwan, who held private talks with President Marcos for one hour and a half yesterday while the agreement was being hammered out by their Cabinet ministers.

The agreement was signed for the Philippines by acting Foreign Minister Manuel Collantes and for Korea by Foreign Minister Lho Shin Yong.

It calls, for an exchange of professionals, experts and research workers, fellowship grants and scientific and technological information.

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July 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan agreed to further expand and diversify trade and economic cooperation between their countries.

This agreement is contained in a joint communique issued by Malacañang on the third day of Chun’s visit.

The two Presidents also agreed to cooperate in various areas under “a new framework of cooperation.”

Recognizing that there exist complementary economic relations between the Philippines and South Korea, the President and his Korean guest expressed hope for an early conclusion of an agreement in economic and technical cooperation.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS will meet today members of the Cabinet Standing Committee and the Special Presidential Reorganization Committee to lay the basis for the projected top-to-bottom reorganization of the government.

The top-level meeting is scheduled at 11:30 a.m. at Malacañang immediately after the departure of visiting Korean President Chun Doo Hwan.

Invited to the meeting were members of the Cabinet Standing Committee, led by Finance Minister Cesar Virata. The others are Industry Minister Roberto Ongpin, Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, Local Government Minister Jose Roño, and Budget Minister Manuel Alba.

The reorganization committee is chaired by Ongpin with Chairman Armand Fabella of the Government Reorganization Commission as executive director. The members are Solicitor General and Pampanga Gov. Estelito Mendoza, representing local officials; Presidential Adviser Jacobo C. Clave, Commissioner on Audit Francisco Tantuico, two representatives from the Batasang Pambansa and one from the private sector who still has to be designated.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS declared his support for the proposal of Korean President Chun Doo Hwan to admit South and North Korea into the United Nations “as an ad interim measure pending the peaceful reunification” of the two Koreas.

In a joint communique, the two leaders agreed that this “would contribute to easing tensions and consolidating peace on the Korean peninsula, and help create an international atmosphere conducive to national reconciliation and peaceful reunification”

The day before, President Chun told reporters that although his offers to sit down with North Korean President Kim Il Sung were rebuffed, he would not stop knocking at the doors of North Korea.

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July 10—

SOME of the government ministries will be merged to reduce the number of Cabinet positions with portfolio from 26 to 16 or 18.

The Cabinet members without portfolio will be limited to only four or five.

The reduction of the number of ministers with portfolio was mentioned yesterday by President Marcos in an interview after his meeting in Malacañang with the Cabinet Standing Committee and the special reorganization committee.

The President said his new Cabinet and the members of the Executive, Committee will be announced in his address during the opening July 27 of the fourth regular session of the Batasang Pambansa.

The nomination of Finance Minister Cesar E. A. Virata as Prime Minister will also be made by the President on the same day after forming his Cabinet.

The President took over the chairmanship of the Special Reorganization Committee, which laid down the basic guidelines of what he called a “no nonsense” top-to-bottom reorganization of the entire government machinery.

The Guidelines include:

Cross-assignments of the ministers to train them to handle any of the ministries at any given time.

Effecting closer coordination between the Office of the President and that of the Prime Minister.

Priorities will be set in accordance with the reorientation of the national budget. Deficits will be cut down and there will be a review of proposals to improve collection of taxes.

Reassessment of the jurisdictions of local governments and national offices.

Giving priority to the energy program, food and livelihood under the Kilusang Bayanihan.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS said that the Philippines gained more than the Koreans in the four-day state visit of South Korean President Chun Doq Hwan.

This assessment of Chun's visit was made by the President in an interview with newsmen in Malacañang after the departure of the South Korean President.

"We gained more advantage from it than the Koreans provided we really work hard," the President said.

The President was apparently referring to the agreement on scientific and technological cooperation signed during the visit which will allow exchanges of technicians by both countries.

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THE FIRST LADY and Metro Manila Gov. Imelda R. Marcos yesterday asked government engineers to coordinate with public utility firms to put order into road diggings and electric wire installation in the city.

In a meeting at Malacañang with city officials, government engineers and representatives of public utility firms, Mrs. Marcos ordered that her old directive for integrating electric, telephone and water underground operation between their countries.

Following this order, officials of the highway ministry and the MERALCO, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., and the National Waterworks and Sewerage Authority will finalize a plan to put underground utility connections along seven streets in Metro Manila as a start.

The streets include Ramon Magsaysay blvd., Quirino Ave., South Superhighway, Gen. Forbes, España ext. and Quezon blvd.

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July 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered securities and exchange commission Chairman Angel Limjoco yesterday to go into a full investigation of reports that an SEC official was involved in irregularities of the Philippine Underwriters Finance Corp. (Philfinance).

He told the SEC chairman to give a report as soon as possible so that he could take appropriate action.

At the same time, Mr. Marcos ordered Central Bank Gov. Jaime Lava to find out why Philfinance was allowed to engage in quasi-banking activities—and who had authorized these activities.

Lava was instructed to give an immediate report on this.

The President would also have the SEC explain why Philfinance was allowed to engage in quasi-banking activities without it taking any action to stop it.

Limjoco and the other SEC commissioners were also asked to explain why Philfinance was allowed to sell spurious commercial papers.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS said the national livelihood centers under the Kilusang Bayanihan would be implemented on a massive scale and would receive the same priority as energy development.

All government resources would be harnessed to ensure maximum motivation and participation in this project to make each barangay a productive economic unit, he told newsmen.

These units will produce products not only for domestic use but also for export. The ministries of human settlements and trade have already made feasibility studies here.

“The success of all these depend on motivation and this will be done by the local governments,” he said. “The project must be visible so that they will attract widespread participation.”

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PRESIDENT MARCOS swore into office yesterday five newly-promoted commodores of the Philippine Navy, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

Inducted by the President were:

1. Commodore Gonzalo M. Santos, president of the National Defense College of the Philippines.
2. Commodore Alfredo V. Divino, commander, naval forces, Southern Philippines, and deputy commander, Southern command, AFP.
3. Commodore Ponciano Bautista, chief of PN naval staff.
4. Commodore Dante Q. de Guzman, commander naval defense force, AFP.
5. Commodore Ramon P. Madrid, deputy base commander, Subic Naval Base command, AFP.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS conferred yesterday the Order of Sikatuna, rank of Datu on outgoing Ambassador Valerian Mikhailov of the Soviet Union.

The President conferred the award in recognition of the services of the Soviet envoy in the field of international relations, as the worthy and capable representative of his government and people.

During his three-and one half years tour of duty in the Philippines, Mikhailov exerted efforts to enhance the harmonious relations between his country and the Philippines, helped expand trade and economic ties and promoted through cultural missions greater understanding and cooperation between his people and the Filipino people.

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THE FIRST LADY and Minister of Human Settlements Imelda R. Marcos gave her support for the New York-based “Save the Children” program to operate in the Philippines.

The program, founded in 1932 to help children in the Appalachians now operates in 26 countries in five continents, working to improve the life of children everywhere.

Mrs. Marcos expressed her support during a lunch she gave in honor of David Guyer, president of the “Save the Children” program, and his sister, Lorain G. Percy.

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July 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and the First Lady, Minister of Human Settlements Imelda R. Marcos inaugurated yesterday the Rildia Bee O’Bryan Cliburn library at the National Arts center on Mount Makiling, Los Baños.

Mrs. Cliburn is the mother of pianist Van Cliburn.

Mrs. Marcos said that the Cultural Center of the Philippines named the library after Mrs. Cliburn because of her “devotion to the arts her incalculable contribution to Philippine art and culture, her loving concern for Filipino children.

Mrs. Cliburn said she accepted “this honor with deepest gratitude and feel like I am so unworthy of such great honor.”

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Source: National Library of the Philippines

Official Week in Review: July 13 – July 19, 1981

July 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has called to a meeting at Malacañang tomorrow the contending parties in the Cagayan de Oro electoral contest to ease tension while the case is pending in court.

Invited to the conference were Gov. Homobono A. Adaza of Misamis Oriental, chairman of the Mindanao Alliance; Aquilino Pimentel Jr., who was disqualified as mayor by the Commission on Elections; Francisco Velez, the KBL mayoral candidate; Assemblymen Emmanuel Pelaez and Concordio Diel, and acting Mayor Pablo Magtajas.

Pimentel, who was visiting in the United States when the Comelec issued a ruling disqualifying him from office, is reportedly cutting short his trip and is scheduled to return today.

The President called the conference under his supervisory powers over local governments as provided for in the Constitution.

Malacañang said the meeting is intended to prevent any violence arising from the conflict and to thresh out questions involving the administration of the city while the case is in court.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered yesterday that procedures on bidding, procurement of supplies and awarding of contracts be simplified.

Malacañang said the objectives are to reduce paperwork, simplify operations and speed up projects which get bogged down in red tape.

It is also common knowledge that red tape and complicated procedures have contributed to graft.

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July 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered yesterday the Ministry of Human Settlements to check reports that some subdivisions have been opened in agricultural areas, chiefly rice lands, within or near Metro Manila.

The law prohibits the conversion of agricultural lands into subdivisions, or their use for industrial or commercial purposes unless allowed by the Ministry of Human Settlements.

This idea is to effect rational use of land and prevent the rapid depletion of agricultural sites which constitute a major resource of the economy.

The President cited Letter of Instructions No. 713, dated June 22, 1977, which prohibits such conversion, and Presidential Decree No. 814, dated Oct. 21, 1975, which prescribes penalties for landowners or landholders who convert their tenanted land primarily devoted to rice and corn into any non-agricultural use.

LOI 729 requires that land use plans be approved by the MHS, which shall issue development permits related to subdivision and zoning based on the approved land use plans.

The law and MHS regulations also require that location clearances be issued by the MHS regulatory commission before any subdivision can be developed in Metro Manila, which was proclaimed as an urban land reform zone on Sept. 11, 1979.

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July 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said one of the objectives of the ongoing government reorganization is to streamline the bureaucratic support to facilitate and encourage export-oriented entrepreneurs.

Keynoting the opening of the three-day International Conference-Workshop on Export Development Strategies for the 80's at the Philippine International Convention Center, the President said the revamp will not spare sacred cows, and will not tolerate ineptness, inefficiency and corruption.

But the President stressed that although the government has laid the groundwork for economic development, the private sector must carry the brunt of implementation.

Speaking for developing countries, the President expressed interest in three basic factors for their export development programs:

— —Learning the techniques and strategies of developed nations which, in a short period of time, have successfully opened up new world markets for their products.

— —Learning how these countries have been able to mobilize and organize their human resources for an aggressive export thrust.

— —Knowing how a judicious balance can be achieved between meeting the requirements of home markets and satisfying overseas demands.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS said yesterday the greatest threat to member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations is internal subversion and not aggression from outside.

In his talk with two visiting members of the Australian Parliament—Sen. Donaldo Jessop representing Southern Australia and Sen. Peter Rae representing Tasmania—the President reiterated the ASEAN goal of freedom, peace and stability in the region.

The two Australian parliamentarians paid their respects to the President in Malacañang.

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July 16—

THE FIRST LADY and Minister of Human Settlements Imelda R. Marcos called for a massive tree-planting program to improve the oxygen content of the air.

Added benefits here would be the beautification of the metropolis and the earning of added income by the people, she said.

Her plan calls for the planting of 64 million trees in Metro Manila, creating forests out of idle government land and surrounding the metropolis with an “oxygen belt” of forest farms.

Metro Manila could then be a model for the rest of the country to follow.

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THE BATASANG Pambansa and the cabinet will coordinate closely in the framing of policies and implementation of government programs in the coming sessions.

Assemblymen Frisco F. San Juan (KBL, Southern Tagalog), chairman of the subcommittee on revision of Batasan rules, said this is now possible with the holding of the question hour every Thursday.

He said members of the steering committee, the Batasan’s ruling body, have endorsed favorably his proposal to amend the rules so that the question hour can be held each week.

The Constitution provides that the Prime Minister, the deputy Prime Minister or any minister may be required to appear and answer questions and interpellations by members of the Batasang Pambansa at least once a month or as often as the rules of the Batasan provide.

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CABANATUAN CITY, July 15—Justice Minister Ricardo C. Puno has ordered a performance audit of all provincial and city fiscals and their assistants in a move to strengthen the country’s national prosecution service.

This was learned here today from Provincial Fiscal Benjamin Cabie who said the performance audit for the national prosecution service will make the government prosecution arm “more effective and efficient.”

There are about 3,000 provincial and city fiscals and their assistants and lawyers of the Ministry of Justice and its offices in the country.

Puno said the performance audit will be carried out by a board which was created in view of the pronouncement of President Marcos to re-organize the government in all levels and echelons to achieve “maximum efficiency in public service.”

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July 17—

OPPOSITION Mayor Aquilino Pimentel, earlier disqualified by the Commission on Elections for “turncoatism,” will continue as mayor of Cagayan de Oro until a final decision is reached by the Supreme Court.

This decision was arrived at by the contending parties in a meeting at Malacañang presided over by President Marcos.

Francisco Velez, the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan candidate in the last local elections who was ordered proclaimed by the Comelec after Pimentel was disqualified by the poll body, volunteered to withdraw from the mayorship pending final court action on the electoral case.

Velez informed the President that he took his oath as mayor on a conditional basis while the case is being heard before the court.

The contending parties agreed before the President to dismantle all offensive propaganda displayed in the city, refrain from any demonstrations and desist from issuing any inflammatory statements.

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July 18—

FRESH from his mediation efforts in the Cagayan de Oro mayoral conflict, President Marcos presided yesterday at a confrontation between protagonists in the Bayang, Lanao del Sur, mayoral election.

The President assured the rival candidates, Hadji Mapunud Datu Imam and Pacambang Lucman, that the case would be decided on its merits by the commission on elections.

He urged them and their followers not to resort to violence, but to wait for the outcome of their case.

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SOME 1,000 foreign delegates will join 500 Filipino delegates in the World Congress on Mental Health Congress on Mental Health which will be held in Manila from July 27 to Aug. 1.

The First Lady, Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos, conferred with officials of the Philippine Mental Health association, on preparations for the world congress, which will be held outside a developed country for the first time.

President Marcos is scheduled to deliver the keynote address while the First Lady will welcome the delegates.

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THE GOVERNMENT announced the expansion of the countryside food production program to include all kinds of foodstuff.

Local Government Deputy Minister Salvador Socrates said that under Malacañang executive order 620, the “Palayan ng Bayan” program has been converted into the “Pagkain ng Bayan.”

City mayors will participate in Pagkain ng Bayan, along with the provincial governors whose constituencies were the only beneficiaries in the old program, Socrates said.

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July 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS directed customs authorities to open for inspection all incoming container vans.

The order was issued by the President after receiving reports from customs authorities that smuggling has been increasing and that vans were being used to evade duties on goods coming from abroad.

In a directive to Customs Commissioner Ramon J. Farolan, the President said that all containers unloaded from vessels calling at Manila “must be opened and thoroughly inspected” without exception.

The President said stricter inspection of incoming cargo container vans will ensure that goods are correctly declared and the corresponding taxes and duties collected.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered yesterday the review and mobilization of available funds of the government for use by small and medium and export-oriented industries.

The move stressing the growth of small enterprises will be pursued by generating greater employment, encouraging the establishment of new industries, enlarging the nation's export capabilities and intensifying production.

In his directive to the government's economic managers, the President ordered a review of the entire financing package available to small businesses and make funding support readily available to them.

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THE FIRST LADY, Imelda R. Marcos, called yesterday on Metro Manila officials to start projects to give the unemployed opportunities to earn an income.

"I know I am already sounding like a broken record about this, but I have to keep on following you up on it to make you realize the urgency of the matter," the First Lady said in a meeting at Malacañang with Metro Manila officials.

She reminded them that the government has seen the importance of bringing livelihood opportunities to the remotest barangays in the countryside.

The President, she said, has formed a reorganization commission to trim government expenses and channel the savings to establishing livelihood centers in the countryside.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1981). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 77(29), clxxxix-cxciii.

President's Week in Review: July 20-26, 1981

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

July 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered last night government financial institutions and other offices concerned to extend financial support to small businesses all over the country.

The President issued the order after his dinner meeting with the government's economic managers in Malacañang during which the entire financial package available to small businessmen was reviewed.

The move to develop small enterprises is intended to boost economic activity, particularly small scale, medium-scale and export-oriented industries.

By helping small enterprises, the government hopes to generate more jobs, encourage the establishment of new industries, enlarge the nation's export capabilities and intensify production.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS called yesterday on the people to join the government and other concerned sectors in eliminating causes of physical and mental disability.

In a speech highlighting the 3rd National Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation Week, the President identified underdevelopment as "the true root cause of disability," with malnutrition and the non-availability of safety devices as corollary causes.

The speech was read for him by Dr. Pacifico Marcos, chairman of the Philippine Medicare Commission, in ceremonies held at the Mabini Shrine at Nagtahan.

Among the highlights of the NDPR Week ceremonies was the formal presentation by Mrs. Julita C. Benedicto, chairman of the National Commission Concerning Disabled Persons, of the Philippine Plan for Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation.

The plan embodies a comprehensive socio-economic approach to the problem of disability in the Philippines.

July 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS directed yesterday the reorientation of some 40,000 government field men to prepare them for the launching of a nationwide livelihood movement under the Kilusang Bayanihan sa Kabuhayan.

The President reiterated his directive during a meeting in Malacañang with some members of the Cabinet during which he also called on the private sector to participate actively in the movement.

The President directed that all the 40,000 field men be given retraining and reorientation seminars. Those who do not make it should be bud off, he said.

CHAIRMAN Angel Limjoco and two associate commissioners of the Securities and Exchange Commission resigned yesterday.

The SEC chairman submitted his resignation to President Marcos "for reasons of ill health" during meeting in Malacañang.

The resignations of Associate Commissioners Julio Sulit and Sixto de Guzman were also submitted to the President by Limjoco.

Pending the completion of the review of the SEC law, the President withheld action on the resignations of the SEC officials.

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THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos assured last night some 4.5 million disabled Filipinos of equal opportunities for employment, skills training and more income under the government's livelihood program.

"This I shall personally guarantee and consider particularly when we begin operating the livelihood centers to be known as the "Kilusang Bayanihan." Mrs. Marcos said in a speech read for her at the grand national finals of "Ang May Kapansanan sa Larangan ng Musika" at the Metropolitan Theater.

The show capped a nationwide musical contest among disabled persons organized by the Ministry of Social Services and Development in observance of the International Year of Disabled Persons.

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July 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS deplored yesterday too much television watching and too much use of the calculator and other gadgets that, he said, have made children neglect their studies and forget the fundamentals of addition and subtraction.

The President said this implies a retrogression which has compelled the government to promote health, physical education and recreation not only in urban areas but all the way down to the smallest village.

The President made the remarks in his keynote address at the opening of the five-day 24th World Congress on Health, Physical Education, and Recreation at the Philippine Convention Center.

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THE CABINET standing committee and the committee on labor of the Batasang Pambansa discussed last night a compromise proposal on the proposed strike bill.

Details of the discussion were not announced, but it was understood that a proposal that will be acceptable to both labor and management will be presented to the Batasan for approval.

The joint meeting was presided over by President Marcos with Labor Minister Blas F. Ople at the head of the labor committee and Finance Minister Cesar E.A. Virata at the head of the Cabinet standing committee

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July 23—

PBBSIDENT MARCOS and the leaders of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan will hold a caucus in Malacañang this morning to forge a party Stand on the program of government, the reorganization of the Cabinet and other, issues.

It will be the second caucus since the June 30 inauguration of the President.

The caucus will also take up the party's almost P60-billion budget proposals for the next calendar year and pending legislative matters.

Among the major proposals that will be given priority when the Batasan opens its fourth regular session on Monday are bills on strikes, education, local government, judiciary reorganization, and the government revamp.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS gave the go signal for the National Bureau of Investigation to seek the assistance of Interpol to track down Alexander Babst, a banking executive who is wanted in connection with a P37-million defalcation case.

In his directive, the President said that in all cases of this nature, the government will exhaust all means to bring to justice all those involved.

Babst Paco branch manager of Pacific Banking Corp., was reported to have fled to the United States after diverting P37, 375,000 tax payments intended for the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

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The President said a legal study is now under way to determine who of the two is the more senior officer to be able to succeed Gen. Romeo C. Espino as AFP chief of staff.

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According to Ancheta, the President took this move to stop the “mockery” in the availment of the tax amnesty program.

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July 25—

MALACAÑANG said the government will continue to help all industries, from small ventures to big enterprises, during difficult times.

This commitment will remain a major policy cornerstone, according to President Marcos in his meetings with his economic managers as they drew up the administration’s five-year development program.

Malacañang released a study detailing government assistance to local industries amounting to several billion pesos dating back to mid-1960s.

The list of enterprises assisted by the government included gold and copper mining companies, textile manufacturers, cement plants, and the entire sugar industry which met difficulties caused by depressed market prices and foreign exchange problems.

There were also countless smaller ventures which obtained their financing from various government financial outlets.

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Sixteen Cabinet members with line ministries are expected to retain their positions.

The President will name a total of 25 members of the Cabinet, including the seven who will head the support ministries.

The 18 line ministries are agriculture, agrarian reform, education and culture (which absorbs the Ministry of Youth and Sports Development), energy, finance, health, foreign affairs, human settlements, industry, trade and investment, labor and employment, justice, local governments, natural resources, public works and highways, tourism, transportation and communications, and social services and development.

The support ministries are vital in lending assistance to the President and the Batasan and as such their heads will also hold the rank of ministers and will sit in Cabinet meetings.

As the President explained in last Thursday's caucus, the heads of these ministries are "Cabinet members per se and they will attend Cabinet meetings."

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THE KBL caucus, presided over by Prime Minister-designate Cesar Virata saw the need to define the manner of impeachment of the President and members of the Supreme Court and constitutional commissions.

Assemblyman Arturo M. Tolentino observed that impeachment was so important in legislative proceedings that it must be deliberated upon more judiciously.

Tolentino said the rules must specify who will initiate the impeachment proceedings, the number of Batasan members required to take cognizance and recommend such proceedings, and the procedure to be adopted.

Under the proposal submitted by the Batasan sub-committee on rules headed by Assemblyman Frisco F. San Juan (KBL CR-4), the President and members of the Supreme Court and such constitutional bodies as 'the Civil Service Commission, Commission on Elections and Commission on Audit may be impeached for violation of the Constitution, treason, bribery and other high crimes, and graft and corruption.

Acquittal or conviction requires two-thirds vote of all the Batasan members. The judgment shall be limited to removal from office and disqualification to hold any office of honor, trust or profit under the Republic.

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THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos approved the construction of dormitories good for 2,000 students to ease the housing shortage at the University of the Philippines campus in Diliman, Quezon City.

Mrs. Marcos also set aside for the UP faculty and other personnel 352 apartment units in 11 four-story buildings of the BLISS project in Sikatuna Village, Quezon City.

The First Lady inspected the P27-million housing project which is expected to be finished in September. With her were UP president Edgardo Angara and Human Settlements Deputy Minister Jose Conrado Benitez.

The student dormitories will be built near the BLISS project on a 10-hectare land owned by the university. It will have individual rooms for 2,000 students to give them privacy.

July 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS announced yesterday the members of the Cabinet and other top officials of the New Republic in accordance with the government reorganizational plan.

The appointees, announced by the President in a press conference, included 18 Cabinet members with line ministries, eight heads of the support offices and agencies with Cabinet rank, seven presidential advisers and assistants, four deputy ministers and 45 ministers of state.

The President also named Placido Mapa, Jr., former chairman of the Development Bank of the Philippines and former alternate delegate to the World Bank, as the new director-general of the National Economic and Development Authority. Mapa will be appointed as member of the Batasan and minister of state for finance.

PRESIDENT MARCOS also announced the appointment of 45 ministers of state who will serve as liaison between the ministries they are appointed to and the Batasan.

According to the President, the ministers of state were named "to balance off the technocrats in the Cabinet."

They will be given specific missions and functions as the operations of the different ministries may require.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS issued yesterday an executive order creating the Office of Presidential Representative on Trade Negotiations, and named former Minister of Trade Luis Villafuerte to head it, retaining his Cabinet rank of minister.

In creating the new office, the President cited the worldwide trend towards protectionism and restrictive trade barriers, which make the negotiation of trade agreements very crucial to the export development objectives of the country.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

Official Week in Review: July 20 – July 26, 1981

July 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered last night government financial institutions and other offices concerned to extend financial support to small businesses all over the country.

The President issued the order after his dinner meeting with the government's economic managers in Malacañang during which the entire financial package available to small businessmen was reviewed.

The move to develop small enterprises is intended to boost economic activity, particularly small scale, medium-scale and export-oriented industries.

By helping small enterprises, the government hopes to generate more jobs, encourage the establishment of new industries, enlarge the nation's export capabilities and intensify production.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS called yesterday on the people to join the government and other concerned sectors in eliminating causes of physical and mental disability.

In a speech highlighting the 3rd National Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation Week, the President identified underdevelopment as "the true root cause of disability," with malnutrition and the non-availability of safety devices as corollary causes.

The speech was read for him by Dr. Pacifico Marcos, chairman of the Philippine Medicare Commission, in ceremonies held at the Mabini Shrine at Nagtahan.

Among the highlights of the NDPR Week ceremonies was the formal presentation by Mrs. Julita C. Benedicto, chairman of the National Commission Concerning Disabled Persons, of the Philippine Plan for Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation.

The plan embodies a comprehensive socio-economic approach to the problem of disability in the Philippines.

July 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS directed yesterday the reorientation of some 40,000 government field men to prepare them for the launching of a nationwide livelihood movement under the Kilusang Bayanihan sa Kabuhayan.

The President reiterated his directive during a meeting in Malacañang with some members of the Cabinet during which he also called on the private sector to participate actively in the movement.

The President directed that all the 40,000 field men be given retraining and reorientation seminars. Those who do not make it should be bud off, he said.

CHAIRMAN Angel Limjoco and two associate commissioners of the Securities and Exchange Commission resigned yesterday.

The SEC chairman submitted his resignation to President Marcos "for reasons of ill health" during meeting in Malacañang.

The resignations of Associate Commissioners Julio Sulit and Sixto de Guzman were also submitted to the President by Limjoco.

Pending the completion of the review of the SEC law, the President withheld action on the resignations of the SEC officials.

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THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos assured last night some 4.5 million disabled Filipinos of equal opportunities for employment, skills training and more income under the government's livelihood program.

"This I shall personally guarantee and consider particularly when we begin operating the livelihood centers to be known as the "Kilusang Bayanihan." Mrs. Marcos said in a speech read for her at the grand national finals of "Ang May Kapansanan sa Larangan ng Musika" at the Metropolitan Theater.

The show capped a nationwide musical contest among disabled persons organized by the Ministry of Social Services and Development in observance of the International Year of Disabled Persons.

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July 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS deplored yesterday too much television watching and too much use of the calculator and other gadgets that, he said, have made children neglect their studies and forget the fundamentals of addition and subtraction.

The President said this implies a retrogression which has compelled the government to promote health, physical education and recreation not only in urban areas but all the way down to the smallest village.

The President made the remarks in his keynote address at the opening of the five-day 24th World Congress on Health, Physical Education, and Recreation at the Philippine Convention Center.

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THE CABINET standing committee and the committee on labor of the Batasang Pambansa discussed last night a compromise proposal on the proposed strike bill.

Details of the discussion were not announced, but it was understood that a proposal that will be acceptable to both labor and management will be presented to the Batasan for approval.

The joint meeting was presided over by President Marcos with Labor Minister Blas F. Ople at the head of the labor committee and Finance Minister Cesar E.A. Virata at the head of the Cabinet standing committee.

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July 23—

PBBSIDENT MARCOS and the leaders of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan will hold a caucus in Malacañang this morning to forge a party Stand on the program of government, the reorganization of the Cabinet and other, issues.

It will be the second caucus since the June 30 inauguration of the President.

The caucus will also take up the party's almost P60-billion budget proposals for the next calendar year and pending legislative matters.

Among the major proposals that will be given priority when the Batasan opens its fourth regular session on Monday are bills on strikes, education, local government, judiciary reorganization, and the government revamp.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS gave the go signal for the National Bureau of Investigation to seek the assistance of Interpol to track down Alexander Babst, a banking executive who is wanted in connection with a P37-million defalcation case.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1981). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 77(30), cxcvii-ccii.

Official Week in Review: July 27 – August 2, 1981

July 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS is expected today to give the broad outlines of his program of government for the next five years in his state-of-the-nation address at the opening of the fourth regular session of the Batasang Pambansa.

It will be the first session of the Batasan under the New Republic. The session will start at 5 pm.

In his address, the President is also expected to review the record of the New Society as it affected not only the common man but the country as a whole.

With the transformation to the modified parliamentary form of government, the President will formally nominate Finance Minister Cesar E. A. Virata as prime minister and Local Government Minister Jose Roño as deputy prime minister. They are to be elected by the Batasan.

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July 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS called last night on the Batasang Pambansa to support the government's agenda for development to give "long life and vitality" to the New Republic.

Addressing the opening session of the fourth regular session of the Batasan as the first President of the New Republic, Mr. Marcos presented his government program.

"In this period of beginning for our New Republic, the business of development must be the agenda of our nation now," the President said.

Stressing the need for "enterprise and daring" in the face of general pessimism in the world economy, the President said that the times call for decisive action.

"We shall maintain and sustain this close collaboration and unity of mind and action between us until our goals have been fulfilled and until the burdens shall have been lifted from us by the sovereign will of our people," he said.

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THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos called for restraint in the quest for material advantage to ease world tension and bring about a healthy climate for understanding and cooperation among nations.

Mrs. Marcos said this in her welcome address as the 1981 World Congress on Mental Health at the Philippine International Convention Center, attended by some 1,500 mental health experts from 54 nations.

She said that although mental health problems may vary from one nation to another, there is common anxiety over the prospect of an environment torn by enmity and strife.

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July 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS asked Prime Minister Cesar E. A. Virata to convene the Cabinet this morning, the first to be held under the new setup under which the prime minister, and not the President, will preside over the meeting.

The President also asked Virata to supervise the government reorganization program, particularly the mergers of four ministries into two, involving the ministries of public works and highways and the ministries of industry and trade.

He said the Reorganization Committee should expedite the revamp to remove what he said was the air of uncertainty that hangs over the heads of government personnel.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS reduced the import duties on 128 items, mostly raw material imports, to support local industries and make their products more competitive in the world market.

The new order completes a four-phase gradual tariff reduction which the President signed yesterday.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS has approved the release of P9.1 million for uniform and living allowances of some 19,000 personnel of the Bureau of Posts.

Earlier, the President had approved the release of P6.2 million for overtime pay and night differential of postal employees.

Postmaster General J. Roilo Golez said the P9.1 million will be used for additional funds for the granting of a P250-uniform allowance and for additional P50 monthly allowance to all personnel pending the upgrading of their salaries.

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CEBU CITY, July 28—The First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos returned to this city today to check on the delivery of the 11 basic needs of Cebuanos, especially in the depressed areas she visited during the last presidential election campaign.

She also came to reiterate President Marcos' new resolve to help every Filipino who is willing to work find a job under the Kilusang Kabuhayan of the New Republic.

Visiting Barangay Luz, a depressed area of 16,000 residents in the center of the city, Mrs. Marcos said she was pleased to see that her promise of a better quality of life is fast becoming a reality.

* * * * *

NEWLY elected Prime Minister Cesar E.A. Virata pledged last night to "preserve and do my best to be of service to our people and to the nation and to be able to merit your trust and confidence."

Virata, also concurrently finance minister and chairman of the executive committee, was elected by the Batasang Pambansa at 6:35 p.m. with 148 "yes" votes, one negative vote and four abstentions.

Virata's election was also followed by that of Local Government Minister Jose A. Roño as deputy prime minister, who like Virata, expressed his gratitude to the Batasan members for their vote of confidence.

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July 30—

PRESIDENT MARCOS directed the securities and exchange commission (SEC) to set its house in order and coordinate with the Central Bank in policing and regulating the sale of commercial papers.

He issued this directive as he appointed the new set of officers of the SEC.

The new SEC officers, who will take their oaths of office Saturday, are Manuel Abello, chairman; Jesus J. Valdes, Gonzalo T. Sanutos, Jr., Julio A. Sulit, Jr., and Ms. Rosario N. Lopez, associate commissioners.

After signing the appointment papers, the President told the SEC officers:

“I urge you to get together with Gov. (Jaime) Laya of the Central Bank so that you can coordinate on the matter of approval of cash advancing as well as the sale of commercial papers.”

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July 31—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, as head of state and chief executive, will concern himself mainly with major policy and decision-making processes, while Prime Minister Cesar Virata, as head of the cabinet and the executive committee, will take charge of the day-to-day supervision and details of administration of the government.

This was the underlying principle in Executive Order No. 708 defining the powers and duties of the President and prime minister signed by Mr. Marcos last Monday and released by Malacañang yesterday.

The President retained control over the ministries while the prime minister supervises them.

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TOLOSA, Leyte—July 30—The First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos set up today a key link in the organization that will implement the President’s P3-billion Kilusang Kabuhayan movement.

She opened in barangay Tanghas here an action unit that will coordinate the activities of the livelihood center in Leyte.

The unit will be operated by the Ministry of Human Settlements, the lead agency of the livelihood program, and will be supported by other government agencies.

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THE CABINET completed discussion of the P60-billion national budget for 1982 with economic services getting the biggest chunk amounting to P25 billion, followed by utilities and infrastructure with P17 billion.

Prime Minister Cesar E.A. Virata, who presided over the Cabinet meeting at the Batasang Pambansa in the morning, said he was scheduled to submit the budget proposal yesterday to President Marcos, in preparation for its presentation at the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan caucus in Malacañang tomorrow.

Under the present modified parliamentary system, Cabinet bills must be discussed at a KBL caucus to make them a party responsibility to minimize discussions on the Batasan floor and insure early approval.

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August 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS appointed yesterday Maj. Gen. Fabian Ver as chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, replacing Gen. Romeo Espino, who asked to be retired.

Minister of Information Gregorio S. Cendaña said the President also promoted General Ver to the four-star rank, making him the first to hold this rank.

Minister Cendaña said General Ver will continue to head in a concurrent capacity the Presidential Security Command and the National Intelligence and Security Authority until his formal take-over as chief of staff.

The President also announced the appointment of Maj. Gen. Fidel Ramos as vice chief of staff and promoted him to three-star general.

Ramos will be concurrently chief of the Philippine Constabulary and director general of the integrated national police.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS has ordered the regulation of the manufacture, sale and possession of air rifles and pistols.

In Executive Order No. 712 which the President issued last July 28, the Chief Executive ordered:

1. The chief of Constabulary to prescribe the criteria for determining whether an air rifle or air pistol be considered a firearm or toy under Section 877 of the Revised Administrative Code.
2. The licensing requirements for the manufacture, sale or possession of, and/or dealership in firearms as prescribed in the RAC, shall apply to air rifles or pistols which are considered firearms.
3. The PC chief to prescribe, subject to the approval of the minister of defense, regulations to implement Order No. 712.
4. The PC chief to act dispositively on all applications to manufacture, sell and/or possess and/or otherwise deal in air rifles and pistols, whether considered as firearms or toys.

The President issued Order 712 in the wake of the proliferation and indiscriminate use of air rifles and pistols which, he said, could pose a grave menace to society and impair the maintenance of peace and order.

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August 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS yesterday swore in business executive Cesar Zalamea as new chairman of the Development Bank of the Philippines, vice Rafael Sison who had been acting chairman for two years. Sison had asked to resign so that he could go into private banking.

The President also inducted into office the new members of the expanded Securities and Exchange Commission. The SEC officials who took their oath before the President were Manuel Abello, chairman; Jesus J. Valdes, Gonzalo T. Santos Jr., Julio Sulit, and Rosario Lopez, associate commissioners.

Except for Sulit who was reappointed to a new term, all the others are new. They replaced former SEC Chairman Angel Limjoco who retired, and former SEC Commissioner Sixto de Guzman who was not reappointed.

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THE KILUSANG Bagong Lipunan (KBL) yesterday unanimously voted to support a proposed P60-billion national budget for 1982 during a caucus at Malacañang.

The informal party meeting was called by President Marcos to work out details of the government expenditure list that may have been overlooked by the Cabinet.

As it turned out, the economic-oriented budget did not undergo major changes. It will be formally presented tomorrow to the Batasang Pambansa by the majority party for adoption and implementation.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1981). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 77(31), ccv-ccix.

President's Week in Review: August 3-9, 1981

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

August 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has appealed to alumni of the University of the Philippines for assistance to the UP college of law in order to maintain its standard of excellence.

His appeal followed observations that the quality of teaching in the college of law had deteriorated.

He sounded the appeal at a luncheon given in Malacañang Saturday for faculty members of the UP college of law and the newly inducted officers of the UP Law Alumni association.

The President said: "The college has been retrogressing but no one ever lifted a finger to help it. It's about time the alumni did something about it."

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PRIME MINISTER Cesar E.A. Virata will submit to the Batasang Pambansa today the government's P60-billion budget with a message from President Marcos explaining the main thrust of the appropriations.

The P60-billion appropriations will stress the national livelihood program as the centerpiece of the development strategy of the New Republic.

In his prepared budget message, the President, said the program, called the Kilusang Kabuhayan, will mobilize entrepreneurial initiative on the village level to transform each barangay into a productive unit playing a more active role in the creation of employment and generation of income.

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August 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS confirmed yesterday that there has been renewed interest in the local stock market by foreign investors.

In a television interview over Channel 9's "Ask the President" program last night, the President said that "actually, the Hongkong, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur businessmen are beginning to invest in our stock exchanges."

He said that the foreign investors have been buying speculative oil issues and shares of mining companies.

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PRIME MINISTER Cesar Virata will convene the Cabinet this afternoon to take up an ambitious P80-billion energy program that's planned to be completed in five years. The meeting will be held at the Batasang Pambansa.

The energy program which has undergone two revisions since last year tops a four-point agenda prepared by the Cabinet staff.

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THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos yesterday authorized the construction of a 21-story hospital building to replace the existing facilities of the Philippine General Hospital on Taft Ave.

The PGH expansion-program will be financed by the Social Security System. Construction costs were not disclosed.

Mrs. Marcos approved the PGH expansion plan after a lengthy meeting with UP President Edgardo Angara and hospital department heads, UP College of Medicine.

Also present during the meeting were Health Minister Jesus Azurin, Highways Minister Jesus Hipolito, Central Bank Gov. Jaime Laya, Human Settlements Deputy Minister Jose Conrado Benitez and Vice Governor Ismael Mathay Jr.

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August 5—

PRESIDENT MARCOS asked oil-rich countries yesterday to make available petro-dollars as direct investment instead of loans to Third World countries.

The President made this proposal when he received Shiekh Ebrahim Al-Ebrahim, chairman of the Al Bahrain Arab-African bank.

At the same time, the President renewed his appeal for greater economic cooperations among developing countries.

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PRIME MINISTER Cesar E.A. Virata said he would present to President Marcos for approval the cabinet draft of an executive order to implement the P3-billion "Kilusang Kabuhayan" livelihood program.

Virata was optimistic that the program, which is expected to affect ordinary citizens, specially those in the rural areas, would be successful because of the government's financial and physical support.

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August 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS created an agency to implement a P1-billion priority economic program called Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran (KKK).

The new agency is called the National Council on Livelihood or the Pambansang Lupon ng Kilusang Kabuhayan.

The President formed the council through an executive order after a lengthy meeting with the Cabinet Tuesday evening that lasted up to early Wednesday morning.

The council is headed by the President as chairman with prime minister as vice chairman. Members include the ministers of agriculture, agrarian reform, human settlements, local government, trade and industry, and natural resources; and the directors-general for budget and management, for economic planning, and for media affairs, the governor of the Central Bank, the president of the National Bank and the chairman of the Development Bank of the Philippines.

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August 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS is expected to seek trade and economic concessions from China when he meets visiting Premier Zhao Ziyang in a series of meeting starting this morning.

Zhao arrived at 3:15 p.m. yesterday to a rousing, though rainy, welcome at the Manila International Airport and along the motorcade route leading to the Malacañang guesthouse where he will stay during his four-day visit to the Philippines.

The Chinese Premier was met at the airport by a crowd led by President Marcos, the First Lady and Prime Minister Cesar E.A. Virata.

Zhao flew in from Peking with a small party that included China's Foreign Trade Minister Lin Qiang.

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August 8—

VISITING Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang assured President Marcos yesterday that China will continue to supply the Philippines with crude oil at concessional prices.

The oil accommodation was secured during their initial talks which dealt mainly with how to expand trade and economic cooperation between their countries.

They are scheduled to resume discussions this morning while cruising in Manila Bay aboard the presidential yacht *Ang Pangulo*.

During a state dinner he gave for Zhao the other evening, the President said that the Philippines had been buying oil from China at "friendship prices."

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THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos spurred yesterday the "Greening of Metro Manila" program by planting a tree in Makati.

It was one of 10 million trees that were to have been planted in the metropolis.

Mrs. Marcos planted the tree along Epifanio de los Santos, ave. near the Guadalupe bridge, witnessed by a crowd of government officials and volunteers.

Thousands of private citizens and government employees were mobilized for the planting.

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August 9—

CHINESE Premier Zhao Ziyang told President Marcos yesterday that China won't interfere in the internal affairs of other countries and neither would it seek to impose its policies in Asia.

In a two-hour closed-door conference aboard the Presidential yacht off the Manila South Harbor, the visiting Chinese official assured the President that "China has no intention of seeking hegemonism or creating spheres of influence in Southeast Asia."

Instead, Zhao said that China wants the presence of a “strong and united” ASEAN to preserve peace and stability in the region.

Zhao’s assurance was held significant in view of what appears to be an organized terrorism campaign by the New People’s Army in some areas of the country.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

Official Week in Review: August 10 – August 16, 1981

August 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said yesterday he favored a dialogue among Third World countries before holding the North-South dialogue scheduled in Cancun, Mexico in October.

Speaking at a news conference at the Manila International Airport minutes after the departure of Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang, the President said he was “frustrated by the intransigence of the North or developed countries” in extending assistance to the South or Third World nations.

He said the North-South dialogue has “almost reduced to mendicancy the Third World countries in appealing for aid from the developed countries.”

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PRESIDENT MARCOS is expected to announce major promotions in the PC as the first step in a revamp of the armed services.

The President will be guest of honor this morning during the celebration of PC Day in Camp Crame.

Yesterday, the President swore in General Fabian Ver as AFP chief of staff and Lt. Gen. Fidel Ramos as vice chief of staff in rites held at Malacañang. He also promoted Philippine Army commander Brig. Gen. Josephus Ramas to major general.

Ver replaces Gen. Romeo Espino, who has retired.

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August 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ruled out the return of local policemen to the control or supervision of city and municipal governments.

Addressing a joint anniversary celebration of the PC-INP at Camp Crame, the President said that he finds “no compelling reason for the revival of the old and fragmented police structure.”

With the lifting of martial rule, politicians have been agitating to have police forces returned to the control of local officials.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered a specially-created presidential committee to review the qualifications and performance of middle-line government executives.

The review starts the second phase of a government reorganization involving bureau directors, assistant directors and regional directors of various government agencies.

The committee was formed through Executive Order No. 716. It is composed of Minister Jacobo Clave, presidential adviser on civil service and government reorganization; Civil Service Commissioner Albina Manalo Dans, who is in charge of career development in the Civil Service Commission; Executive Director Jose de Jesus of the Career Executive Service Board, also a vice president of the Development Academy of the Philippines; the dean of the UP

College of Public Administration or his representative, and Deputy Budget Minister Luis Baltazar, president of the Career Executive Service Organization.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS promoted yesterday Brig. Gen. Prospero Olivas, PC Metrocom chief, to major general, five PC Colonels to brigadier general, two police colonels to police brigadier general and a PC sergeant to second lieutenant in the AFP reserve force.

The President announced the promotions during the 80th anniversary celebration of the Philippine Constabulary in Camp Crame.

Promoted to brigadier general were Colonels Victorino Azada, PC Recom 12 commander; Cesar Villarin, PC Recom 8 commander; Alfonso Trance, PC civil security forces commander; Edgardo Alfabeto, PC Brigade commander, and Pedrito de Guzman, deputy commander for Region II.

Promoted to police brigadier general were Colonels Ruben Escarcha, Southern Police District superintendent; and Arcadio Lozado, superintendent of the Integrated National Police Training Command.

T/Sgt. Desiderio P. Suson, a Medal of Valor awardee, was promoted to second lieutenant of the armed forces reserve force.

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THE BATASANG Pambansa last night approved on third and final reading Cabinet Bill No. 42 reorganizing the country's court system. The vote was 140 "yes," five "no," and no abstention.

Also known as the "Judiciary Act of 1980," the measure now goes to President Marcos for approval.

Under the measure, the Supreme Court shall submit to the President within 30 days from its effectivity staffing patterns for all courts constituted under it. This will be the basis of the implementing order to be issued by the President.

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THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos is scheduled to leave today for Nairobi, Kenya, where she will present the Philippine energy program before the United Nations conference on new and renewable energy which opened yesterday.

Mrs. Marcos, head of the Philippine delegation, will also talk on the development of gasifiers for motor vehicles, boats, electric generators and irrigation system.

The conference, to be attended by some 5,000 experts until Aug. 21, will have the growing shortage of firewood in developing countries as one of its central themes.

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August 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered the rehabilitation of Philippine Underwriters Finance Corp. (Philfinance) so it can pay about 700 creditors and investors who had put in an estimated P600 million as money market placements in the company.

The President asked the principal owners of Philfinance to put up P400 million in new capital to satisfy the claims of creditors.

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THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos will sign a \$145-million loan agreement when she visits Washington, D.C., after attending a United Nations energy conference in Nairobi, Kenya.

The First Lady arrived yesterday in Nairobi at the head of a Philippine delegation to the energy conference.

The loan which she will obtain for the Philippine government includes \$100 million for education and \$45 million to help finance a national livelihood program called the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran (KKK).

The KKK is a top economic priority project initially funded at P1 billion to provide employment and livelihood opportunities to people especially those in poor areas.

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THE CABINET and the Executive Committee agreed yesterday to adopt a two-year national budget starting in 1983 to improve budgeting procedures, Prime Minister Cesar E.A. Virata said.

Virata, who is also finance minister and head of the Cabinet and the Executive Committee, said the new budget scheme—described as “unique” by some assemblymen—would enable planners to integrate development programs of the government.

He said he hoped the two-year budget would meet the requirements of the national government and the country’s 13 regions.

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August 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS directed the Supreme Court and the minister of justice yesterday to submit recommendations for the immediate implementation of the judicial reorganization plan.

The recommendations are expected to contain two lists—a purge list and an appointment list.

It was reported that the President will sign into law tomorrow Cabinet Bill 42 which calls for the revamp of the judiciary, except for the Supreme Court and the Sandiganbayan.

The bill has passed the Batasang Pambansa’s third reading and has been submitted to the President for signature.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS, moving to solve the thorny problem of extending the terms of military retirees, declared yesterday that from now on, there will be no more extensions.

In a talk with Malacañang newsmen, he said that generals in the armed forces are going to be retired by attrition, natural attrition, which means that, since they have a termination date, they will not be extended anymore.

There are 24 retireable generals serving extended terms.

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NAIROBI, Kenya—The First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, called today for the establishment of a “new human order” where all people and nations work together for the harmonious balance of nature.

She spoke before some 5,000 delegates from 154 countries in the first United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy at the Kenyatta International Convention center.

Mrs. Marcos, who heads the Philippine delegation, was the fifth speaker in today’s meeting. Other heads of state who spoke were Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau and Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

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August 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has prohibited the courts from interfering with any government infrastructure, mining, fishery, forestry, and natural resources projects.

Presidential Decree No. 1818 dated Jan. 16 but released only yesterday, also stops courts from interfering with government public utility projects, including transportation, stevedoring and arrastre contracts.

Under the decree, courts are prohibited from issuing a restraining order, preliminary injunction, or preliminary mandatory injunction.

Courts are enjoined from ‘prohibiting any person or persons, entity or government official from proceeding with, or continuing the execution or implementation of any such project, or the operation of such public utility, or pursuing any lawful activity necessary for such execution, implementation, and operation.’

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PRESIDENT MARCOS inducted eight new generals of the Armed Forces and the integrated national police yesterday, triggering off a revamp and the retirement of generals who had been given extended tours of duty.

Inducting the new generals, the President said that their promotions had been “recommended by your achievements, merit, and professionalism.”

Inducted by the President yesterday were:

1. Maj. General Prospero Olivas, commanding general of the PC Metropolitan command (Metrocom). He is also deputy chief of the Philippine Constabulary, deputy director of the Integrated National Police, deputy general manager for program and evaluation and management of the Ministry of Human Settlements, and coordinator in the inter-agency action group against pollution.

2. Brigadier Generals Edgardo A. Alfabeto, commander, PC Brigade in Bicutan; Victorino T. Azada, Region XII commander; Pedrito de Guzman, Region XI deputy regional commander; Alfonso C. Trance; PC Security Force commander; and Cesar G. Villarin, Region VIII commander.

3. Police Brigadier Generals Arcadio S. Lozada, INP training command superintendent, and Ruben P. Escarcha, southern police district superintendent.

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NAIROBI, Kenya—Delegates of rich and poor countries hailed the speech of the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, Wednesday at the United Nations conference on new and renewable sources of energy.

Among the comments heard around the Kenyatta International Conference Center hall here after the 20-minute speech:

“It was a forceful speech . . . the most inspiring of all speeches so far . . . the only one which gave poor countries a concrete solution on what to do to face the energy crisis.”

Delegates and observers asked for copies of the First Lady’s speech. Some sought appointments with her.

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August 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS yesterday abolished all existing civilian courts in the country with the exception of the Supreme Court and the Sandiganbayan.

The abolished courts will be replaced by the new trial courts as provided for in the Judiciary Act of 1980 which was passed by the Batasang Pambansa last Aug. 10 and signed into law by the President yesterday.

Courts that were phased out included the Court of Appeals, courts of first instance, criminal circuit courts, city and municipal courts.

Their functions and duties will be taken over by the Intermediate Appellate Court (IAC) in the case of the Court of Appeals; regional trial courts in the case of the courts of first instance; and the metropolitan trial courts and municipal circuit trial courts in the case of all other lower courts.

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August 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS announced that the courts that are to be abolished and their personnel shall continue to function and discharge their duties as usual until he issues an executive order implementing the provisions of the Judiciary Act of 1981.

The President issued the clarification in order to prevent disruption of judicial proceedings and confusion arising from news items regarding the abolition of all courts, except the Supreme Court and the Sandiganbayan.

The Judiciary Act provides that the Court of Appeals, court of first instance, criminal circuit courts, courts of agrarian relations, juvenile and domestic relations courts, city courts, municipal courts, and municipal circuit courts shall continue to function as presently constituted and organized until completion of the reorganization.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1981). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 77(33), ccix-ccxiii.

Official Week in Review: August 17 – August 23, 1981

August 17—

PRESIDENT MARCOS yesterday ordered key government agencies to cut down operating costs and generate savings but without sacrificing efficiency.

No specific figures were given, but last year government offices were ordered to trim costs by at least 10 percent.

The President issued the directive during a three-hour meeting of the Executive Committee in Malacañang.

Government offices ordered to cut costs were those engaged in the energy program, agriculture, education, financing and procurement of supplies.

August 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS yesterday scrapped the fertilizer subsidy, curtailed the pumping of government funds into private firms, and stopped direct purchases of supplies at pre-fixed prices.

The President's action followed his earlier directives to government agencies to cut costs to help raise money for the nationwide livelihood program and infrastructure.

At the Batasang Pambansa, meanwhile, two bills were filed seeking a legislative inquiry into the channeling of government money, some of it trust funds, to financially distressed firms. The bills were referred to the proper committees.

The directives of the President included:

—The promotion of the use of biomass, dendro-thermal and mini-hydropower sources instead of huge and costly power installations, and the allocation of funds from the energy program to the manufacture of gasifiers.

—The elimination of the fertilizer subsidy which amounts to P350–P550 million annually and the development instead of natural fertilizer through the intercropping of leguminous nitrogen-fixing plants and the extensive use of nitrogen-rich blue-green algae or azolla.

—The setting aside of savings of about P7 billion for 1981 and P8.5 billion next year in intended government equity for corporations by curtailing the participation of the government private industry.

—The reorganization of the general services office, particularly the handling of the direct order purchase system (DOPS) setting the prices for government supplies which are sometimes even higher than current market prices.

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August 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS declared yesterday Aug. 19 as Quezon Day and a non-working special holiday in the cities of Lucena and Quezon and in the province of Quezon to commemorate the 103rd birth anniversary of President Quezon.

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August 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS lifted his ban yesterday on government payments to the Silverio companies, headed by Delta Motors, assemblers of Toyota cars and trucks.

On July 19, the President issued a memorandum suspending all government payments to the Silverio companies.

The main reason for this was the Silverio group's actions in the Philfinance company.

The President lifted the ban after Ricardo Silverio, head of the Silverio group of companies, signed a promissory note answering payment of the P60 million of PAG-IBIG funds the Ministry of Human Settlements placed with Philfinance.

This promissory note is covered by real property collateral.

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UNITED States Senator Samuel Ichiye Hayakawa (Republican-California), calling on President Marcos yesterday in the course of an observation tour of the region, said he was impressed by the progress and stability of the country.

Hayakawa, a member of the Senate foreign relations committee and chairman of the East Asia and Pacific sub-committee of the US senate, has just visited the other ASEAN countries and Laos to get a first-hand assessment of the peace and security situation in the area.

The President and the California senator exchanged views on a wide range of subjects.

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The law imposing death penalty on any person who tries to kill the President or any member of his cabinet has been widened to cover other ranking officials of the government.

Ranking officials of the government were identified in Presidential Decree No. 1811 as the prime minister, and members of the Batasang Pambansa, Supreme Court, constitutional commissions, and officers of the Armed Forces with at least the rank of a brigadier general, and immediate members of their families.

Although the decree was signed last Jan. 16, it was released just recently.

The decree was an amendment to PD No. 9 which was further amended by PD 1728.

PD No. 9 issued in October, 1972, stipulated penalties for violations of General Order Nos. 6 and 7 (the firearms ban).

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August 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said the Philippines may have to attend the North-South dialogue in Cancun, Mexico, on Sept. 22-23 although he said he was skeptical that the meeting would result in tangible steps to help developing countries (the "South") uplift their economic and social conditions.

The President cited the failures of similar meetings in the past to resolve the North-South problem and the economic difficulties that even developed nations are encountering now.

It may be necessary to organize, instead, a long-range strategy which developed and developing nations will participate, he said.

* * *

PRESIDENT MARCOS said yesterday that American officials were watching the reaction of the Soviet Union more than that of Libya in connection with the shooting down Wednesday of Libyan aircraft in the Mediterranean.

The President said this assessment was relayed to him by the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, who had discussed the incident with American officials in New York.

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August 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS signed into law yesterday Cabinet bill No. 45 restoring the worker's right to strike and of management's prerogative to declare a lockout.

The President signed the bill amending the Labor Code in the presence of some members of the Batasang Pambansa and the Cabinet as well as some representatives of labor and management.

He said that while it may not satisfy everybody, the amendment of the Labor Code "is a perfect example of a democratic piece of action and decision, something workable, acceptable and tolerable by both sides."

As passed by the Batasang Pambansa, the bill provides that a labor union may call a strike and management may declare a lockout when a dispute is not settled within a 30-day "cooling off" period.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS directed yesterday Minister of Justice Ricardo Puno to conduct seminars for prospective appointees to the Intermediate Appellate Courts, Regional Trial Courts, and the Metropolitan Trial Courts.

The holding of seminars was ordered in Instruction No. 1158 which provides for the implementation of the Judicial Reorganization Law.

The performance of the participants in the seminars will be one of the bases for the recommendations to be submitted by Minister Puno for the President's consideration.

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August 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said he was bound by the platform of the ruling Kilusang Bagong Lipunan pledging to "initiate action to raise the minimum salary of public school teachers to P1,000 monthly within two years."

He also said the platform declared that "the welfare of teachers shall command increasing priority in the decade of the 80s."

Negotiations on the demands of the country's 350,000 public school teachers, mostly for salary and benefit increases, will be held in Malacañang.

Earlier, the President said he is on the side of the teachers in their demand for a basic salary of P1,200 a month.

This assurance was given by the President during a two hour dialogue with editors at the Malacañang gardens.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1981). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 77(34), ccxvii-ccxix.

Official Week in Review: August 24 – August 30, 1981

August 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS will confer in Malacañang today with education and budget officials and leaders of public school teachers on the latter's demand for salary increases.

Education Minister Onofre Corpuz and Budget Minister Manuel Alba are expected to present to the President their recommendations to implement salary increases for the country's 350,000 public school teachers.

Aside from the P1,200 a month basic pay, the teachers are also seeking the integration of all allowances into their salaries, the grant of housing allowances, reopening of GSIS loans to teachers, shortening of service requirement for automatic promotion, and adjustment of the longevity pay.

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JUSTICE Minister Ricardo C. Puno formed yesterday an Integrity Council to appraise all complaints and information on the integrity of incumbent judges and recommendees and applicants for appointment to the reorganized courts.

Named to the council, which was formed on instruction of President Marcos, were Assemblymen Emilio Abello and Jose Bengzon, retired Justice Guillermo Santos and Felix Antonio of the Supreme Court, retired Presiding Justice Antonio Lucero and retired Justice Jose Leuterio of the Courts of Appeals.

Abello and Bengzon, were recommended by Speaker Querube Makalintal. Guillermo and Antonio were recommended by Integrated Bar of the Philippines President Ysidro J. Perez, while Lucero and Leuterio were endorsed by Puno.

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August 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS authorized yesterday the granting of a three-step or 15 percent increase in the salaries of public school teachers, principals and supervisors retroactive to July 1, for a basic salary of P774. He promised that in 1982 he will work towards a P1,000 basic salary, as a commitment of the KBL.

The President granted the increase during a meeting with members of the national ad hoc committee of the Philippine Public School Teachers Association, led by chairman Rodolfo Espino.

The salary increases will be given to some 285,000 teachers, principals and supervisors and will cost the government P446.8 million annually.

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August 26—

PRESIDENT and Mrs. Marcos paid tribute yesterday to artist Vicente S. Manansala, who died Saturday. Manansala has been named National Artist by the board of trustees of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

In a statement, the President said Manansala "exemplified the truest Filipino virtue of discipline and devotion to one's calling, creating masterworks that will always remain identified with him."

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THE CABINET yesterday turned its sights on so-called “junk food”—which it said have contributed to the malnutrition being suffered by many Filipinos today.

To start with the Cabinet decided to launch a nationwide nutrition and food program with emphasis on the consumption of locally-made nutritious products.

“Junk food” are those which are classified as filling but without nutritive value. In this category would be what the people call “chicherias.”

Prime Minister Cesar E.A. Virata explained that Filipinos are still deficient in calories and should rely more on local food items, particularly coconut products which, he said, are plenty and cheap.

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August 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said he sees the participation of Sime Darby Berhad of Malaysia in the country’s development program as a manifestation of increasing economic cooperation among Asian nations.

“I feel that your investment in the Philippines augurs well for increasing economic cooperation between our two countries and a more meaningful manifestation of partnership among Asian nations,” the President told executives of the company, the biggest multinational in Malaysia, who called on him.

The corporation employs some 52,000 workers in its subsidiaries and associate companies in 25 countries. Recently, it bought B.F. Goodrich Philippines for US \$17 million, and will continue to manufacture and market Goodrich tires and other products.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS will confer a posthumous National Artist Award in painting on Vicente S. Manansala during the “Pagdadalamhati” ceremonies (final homage) at 9:30 a.m. today at the Cultural Center Main Theater.

Manansala, 71 described by the President as the “last of the great Filipino masters and leader of modern art in the Philippines,” died Saturday of uremia or kidney failure at the Makati Medical Center.

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WASHINGTON, Aug 25—The First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos signed Tuesday two World Bank loans amounting to P145 million (P1,987.5 billion) to help improve the country’s elementary education and agricultural programs.

A \$100-million loan will finance part of the Philippine government’s \$448 million (P3,360 billion) development from 1982 to 1985.

Another \$45 million loan will be used for the \$74.5 million (P558.75 million) project to improve and expand agricultural research and increase crop and livestock production.

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August 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said yesterday he was for giving local executives more authority to enable them to discharge their responsibilities more effectively.

The President said the granting of more powers to the mayors and governors, some of which were taken from them during the martial law years, would proceed from a basic policy of "balancing authority with responsibility."

He was speaking before some 200 mayors from Region 4 who called on him in connection with their two-day regional seminar on the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran (KKK). The seminar is sponsored by the League of Municipal Mayors of Region 4 and the Ministry of Agriculture.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS yesterday signed an executive order formally raising the salaries of the country's 300,000 public school teachers to a minimum of P904 monthly retroactive to July. The new pay includes the P130 monthly allowance.

The order also specifies that other teaching positions with salaries beyond the minimum basic salary will be correspondingly increased according to the salary progression under the Teachers' Preparation Pay Schedule.

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JUDGE Jose C. Campos of the Pasay City court of first instance was sworn in yesterday by President Marcos as chairman of the Board of Transportation.

He replaced Don Ferry, who was appointed vice chairman of the Development Bank of the Philippines.

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August 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has extended the Aug. 31 deadline for the availment of the administrative tax amnesty to Oct. 15, the Bureau of Internal Revenue said yesterday.

Revenue Commissioner Ruben Ancheta said the 45-day extension was ordered by the President upon the request of numerous taxpayers, particularly the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The extension was the fourth since the amnesty was declared a year ago.

Ancheta said he has, at the same time, extended the deadline for the filing of assets liabilities and net worth individuals from Aug. 31 to Oct. 15.

Under the amnesty, a minimum payment of P1,000 for each taxable year must be made by the taxpayer who wishes to avail himself of the amnesty.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS said yesterday that the firm policy of the United States of supporting allies against communist threat has bought time for members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to pursue their economic development.

The President made the remark before a group of newspapermen from Chicago and a US trade representative who called on him separately at Malacañang.

“The present policy of the United States of firmness with respect to support for friends under attack from communist elements as well as those threatened by subversion has bought us time for economic development,” the President told the visiting newsmen led by Phil Ruskin, director of ABC’s Six and 10 O’Clock News.

Later, the President told US trade representative William E. Brock the same thing, adding that he had consulted with other ASEAN leaders and that “they all agree that this was the best that could happen to us.”

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THE BATASANG Pambansa approved on second reading yesterday the proposed P59.7-billion national budget for 1982.

Members of the ruling Kilusang Bagong Lipunan voted down repeated attempts by their opposition colleagues to trim down the budget proposal by at least P12 billion during the past three session days.

Budget Minister Manuel Z. Alba, chairman of the Batasan appropriations committee which sponsored the budget measure (Cabinet Bill No. 47), defended the measure for four hours yesterday.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS indicated yesterday he might after all decide to go to Cancun, Mexico, in October to attend a summit of 22 heads of state invited to discuss world economic issues.

Until lately, the President had expressed doubt as to his attendance unless there were concrete signs the conference would succeed in resolving long-pending issues between rich and poor nations.

Talking to members of the Chicago press club who called on him at Malacañang, the President held out the possibility of individual meeting with US President Ronald Reagan, Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang and Third World leaders who have signified their intention to attend.

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August 30—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has stressed that economic growth will fall short of providing the minimum margin of security against internal unrest and subversion unless it benefits the majority.

In a talk with a group of American newsmen who called on him at Malacañang, the President said the most effective answer to subversion is not superior military force but economic development. He said this was the principle behind his policy of attraction and reconciliation in Mindanao.

He also explained that his administration would continue to measure its success less in terms of national gross products (GNP) and more on social and economic welfare.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS has increased the allowances of foreign ministry personnel stationed abroad and of the service attaches by 24 and 21 percent, respectively, effective April 1, 1981, to enable them to meet the rising costs of representing the country.

In Executive Order No. 723, the President authorized the release of P16,650,000 to cover the increase in overseas and living quarters allowances of the MFA personnel, and P2,088,000 for the service attaches, for a total of P18,738,000.

The President issued the order upon the recommendation of Foreign Minister Carlos P. Romulo and Budget Minister Manuel S. Alba.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1981). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 77(35), ccxxiii-ccxxvii.

President's Week in Review: September 1-6, 1981

President's Week in Review: September 7-13, 1981

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

September 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has authorized the release of P197.9 million for the completion on schedule of three BLISS housing projects being undertaken by the Ministry of Human Settlements through the National Housing Authority.

Of this amount, P73.2 million will be for the completion of the Tondo Foreshore Development project. The other P87.7 million will be for the upgrading of 13 priority slum areas in Metro Manila and P37 million will be for the Dasmariñas Bagong Bayan project.

The President released the funds to prevent delay in the completion of the projects designed to help the low-income groups.

The completion of the housing project in Dasmariñas would mean new homes for the squatter families now occupying the International Port Area.

September 8—

The President presided over a seven hour joint meeting of the Cabinet, the National Economic & Development Authority, and the National Council of the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran, and discussed:

- 1) The preliminary draft of the development plan for 1983-87;
- 2) The status of the sugar industry;
- 3) The rationalization of the government procurement system; and
- 4) The funding requirements and detailed implementation of the KKK guidelines with the view to eliminating red tape.

The President, anxious to get the KKK moving, said he will receive the views of local officials on the implementation of the KKK guidelines on the basis of one project per municipality, on Thursday, September 10, at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang, at 3 p.m.

Expected to be present are: All governors and city mayors, all officers of the National Federation of Municipal Mayors, all officers of the Pambansang Katipunan ng Mga Barangay, all officers of the Pambansang Kabataan ng Mga Barangay, all KBL assemblymen, and all members of the Cabinet.

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September 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS activated the national secretariat of the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran to ensure the speedy and orderly implementation of the KKK livelihood program.

The First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos was designated secretary-general, and Deputy Minister Jolly Benitez was named deputy secretary general.

The President also named three National KKK coordinators, 13 regional action officers, and 68 provincial managers, as he advanced his timetable for the take-off of the establishment of livelihood projects in the countryside.

The National KKK coordinators are: Gen. Rafael G. Zagala (ret.), assistant secretary general for Luzon; Gen. Vicente. E. Evidente (ret.), assistant secretary general for the Visayas; and Gen. Fortunato U. Abat (ret.), assistant secretary general for Mindanao.

The national secretariat was empowered by the President, as Chairman of the KKK, to call on any government agency in the national, regional, provincial and municipal level for any assistance. The secretary-general was authorized to appoint such personnel as may be necessary, subject to the approval of the Pambansang Lupon or the President.

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The President launched two projects designed to hasten the development and progress of the teaching profession.

The President announced the projects during the opening ceremonies of the 1981 Education Week Celebration in connection with the 80th anniversary of the Philippine educational system, at the Maharlika Hall Malacañang.

They are:

- 1) The KKK Sa Paaralan, basically focused on teachers and their role in the local community, as part of the new KKK program, and
- 2) The Instructional Materials Development Corporation (IMDC) to take over the functions of the Textbook Board Secretariat, in keeping with the need for qualitative change, and in line with the policy to provide relevant, quality and creative textbooks to elementary students for free or at cost.

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September 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS laid down the basic guidelines for the improvement of the Armed Forces of the Philippines under the New Republic.

In his speech at the traditional loyalty parade given him as Commander-in-Chief of the AFP, at Camp Aguinaldo, this morning, the President underscored three factors of paramount concern to the armed forces namely:

- 1) The health of the entire military organization, the vitality of its leadership, and the morale of the entire soldiery,
- 2) Intensification of the armed forces' involvement in the national development effort, particularly the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran and
- 3) Acceleration of the armed forces' program of self-reliance.

The President pointed out that the organizational reform and innovation of the armed forces will continue, to promote efficiency and responsiveness to problems and challenges.

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The President enumerated two projects he wanted emphasized under the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran (KKK) during his two-and-a-half-hour meeting with local officials at Malacañang. These are:

- 1) Presently non-existing enterprises or projects which can be organized and initiated by private individuals or associations; and
- 2) Private existing and small projects found to be viable, not already supported by any other agency, and need additional capital from the KKK.

He also said that the farmers can produce as much food as they can between now and December and assured them of ready markets.

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The President inaugurated symbolically at Malacañang the copper mines of the Hercules Minerals and Oil Incorporated located at the town of Marcos, Ilocos Norte.

The copper mine has a milling capacity of 3,000 metric tons and can produce 80 tons of copper concentrate a day.

The HMOI has blocked 13.5 million tons of positive ore reserves in the 431 hectares mining site in the town that is projected to last for 12 years at 300 tons a day in 330 days of operations per year.

The mineral ore in the mines was found to contain more than one percent copper and the copper concentrate would contain 25 percent copper with significant amounts of gold and silver.

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September 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS flew by helicopter to Barangay Julugan, Tanza, Cavite, to start his 64th birthday with a poor man's breakfast with two fishermen and their families.

Arriving at 7:45 a.m. the President and the First Lady Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, sat down with Edgardo Abaci and Ernest Gozo and their families to breakfast at Abaci's nipa hut on the shoreline of Tanza.

Later, at a cabinet meeting held at the center of the fishing village, the President signed the P59.7-billion budget for 1982 and the P32-billion infrastructure bill before a cheering crowd.

And as his birthday gift to the people of Cavite, he released P8.4 million as the second installment of the P17-million fund for the national and farm-to-market roads of Cavite.

The President then kicked off the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran livelihood project by releasing nine loans totalling P532,000-the first check of P208,000 going to the Tanza fishermen's association to setup facilities to produce smoked fish and "bagoong."

The other checks went to eight Samahang nayons from Luzon to increase their capital for their projects.

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THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, secretary general of the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran (KKK), reported success in lining up markets abroad for the products of the livelihood program.

Mrs. Marcos returned Wednesday from Honolulu following a 28-day mission for President Marcos and the government abroad.

Last stop was the annual world travel congress of the American Society of Travel Agencies (ASTA) where the First Lady led a high-powered promotional campaign designed to bring back ASTA to Manila “hopefully by 1985.”

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THE CHANCES of Filipino workers landing a job abroad will continue to improve tremendously until the latter part of 1985.

This was disclosed by Labor Minister Blas Ople who said that the Ministry of Labor and Employment (MOLE) would be able to explore all possibilities in generating job opportunities to solve the country’s unemployment problems.

Ople disclosed that one of the latest countries which opted to hire more Filipino workers is Iraq which recently opened its doors to Filipino skilled workers.

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September 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS reiterated his invitation to Filipino-American communities in the United States- to come home and see for themselves a country that has become the master of its own destiny.

“We have traveled far from the dark days of 1972. We have achieved much since then and we will achieve more,” the President told some 100 leaders of Filipino communities in California and Hawaii who called on him at Malacañang.

The majority of the “balikbayan” belong to the Confederation of Philippine-United States Organizations based in Los Angeles County.

In his extemporaneous remarks, the President said the Filipinos have “overcome themselves and their weaknesses.” Having mastered themselves, he said, they are now the master of their own country.

He said that the greatest achievement of the crisis government was to “transform potential weaklings and mendicants into vital, militant and self-confident people.”

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September 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has prescribed interim procedures in the determination and funding of priority projects under the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran.

In a memorandum circular, the President said projects will be given priority and approval on the basis of the number and nature of beneficiaries, their contribution to the improvement of the country’s food production, and their role in the development of alternative sources of energy.

The circular formally constituted a Regional Secretariat for each of the 14 regions, with a Regional Action Officer as chairman. The primary function of the RAO is to approve KKK projects in the region endorsed by the municipal coordinators and lead support agencies.

Projects submitted for the approval of the Regional Secretariat will be classified either as KKK-financed or KKK-affiliated projects.

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THE PRESIDENT has ordered a massive, nationwide industrial tree planting to hasten reforestation and promote the livelihood program under the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran.

He issued Executive Order 725 directing the establishment of Industrial Tree Plantations (ITP) in “open, denuded, brushland and inadequately stocked areas.”

The President designated the Ministry of Natural Resources through the Bureau of Forest Development as implementing agency. He directed that the program be coordinated with the private wood industry sector.

The President said establishment of ITPs not only will hasten reforestation and promote livelihood in the rural areas, but will also promote ecological balance and assure adequate wood supply for the country’s growing population.

Involved principally in the program are timber license holders, portions of whose areas need revegetation, or are outright denuded open or inadequately stocked.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

Official Week in Review: September 14 – September 20, 1981

September 14—

The Commission on Filipinos Overseas issued a reminder to emigrants holding passports to register with this office early to avoid inconvenience.

The CFO, formerly under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs but retained by the President as a “critical agency” under the Office of the President, said emigrants whose passports do not bear the CFO seal and stamp would not be allowed to leave the country.

Requirements for obtaining the CFO seal and stamp are the passport of the emigrant, copy of the visa (original must be presented), one passport-size photograph and P10 registration fee.

Meanwhile, CFO Executive Director Moises S. Millena said that the commission utilizes “feedback letters” which the emigrants fill out and mail back to the CFO three months after arrival in the country of destination. These letters provide the commission with first-hand information about problems affecting Filipino migrants.

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September 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS placed all livelihood projects of the Ministry of Human Settlements’ slum improvement programs under the umbrella of the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran (KKK).

At the same time, the President also announced that the KKK, which was initially intended for the rural areas, will now also cover urban livelihood projects.

The President made the twin announcements during the turnover rites for the 500 certificates of land transfer to former squatters in Bagong Baryo, Caloocan City.

“I hereby declare and proclaim all livelihood projects under the slum improvement program of the Ministry of Human Settlements now under the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran,” the President said.

“This is the beginning of a new dimension for the KKK because today we have just launched its urban coverage, instead of just limiting it to the rural areas. Now it covers all parts of the nation.”

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September 16—

The First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos assured a delegation of over 90 Filipino leaders in the U.S. West Coast that the New Republic leadership is succeeding in its mission of promoting progress for the Filipino people.

At the same time, Mrs. Marcos, who is also governor of Metropolitan Manila, thanked the leaders for heeding a call she made almost two years ago to come and see for themselves the conditions obtaining in the country.

The First Lady made the assurance during a luncheon she tendered for the 85 presidents of associations belonging to the Los Angeles-based Confederation of Philippine-United States Organizations (CONPUSO) who called on her at Malacañang. The group was led by its chairman, Dr. Reynaldo Landero, and accompanied by Ambassador Armando C. Fernandez, consul general in Los Angeles.

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September 17—

PRESIDENT MARCOS received Charles Z. Wick, director of the United States International Communication Agency (USICA) who called to pay his respects.

The U.S. official lauded the President for his wise leadership saying that after reading the President's biography, "I understand why your country progressed so much under your leadership."

The President replied that whatever progress the country has made is largely due to the patience and understanding of the Filipino people who are willing to make sacrifices for the good of the entire country.

A businessman-financier, Wick worked hard in the campaign of President Reagan and was co-chairman of the Committee on Festivities for the 1981 Presidential Inauguration, and member of the Executive Committee that worked out the smooth transfer of government from the Carter Administration.

He was accompanied by Minister James Rosenthal and Counselor Clifford Southard of the U.S. Embassy for Public Affairs.

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PRIVATE INITIATIVE and dynamism will be the basic foundation of the livelihood projects under the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran.

Minister Gregorio S. Cendaña of the Office of Media Affairs stressed the pivotal role of the private citizens in the successful propagation of the nationwide livelihood program during a speech at the Dagupan Rotary Club.

"Local governments will be tasked with the responsibility of providing the administrative support," he said. "On the other hand, these projects and enterprises must be initiated and manned by private citizens."

Refuting criticisms that the program is socialistic and that through it, the government intends to take over certain economic areas, Cendaña said that on the contrary, "the KKK will be one of the best examples of the government and other sectors coming together to guarantee the continued health of private enterprise."

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SEPTEMBER 21 National Thanksgiving Day, is a working special holiday. But there will be no classes in all levels throughout the country.

This means that only schools will be closed on that day, and government and private employees and workers will still have to report for work on Sept. 21.

Malacañang made the announcement in response to numerous inquiries from the public.

September 21 marks the date of the declaration of martial law in 1972, and the establishment of the New Society.

President Marcos lifted martial law on January 17 this year, but September 21 remains National Thanksgiving Day.

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September 18—

MINISTER Gregorio S. Cendaña of the Office of Media Affairs said yesterday that the government is now intensifying its rural information campaign to enable the citizenry to know the various aspects of the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran (KKK) and how they can take part in the movement.

Minister Cendaña told a news conference at the Manila Hilton that a KKK information secretariat has been organized to service the information requirement of the livelihood movement nationwide.

The information minister also said the secretariat will tie up with the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas (KBP) on the nationwide dissemination of KKK news.

Other officials who attended the conference were Human Settlements Deputy Minister Jose Conrado Benitez, Minister Jesus Tanchanco of the National Food Authority and representatives of participating agencies.

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September 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS issued Presidential Decree No. 1840 granting a tax amnesty on previously untaxed income or wealth earned here or abroad between 1974 and 1980, upon payment of certain amounts in taxes.

The decree grants full tax amnesty to resident citizens or aliens provided they pay a 20 percent tax on such income.

In the case of non-resident citizens who derive income from abroad, the tax is two percent on such previously untaxed income, converted to U.S. dollars.

The same decree, which the President issued as a necessary legislation in view of the fact that the Batasang Pambansa is not in session, also requires the filing of statements of assets, liabilities and net worth.

Deadline for filing of the tax amnesty returns is November 30 this year.

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THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister, Imelda Romualdez Marcos said that it is the people who will eventually determine the success or failure of the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran.

Speaking before some 700 municipal, provincial, and regional action officers of the Ministry of Human Settlements, at the University of Life in Pasig, Mrs. Marcos said that the cooperation, dedication, and determination of the people, will be the very factors that will make the KKK program get off the ground.

With the First Lady was Henry Rogers, a visiting public relations experts from California here to observe the development programs of the country. Earlier, the First Lady showed Rogers around the university campus and briefed him on how education at the institution is geared to community development.

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September 20—

A POTENT group of Muslim political and spiritual leaders today called for peace and unity in southern Philippines even as they vowed support for the New Republic.

The Muslim leaders, heads of royal houses in Mindanao and Sulu, expressed their concern for peace and stability in the south in a “manifesto of unity and support of the New Republic” which they presented to President Marcos and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, at a Malacañang ceremony early this evening.

The manifesto was signed by the heads and leading members of the Royal Houses of Lanao (Lanao) Sultanates, the Royal Houses of Maguindanao, the Royal Sultanate of Sulu and the Association of Highlanders.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1981). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 77(38), ccxlv-ccxlviii.

President's Week in Review: September 21-27, 1981

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

September 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran was the social development aspect of the “revolution from the center” initiated by the New Society nine years ago.

He declared that the livelihood program launched by the New Republic is for everybody and that it was intended to benefit all the Filipinos in all levels of Philippine society.

The President emphasized that this is a “people’s movement” which will involve every citizen, and that it was not a movement of the government.

“This program of ours (the KKK) will succeed or fail because of the dedication or lack of dedication of the motivators. That means you,” he told the KKK action officers.

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The First Lady Imelda Romualdez Marcos gave regional action officers of the Ministry of Human Settlements until December 17 this year to come up with viable livelihood programs in their regions for the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran.

Mrs. Marcos set the target date during the closing session of the seven-day KKK management and orientation seminar at the University of Life where she was the guest speaker.

The First Lady stressed that even if the KKK is a partnership between the people and all government agencies, the action officers of the ministry should be the lead motivators as community developers.

As an incentive, the First Lady said that the ministry will give cash prizes of P100,000 to the most viable livelihood project that will benefit a big majority of the people in the region; P50,000 to the second; and P25,000 for the third.

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Minister Gregorio S. Cendaña of the Office of Media Affairs called on the Third World media to fully harness and apply their resources to the solution of urgent problems.

Keynoting the three-day General Assembly of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union at the Philippine International Convention Center, Cendaña declared:

“Media as catalyst for change can ill afford to stand apart from the development process. It must be part of the process.”

He recalled the “exciting and dramatic events” that had taken place in the Philippines and the role of private media in promoting national goals and objectives.

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The President created the Kilusan sa Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran ng Kabataan as priority program, and set aside an initial sum of P5 million for the KKK ng Kabataang projects.

This was one of the steps the President took today as he and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos marked National Thanksgiving with a flurry of activities in Metro Manila.

The First Couple also took time to inaugurate the UP-Sikatuna Urban Bliss project in Barangay Botocan, Sikatuna Village, Quezon City and installed the KKK action officers in all levels in a program held at the University of Life in Pasig, Metro Manila.

With the local officials of the 13 towns and four cities of Metro Manila, the President and the First Lady each planted a Banaba tree along Buendia Avenue, in Pasay City, as part of the greening of Metro Manila.

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September 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS marked another milestone in the quest for oil, by launching production of the Cadlao oil field, in ceremonies held at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang.

The President opened the symbolic production valve of the Cadlao oil field which is expected to yield 9,000 barrels of crude oil daily.

While expressing satisfaction over the progress of the oil exploration program, and voicing hope in its future, the President warned that the search for oil must be pressed relentlessly.

The President pointed out that energy remains one of the most serious problems facing the country and that while it is moving toward hydroelectric, geothermal, nuclear, coal, minihydro dendio and other non-conventional sources, oil will continue to be the substantial component of the energy package.

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September 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said the full tax amnesty decree he issued September 19 was urgent and necessary and within the agreement of the President and the Batasang Pambansa in caucus.

The President also said Prime Minister Cesar E. A. Virata has nothing to do with it, and should not be the object of any criticism.

The Prime Minister had been criticized by Assemblyman Arturo M. Tolentino for allegedly relinquishing the law-making powers of the Batasang Pambansa by allowing the President to issue the tax amnesty decree. The President pointed out the decree was “urgent and necessary and within the agreement of the President and the Batasang Pambansa in caucus.”

Presidential Decree 1840 extends full tax amnesty for previously untaxed income or wealth earned here or abroad between 1971 and 1980, upon payment of 20 percent levy in the case of resident citizens or aliens, and two percent in the case of non-resident citizens.

It sought to reinforce the previous tax amnesty decree. P.D. 1740 by simplifying procedure in the computation of taxes to be paid, and also extended its effectivity from October 10 to November 30 this year.

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Minister Manuel Alba of the Office of the Budget and Management said that the government's revised disbursement program had actually reduced expenditures and that estimated net borrowings were only slightly higher than the original target.

Minister Alba was reacting to an erroneous newspaper article which tended to show that the government was increasing expenditures beyond what has been approved.

He said the estimated gross borrowings of P9.3 billion was only four percent higher than the original target and not 153 percent as claimed in the article.

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The President directed the Ministry of Agriculture to undertake the rehabilitation of areas in Ilocos Norte and the Cagayan Valley damaged by typhoon "Rubing."

He directed Agriculture Minister Arturo Tanco to facilitate the sale of seeds at subsidized prices to farmers in affected areas and to restructure Masagana 99 loans of the typhoon victims.

A report of the damage was submitted to the President by Minister Tanco and Agriculture Assistant Minister Domingo Panganiban who had made an ocular inspection of the damaged areas.

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The President underscored the need to systematize the broadcast media to make it more instrumental in attaining development objectives.

The President spoke before officials of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union who called on him at Malacañang.

The Chief Executive pointed out that broadcast media is a potent communication means since 88 percent of information is disseminated through it.

The President, however, decried the over-exposure of sex and violence on some radio and TV soap operas that could imbue "bad appetite and habit" particularly on growing children.

He said, "it's about time to impose a general systematization of the broadcast media" to make it more instrumental in development objectives."

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The President exchanged assessments of the peace and security situation in Asia with visiting United States Deputy Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci.

During their one-hour exchange of views, the President said the security problem facing small developing countries particularly in ASEAN is internal subversion and possible infiltration in the next several years.

The President, however, said the small developing countries are thankful for the firm stand taken by President Reagan, which has given them time to develop economically as the answer to subversion.

The President said he was happy with the present security arrangements and gave assurance that "we will do our share in maintaining security."

The President said the activation of the military bases agreement is irking very well, and that there is a deep reservoir of goodwill here for America and Americans.

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September 24—

The gasifier, a local invention which converts organic matter into combustible gases, has drawn the interest of the United States Agency for International Development (US-AID) in Washington, D.C.

The information was relayed to the First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos during a call in Malacañang by a visiting US-AID mission headed by Bruce Gair.

According to Gair, US-AID has kept abreast with all the development programs of the Ministry of Human Settlements and the gasifier has drawn much interest.

The First Lady told the group that the gasifier is a good example of the efforts being exerted by the government towards economic self-reliance.

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September 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS issued Proclamation No. 2120 declaring Oct. 16, 1981 and every year thereafter as World Food Day in the Philippines.

World Food Day coincides with the annual commemoration hero of the anniversary of the founding of the Food and Agricultural Organization pursuant to a resolution of the FAO-in November 1979.

In issuing the proclamation, the President created a National Executive Committee to be headed by the First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos as honorary chairperson.

He designated Minister Jesus Tanchanco, administrator of the National Food Authority, as Chairman of the National Executive Committee.

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September 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS yesterday welcomed the support pledged by two nationwide organizations to the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran (KKK) and asked them to assume the leadership in their respective communities.

The two organizations which are supporting the KKK are the Radio-TV Federation of the Philippines and the officials and coordinators of the Loyalists for Marcos, who came to greet the President belated happy birthday and to pledge their support to the KKK program.

“I am very glad to hear that” the President told the two delegations. “I now call on you to rise to the challenge and build for yourselves new names, new achievements that will add not only to the ennobling of the Filipino race but to the upliftment of the Filipino people.”

Associate Immigration Commissioner Victor Nituda, head of the Marcos Loyalists, also presented to the President a plaque of recognition for his “brilliant and outstanding achievements as congressman, senator, Senate president, and President of the Republic from 1949 to the present.”

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The Linggo ng Kabataan celebration comes to a close after honoring several gifted youths.

Chairman Imee Marcos of the Kabataang Barangay Foundation and Labor and Employment Minister Blas F. Ople presented citations and cash prizes Wednesday night to the “Ten Model Apprentices” and on-the-spot letter-writing contest winners in ceremonies at the Folk Arts Theatre.

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September 27—

Labor Minister Blas F. Ople warned that owners of construction and recruitment firms and Filipino workers who have persistently failed to remit home their foreign earnings will be criminally prosecuted.

Ople directed Director Jonathan dela Cruz of the Bureau of Employment Services to get the help of the Central Bank in ferreting out the firms and workers who have failed to send home their earnings through legitimate channels.

He said these contractors and workers may be charged with trafficking in foreign currencies in violation of both the Labor Code and CB circular No. 364.

Ople’s move followed allegations of the Philippine Contractors Association and the Overseas Placement Association of the Philippines that some of their members have not been sending home their foreign earnings.

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Batasan members acted to restrengthen the country’s Torrens system proposing to incorporate the penalties provided in the original land registration act in the present property registration law.

The lawmakers noted that since the original penal provisions are no longer included in the present law, this omission may have encouraged issuance of fake land titles and the commission of other irregularities.

Assemblyman Felipe P. de Vera (KBL), Ilocos region, principal author of Parliamentary Bill 1696, observed that under the present law, frauds and falsification’ are no longer punishable with severe, penalties provided under Act No. 496 but will be considered as ordinary felony punishable under the Revised Penal Code.

The Ilocos lawmaker explained that the Torrens system of property registration is generally accepted in many countries as an effective means of making a land title absolute and imprescriptible even against the government.

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Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: September 28 - October 4, 1981

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

September 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said he would review with the Cabinet the problem of coconut levy and the plunging prices of copra after three months, instead of waiting for six months.

In an interview with Malacañang newsmen, the President said such a reassessment would include the possibility of putting back the levy of P76 per 100 kilos of copra which was suspended by the Cabinet two weeks ago.

In the said review, the President said, he would also consider steps to prop up the prices of coconut oil by increasing government use of coconut oil, and the revival of programs supported by the coconut levy.

The Cabinet suspended the coconut levy to allow a free market access by anybody who wants to buy and sell copra.

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September 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said the Philippine foreign policy is based on mutual understanding, respect for sovereignty, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries and peaceful co-existence.

The President made this statement in receiving the letters of credence of Ambassador Yuri Alekseevich Sholmov as the new envoy of the Soviet Union to the Philippines succeeding former Ambassador Valerian Mikhailov.

“The Philippines seeks closer diplomatic, economic and cultural ties with all countries which believe in the basic principles of mutual understanding, respect for each other's sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs, and peaceful co-existence,” the President said.

The Soviet envoy said, in presenting his credentials, that the Soviet Union “follows the principles of peaceful co-existence, the tasks of ensuring peace on earth and internal security, and retention of the spirit of detente.”

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September 30—

THE FIRST LADY, Imelda Romualdez Marcos flew this afternoon to Iraq in a move to strengthen trade and cultural ties with the Arab world.

Upon the invitation of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Mrs. Marcos will attend the opening of an international trade fair in the Iraq capital of Baghdad.

Hoping to find new markets for products of the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran (KKK), the First Lady brought with her a collection of samples of various products, including handicrafts and high-fashion ladies shoes and bags, for display at the fair.

The President led a group of government officials and friends who saw off the First Lady at the Manila International Airport. She took off at 4:30 p.m. for an 11-hour flight to Baghdad aboard a special Philippine Airlines plane.

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THE PRESIDENT expressed hope that the informal exchange of opinions among the world leaders at the Cancun summit conference would lead to better cooperation between the industrialized countries and the developing nations.

He told reporters covering Malacañang that there were many matters that could be taken-up at the North-South Dialogue in the Mexican resort city, although he ruled out any bilateral meetings.

Twenty-two leaders from the North, or developed countries, and the South, or developing nations, have been invited to the summit meeting. It was organized by Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo and Austrian Chancellor Kreisky inspired by West German stateman Willy Brandt's recommendation for a "summit for survival" to draw up a new international economic order.

The President, as a leader of the Third World, had been invited to attend this historic conference to articulate the aspirations- of the developing countries.

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THE PRESIDENT enjoined officials and employees of the Ministry of Justice to seek fresh approaches to the promotion of human rights and the entrenchment of the law.

Speaking at the 83rd anniversary celebration of the Ministry of Justice at the Manila Hotel, the President said, "You must continually be open to fresh approaches to the promotion of human rights and the entrenchment of the law in all your institutions."

The President said this should always be the basis of all government action, the unifying element in society, and the anchor of stability, as well as the measure of the conduct of officials and officers in government.

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October 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said he might be compelled to order the arrest and detention of subversive elements similar to the roundups in 1972 to check the infiltration and sabotage operations within the labor union and student ranks.

The Chief Executive, however, pointed out that as of now these subversive personalities—who have already been identified by intelligence authorities—do not constitute a danger to the national stability and their activities do not warrant the exercise of emergency powers similar to those used in 1972 when martial law was imposed.

Referring to the renewed activities of subversives who have infiltrated labor and student groups and were creating agitation within their ranks, the President said: "They are few and ineffective but they are persistent and they may cause damage to property and cause injury to persons. The assessment of both the military and the government is that there is no necessity as yet for the exercise of any emergency powers similar to their exercise in 1972."

But, he emphasized that "I believe it is necessary that I warn them and their supporters that if they persist on these illicit and subversive activities, regretful as it may be, I may be compelled to issue commitment orders as I did in 1972."

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THE ARMY RESERVE COMMAND has launched an information drive to promote the Kilusang, Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran program of the government in the provinces. The activity was started after a primer on the movement was published by the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Directives were issued to the different Regional Home Defense Units and Provincial Home Defense Centers of Arescom to conduct seminars on the program for military personnel and dependents as well as civilian employees of the command and for civilians in coordination with local governments and other agencies.

In the meetings with local officials and media during his inspection visit to Arescom units in Antique, Iloilo and Negros Occidental, Brig. Gen. Edon T. Yap, Arescom commanding general, emphasized the participation of everybody to insure the success of the movement.

The pulong-pulong was also attended by the governors and representatives from the PC and the AFP Reservists Association.

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October 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS restored the coconut levy which he and his Cabinet suspended last Sept. 9 but reduced the amount from P76.00 to P50.00 per 100 kilos.

He said he was returning the levy although in a reduced amount to prop up the sagging prices of coconut products in both the foreign and local markets and to assure the continuation of the programs supported by it.

The President signed the decree restoring the levy during a meeting attended by some 10,000 coconut farmers at the Maharlika Hall in Malacañang. Although the new levy fell short of the old one by P26.00, the farmers, who had been adversely affected by its suspension, felt more than satisfied.

To be called the Coconut Industry Stabilization Fund, (CISF) the levy will now be broken down as follows:

P20.00 for the coconut replanting program; P4.00 for the scholarship program; P12½ for the life and accident insurance coverage of some 45,000 coconut farmers; P3 and ½ for the liquidation of the obligation of the United Coconut Millers for the mothballed coconut mills; P3.00 for the operation of the Coconut Planters Federation; and P2.00 for the Philippine Coconut Authority.

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THE PRESIDENT received a proposal from the President of Mongolia to hold a Bandung-type conference of Asian states to discuss the peace and security of Asia and the Pacific. He said he was going to sound out the other ASEAN members on it.

The proposal was conveyed to the President by Mongolian Ambassador Denzenqiin Tsererdendov who came from Tokyo to Manila to pay his respects and to personally convey the message to the President.

It was in Bandung, one of the largest cities of Indonesia, that delegates from 23 Asian and African nations met in 1955 in the first conference of Asian and African states on world affairs.

The President explained that as a member of ASEAN, the Philippines cannot make commitments without first consulting the other members, especially on matters of peace and security in the region.

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THE PRESIDENT urged all-out participation, including the private sector and the cultural minorities in the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran livelihood program. He said that he will step up the movement upon his return from the summit conference in Cancun, Mexico.

Meeting with newsmen, the President stressed that his main concern was to strengthen the domestic situation.

“Our problems are more domestic than anything else,” he declared. “Unless we strengthen our domestic situation, nobody will help us.”

He indicated that when the rainy season ends, he expected to travel more around the country to see the other sectors of the citizenry to explain to them that the KKK “is your program—you better participate in it.”

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October 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS announced that the country enjoys adequate rice supplies and there is no need to fear any scarcity.

The President made the assurance after meeting with leaders of agricultural and rice producing sectors of the economy including Agriculture Minister Arturo Tanco, Industry, Trade and Investment Minister Roberto Ongpin, National Food Authority Administrator Jesus Tanchanco and Alfredo Montelibano, President of the Philippine Chamber of Agriculture.

The Chief Executive called an informal conference in the wake of the published statement of Tanco concerning the country’s current rice production levels which the President described as premature and merely precautionary.

Official figures from the Ministry of Agriculture showed that the country’s total rice reserves remained “comfortably high” at 1.1 million tons as of the end of June, 1981, which is equivalent to 104 days supply and which is far more than the 90 days reserve considered safe.

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MALACANANG received reports of renewed and brisk copra trading at increased prices—after nearly a month of idle transactions in the domestic markets as—a result of the restoration of the coconut levy by President Marcos.

The upturn in the coconut industry was demonstrated in the increase in coconut oil prices in the international market to 23 U.S. cents a pound, up by two cents from a low of 23 cents registered after the levy was suspended last September 9.

The positive market reaction to the President’s move will favorably affect the country’s estimated 16 million coconut planters and their families who could not sell their copra for almost one month due to the lack of buyers.

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THE PRESIDENT designated Brig. Gen. Petronio M. Lapeña as acting commander of the Philippine Air Force vice Maj. Gen. Samuel Sarmiento who has retired.

At the same time, the President designated Brig. Gen. Vicente Piccio Jr. as PAF acting vice commander to take over from Gen. Lapeña.

The turnover at the PAF was in line with the President’s policy of not extending the tenure of extendeé generals unless their services are extremely necessary and there are not qualified replacements.

Before his elevation to the PAF’s highest post, the 56-year-old Lapeña had been PAF’s vice commander for 14 months and commanding general of the First Air Division on concurrent capacity.

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October 4—

BAGHDAD.—The Philippine and Iraq Saturday agreed in principle to step up a “protocol of agreement” to assure better labor exchanges and relations.

The agreement was discussed by the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, and Iraq Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, Baker Mahmoud Rasoul Al-Beshdari.

Mrs. Marcos said the protocol of agreement would help avoid any potential labor problem and benefit the two countries.

The Philippine government, she added, would organize a mechanism to make sure that the labor force sent to Iraq is efficient and effective.

Recalling her conversation with Iraq President Saddam Hussein, Mrs. Marcos said Philippine construction work here would be in line with the culture, customs and traditions of the Iraqis.

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PROVINCIAL CHAPTERS of the Philippine Coconut Producers Federation (COCOFED) sent telegrams to the President “thanking Kim for restoring the coconut levy, for his wisdom and concern for the coconut farmers and for once again coming to the rescue of the coconut industry.”

Ms. Maria Lobregat of the National Board of the COCOFED relayed to the Palace nine telegrams from the coconut-producing regions.

From Quezon province came a wire signed by chapter officers Raul Unson, president; Moises Escueta, secretary/treasurer, and directors Bienvenido Marquez and Judge Roman, expressing their gratitude for the restoration of the levy.

The province of Quezon is the largest coconut-producing province and counts with 90,000 to 100,000 workers who depend on coconut for their livelihood.

The President restored the coconut levy, but reduced it from P0.76 per kilo to P0.50 per kilo, last Friday before a large delegation of coconut farmers who converged at Malacañang.

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Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: October 5-11, 1981

President's Week in Review: October 12-25, 1981

OFFICIAL WEEKS IN REVIEW

October 12—

THE PRESIDENT was gratified by the turn of events in Mindanao when the Muslim population have thrown their support behind the government's programs.

He said he was happy over this development because it vindicated his policy of attraction and reconciliation, instead of pursuing a military solution to the secessionist problem

The President reported on this development during his talks, with Dr. Mana Saeed Al Otaiha, minister of petroleum and natural resources of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) who called on him and the First Lady Imelda Romualdez Marcos, at Malacañang.

Dr. Otaiha arrived here with a group of Arab businessmen for a four-day private visit to explore business climate in the country.

He expressed the desire of his government for the President and the First Lady to visit his country at some time in the future.

The President told Otaiha that it was the government's intention to develop Mindanao on the same level as the other parts of the country. He ported out that the biggest hydroelectric plants were located in the island where available energy has increased 600 per-cent since 1973.

The President has repeatedly encouraged Arab investments in the country, including joint ventures.

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October 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has approved the implementation on a nationwide basis of the family tree farm program as one of the KKK livelihood projects.

This was disclosed by Human Settlements and KKK Secretary-General, Imelda R. Marcos in a memorandum she issued to four government agencies and to all provincial governors on the immediate implementation of the projects.

Mrs. Marcos said that the family farm project will not only help solve the energy problem and improve, ecology, but will also provide employment for the people.

The implementing agencies are the Bureau of Forest Development, the Human Settlements Development Corporation, the Farm System Development Corporation and the National Electrification Administration.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS has issued Executive Order 741 designating the Presidential Assistant on National Minorities (PANAMIN) as the implementing arm of the KKK for the national minorities.

The President stressed in the Executive Order for PANAMIN to formulate, implement the policies and guidelines of the KKK program for the national minorities in coordination with the KKK secretariat on the basis of the expressed aspirations of the minorities.

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October 14—

THE FIRST LADY and Metro Manila Governor Imelda Romualdez Marcos ordered a speedy renovation of sixty-four public markets in Metro Manila in order to make them centers of Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran products.

During the meeting, the First Lady designated National Food Administrator Jesus Tanchanco to take charge of the market upgrading program and discussed with the local officials the need to find new markets for KKK products here and abroad.

In line with this program, the First Lady directed the officials to hold art exhibition of the products produced in each town and city in Metro Manila starting December 17 until January next year.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS stressed that the Philippine foreign policy is being reoriented towards the promotion of greater understanding and friendship with the Arab countries.

“I hope that you will continue to come and further strengthen the ties of friendship existing between our respective countries,” the President told the visiting Saudi Arabian journalists who called on him at Malacañang.

The newsmen were accompanied to Malacañang by Media Affairs Minister Gregorio S. Cendaña.

The President said that the Filipino people and their government have been pleased to act as host to the visiting Saudi Arabian journalist.

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October 15—

THE PRESIDENT presided over a joint conference of ASEAN diplomats to map out strategies and insure the collective stance of the Association of South East Asian Nations at the Cancun Summit.

Senior ASEAN diplomats present during the conference were: Ambassador Dato Ismail Mohamed of Malaysia, Ambassador Chao Saicheua of Thailand, Ambassador Toh Hock Ghim of Singapore, and Charge d’ Affairs Suwir Djamal of Indonesia.

The President, eager for an ASEAN consensus, made available to the other ASEAN leaders for observations and suggestions copies of his notes which he will deliver in a ten-minute speech on the opening day of the conference. “

Acting Foreign Minister Manuel Mantes informed the senior diplomats of the Association of South East Asian Nations that they will be regularly posted on the preparations and other developments of the forthcoming summit.

The ASEAN diplomats said that they were unanimous in expressing their voice of confidence in the Philippine President as a capable and forceful leader who will take the collective issues of the ASEAN in the North-South confrontation at Cancun, Mexico.

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October 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS proclaimed October 16 as World Food Day to focus the attention of the people to the importance of producing food.

The First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos said that the observance of the World Food Day has given impetus to the food and livelihood program of the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran (KKK) under the New Republic.

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THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos has approved the land investment trust to allow property owners who cannot make improvements on their own to enter into joint ventures with the government to construct new buildings.

The First Lady designated Human Settlements Deputy Minister Jose Conrado Benitez as program action officer in a meeting with the mayors, vice mayors and officials of the Metro Manila Commission at Malacañang.

The land investment trust would enable 8-million people in Metro Manila to live more comfortably within a small area and near their places of work.

Mrs. Marcos said urban renewal is important because portions of the city are deteriorating and many properties have remained idle at a time when there is an acute housing shortage.

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October 17—

THE PRESIDENT has ordered the government financing institutions to place in trust all acquired and foreclosed real estate assets. The move paves the way for the Ministry of Human Settlements to use these assets in its massive housing and land development projects.

By issuing Letter of Instruction 1170 today, October 17, the President created a Land Investment Trust (LIT). Under the program, the Development Bank of the Philippines, the Philippine National Bank and the Government Service Insurance System will transfer their acquired and foreclosed assets to support the government shelter program.

Through the LIT, the human settlements ministry hopes to make use of some P10 billion in frozen properties owned by the financing institutions to spur the urban renewal program initiated by the First Lady.

The ministry will determine whether these properties can be used for housing and land development. It will also see whatever those properties should be sold or exchanged for assets that could be used for housing and land development.

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October 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS left at 6:10 pm. for Cancun, Mexico aboard a Philippine Airlines DC-10.

“The Cancun Summit could signal the beginning of a new era in global cooperation through the resumption of deadlock conversation between the North and the South,” the President said as he took off for Honolulu on the first leg of a journey to the North-South dialogue.

His official party included Prime Minister Cesar E.A. Virata, Minister of Industry and Trade Roberto Ongpin, Minister Gregorio S. Cendaña of the Office of Media Affairs, and Deputy Minister Manuel Collantes, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, including the President's daughter, Imee.

The First Lady, Imelda Romauldez Marcos led government officials, members of the Cabinet, members of the diplomatic corps, and friends in seeing off the President and his party at the Manila International Airport.

Also present at the airport was Deputy Prime Minister Jose Roño, who was designated government caretaker while the President is abroad.

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October 19—

THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, has announced in a meeting with a group of top officials in Malacañang that the facelifting of Metro Manila under the urban renewal program will start before the end of the year.

The program aims to change the face of the metropolis, make idle lands, more productive and replace rundown buildings with permanent structures and also to provide more space for housing and commercial shops.

The project will be undertaken by the Ministry of Human Settlements thru fund raising and by selling bonds and entering into financing arrangements with domestic and foreign banks.

Under the LIT program, the ministry through its agencies will insure guarantee housing loans. These include credits to buy construction materials, bond flotation by developers and other loans for housing and land developments.

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October 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and his party made a stopover at Honolulu on their way to Cancun, Mexico to attend an International Meeting on Cooperation and Development.

The President said that from a two-day conference of 22 chiefs of state and government, without a fixed agenda in accordance with a previous agreement of not agreeing on anything concrete, one neither can or should expect final solutions.

The President was designated by the different heads of state of the ASEAN as their official spokesman during a meeting with the senior ambassadors of the ASEAN member nations.

He is expected to articulate the demands of the ASEAN countries and press for global action which will help avert the repetition of the energy crisis, dismantle international trade barriers and assure equitable international monetary reforms.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS and his party arrived in Cancun, Mexico aboard a Philippine Airlines DC-10 at 8:15 p.m. to a warm welcome by Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo at the airport.

The President called for a pulling away from the quarrels and injuries of a sad and oppressive past, from angry disputes between rich and poor nations because, he said, we have come to Cancun in search for a future.

He said that Filipinos share with other Asians as well as Africans and Latin Americans the “disastrous inheritance of past colonialism.” Put stressed that poking into the debris and dross of the past is not the way to discover our future.

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October 21—

THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister, Imelda Romualdez Marcos reiterated the Philippine commitment to youth and sports development as part of the overall program of the government.

“The country would do its share in promoting sports in the Pacific region,” the First Lady told Dr. Jao Havelange, president of the Federation of International Football Association (FIFA) who called on her at Malacañang.

With him during the courtesy call were Harry Cavan, senior vice president of FIFA; Frank Elizalde, president of the Philippine Football Association and Fernando Alvarez, the first Filipino FIFA secretary-general.

The group told the First Lady that the federation is organizing a football tournament in Manila on January 1932. The games will bring together teams from the People’s Republic of China, Taiwan and other countries.

Dr Jao Havelange, on a worldwide visit to 130 members of the federation, informed the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos of the FIFA’s current programs to promote football in the Pacific region.

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THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos thanked a group of Korean businessmen who called on her at Malacañang.

Headed by president Kvung-Hoon Lee, the delegation came to Manila to expand economic and technical cooperation between the Philippines and South Korea.

The visit was requested by the Korean government as a first step in carrying out the recent agreement between the two countries.

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October 22—

THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister, Imelda R. Marcos, Secretary-General of the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran (KKK), anchored the success of the KKK on the cooperation and dedication of the governors, mayors and cabinet members.

In her speech at the University of Life in Pasig, the First Lady underscored the need for the KKK to succeed in providing for a better quality of life under the New Republic.

She told the governors and the mayors that the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran has to succeed by helping ‘motivate the people to work harder to achieve a better future.’”

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October 23—

SUBMITTED by the President to the Conference for immediate consideration are documents:

- 1) On the global food problem entitled “Decisions of the Cancun Conference on Food” which provides for an immediate solution to the problem on food for the hungry people of the world on a short-term basis.
- 2) Concerning energy calling national and international institutions to address the energy problem in a unified manner.
- 3) Concerning the general agreement on tariffs and trade urging the developed nations to remove protectionists measures and reiterate their commitment to the maintenance and expansion of an open trade system.
- 4) Concerning a Bretton Woods type of conference on the international monetary system to strengthen the international monetary system.

The President also suggested the establishment of a machinery which would be known as Permanent Committee on Reviews and Implementation.

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October 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS praised President Reagan and his advisers for finally agreeing on to hold global talks between the developed and the developing countries at the United Nations during the final session of the Cancun summit.

President Marcos said that the Cancun summit was a “historical achievement.”

President Marcos interpreted the summary to mean that preparatory meetings in the United Nations would take place soonest to pave the way for the start of global negotiations which would create his ideal: a new international economic order.

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October 25—

THE PRESIDENT departed from Cancun international airport at 7:30 a.m. yesterday with his party which includes daughters Imee and Irene. He was accorded full military honors.

Escorting him to his Philippine Airlines DC-10 was Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo.

The President took a 40-minute flight to Meridan, Quintana Roo, before proceeding to Acapulco for a tour of the world-famous Chichen Itza ruins, the main tourist attraction in the Yucatan peninsula.

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President Marcos arrived in Acapulco Sunday, October 25, on his way home from the Cancun Summit, to renew the historic ties between Manila and the Mexican port city.

The President accompanied by daughters Imee and Irene, and Ministers Juan C. Tuvera and Gregorio S. Cendaña was welcomed at the airport by City Mayor Amin Saro and a representative of Acapulco Governor Alejandro Cervantes del Rio.

Acapulco was linked to Manila by the galleon trade during the Spanish period.

Mexican influences now more popularly recognized as Spanish influences, can still be seen in Vigan, Ilocos Sur.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

Official Week in Review: October 26 – October 31, 1981

October—26

THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos, secretary general of the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran addressed some 400 business leaders to boost exports, increase production, and raise employment by supporting the KKK programs.

“You have the world as your market. We have all the doors open. Our foreign policy has been so successful that Filipino businessmen can go anywhere in the world and do business,” the First Lady told the participants during a meeting at the University of Life in Pasig, Metro Manila.

Mrs. Marcos not only emphasized the need to cut red tape and grant liberal loans, but also the necessity to tap management expertise to boost the KKK programs.

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October—27

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that the Philippines has acquired the status of a spokesman for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Third World following the North-South dialogue in Cancun, Mexico.

The President said that the benefits of meeting 21 other world leaders in a single conference must not be understated.

The leaders of America, Japan, Britain, France and West Germany now know what to expect from their investments in the Philippines.

“They know now that the government is democratic and run in an organized and efficient manner,” the President told the Malacañang newsmen aboard his PAL DC-10 shortly after it took off from Acapulco for Honolulu.

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October—28

PRESIDENT MARCOS stressed that the Philippines would like to share its surplus of food with the rest of the world.

“I think it’s about time we assume some of the burden of our principle. We’ve been talking about other countries helping the poorer members of our world,” the President told the Malacañang reporters during a conference following his arrival from Cancun, Mexico.

The President said his conscience was bothered when he looked at the number of countries where people are starving and proposed that the Third World nations to get together and decide which countries should get food aid.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS arrived shortly after 4 p.m. from Honolulu where he made an overnight stop-over on his return trip to Manila from the historic Cancun summit.

The President was welcomed warmly by the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, and high government officials at the new Manila international airport terminal.

With the President and his party was his daughter Imee.

A composite brigade of the Armed Forces headed by Gen. Fabian C. Ver, chief of staff was there to welcome the President and his party.

The President said that the results of the North-South dialogue were already being felt, particularly in the move of the United Nations to implement global negotiations in order to resolve the conflict of rich and poor nations.

The President made a report to the nation on the results of the Cancun summit before his entourage leaves MIA for Malacañang.

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October—29

PRESIDENT MARCOS extended his warmest greetings to the Muslim Filipinos on the occasion of “Amon Jaded”, the Islamic celebration of New Year.

The President thanked the Muslim Filipinos for their support of the New Republic, particularly their efforts to aspire for social, spiritual, and economic progress.

“With the help of Muslim Filipinos the government has been able to translate the objectives of the New Republic into viable projects of immense redeeming value,” the President said.

The “Amon Jaded” is a historic commemoration of the Prophet Muhammad’s departure from Mecca to Medina, popularly called as the “hijrah” by the Muslims throughout the world.

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EDUCATION MINISTER ONOFRE D. CORPUS presided over a four-hour meeting with various student leaders, campus journalists, and heads of high institutions of learning, and agreed on:

- 1) The recognition of existing lawful student organizations;
- 2) The restoration of student publications and organizations, including student councils and fraternities in all universities and colleges.

Minister Corpus said student leaders can henceforth participate in the formulation of policies and decisions affecting the schools.

“This will erase all doubts regarding the imagined restrictions the government has imposed on the establishment of lawful student organizations,” Minister Corpus said.

In a memorandum circular, Minister Corpus laid down the requirements of constitutions and by laws governing campus organizations and periodicals, the election of officers, high academic standards for editors and other staff members, and disciplinary measures for those violating the policies.

Corpus said that in all cases the associations and publications will be supportive of the purposes and goals of the state’s educational program and the individual objectives of the institutions.

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October—30

THE FIRST LADY and Minister of Human Settlements Imelda R. Marcos took off on the regular Philippine Air Lines flight last night for New York where she will address the plenary session of the 156-nation body next Monday, reporting as chairman of the UN commission of human settlements.

President Marcos, daughter Imee and government officials as well as friends gave the First Lady a warm send-off at the airport. The plane took off at 9:35 p.m.

Mrs. Marcos said that the UN commission had accepted the projects of the Ministry of Human Settlements as models to be considered for adoption by whatever countries might be interested in them.

She said that for most countries, human settlements meant building homes for the underprivileged or putting up infrastructure.

“But in the Philippines, human settlements acquired new meaning principally that it should be aimed not only at providing housing, but also to provide services aimed at the whole man,” the First Lady said.

Hence, the Ministry of Human Settlements has been providing for what it has listed down as the 11 basic needs of man, including housing, water supply, electricity, means of livelihood, recreation, transport, and others.

The First Lady also said that she would look for new markets in the United States for products to be manufactured under the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran (KKK) livelihood program.

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October—31

FOREIGN MINISTER CARLOS P. ROMULO called for the establishment of a world security system developed by common consent and implemented in the common interest.

Speaking before the first political and security affairs committee of the UN, Romulo said that global arrangement is needed in which states will feel it both safe and feasible to consider disarmament.

Security can no longer be provided on a unilateral basis in this nuclear age because international efforts for disarmament is being in a “state of essential paralysis,” Romulo said.

“But logic and experience bring us to the same conclusion that absolute autonomy and self-interest are wholly at odds with the capacity of international community to develop the modalities for the maintenance of international peace and security,” Romulo said.

“This is truly a revolutionary precept in a world of semi-sovereign states,” Romulo said of his proposal for a global security system.

He stressed the importance of concrete steps for carrying out arms reductions and providing for positive instruments of security such as the UN satellite monitoring agency proposed by France.

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ACTING MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MANUEL COLLANTES said that the Third World countries were pressing for an early resolution of the conflicts between the rich and poor nations, especially the setting of commodity prices.

Many Third World countries complain that their products, such as coffee, tin, sugar and vegetable oil are underpriced in the world market.

On the other hand, the goods that they buy from industrialized nations keep going up in price, Collantes said.

Also up for discussion are the policies of specialized agencies such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the General Agreement on Trade and Tariff (GATT), which control the monetary system and trade.

Minister Collantes was optimistic that the issue of holding the global negotiations would be resolved shortly.

He said that he would give a copy of President Marcos' report to each of the other ASEAN members—Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1981). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 77(44), cclxxxi-cclxxxiv.

Official Week in Review: November 1 – November 8, 1981

November 1—

THE FIRST LADY, IMELDA R. MARCOS, has formally launched the Philippine General Hospital Foundation, Inc., to develop fully the PGH as a premier hospital for all kinds of people, rich and poor.

The organization of the PGH foundation is in line with the program of the government to provide the masses with basic hospital support, Mrs. Marcos said.

Those named to the board of trustees were Chief Justice Enrique M. Fernando, Governor Jaime Laya of the Central Bank, Social Security System Administrator Gilberto Teodoro, Chairman Cesar Zalamea of the Development Bank of the Philippines, and Edgardo J. Angara, President of the University of the Philippines.

There will be 1,000 charity beds and first class facilities are guaranteed to attract outstanding doctors in the country while providing training to UP medical students.

The First Lady said that the foundation will develop projects to insure the viability of the PGH and determine the financing requirements of the program.

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The President and his mother, Doña Josefa Edralin Marcos, laid wreaths at the Unknown Soldier Memorial and at the Don Mariano Shrine.

At Bacnotan, the President and his mother inaugurated the Don Mariano Marcos Dambana which was blessed by Msgr. Salvador Lazo.

They attended mass at the Ortega Center of the Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University.

Attending the Mass with the President and his mother were Tourism Minister Jose D. Aspiras, Food Minister Jesus Tanchanco, Pangasinan Gov. Aguedo Agbayani, La Union Governor Tomas Asprer, Assemblyman Joaquin Ortega, the university staff and the student population led by University President Bienvenido Agpara.

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President Marcos inspected the first Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran (KKK) training center in the Ilocos region at the Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University.

The President was briefed on the P100.7-million anchor projects of the KKK in Region I.

The briefing was made at the Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University where the President exhorted the educational institutions to work for the improvement of the life of the people.

The President was informed that the KKK projects will benefit 18,476 people.

November 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS reiterated his call for an opposition strong enough to prevent the ruling party from abusing its powers.

“I have always encouraged the growth of a strong opposition because it helps fiscalize the majority party,” the President said to the news people in Laoag City.

The President said that without an effective system of check and balance the tendency among people with power to abuse it will be especially strong in “the long term.”

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Solicitor General Estelito P. Mendoza proposed a more effective system for going after misbehaving judges and malpractising lawyers.

Under present procedures no cases will ever reach the high court unless personally motivated complaints decide to go against a judge or lawyer, Mendoza said.

Earlier, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines proposed a grievance procedure under which it would receive, hear and decide all complaints against lawyers.

When the court sought Mendoza’s comment on the proposal, the solicitor general suggested that the IBP should merely prosecute the cases against the lawyers, but the court itself should decide them.

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November 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS underscored the role of advertising in disseminating information about goods and services essential to economic development.

In this connection he issued Proclamation No. 2131 declaring November 2–8 as Advertising Week.

“By persuasion, by incentives and by force of law if necessary, we fully intend to keep Philippine advertising focus on its social purpose as much as on its commercial viability,” the President told the 7th Philippine Advertising Congress at the International Convention Center.

The participants included 100 advertising representatives from the United States, Japan, Hongkong, Papua New Guinea and the five member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

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President Marcos warned against the exploitation of sex or the exaggering of violence in media advertising.

Instead, he urged the local advertising industry to take more interest in public service causes.

“I should be most pleased if Philippine advertising takes similar interest in these public service causes,” the President said.

The President was pleased at the support the Philippine advertising community extended to political and social reforms, especially the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran programs under the New Republic.

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Prime Minister Cesar Virata said that the entire spectrum of Philippine policies is now being reviewed to make the Filipinos cope with “harder times in the coming year”.

He attributed the difficulties ahead to outside economic factors that are likely to affect the Philippines.

“For our country, the possibility of a new recession in the industrialized countries could set back government efforts to revitalize the economy,” Virata told the participants of the 7th Philippine Business Conference.

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Prime Minister Cesar Virata considers the policy review to include government programs on energy, nutrition, science and technology.

Top priority is being given to science and technology.

“Development can only proceed faster if we have a sound technological base, strong research and development, and highly skilled manpower,” Virata said.

He said that, side by side with the policy review, the Cabinet was working on a plan to integrate government procurement programs to effect savings.

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November 4—

THE FIRST LADY, IMELDA ROMUALDEZ MARCOS met with the members of the US Senate foreign relations committee and stressed the firm commitment of the Philippines as a strategic point in the global security projection of the United States.

Present during the two-hour luncheon meeting with Mrs. Marcos, who was guest of the committee, was Senator Charles Percy Chairman of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Deputy Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci, Sen. Sam Hayakawa, Sen. Charles Matthias, Sen. John Glenn, Admiral James W. Nance and Deputy of White House National Security Adviser James Allen.

Mrs. Marcos stressed to the American officials that under the leadership of President Marcos, the Philippines will remain unflagging in its commitment to freedom and “to anchor its national development programs on the principle of free enterprise.”

She underlined the strategic importance of the Philippines where the American military facilities at Clark and Subic are vital to the maintenance of the balance of power in Asia.

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November 5—

PRESIDENT MAPCOS laid down the basic guidelines for the improvement of the economy under the New Republic.

In his meeting with the businessmen during the 7th Philippine Business Conference at Philippine Plaza, the President underscored the need to eliminate price controls on basic commodities.

This move of the President came about because of the claims of some businessmen that the imposition of a ceiling on the prices of the basic commodities works against free enterprise and reduces the income of farmers and livestock producers.

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The President told the participants that the government is now “deliberately trying to prime up the economy this year to further reduce inflation rate to a single digit figure.”

This includes the move to inject into the economy some P25 billion before the end of the month. The amount is earmarked for infrastructure projects in 1982.

The President said that the early release of the fund will not only help start work in the coming summer months but will also “enliven business activities.”

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President Marcos also issued directives to reduce the production costs of farmers who avail themselves of bank loans through:

1. Elimination of the practice of rural banks and other lending institutions of deducting in advance their interest and other charges on loans they grant to farmers.
2. Possible removal of the barrio savings fund to which farmers are required to contribute.
3. Reduction of the rate of premium payments for crop insurance.

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To reduce productions cost of the farmers who avail themselves of government-loanable funds, President Marcos directed the following:

1. The Ministry of Agriculture to study seriously the justification and the benefit of the barrio savings fund which is added to the interest rate the farmer's pay for the loans.
2. The crop insurance corporation to study the actuarial basis of the premium payments so as to reduce them at the lowest levels possible.
3. The Central Bank to convene rural bankers to assess the possibility of eliminating altogether the practice of discounting interest and of reducing transaction cost.

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President Marcos said that the government's primary economic goals designed to establish an industrial sector that will be competitive world wide include the following thrusts:

1. Selectively in what sectors or projects to promote efficiently.
2. A new export-promotion program that will specify products to promote and markets to penetrate.
3. Making the presence of the Philippines felt in all major trading centers in the world through the setting up of an international network of overseas trading offices.
4. The active participation of the small and medium-scale firms in the export drive to encourage entrepreneurship among the people.

The President urged the business community to continue the dialogue with the government since their views are vital in the decision-making process.

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November 6—

THE FIRST LADY, IMELDA R. MARCOS delivered the Philippine policy statement before the General Assembly as a special representative of President Marcos.

The First Lady urged the United Nations General Assembly to launch during its current session crucial global negotiations on the vital economic issues taken up during the Cancun summit.

“The people of the world who face starvation see that global negotiations is the only way to reform the inequities of the current international economic order,” the First Lady said.

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The First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos enumerated three Philippine proposals during her 20-minute speech at the United Nations General Assembly.

These are:

1. A broad consensus is essential for the negotiations to begin in view of the interdependent nature of the problems to be addressed.
2. Package agreements will have to be arrived at in order to accommodate the different priorities of the participants.
3. It may be desirable to assign specific agenda items to specialized bodies in order to reduce the subjects of the negotiations to manageable proportions while maintaining central guidance and coordination.

After her speech, nearly 100 top diplomats in the General Assembly hall congratulated the First Lady.

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Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile said that the Defense Ministry will continue to live up to the expectations of the people in promoting their safety and welfare, in defending their security and integrity, and in attaining their aspirations.

On the occasion of the 42nd anniversary celebration of the Defense Ministry held in Camp Aguinaldo, the Defense Minister said that the Armed Forces must continue to pit its strength, courage and determination against, the forces which persist in undermining the people's democratic ideals.

“The judgment of history shall place a high mark on the readiness, willingness and wholehearted support of the Filipino soldier in adjusting himself to the demands of the New Republic,” Enrile said.

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Deputy Prime Minister Jose Roño, concurrently Local Government Minister, directed all barangay brigade coordinating councils at the regional, provincial, city, municipal, and barangay levels to convene immediately to formulate plans for direct involvement of brigade members in the livelihood program.

Some seven million members of barangay brigades and other existing barangay structures throughout the country were mobilized in support of the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran (KKK).

“It is both timely and necessary that existing barangay institutions be tapped to generate a community-based awareness of KKK objectives and assist in the organization of livelihood activities at the barangay levels,” Roño said.

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Education Minister Onofre D. Corpus urged the heads of universities and colleges to face the realities of changing times.

Corpus told some 50 presidents, owners and deans of institutions of higher learning from all over Region I in the second of a series of dialogues in Baguio City.

He fielded questions on MEC Order No. 57 which provides guidelines for the immediate organization of student associations and publication of campus organs.

Corpus was assisted by Assemblyman Felipe de Vera, minister of state for education; Deputy Minister Hermeneildo C. Dumlao; Director Bernardo Reyes of Region I; and City Superintendent Jose Olarte.

The Minister stressed the need to recognize peaceful assembly and publication as primordial rights of the nation’s studentry.

“But so transcendental are the rights that they impose heavy responsibilities and demand accountability from school authorities and students,” Corpus said.

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November 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS reiterated the commitment of the Philippines to the principle of humanitarianism for which the Red Cross stands.

“As one of the 150 nations that are signatories to the Red Cross-initiated Geneva conventions, the Philippines is committed wholeheartedly to the principles for which your organization stand,” the President said to the participants of the 24th International Conference of the Red Cross at the Philippine International Convention Center.

Some 800 delegates from 128 Red Cross Societies, 149 countries, and 63 international organizations attended the six-day conference, the second to be held in Asia since 1934.

The President pointed out that the good work of the organization has taught the Filipino people to share what they have with all of mankind.

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November 8—

THE FIRST LADY, IMELDA R. MARCOS urged press attaches and the government’s media representatives abroad to take a more aggressive and positive stand in their jobs.

“You must approach your work with a positive, broad outlook—on our people, the country and the other nations. You take the offensive and don’t be content yourself with being defensive,” she told them during a two-hour meeting in New York presided over by Media Affairs Minister Gregorio S. Cendaña.

Mrs. Marcos also briefed the participants on development programs of the government, particularly the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran (KKK) livelihood programs.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1981). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 77(45), cclxxxvii-ccxcii.

Official Week in Review: November 9 – November 15, 1981

November 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS awarded trophies to the “Outstanding Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries” in pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 27 or the Tenant Emancipation Act.

The beneficiaries were those who excelled in their respective fields of endeavor as agrarian reform farmers by intensifying livelihood projects.

The President gave the awards at the President’s office at the Batasang Pambansa in Quezon City.

Agrarian Reform Minister Conrado F. Estrella said the awarding ceremonies highlighted this year’s celebration of the signing of P.D. No. 27, which has emancipated more than one million tenants in rice and corn lands.

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President Marcos has recommended to the Batasang Pambansa five measures to intensify efforts to build on the benefits of land reform.

Addressing the resumption of the fourth regular session of the Batasan, the President said that these measures would increase incomes and employment opportunities in the countryside.

The five recommendations by the President for the Batasan are the following:

1. Open more lands for production, by reclassifying all lands into their most economic use, including public lands classified as “forest” by laws.
2. Extend priority in the grant of leases and other similar dispositions to those who occupy lands which exceed 18 percent, as indicated in forestry and related laws, which they have occupied, farmed, and developed for a reasonable period of years, as determined by the Ministry of Agrarian Reform and the Ministry of Natural Resources.
3. Give priority to landless rural workers and upland farmers in the use of idle or abandoned agricultural, timber and marshlands.
4. Extend additional fiscal incentives to timber-license holders and corporations created to develop industrial tree plantations, which employ individually or collectively upland farmers and landless rural workers.
5. Give priority in the grant of loans to organized upland farmers and landless rural workers who implement viable KKK projects.

The President emphasized that land reform is the country’s declaration of self-reliance.

November 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered National Sugar Trading Corporation to distribute sugar more efficiently with retailers.

The order was prompted by mounting complaints of sugar shortage in Metro Manila.

“There seems to be something wrong with the distribution,” the President said.

President Marcos was apparently convinced that the shortage was artificial and that the commodity was being held up somewhere along the way, from the producers to the markets.

The artificial shortage was attributed to the suspension of operations of the Victorias refinery, the Balayan refinery and by the hitches in the shipment of sugar from the Visayas to Manila, Nasutra Vice President Jose A. Unson said.

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Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile directed the heads of the four services of the armed forces to use their power of summary dismissal against abusive subordinates.

Enrile ordered that erring military men shall not be allowed to go scot free after their dismissal from service, but to be turned over to civilian authorities having jurisdiction over their cases or misbehavior.

“Serious indecorum and lapses in discipline among the AFP soldiery should be dealt with drastically in accordance with disciplinary procedures,” Enrile said.

He added that the principle of command responsibility should apply at all times in order that the AFP will continue to live up to the expectations of the people.

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Deputy Prime Minister Jose Roño said that barangay elections would be held in April or May.

Roño explained that the local government code had to be approved first because it would provide that manner of electing barangay officials.

The KBL is choosing between two modes.

They are:

1. Direct election of the barangay council members for each position; and
2. Positions will be based on the number of votes the candidates get, so that the topnotcher becomes the barangay chairman.

Roño said the election would be held “because the people asked for it during the June 16 presidential elections and referendum.”

November 11—

THE BATASANG PAMBANSA gave President Marcos full support for his proposal at the Cancun summit on food, monetary and financial issues, as well as a new round of multilateral trade negotiations, and on the question of energy.

In a resolution authored by Minister of State Emmanuel Pelaez which the assembly passed unanimously, the President and all pertinent branches of government were asked to pursue active efforts to maintain the momentum of the spirit of Cancun.

The Batasan resolution also expressed the appreciation of the assembly for the efforts of the President and his participation at the Cancun summit.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS stepped into the conflict-ridden coconut industry as he appealed to its leaders, particularly the United Coconut Mills to come up with a short-term solution to the immediate problem of the coconut farmers.

The President called the attention of the industry leaders to the plight of the small farmers who could not sell copra at reasonable prices.

The coconut levy of 76 centavos per kilo, suspended September 9, was restored by the President October 2 at 50 centavos per kilo.

The President explained that the levy feeds the coconut industry stabilization fund which is split as follows: 20 centavos for the replanting program, 4 centavos for the scholarship program, 12.5 centavos for the insurance program, 8.5 centavos for the mothballed coconut mills of the Unicom, 3 centavos for the operations of the Coconut Planters Federation, and 2 centavos for the Philippine Coconut Authority.

The President directed Majority Floorleader Jose Roño to recommend policies regarding problems of the coconut industry.

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November 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS welcomed the proposals of the Swedish trade mission to push Philippine economic development.

The President said that he had referred to the Cabinet for immediate study the economic proposals submitted by the trade mission to study the economic proposals submitted by the trade mission.

The Swedish group submitted the proposals during a call on the President and the First Lady shortly before the luncheon tendered by the First Couple for them at Malacañang.

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THE FIRST LADY, Imelda Romualdez Marcos arrived from a 12-day official mission aboard a Philippine Airlines DC-10 from San Francisco.

President Marcos led a group of welcomers at the Manila International airport.

Mrs. Marcos reported that in her address before the UN General Assembly, she reiterated the stand of the President in the Cancun summit to launch global negotiations so as to achieve a new international economic order.

She also reported success in convincing several leading American businessmen and industrialists to invest in the Philippines to boost the livelihood program of the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran (KKK).

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November 13—

United Nations, New York

THE SECOND COMMITTEE unanimously adopted the Philippine sponsored resolution calling for the implementation of the Manila Declaration on World Tourism.

Speaking on the passage of the resolution, Foreign Minister Carlos P. Romulo, who was head of the Philippine delegation to the 36th session of the General Assembly said, "This development is a recognition of the efforts and contributions of our government, particularly Tourism Minister Jose D. Aspiras, in the field of tourism."

The resolution urges states to give due attention to the principles of the Manila Declaration in the formulation of tourism policies and programs within the framework of the work of the World Tourism Organization and in accordance with their national priorities.

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THE BATASAN steering committee has finally reported out for approval the proposed rules of procedure in impeachment proceedings, the first ever to be adopted by a Philippine legislative body.

Deputy Prime Minister Jose A. Roño, majority floor leader and committee vice chairman, presented the proposed rules in substitution of a resolution filed earlier by six KBL assemblymen.

The rules will apply in all proceedings for the impeachment of the President of the Philippines, members of the Supreme Court, the members of the Supreme Court, the members of constitutional commissions.

These officers may be removed from office on impeachment for and conviction of culpable violation of the Constitution, treason, bribery, other high crimes, or graft and corruption.

The rules will also apply to all public officers who, by special law, may be removed from office on the same ground.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS called on all government ministries with attaches abroad to coordinate and create an efficient information apparatus.

In a letter to the cabinet executive committee, the President deplored the expenditures allotted for the information drive abroad of various ministries and government agencies which show very little effect.

"I noticed that we are spending substantial amounts for representatives abroad of the Ministries of Public Information, Tourism, Trade, Defense, and Labor, as well as the bureau of internal revenue," the President said.

The President directed a review of all offices involved with the aim in view of coordinating their operations.

* * * * *

DEFENSE MINISTER Juan Ponce Enrile encouraged dialogues with any sector of society who feels aggrieved or oppressed.

"Dialogues are essential to the dynamic exchange of communication in the conduct of government," Enrile said.

In a speech before members of the Rotary club of Makati West at the Mandarin Hotel, Enrile said that the government has always adhered to the time-honored principle that reasonable men can always come together and peacefully resolve the issues that divided them.

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November 14—

FOREIGN MINISTER CARLOS P. ROMULO said that the United States can make its most important contribution to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations by intensifying its role in the development of the region.

“This is the message of the 260 million people of the ASEAN to more than 200 million Americans and we express the strong hope that the message will be heard,” Romulo said.

Speaking at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy of Tufts University, Romulo said the US has lasting interests in Southeast Asia and “there are indications that America is on the road to intensifying its relations with ASEAN on both government and private sector levels.”

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A BILL making a recruiter and his foreign principal liable for the salaries of a recruited worker during the lifetime of his conduct was filed at the Batasang Pambansa.

Parliamentary Bill No. 1739 was authored by all the 16 assemblymen of Region 6 (Western Visayas) led by Teodoro U. Benedicto.

The authors said that unscrupulous recruiters have lured jobseekers to apply for overseas employment with promises of high-paying positions.

The Solons said the recruited laborers were often deceived because the terms and conditions of their contracts were superseded by different contracts with reduced benefits, and that some had to return home at their own expense, disappointed and poorer.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS said that the Philippines is ready to demonstrate its determination to help feed the hungry people of the world.

The President said that the country could do this because it was already sufficient in food staples.

“We are actually an exporter of rice,” the President said.

The Philippines no longer expects food assistance from the United States under US Public Law 480 because it has become self-sufficient in food.

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AGRICULTURE MINISTER Arturo R. Tanco spearheaded the move in following up the proposals to discuss and map out strategies to overcome world hunger during a current session of the Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome.

Other members of the Philippine delegation include Natural Resources Minister Teodoro Peña and National Food Administrator Jesus Tanchangco.

Addressing the FAO conference Friday, Tanco, two-time president of the World Food Council, called for preparatory meetings to pave the way for global negotiations on food issues.

“First, we must draw up a concrete and integrated global action program to be placed within the international development strategy for this decade and the next,” Tanco said.

Tanco urged the body to organize through FAO and other UN food bodies to draw up a global action program food.

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November 15—

INFORMATION MINISTER GREGORIO S. CENDAÑA called on the broadcast industry to provide more public affairs and cultural programs.

“Broadcasting is a tremendous power and responsibility which can never be wholly addressed to commercial ends,” Cendaña said to the participants during the seventh-level management conference of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodcaster sa Pilipinas at the Philippine Plaza.

Cendaña stressed the concept of broadcasting as a public service to the nation. But he added that this should not mean that broadcasting should be the service tool of government interest and objectives.

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SPEAKING FOR THE government broadcasting network, Cendaña stressed that “it is not the intent of government to compete with private broadcasting networks.”

He said the work of the government network is complementary to the services provided by the private sector.

Cendaña said that in the future, the government broadcasting network would direct the greater part of its attention to public affairs and cultural programs, and a little less to entertainment.

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Source: National Library of the Philippines

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1981). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 77(46), ccxcv-ccc.

President's Week in Review: November 16-30, 1981

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

November 16—

THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos underscored the role of water in solving the problems of man.

Mrs. Marcos was guest of honor at the opening of the 3rd Asia Pacific Regional Water Supply conference at the Philippine International Convention Center which was being attended by delegates from 21 countries and representatives from allied professions.

“We must not treat water as a sectoral activity but as a starting point to solve various human problems like ecology, energy and mobility,” Mrs. Marcos, said.

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Education Minister Onofre D. Corpuz and leaders of student militant organizations agreed on four items of their 5-point demand in a three-hour dialogue.

Corpuz and the students agreed on the following:

1. Students will draft their constitution and by-laws and determine policies and programs on students activities in accordance with the charter.
2. Student officers will be elected in popular elections to be called yearly or in accordance with usual frequency.
3. The student leaders will be consulted and will participate in the formulation of school policies affecting students.
4. The school administration, having the machinery, will collect student fees and hold the fund in trust for disbursement by the council.

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President Marcos said that radio stations considered liabilities to society would lose their franchises Dec. 31, 1981.

At the same time, those which have not complied with technicalities of the law would be given one year to remedy their deficiencies, the President said.

The President made these announcements in a meeting with the Kapisanan ng Mga Brodcaster sa Pilipinas (KBP) and also with owners and managers of broadcast stations.

He also announced a revamp of the board of censors for motion pictures, renaming the body the Board of Standards, which would super vise and control moving pictures, television, and radio programs.

The President increased the membership of the board and required all to be appointed to it to work full time.

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Gen. Fabian C. Ver, Armed Forces chief of staff, told some 60 defense experts from 16 countries in the Asia and Pacific that the Philippines has been successful in blending conventional and non-conventional war fare against insurgency.

“Our own experience in Mindanao is an example of a situation that effectively uses both conventional and non-conventional methods of combat operations,” Ver said to the participants of the five-day Fifth Pacific Armies Seminar at the Century Park Sheraton hotel.

Ver said that the nature and pattern of the conflicts that have emerged in Asia have implicitly set the requirements for a new orientation in defense operations.

Training is geared towards the development of the soldier as the most critical factor in our defense capabilities because the soldier remains the most important weapon in combat, Gen. Ver said.

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November 17—

A COMMITTEE has been formed to study proposals aimed at eliminating hazing at the Philippine Military Academy (PMA).

Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile organized the committee and appointed as chairman of the committee Deputy Defense Minister Jose M. Crisol, a PMA alumnus and former faculty member at the academy.

Enrile said the committee will draw up policies that will rid the PMA of the malaise called hazing.

The formation of the committee came in the wake of the death of cadet Andres S. Ramos, Jr., son of the commanding general of PC-INP Recom 4, who was allegedly beaten up senior cadets.

Hazing, one of the initiation rites at the Philippine Military Academy, entails making plebes (first year cadets) to undergo physical hardships.

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President Marcos named three more associate justices of the Supreme Court, leaving only one vacancy in the 15-member tribunal.

The President had pledged to fill up the high court vacancies to speed up the disposition of cases and ease the backlog of about half a million cases.

The new justices are former Tanodbayan Vicente Ericta and Justices Efren Plana and Vanicio Escolin of the Court of Appeals.

The President appointed former Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Bernardo Fernandez as new Tanodbayan.

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Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile ordered an investigation of the alleged spying activities of the military and the police at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

Enrile acted on request of UP president Edgardo J. Angara following the arrest of Pat. Francisco Basierto of the Northern Police District.

The incident, Enrile said, if verified to be true, is a violation of an agreement he had entered into with student leaders, and a serious violation of laws.

“No less than the credibility and sincerity of the ministry and of the government are at stake in this case and that, therefore, every effective measure must be instituted to insure that there will be no infraction whatsoever of the agreement,” Enrile said.

Enrile ordered Maj. Gen. Prospero A. Olivas, acting PC chief, to find out who are involved, including those who may have ordered the alleged spying activities. He said those found guilty would be dismissed and be criminally charged.

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Prime Minister Cesar Virata decided to ask Meralco to increase its electricity service to an area with-in a 60-kilometer radius from Manila during a cabinet meeting.

While reviewing the energy program, the cabinet agreed also to rationalize the pricing system of electricity—noting that power companies servicing contiguous municipalities charge varying rates, resulting in popular dissatisfaction.

Increasing the coverage of Meralco, which charges the cheapest rates for consumption of up to 200 kilowatts per month would mean a better deal for more families.

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The Bureau of Internal Revenue is coming out with new rules on the release of tax refunds to minimize irregularities in the processing and mailing of refund claims.

“The new procedure will come in the form of increasing the amount covered by the tax credit memos,” Revenue Commissioner Romulo M. Villa said.

Under existing rules, the BIR issues tax credit memos for refund claims of P30 and less and treasury warrants for higher refund claims.

Villa said that tax memos can only be encashed by taxpayers with their employees, while treasury warrants of refund checks can be encashed almost anywhere.

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The Supreme Court has upheld the power of the military tribunals to try civilians charged with subversion and other crimes involving national security despite the lifting of martial law.

“Whatever skepticism may exist as to the continued suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus and the power of the military commission to try the petitioners in view of the lifting or martial law, should be dispelled by the clear mandate of Proclamation No. 2045 dated January 17, 1981,” the tribunal through Justice Hermogenes Concepcion, Jr. said.

With this ruling, the tribunal dismissed the habeas corpus petition tiled by former newspaperman Saturnino Ocampo, Antonio Liao, Ramon Isberto, and Evelyn Sarmiento—suspected leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

The tribunal said that the proclamation mandated existing military courts to continue with the final determination of cases pending before them which may not be transferred to civilian courts because of double jeopardy.

The tribunal also cited previous rulings sustaining the jurisdiction of the military commissions to hear and determine cases of rebellion, subversion, and other crimes against national security filed against civilians.

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November 18—

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER JOSE A. ROÑO, majority floor leader and chairman of an 11-man presidential committee on coconut policy, said that the assemblymen and Unicom officials will meet at 3 p.m. today to iron out minor details in the agreement.

Roño said the assemblymen had earlier proposed the following:

1. Daily prices of coconut oil in the world market must be published every day.
2. These prices should be translated in terms of copra, minus costs of handling, labor, oil extracting, etc.
3. Copra prices must be published daily in Manila, Cebu, Lucena, Legaspi, Tacloban, Davao, Cagayan de Oro, and other places where coconut is normally traded.
4. Unicom copra dealers should be the price leaders. They should buy copra at the quoted prices, minus production and handling costs.
5. Any individual trader may buy and compete with present dealers or Unicom buyers with assurance that Unicom will buy the copra bought from the localities.

The immediate need is to remedy the present deplorable condition of the coconut industry which must be saved for national interest.

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President Marcos urged the free peoples of the Pacific to undergo sacrifices and discourage adventurism by predatory countries.

“All countries should now look into their own indigenous capability so that they can contribute whatever strength they may have to show that there is a will to sacrifice, which probably may not be enough to offset any adventurism. We should, perhaps, for the time being demonstrate our intention and willingness to sacrifice in the hope it may be sufficient to prevent a catastrophe,” the President sounded this call before participants of the Fifth Armies Management seminar, who called on him at Malacañang.

The seminar is being held in the Philippines for the first time. It is designed to enable participating countries to exchange information and views on the peace and security of the region.

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The First Lady and Minister of Human Settlements Imelda R. Marcos said that the first duty of educators would be to provide an environment of freedom, inspiration and motivation to the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran.

Mrs. Marcos said that educators should be sensitive to the needs of the people, instead of taking care of their own needs.

“You should put yourself always in the place of others so that you will have the right perspective in terms of values,” the First Lady said at the opening session of the Philippine Association of Schools’ Superintendents’ meeting.

Minister of Education Onofre D. Corpuz and Deputy Minister Hermenegildo Dumlao led the officials during a meeting at the University of Life in Pasig.

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Metro Manila Gov. Imelda Romualdez Marcos said that the families of the victims in the film center tragedy will receive aid from both the government and the contractors of the project.

Mrs. Marcos said she has directed Human Settlements Deputy Minister Jose Conrado Benitez and Cultural Center authorities to extend the necessary support and assistance to the victims and their families.

She said the injured workers were being taken care of in hospitals.

The First Lady said that while accidents like this happen, especially in projects of the size of the Film Center building, steps are being taken to prevent its repetition in the future.

Mrs. Marcos directed Highways and Public Works Minister Jesus S. Hipolito and Human Settlements Deputy Minister Jose Conrado Benitez to probe into the cause of the tragedy.

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The United Coconut Oil Mills (Unicom) agreed to buy copra in all its buying stations in accordance with the international price of coconut oil to the extent of its share in the market.

During a caucus of 56 assemblymen from the coconut-producing regions, the Unicom agreed to help perk up copra trading which has gone down to a record low for several months.

Unicom officials said that at the international price of 25 cents per pound of coconut oil, it would buy copra at the rate of P1.50 per kilo at the mill gate and at P1.71 per kilo if the international price is quoted at 27 cents.

The Unicom said it will post daily in all its buying stations throughout the country the international price of oil which will serve as basis for computing the local price of copra in the provinces.

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November 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS banned video game machines and ordered the national police and the Metro Manila commission to enforce the ban strictly “without any exception.”

The President’s directive was in response to the widespread outcry against the proliferation of video game machines, the latest craze among students in amusements centers, mostly in Metro Manila.

The President enforced strictly the ban in accordance with Presidential Decree No. 519, which was issued on July 23, 1974.

Under Section 1 of PD 519, the operation, possession, use and importation of pinball and slot machines and other similar devices or paraphernalia used for their operation is unlawful and punishable by fine and imprisonment.

In a letter to the President, the Chamber of Filipino Retailers, the Barangay Ladies Auxiliary brigade and the Kalipunan ng Kababaihang Filipina said “the devilish contraption wreak havoc on the morals and discipline of our youth.”

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The First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda It. Marcos said that the Manila Film Center will be finished on schedule despite the construction accident last Tuesday.

This assurance was given by Mrs. Marcos in a breakfast conference with media representatives in Malacañang.

The First Lady, prime mover of the Cultural Center Complex where the Manila Film Center is being constructed and chairman of the Filipino Motion Picture Development Board.

Mrs. Marcos said that the staging of the festival is an international commitment and will help launch Manila as the center of film market in Asia.

November 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS hailed the growing stronger relations between the Philippines and Saudi Arabia.

During a luncheon tendered by the First Couple in honor of the visiting Jeddah Mayor Mohammed Said Al-Farsi and his party at Malacañang, the President expressed confidence that the visit of the mayor would further forged a lasting relationship between the Philippines and Saudi Arabia.

He cited the efforts of Saudi Arabian Ambassador Fawzi Ahdul-Majid Shobokshi in promoting friendship between the two countries.

The President also expressed gratitude to the people and government of Saudi Arabia for the hospitality extended to Filipinos—government officials, professionals, and pilgrims to Mecca—as well as to the visit of the First Lady to Jeddah.

The mayor of Jeddah said that it will be the continuing endeavor of his people to cultivate and promote strong friendly relations with the Filipino people.

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A consortium of general contractors, specialty contractors, and engineering consultants has been formed as Kapisanan ng mga Kontratistang Pilipino, Inc. to get a bigger slice of the billion-dollar infrastructure projects in the Middle East.

The move is in line with a recommendation submitted by Public Works and Highways Minister Jesus S. Hipolito to the cabinet’s executive committee calling for increased government financial support and reorientation of the country’s banking system so that Filipino construction firms could get more contracts abroad.

Hipolito said that the domestic banking system should shift from its collateral orientation to contract orientation since big Filipino contractors have a hard time raising cash and guarantee bonds needed to win multi-million dollar contracts.

They eventually lose out and end up as project consultants, Hipolito said.

The Kapisanan ng mga Kontratistang Pilipino, Inc. stressed that prime contracts will not only increase employment opportunities for our people but will also invigorate our construction industry.

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November 21—

JEDDAH, SAUDI ARABIA, became the sister city of Metro Manila today as the First Lady, Metro Manila Gov. Imelda R. Marcos, and Jeddah Mayor Muhammed Said al-Farsi signed the Declaration of Relation and Sister City Affiliation.

The agreement was signed at the reception hall of the Philippine International Convention center.

Mrs. Marcos said that this was the first time that Metro Manila had forged a bond with another metropolis “which is no less than the great religious and cultural city of Jeddah.”

Mayor al-Farsi described the new relations between the two cities as a “milestone in the relations of the two cities, as well as between the Republic of the Philippines and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.”

Both agreed to cooperate in strengthening ties of mutual understanding and international friendship, and to promote the welfare of the citizens of the two cities.

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Economic Planning Minister Placido L. Mapa, Jr. said that the new five-year development plan for the year 1983-87 is being finalized by the government to give higher priority to low-cost housing programs to be implemented nationwide.

In an address before the 1981 Congress of the Philippine Institute of Environmental Planners, Minister Mapa said the increased emphasis on the housing program is intended to remedy the housing backlog that has piled up over the years.

To be led by the Ministry of Human Settlements, the housing program is expected to get more substantial government allocations and attention in the new development plan.

Minister Mapa called on environmental planners to support the housing program by helping plan and design housing units and projects that will meet the growing demand for low-cost housing in both urban and rural areas.

“The government will rely on your ingenuity, especially in designing houses with as high a local content as possible and a minimum of imported materials at the least cost,” Mapa said.

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President Marcos urged all government agencies on the national and local levels to actively support the athletic development program of the country.

The president also assured his continued personal support to the program during a meeting with the 450 man Philippine delegation to the” 11th Southeast Asian Games who called on him at Malacañang.

With Rizal Gov. Isidro Rodriguez as head, the delegation was composed of 15 officials, 75 coaches, trainers and managers, 248 male athletes, and 113 female athletes, who will see action from Dec. 6-15 during the 11th Southeast Asian Games.

Michael Keon, executive vice president of the SEAG organization committee and Gintong Alay project chairman, presented the teams to the First Couple.

The President underscored the importance of athletics in bringing about the true dimensions of democracy, which are equalization and social mobility.

The First Lady, Imelda E. Marcos, conveyed her wishes for the triumph of the teams, saying that “your victory is the victory of the Filipino people.”

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Labor Minister Blas F. Ople was worried about current job losses cresting towards 68,000 even before the year is over.

Ople asked Prime Minister Cesar E. A. Virata, chairman of the cabinet to assign top priority in the cabinet calendar to the unemployment situation and job creation plans to offset the economic slump.

He urged the prime minister to investigate the alleged sabotage of President Marcos’ call for new industrial investment.

Ople charged that prolonged inaction or careless veto of new enterprises by some government financial institutions were sabotaging national efforts to create jobs.

“The government should recognize and encourage the small minority of entrepreneurs who elect to risk their capital in new enterprises to counter the current economic and unemployment problems,” Ople said.

Minister Ople pointed out the case of a Bulacan businessman whose bid was rejected by the DBP had committed P40 million of his own funds to start a yarn factory.

The new factory would have created 3,000 jobs in a depressed municipality of San Ildefonso, Bulacan.

Ople urged government financial institutions to set the example of helping generate employment by supporting those who would like to put up new business ventures.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS has declared Nov. 29 as “Bible Sunday” and the period from Nov. 29 to Dec. 5 as “National Bible Week.”

In issuing Proclamation No. 2134, the President said that “it is fitting and proper that national attention be focused on the important role played by the reading and study of the Bible in molding the moral fibre of our citizenry.”

The President encouraged radio stations throughout the country to air Bible readings everyday during the Bible Week.

“The Bible has been recognized by both Christians and non-Christians alike as an excellent source of principles for the development of moral character and personal discipline,” the President said.

Ricardo B. Jumawan, Philippine Bible Society general secretary, said that Catholic and Protestant congregations throughout the country will observe Bible Sunday in their respective churches.

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November 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS opened the 27th congress of the International Chamber of Commerce at the Philippine International Convention center.

The congress with some 1,000 business leaders from 75 countries attending will review economic problems and seek opportunities for trade.

“Our organization believes that the accent should be on the creation of new wealth in the Third World through enabling a dynamic private sector to play an unfettered role,” and ICC spokesman said.

The Philippines International Business council headed by Rodolfo Cuenca was in charge of arrangements for the congress, held in this part of the world for the first time.

The First Lady delivered the welcome address as governor of Metro Manila.

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November 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS called today on the 27th Congress of the International Chamber of Commerce to create a hospitable international environment that will favor the earnest efforts of the developing nations to modernize and develop.

Speaking before the business leaders from 75 countries whose organization convenes in Manila for the first time, the President said, “We really must pull together to reactivate again the world economy and create growth for all.”

He told the participants of the conference that in the wake of the recent summit of heads of state and government in Cancun, Mexico, there was more optimism about the world economic situation and about the overall prospects for economic enterprise as a whole.

The president said the Cancun summit has paved the way for concerted effort and cooperation, but that much hard work lies ahead for all the nations in regard to fulfilling the spirit of the summit.

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November 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered the mobilization of all government agencies to provide immediate assistance to areas stricken by typhoon “Anding.”

The President also directed the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the National Food Authority to monitor the movement of prices of prime commodities in order to prevent unscrupulous traders from taking advantage of bad weather and increasing prices of such commodities.

In his speech at the “Unlad Bahay” award ceremonies in Malacañang, the President said that he ordered the immediate mobilization of government agencies not only to provide immediate assistance but also to help prevent losses.

“Forgive me for having these things in my mind. I am only thinking of the effects of the typhoon on lives, private property, including crops and government installations,” the President said.

The First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos cancelled her appointment at the Philippine International Convention Center to help monitor the situation.

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A group of assemblymen asked President Marcos to review the government position renouncing the Philippine claim to Sabah in view of recent developments in that country which, seriously threaten Philippine security.

In a resolution filed at the Batasan Pambansa, the group headed by Minority Floorleader Mariano R. Logarta said the Philippines has a historic right or legal title to the territory of Sabah and therefore the Philippine claim cannot be renounced unilaterally and without the consent of the Filipino people.

The authors said revival of the Philippine claim would give notice to the world of the displeasure of the Filipino nation over the reported acts of the Malaysian government in giving aid and comfort to foreign-based Filipino rebels subverting the Philippine government.

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November 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, noting the success of the self-employment assistance (SEA) program of the Ministry of Social Services and Development (MSS), urged the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran (KKK) secretariat yesterday to consider it for the barangay livelihood development program.

The President congratulated the awardees for their success despite their handicaps during the SEA Unlad-Buhay awards at Malacañang's Maharlika Hall.

He also congratulated the officials and employees of the MSSD, particularly Minister Sylvia Monies, for being good stewards of the public trust.

"The awardees in fashioning a better future for themselves have set a model for all Filipinos to emulate," the President said.

The SEA program was conceived to develop self-reliance instead of giving outright doles to the needy.

Eligible for assistance are those whose families have not more than P300 per individual or P5, 000 per family.

The First Lady, Minister of Human Settlements Imelda R. Marcos, who is going to the United Nations in New York city next month to speak on the disabled, said she was elated over the success of the SEA Unlad-Buhay program.

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November 26—

President Marcos, getting off from a helicopter which flew him over the path of destruction of typhoon "Anding," directed all provincial officials in stricken areas to submit to him estimates of losses to crops and property.

For two hours, the presidential helicopter flew above tree-tops in Bulacan, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, and Tarlac. These were the provinces hardest-hit by the typhoon which hit Central Luzon Tuesday.

Before taking off, the President told newsmen in an interview that he had authorized the release of initial amounts needed to rehabilitate affected areas on the basis of first reports and requests for assistance from officials of the provinces affected by the typhoon.

After his aerial survey, the President directed all provincial officials of typhoon-ravaged areas to conduct estimates of losses to crops and property.

He issued the same directives to all ministries and government agencies involved in relief and rehabilitation.

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November 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said today that the 11th Southeast Asian Games would be held as scheduled from Dec. 6 to 15.

In an interview with sportwriters, the President said that with or without the problems besetting the organizers, the 10-day multi-nation sportsfest would push through.

The President made the announcement a day after Michael M. Keon, vice-chairman and treasurer of the SEAG organizing committee, said that unfinished facilities threatened to postpone the games.

“Aber Canlas and other contractors are there to meet this problem,” the President said.

Canlas is deputy minister of public works and highways.

“The Ministry of Public Works has assured us that their personnel will do everything possible to make the changes demanded by the Philippine Olympic committee,” Andolong said.

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The First Lady and Human Settlements Minister, Imelda R. Marcos presided over the distribution yesterday of 1,130 land titles to tenant families in Tatalon estate, Quezon city.

Mrs. Isabel Sotty led 10 ceremonial awardees during the ceremonies, which marked the integration of the estate’s livelihood program with the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran Tatalon development project.

Later, the First Lady went to Las Piñas to distribute ownership titles at the Tierra Hermosa Townhomes, where she called for closer partnership between the government and private sectors in building livable homes for the people.

She pointed out that the country needs half a million homes yearly; the backlog has grown to several millions.

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President Marcos ruled that government retirees would get credit for the years they worked as casual or temporary employes in the computation of their retirement pay.

Before this, the years spent as a casual worker were taken out in the computation of retirement pay.

This rule would apply as well to military reservists—who are not in the regular Armed Forces of the Philippines—who were called to active service and fought in World War II.

The President issued this directive to the Ministry of the Budget and other agencies concerned following an inquiry of this point from Malacañang newsmen.

Thousands of government workers retiring under Republic Act No. 1616 will benefit from the ruling of the President.

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Education Minister Onofre R. Corpuz and student leaders agreed in a lengthy dialogue yesterday on policies that would govern student organizations and publications.

The policies are to be ratified in another conference on Dec. 7, and then embodied in a supplementary memorandum order to be issued by Corpuz immediately thereafter.

The meeting also covered protection against further tuition fee increases.

More than 30 campus leaders and journalists representing some 15 associations and universities and colleges in Metro Manila and other key cities and capital towns attended the dialogue.

In the conference, it was agreed that students may publish school organs independently, and that no individual who is not a staff member may determine the contents of student periodicals.

No student may be suspended or denied admission, except for cause and after due process. Students would determine whether to revive the campus constitution and by laws suspended by martial law, or to frame new ones.

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Food Minister Jesus Tanchangco called yesterday for increased agricultural productivity through improved technology to boost farmers' income and bring down prices of food commodities.

Noting the high level of production costs at present, Tanchangco said that increased productivity is necessary to bring down production costs of farmers and reduce their reliance on price supports and government subsidies.

Tanchangco, administrator of the national food authority (NFA), said increasing productivity and bringing down production costs of farmers have become more imperative now with the promise of the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran to help increase farmers' income and penetrate the export market.

Minister Tanchangco spoke at the productivity conference sponsored by the national productivity conference sponsored by the national productivity commission (NEC) at the FTI auditorium in Taguig, Metro Manila.

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British-Philippine relations simmered over the issue of Filipinos eating dog meat as a delicacy. The British are appalled, and the Filipinos are even more appalled the British should be appalled.

The British embassy Wednesday informally approached the Philippine Foreign Ministry on the subject and ministry officials informed them just as informally that this Filipino culinary custom was none of England's business.

It all started when the Sunday Mirror of London two weeks ago front-paged photographs of dogs in the Philippines tied up, ready for slaughter, and eventually for the table as succulent dog stew, spiced with proper and garlic.

Mrs. Thatcher and the British Parliament were properly horrified and the Court of St. James were betokened to express to the Philippines “the abhorrence of the people of this country to the barbaric cruelty being practiced in the manner of preparation of dogs for slaughter for human consumption.”

Tim Dawes, information officer of the British embassy agreed in an interview with the. AFP that the whole thing was an internal affair and and that the government of Mrs. Thatcher certainly did not want the matter to get out of hand.

“The fuss was not really over the eating of dogs but the way they were trussed up and prepared for slaughter,” Dawes said.

Assemblyman Eddie Ilarde of the national capital region reacting sharply to the comment of Mrs. Thatcher said that the slaughter of dogs for food does happen in the Philippines, but it is not a daily affair and does not take place in any market in Manila where such act prohibited as it is in most part of the country.

The British people should be informed that Filipinos are as dog-loving as they are, Ilarde said.

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November 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that cinema arts in Southeast Asia must not be the mirror for Western culture and values; rather, they must uphold the Asian identity.

He pointed out that the cinema industry, being the most pervasive of media, must be the vehicle to protect true social dimensions.

The President spoke to delegates to the 11th Association of Southeast Asian Nations Film festival attended by luminaries in the film industry from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, and the Philippines.

Last night, Minister of Information Gregorio Cendaña urged the the film makers to renew and reaffirm their dedication to common efforts in communications.

“For more than the commercial aspects of the cinema arts, there Ups in every film we bring forth a commitment of ourselves and with t the spirituality of Asia that is our heritage and the creativity of man that is inherent in us all,” Cendaña said speaking at the closing of the Southeast Asian Nation film festival.

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The First Lady Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos underscored yesterday the importance of the participatory role women play today as they move to contribute solutions to problems plaguing a changing society.

Speaking before delegates to the 27th Congress of the International Chamber of Commerce at the Philippine International Convention center, the First Lady called for a greater participation of women in commerce and industry “to bring a human scale to the sometimes in personal business environment.”

She said that the primary role of women in society is still being the anchor of the home and the indispensable transmitter of values.

“I would suggest that in our free enterprise system’s present efforts at reform, the dimension that women can introduce to economic effort can be important and useful,” the First Lady said.

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President Marcos said that he will stop the move in the Batasang Pambansa to review the government's position renouncing the claim to Sabah, formerly North Borneo.

The President told newsmen the Sabah claim is "a security matter" and should not be discussed in open session.

The President also said that there are agreements between him and the Prime Minister of Malaysia (apparently with former Malaysia Prime Minister Datuk Hussein Onn) and that public discussion of the matter would "cause complications which might abort all these efforts."

The Sabah issue emerged again last Tuesday when a group of assemblymen, led by Minority Floorleader Mariano Logarta, proposed a resolution urging the Batasan to petition the President to conduct a review of the claim in the face of developments in Sabah considered as threats to Philippine security.

The President said, however, he is willing to give a confidential briefing to anybody who wants to know the latest situation on the matter on condition that he will not say anything about matter later.

He explained that it would be irresponsible on our part if the Sabah claim will be discussed publicly.

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President Marcos dispatched yesterday seven more helicopters and ordered the blasting of rocks blocking relief convoys to speed up the delivery of relief goods to areas in the Bicol region which were devastated last Tuesday by typhoon "Anding."

Latest figures at the relief centers place the number of those confirmed killed in Anding's wake at 259 while 79 others are still missing. Most of the casualties came from the Bicol region.

At the same time, the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, took to the field to personally expedite the airlifting of relief goods, medicines and other supplies to victims of typhoon "Anding."

Mrs. Marcos motored to the Imelda Relief Center in Paranaque where she inspected the progress of the loading of relief goods into giant C-130 transport planes.

The President directed Maj. Gen. Petronio Lapeña, PAF chief, to make sure that the pilots land on areas that had been isolated by the typhoon, so relief workers could establish relief centers there.

He also directed Highways and Public Works Minister Jesus Hipolito to make sure that highways held engineers cleared yesterday the highway along Jabo, Camarines Norte, which had been blocked by a giant pile of boulders.

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President Marcos ordered yesterday automatic one-year extension of all provisional permits granted to jeepney operators, nipping in the bud an early morning transport strike that threatened to cripple Metro Manila.

The President fitted swiftly following the jeepney strike that started at 5 a.m. Thousands of commuters and office workers were stranded.

The drivers and operator reportedly wanted to express their displeasure over the fielding of 150 more buses in Metro Manila.

They also protested the slow processing of applications for jeepney franchises and indiscriminate impounding of jeepneys by some agents of the board of transportation.

The President settled the jeepney strike even as Transportation Minister Jose Dans, Col. Mariano Santiago of the bureau of land transportation, and Col. Amante Bueno of the Constabulary Highway patrol group sought a solution to the transport crisis.

Oscar Lazaro, president of the Pasang Masda, and organization of jeepney drivers, accompanied by 200 heads of various jeepney operators and drivers associations, met with the President to air their gripes.

After the President reassured them that he would act on their complaints, Lazaro and his group promised to call off the strike.

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November 29—

AMBASSADOR EDUARDO Z. ROMUALDEZ said in Washington Friday the formal signing of the extradition treaty between the Philippines and the United States “is proof of the firm and meaningful cooperation between our countries in the pursuit of justice and peace.”

Romualdez made the statement shortly after signing the treaty which was initialed at the state department last month. He represented the Philippines while state department deputy legal officer Dan McGovern signed for the US.

“Our respective shores shall no longer be a haven of criminals who misuse our or your hospitality and who would make a mockery of our or your system of law and justice,” Romualdez said.

The extradition treaty is the third such treaty ever signed by the Philippines with foreign governments. The first two were with Indonesia and Thailand.

The treaty will now go to the Senate and the Batasang Pambansa for ratification.

Romualdez stressed that beyond the ends of justice which it seeks the extradition treaty also emphasizes the friendship of the two countries whose relations have been enriched by history and common ideals.

President Marcos yesterday directed the foreign affairs ministry to inquire from the US state department on the status of the terrorism cases against US-based Filipino rebels and the alleged refusal of Victor Burns Lovely to testify.

Lovely was supposed to be the key witness but he has reportedly refused to testify before the US grand jury.

“We really don’t know what happened there; whether he really refused to testify or whether he has changed his mind,” the President said.

Something more categorical must be stated in an official document or report so that proper steps could be taken, the President said.

Lovely was seriously injured when a bomb he was rigging at the YMCA exploded over a year ago. He was arrested together with his two brothers.

The explosion brought into the open terrorist plot to bomb various places in Metro Manila last year.

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November 30—

THE FIRST LADY, MRS. IMELDA R. MARCOS, received a delegation of Chinese writers yesterday.

Headed by Yu Holding, a writer-critic and chairman of the Chinese Writers association in Henan province, the group called on the First Lady at Malacañang.

Mrs. Marcos said the Filipino people were highly honored by the presence in the country of famous Chinese writers whose works are sure to make an impact on contemporary times and in the future.

For this reason, the First Lady said, the visit has served to bring the Philippines and the People's Republic of China closer through cultural links.

Yu assured the First Lady that his people were also highly honored in being received personally by her.

The visiting delegation was hosted by the Writers Union of the Philippines under former Senator Maria Kalaw-Katigbak, Baguio Foundation college under Benjamin Salvosa, and the Association for Filipino-Chinese Understanding.

The delegation of Chinese writers is here to return a visit by a Writers Union of the Philippines delegation in Beijing last year. The group was led by Director Andres Cristobal Cruz of Region IV, Office of Media Affairs.

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Source: National Library of the Philippines

Official Week in Review: December 1 – December 6, 1981

December 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS reiterated yesterday that there would be no sudden or sweeping phase-out of passenger jeepneys as he announced rationalization of the city's commuter transportation system.

He announced the arrangements which he had just finalized in the wake of the sudden strike of jeepney operators and drivers early Friday. The President's intervention averted what would have been a crippling Metro Mania transport strike.

The President announced the new arrangements, namely:

1) Jeepney operators would be granted a longer period for renewal of their franchises. Temporary permits to operate expiring Dec. 31, 1981, would be given automatic extension.

2) Processing of provisional permits would now be simplified. A police clearance would suffice. The cumbersome board of transportation requirement that applicants must produce court clearances from every city along the jeepney's route was scrapped.

3) The Metro Manila Commission is now entrusted with over-all supervision over enforcement of an integrated system of compliance with general traffic regulations, the Public Service Act, and the Land Transportation Code.

The President also said that the jeepneymen have promised to cooperate with the government henceforth, not only in the matter of policing their own ranks to curb abuses but also in first taking up grievances with the President or the First Lady.

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The Batasan committee on foreign affairs has readied a resolution asking the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to file a formal protest with the United States government against continued discourtesies and indignities suffered by visiting Philippine nationals at US ports of entry.

Assemblyman and Minister of State Marcial R. Pimentel (KBL, Bicol region) who was authorized to prepare the draft for individual amendments by committee members, said the resolution will be presented to the assembly for approval.

The committee took note of many incidents in which Filipinos visiting the US including those carrying diplomatic passports, are subjected to such discourtesies and indignities by American immigration and custom officers, particularly in Honolulu, Los Angeles, and San Francisco.

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December 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS declared a state of calamity yesterday in 17 provinces affected by typhoon "Anding."

He signed the still unnumbered proclamation during a joint meeting of the cabinet and the Development Authority at the Malacañang state dining room.

The provinces placed under a state of calamity were Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte, Albay, Catanduanes, Sorsogon, Nueva Ecija, Quezon, Aurora, Pangasinan, Bulacan, Tarlac, Pampanga, Benguet, La Union, Marinduque, Batangas, and Bataan.

In his proclamation, the President said the sale of foodstuff, building and construction materials and other prime necessities of life would be at government controlled prices. Violators would be arrested, he said.

The President, during the cabinet-NEDA meeting, fired off the following instructions to the ministers and agencies concerned:

1. The price control council and the national integrated police were ordered to enforce the proclamation strictly to prevent hoarding and profiteering.
2. The Ministry of Agriculture will distribute palay seeds to farmers at subsidized prices.
3. The national food authority will give rice loans at very low interest to farmers.
4. The Ministry of Public Works and Highways to undertake immediate repair or damaged roads and bridges.
5. The Ministry of Transportation and Communications was ordered to ferry fuel supplies and basic commodities to the areas most in need.
6. The Ministry of Education was directed to make arrangements for the late resumption of classes in the storm-affected areas.

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President Marcos announced yesterday the immediate launching of the P328-million Maisagana program to intensify corn production and wipe out last year's dollar loss of \$42 million which went to corn importation.

The program, launched during the six-hour meeting of the cabinet and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) in Malacañang, is aimed at making the Philippines a corn exporter in three years.

The President said that the Maisagana program is patterned after the Masagana 99 program, which turned the country around from the importer to rice exporter.

The program formally starts Dec. 15 when 37 provincial governments, 180 rural bankers, 78 managers of Philippine National Bank branches and other officials gather in Malacañang for the kick-off rites.

The Maisagana will cover 117,000 farmers working 210,000 hectares in 37 provinces and two cities in 12 regions.

A total of P328.5 million will be made available to farmers through supervised credit in the first year.

A World Bank loan of P500 million will be spent on farm extension services for the program, which involves the planting of high-yielding corn varieties called "Ginintuan".

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December 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS approved yesterday the release of P5.7-million as additional fund for road repair of Metro Manila roads and the Carmona-Dasmariñas-Trece-Martires-Naic-Ternate road up to Puerto Azul in Cavite.

The maintenance fund was requested by Public Works and Highways Minister Jesus Hipolito.

Hipolito said the President also allowed the awarding of maintenance and repair works to private contractors through negotiation—instead of public bidding—to speed up road repair.

The money outlay, which will come from the Ministry's confident fund under Batas Pambansa Blg. 80, augments the P9-million requested by Hipolito last June for road repair.

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The Philippine economy is expected to bounce back next year as a result of the similar recovery in the economies of industrial countries, government economists predicted yesterday.

An economic development program prepared by government planners projects a "dynamic and more equitable economic growth process" in the next five years and possibly beyond that period."

The country is experiencing a recession that has hit most major businesses. Government economists view 1982, however, as a jump-off period for recovery. Protectionism imposed by industrial nations is likely to ease and consequently trade with developing nations will improve, they said.

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The five-year economic plan (1983–87) submitted to President Marcos is expected to ride on the world economic recovery predicted to get underway next year.

Prime Minister Cesar Virata and the cabinet, in presenting the plan to Mr. Marcos, said the country would achieve a dynamic and more equitable economic growth process in the next five years.

World economic recovery would bolster growth prospects for the Philippines and other developing countries, they said.

They said that projections show that as the industrial nations rebound from recession, protectionism would ease and trade with developing nations would expand.

This will help poor nations improve their ability to contract and repay external debts incurred for development purposes. It will also influence rich countries to increase financial commitments to the Third World.

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Some 750,000 national government employees, excluding those in government-owned corporations, are expected this month to receive a one-week Christmas bonus.

It will be the second time that state workers will get the benefit after the bonus was first granted in December last year.

Labor Minister Blas F. Ople made the announcement during a dialogue with labor leaders of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines at the Army and Navy Club.

Ople said he was given assurances by the Cabinet that the bonus will be granted anew to the national government employees before the end of the year.

He said the bonus will cost the government P49 million and the amount will be taken from reserves of ministries and various government agencies.

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The First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos left at dawn yesterday for New York, where she is scheduled to address two bureaus of the United Nations on Dec. 9 and 10.

President Marcos, together with members of the Cabinet and other government officials, was at the Manila International Airport to see the First Lady off. Mrs. Marcos' flight left at 12:35 a.m.

United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim announced Monday that Mrs. Marcos was expected to preside over the joint bureau meetings of the UN Commission on Human Settlements and the UN Environment Program, and a separate meeting of the Human Settlements Commission.

Mrs. Marcos, named chairman of the UN Human Settlements [unreadable word]* last year because of her outstanding work as minister of human settlements in the Philippines, said she will discuss with bureau members world plans and programs for a unified human settlements projects.

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December 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS will be the guest of honor at the flag-raising ceremonies today at the University of Life in Pasig as the curtains to the XIth Southeast Asian Games, the biggest sporting event the country will host since the 1954 Asian Games, go up.

The national flags of the 10 member-countries of the SEAG federation will be raised at 9 a.m. with members of the diplomatic mission and heads and members of the delegations invited to the occasion.

The President will actually be standing in for the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, who should have graced the affair in her capacity as governor of Metro Manila, the host city.

The First Lady left for the United States the other day to attend two meetings sponsored by the United Nations.

The President will deliver an inspirational address. As he ends his speech, he will call on every delegation head who will be presented a symbolic key to the city of Manila.

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Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile has urged the mass media not to spare even the armed forces and the defense establishment in their job of exposing irregularities and abuses.

The defense chief assured journalists of his full backing in their search for truth.

"My office will be the first to protect you against intimidation from any quarters in the performance of your legitimate journalistic duties," he said.

Enrile stressed the need to keep the people informed of government doings or misdoings.

“Indeed, we shall only betray the cause of progress itself if the people are not properly informed of the problems we must overcome, the means of surmounting them and the directions we must take in the socio-economic and political fields,” he said.

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The First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos said that the human settlements movement is the answer to the North-South dilemma when she presented this morning the Philippine statements before the United Nations General Assembly.

Mrs. Marcos pointed out that a better approach should be found to insure the future development from rich countries to poor countries shall become self-liquidating and achieve self-reliance.

The approach she suggested lies in the concept of human development in human settlements.

Mrs. Marcos also told the UN delegates that during the fourth session of the UN commission on human settlements, she had proposed that the various UN development agencies work together to transform depressed communities in Africa into authentic human settlements provided with basic needs.

“These projects will bring down from the conceptual to the operational place the meaning of human settlements by making it work in everyday terms among everyday people in everyday situations,” she said.

She also said human settlements are the cradles of humanity, the generators and repositories of the human body and the sanctuaries of the spirit of man.

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December 5—

PRESIDENT MARCOS urged the Ulama Council of the Philippines to play a major role in the efforts to unify the country in the face of the threat of a foreign, godless ideology and the world economic crisis.

The Ulama is headed by Sheikh Ahmad Bashir, whose influence and religious teachings in Islam have spurred the return to the folds of the law of thousands of Muslim rebels and contributed to the peace efforts in Mindanao.

Bashir accompanied the latest group of 205 rebel returnees who were granted amnesty by the President.

“You are the ones who understand the need for the Republic to be strong in order to meet the dangers from the outside,” the President told the Ulama during a meeting in Malacañang.

He said Filipinos, whether Christians or Muslims, must embrace each other as brothers. He noted that Muslim spiritual leaders were chief advocates of peace and unity.

“We must be together. We must be united. There is danger coming from outside,” the President said.

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President Marcos announced yesterday he would convene a party caucus of the ruling Kilusang Bagong Lipunan after the year end holidays to settle once and for all the conflicts involving the coconut industry and to draw up a long range policy for the industry.

To safeguard the interests of the 997,000 small coconut farmers, the President ordered the United Coconut Mills and other allied mills to publish the buying prices of copra and other coconut products at the different buying stations.

This will guide the farmers on the prevailing market prices and let them know at what price they should dispose of their copra, the President said.

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President Marcos, placing himself squarely behind the parents of Metro Manila, refused yesterday to budge from his ban against video game machines.

In an interview at the University of Life where he presided at the flag-raising rites of the 11th Southeast Asia Games, he declared he cannot see any reason why he should change the decision already made.

Referring to the appeal of the federation of video games operators for him to reconsider his stand, the President said:

“Why don’t they send me a memorandum and tell me why they think that their video machines are not doing the youth any harm, and answer all those allegations by the parents who say that because of the video machines, their children are stealing money and cutting classes, and that they are losing control over these young kids who are becoming difficult to discipline.”

The President included the video machines within the purview of Presidential Decree No. 519 of July 23, 1974.

The decree, in response to petitions from parents and civic organizations, prohibits the operation, possession, use and importation of pinball and slot machines and similar devices.

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President Marcos said yesterday it is the intention of the Philippines to host the 1990 Asian Games, nine years after the 1981 Southeast Asian Games which the country will hosting starting tomorrow.

“Yes, we will make a bid but I have to consult my cabinet first,” the President told reporters during a brief interview following the flag-raising rites at the University of Life in Pasig, Metro Manila.

The President also told local and foreign reports that the provision for permanent funding of the country’s sports development program is included in the appropriations act.

He left the UL grounds at 10 a.m. after personally greeting the some of the athletes and officials.

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Minister Gregorio S. Cendaña of the Office of Media Affairs officially welcomed yesterday the foreign and local media who will cover the 11th Southeast Asian Games.

In brief remarks at the Tourism Pavilion, Cendaña assured sports-writers that all communication facilities for their use have all been installed with the said of several experienced personnel.

“We have provided you the most modern facilities needed for your craft backed by competent men and women who are not only familiar with your jobs but highly tested and competent as well,” Cendaña said

Cendaña said this event is nothing new to Filipinos because “we have hosted several international sports competitions in the pasts.”

He said that the hospitality of the Filipino they have now been familiar with are not put ons for the duration of the games, “but are gestures that come straight from our hearts.”

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December 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS established a special stabilization fund yesterday to help distressed mining companies hit by dropping copper prices in the world market.

Current prices of copper in the world market are about 74 cents a pound, a level below break even point for most mining companies.

The fund is targeted for operation at the start of next year. The Central Bank monetary board will administer the fund.

Upon the President's instruction, Minister of Industry and Trade Roberto Ongpin conferred with executives of major copper mining companies to prepare estimates of the fund's requirements and set up the mechanics for drawing on the special fund.

Minister of Information Gregorio Cendaña said the fund "is a novel scheme involving the use of standby loans when metal prices are down and the replenishment of the money with additional deposits when prices go up."

Cendaña said that the President's move reflected his continuing concern for the stability of the country's industries, particularly those providing intensive employment.

It was made clear that once prices improve and the market recovers, the mining industry would accelerate payments on borrowings from the special fund.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS said yesterday that the government's sports development program is part of a determined effort to utilize athletics to combat juvenile delinquency.

Speaking at the awards ceremony at the conclusion of the President Marcos Invitational Golf Classic at Puerto Azul in Ternate, Cavite, the President said there was need to wean the youth from vulgar and adverse influences to their young lives.

Athletics, he said, can provide a wholesome and healthful alternative.

The Chief Executive said, the golf classic proceeds of which will go to the establishment of the Philippine Golf Foundation, is now a part of that effort.

He pointed out that the foundation will be the beginning of a strong and effective effort to utilize athletics in order to lessen the trend towards juvenile delinquency."

The President thanked the sponsors and participants for their support in facilitating the attainment of the foundation's objective of providing the alternative to juvenile delinquency.

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* Unreadable word due to document damage.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1981). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 77(50), cccxxv-cccxxxi.

President's Week in Review: December 7-31, 1981

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

December 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS formally opened the 11th Southeast Asean Games yesterday in simple rites at the Rizal Memorial Track stadium.

The President expressed the hope that the “spirit of cooperation and unity of purpose” of the various nations and athletes participating would guide the peoples of the region in their endeavors.

The Chief Executive congratulated the SEAG organizing committee and the officials and governments of the various national sports organizations for bringing together in Manila the finest athletes of Asia so that they can engage in friendly competition.

According to the President, “sports not only enhance the health of the citizenry but more than this, it imparts the attitudes and values that allows every citizen to make meaningful and substantial contributions to the many tasks at hand.”

The President stressed that this was the reason why the Philippine national leadership regards sports development as a national priority.

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President Marcos ordered yesterday the Ministry of Public Works and Highways to draw up a program for the development of the port of Manila to make it a major international transshipment point like Hongkong and Singapore.

In a directive to Minister Jesus Hipolito, the President also ordered the decongestion of the port area of buildings and other structures erected on land leased from the government by private companies which are not engaged in port-related activities.

He said steps should be taken immediately to ensure that the decongestion could be undertaken with as little difficulty as possible, considering that the leases are of long-term duration.

In another move, the President directed the continuation of plans for the construction of Port Irene on the eastern coast of Cagayan along with the roads leading to it which will make it the first major port in Northern Luzon facing the Pacific.

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December 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered yesterday the confiscation and destruction of video game machines and other prohibited and gambling devises, but gave operators a one-week grace period for inventory purposes.

Implementing Letters of Instructions No. 1176 signed earlier, the President directed Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Finance Minister Cesar E. A. Virata to:

1. “Forthwith take over or cause the taking over of the possession of said devices wherever they may be found and to completely destroy or cause the destruction of the same.”

2. Cancel or withdraw all permits and licenses for their operation.

3. Prevent the entry into the Philippines of any such devices.

The directive followed the President's directive several weeks ago banning video game machines along with pinball and slot machines and similar devices.

The one-week grace period will allow the inventory by a special team of all video machines throughout the country. Operators were warned of arrest if they do not submit lists within a week.

The President organized the special team to supervise strict implementation of the presidential order and authorized the team members to inspect the premises of all commercial video machine operators to ensure enforcement of the order.

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December 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has announced to continue in his efforts to restructure the government through the reorganization of government corporations in order to effect savings.

Under the plan, some of the government corporations will either be abolished, merged or consolidated. There are 92 parent government corporations and 120 subsidiaries.

To hasten the reorganization of government corporations, the President directed yesterday the Special Presidential Reorganization Commission to immediately complete its recommendations so that he could act on them before Christmas.

It was pointed out that government corporations have become an increasingly more expensive form of government function, in terms of salaries alone, compared to the government proper where more workers are employed.

Sources said that the financial corporations will not be touched in the reorganization.

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The First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos urged United Nations members today to adopt a global program of action for disabled persons by giving them the opportunity for "full participation and equality in the world community."

Mrs. Marcos said that the initiatives started by the observance of the 1981 International Year of the Disabled Persons should be continued for the rest of the decade to help improve the lives of the world's 500 million disabled.

She suggested that the global program should be carried out at the national, regional and international levels to attain the IYDP goal—equality for the disabled.

The Philippines has established a national institute for the disabled, she said.

The First Lady cautioned during her speech at the 36th UN General Assembly that the global program should not be isolated from other objectives such as the common quest for peace and development because poverty, malnutrition and conflict abet the disability problem.

In the final analysis this is really to say that our sense of caring for the plight of the disabled is but another phase of the interlinking life of our planet: of nation with nation, of rich with poor, of privileged and the strong with the weak, Mrs. Marcos said.

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She cited the UN system for giving more emphasis recently to the role of various groups in human society such as the children, the youth, the women, the workers and now, the disabled.

The First Lady's speech was applauded by the UN delegates. It was her third speech before the 36th UN General Assembly in observance of the 1981 International Year of Disabled Persons.

December 10—

Soviet Russia will buy from the Philippines 100,000 tons of coconut oil worth \$56 million (\$488 million) starting this month.

This was announced yesterday by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, after a meeting in New York with Soviet Ambassador to the United Nations Oleg Troyanovsky.

The ambassador expressed his gratitude to President Marcos and the Philippine government, through the First Lady, for the sale, saying there is a great demand for coconut oil in Russia.

The ambassador told Mrs. Marcos his country is ready to buy any surplus production of the oil.

The Philippines has an annual coconut oil production of 1.1 million tons. Its major markets are the United States and Europe.

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December 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said yesterday the government would continue to hold down population growth using non-coersive approaches consistent with the country's social and religious values as a predominantly Catholic nation.

The aim is to achieve a two per cent growth by 1985, down significantly from the current 2.4 per cent, and to hit 1.6 per cent by the year 2000, the President told some 700 delegates to the 19th meeting of the International Union of Scientific Study of Population at the Philippine International Convention Center.

The President rejected abortion as a measure in family planning, although abortion has, in other countries, encouraged decreasing resistance.

Catholic church leaders have staunchly stood against abortion.

The President said the government policy reiterates the right of every couple to determine the size of the family and the right to choose family planning methods.

However, he said, the government's long term goal is not focused on numbers but on the quality of life of the people.

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President Marcos cautioned Batasan members again yesterday on discussing: matters affecting national security during the question hour.”

In a letter to Speaker Querube C. Makalintal, the President mentioned a set of questions on the government’s energy programs and policies.

The President said that while the questions submitted may be answered, he was concerned about follow-up and supplementary questions that may require answers involving sensitive matters affecting the security of the state.

He referred to questions and answers involving strategies, pricing, and government-to-government crude supply contracts and arrangements.

The President suggested that in such cases, the Batasan should take up the matter in executive session, in accordance with its revised rules and Article VIII, Section 12 of the Constitution.

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The First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, yesterday said the United Nations system should coordinate the work of its different agencies for more effective results.

Mrs. Marcos was responding to a comment of Dr. Mostafa Tolba, UN Environmental Program executive director, on the apparent lack of interest of world leaders in UN proposals and statements.

Speaking during the opening of the joint bureau meeting of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements and the UNDP, the First Lady told 11 key members of the bureaus, all ranking officials in their respective countries, that the Philippine President receives files of UN documents on diverse subjects and frequently meets UN representatives working in different fields.

The world body, she suggested, should systematize its presentation to government leaders, who have several priorities for their own country and people.

The First Lady said that cooperation and collaboration between UNDP and the UNCHS is a major step forward in streamlining its functions.

The proposal of Mrs. Marcos to set up international models for human settlements is another step toward joint efforts among UN agencies, said Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, executive director of the UN Center for Human Settlements.

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December 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS yesterday urged officials of the public works and public highways ministry to make good or face the consequences.

Hardly concealing his disappointment over the reputation of the former ministries of public works and public highways which he had ordered merged, the President warned that he would not tolerate the past practice of officials to pass the buck on public works and highways projects.

He was obviously referring to various reports of irregularities in the two ministries as well as of unfinished projects for which officials blame each other.

He also urged the ministry's personnel to stop depending on political backing.

The President pledged to protect all officials and employees in government as long as they perform their duties.

He issued five guidelines for the operation of the ministry.

These are:

1. Proper management and maintenance of equipment.
2. Conduct of scientific researches on construction and repair of roads.
3. Adoption of a control system in the issuance of treasury warrant.
4. Cooperation with local officials.
5. More performance and less publicity.

The President stressed these points during the induction of the ministry's deputy and assistant ministers, bureau directors and regional directors of the Ministries of Public Works and Highways at Malacañang.

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Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile has warned members of the integrated national police against wielding power with arrogance.

The defense minister issued the warning Thursday in a speech before members of the Bohol INP in Camp Dagohoy in Tagbilaran city.

Enrile spoke earlier at the 30th anniversary of the Bohol Jaycees whose new set of officers he inducted into office. They were led by Agustinus Gonzaga, president.

In his Camp Dagohoy speech, Enrile said arrogant policemen have no place in the INP because they are organizational liabilities rather than assets.

He said policemen should learn to be a good public relations man, adding that there is no need for an officer to shout at people while enforcing the law.

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December 13—

TOP OFFICIALS of various ministries and other national agencies will meet tomorrow to discuss the mechanics of a program to mobilize all barangay brigades in support of the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran

The program is in accordance with the instructions of the First Lady Human Settlements Minister Imelda R Marcos, KKK sectary general to tap the barangays for the livelihood movement.

Participants in tomorrow's conference are the Ministries of Human Settlements, Local Governments, Agriculture, Natural Resources, Trade and Culture National Defense, and Budget, as well as the National Housing Authority, National Electrification Administration, Metro Manila Commission, and the Office of Media Affairs.

The-conference will be held at noon at the Asian Institute of Tourism in Quezon City.

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December 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS yesterday expressed satisfaction over the sports development program in the country, particularly the Gintong Alay Project, notwithstanding an expected third place finish of the Philippines in the overall standings in the 11th Southeast Asian Games.

After personally awarding the gold medal to sprinter Lydia de Vega, who won the women's 400-meter run in record time.

Elated over the track performance of the Filipino athletes, the President said that he now plans to ask sports leaders in the country to tap athletes not only from schools but also down to the barangay level, including the out-of-school youths.

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President Marcos was the keynote speaker at the opening of the First International Conference of Muslim Women of Asia and the Middle East at the Philippine International Convention Center.

The President underscored the historic and continuing role of Filipino Muslim women in the national life, cited their contributions not only to the enrichment of the country's traditional culture and values, but also in the professions, public administration, and law and order.

Earlier, members of the association of Philippine Muslim women leaders and professionals called on the President at Malacañang and extended their invitation. They pleaded their support to the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran (KKK) livelihood program.

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December 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS yesterday renewed his amnesty offer to rebels and guaranteed their rights to remain as oppositionists if they wished to do so.

But he made it clear that his offer covered only those engaged in political, not criminal, activities against the government.

The President announced this in a speech before a conference of Muslim women in Asia and the Middle East at the Philippine International Convention Center.

He called on Muslim women leaders to help keep Islam pure and clean.

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The Batasang Pambansa yesterday condemned the discourteous treatment of Filipino nationals in US port of entry as a violation of international law and a major irritant to Filipino-American relations.

Unanimously adopting a resolution introduced by the Batasan committee on foreign affairs, the assembly urged the foreign affairs ministry to lodge with the US government a formal protest against the continued indignities suffered by Filipinos, including diplomats at the hand of US immigration officers.

In reaction to the resolution, Foreign Affairs Minister Carlos P. Romulo said the foreign office will take up the matters with the US state department.

Romulo said a move was necessary to correct this insult to both our national dignity and to the individual self-respect of those mistreated.

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Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile commended yesterday the members of the national fire service for outstanding performance of duty in the prevention and control of fires in the country.

Enrile issued the commendation through Lt. den Fidel V. Ramos, chief of Constabulary and director general of the integrated national police in his capacity as chairman of the National Fire Safety council (NFSC).

Enrile said that the outstanding performance of the members of the national fire service in the prevention and control of fires have contributed greatly to the promotion of public safety and the preservation of law and order.

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December 16—

THE FIRST LADY, MRS. IMELDA R. MARCOS, challenged American industrialists today to tap Asia's great economic potential and strategic security location to contribute to the progress and advancement of all mankind.

In a speech during a dinner hosted by General Telephone Electric International president Robert Dressens, Mrs. Marcos said that the last frontier for the advancement of mankind, according to economists, lies in the Pacific where progress will be made at an ever accelerating pace.

In the past, America's ties with the world revolved around the Atlantic and Europe. Today, it has begun to look to the Pacific, she said.

Mrs. Marcos said the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has drawn world interest by the fact alone that it is populated by a quarter of a million people.

She said that America's link with Asia is magnified by its ties with the Philippines, the Philippines performs a strategic role in the maintenance of regional security and the work of economic cooperation.

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Foreign Minister Carlos P. Romulo was honored yesterday by the Bata sang Pambansa for "his vast contributions to world peace and diplomacy" for which he was recently awarded the United Nations Peace Medal.

Albano said the award brought "honor not only to Romulo but also to his country and the Batasang Pambansa, of which he proudly claims membership."

Albano said that in bringing honor to the Batasang Pambansa and our country and by showing to the world that as a people, we are capable of contributing significantly to the attainment and preservation of world peace.

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December 17—

PRESIDENT MARCOS launched the “Maisagana” program yesterday to increase corn yields by as much as five times to boost the country self-reliance in food.

He unveiled the program on the 80th anniversary of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The President directed the Budget Ministry to release P100 million immediately to the Philippine National Bank for lending to corn farmers.

At the same time, he raised the loan ceiling for corn farmers from P300 under the previous “corn” program to P1,450 per hectare for every crop season.

The President, at the launching ceremonies at the Maharlika hall in Malacañang, paid tribute to Filipino scientists who had developed high-yielding corn varieties that could withstand downy mildew as well as corn borers.

He directed the Central Bank to liberalize regulations concerning rural banks, including rediscounting of maturing obligations. He also ordered the Land Bank and the Agricultural Credit Administration to grant incentives to corn farmers.

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December 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS will hold a party caucus with Kilusang Bagong Lipunan assemblymen today to discuss priority bills in the administration’s 1982 legislative calendar.

The caucus—the last before the Batasang Pambansa adjourns for the Christmas and New Year holidays—will consider strategies to ensure enactment of such administration measures as bills on education, labor, and local governments still pending in the Batasan.

The President will brief the majority party solons on the “Maisagana” program he launched Wednesday. This program is aimed at increasing by as much as five times the corn yield per hectare.

The KBL legislators are expected to brief the President on problems in their regions.

The President has indicated that he would discuss today with the assemblymen areas of increased cooperation in the implementation of the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran livelihood program.

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Foreign Minister Carlos P. Romulo said last night he would file a strong and vigorous protest with the US State Department against the reported discrimination of Filipinos at American ports of entry.

Romulo said people who are victims of American discourtesies are entitled to self-respect, adding that he will not allow anybody “to downgrade our national identity.”

He said he will study the Batasang Pambansa resolution condemning the indignities and discourtesies on Filipinos at US ports of entry, particularly Honolulu, Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York.

The resolution said that such incidents are in violation of international diplomatic practices and could lead to the deterioration of Philippines-US relationship.

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President Marcos inducted yesterday former Senator Maria Kalaw Katigbak as new chairman of the revamped Board of Review for Motion Pictures and Television.

He also appointed three vice-chairmen—former Judge Francisco Ma. Chanco, Daisy Hontiveros Avellana, and Naty Crame Rogers—to assist Mrs. Katigbak in reviewing all films and television programs.

The President had earlier told Malacañang reporters that membership in the new board would be increased to “a little over 40”. In the old board there were only 22 members divided into four divisions.

The increased membership would be split into three committees who will work full-time and avoid instances in the past when some members were there on part-time basis, according to the President.

The President saw the need to immediately organize the new board due to the proliferation of sex and violence in films and television programs.

He also ordered an honest-to-goodness study of problems in both industries and a rationalization of their roles in the national life.

* * * * *

President Marcos meeting with bureau directors at Malacañang yesterday, called on all officials and employees of the government to act quickly on people’s grievances.

He issued the call in his remarks before officers of the Bureau Directors Association (Budiras), after inducting the 1981-82 team headed by Customs Commissioner Ramon J. Farolan.

The President said all officials and employees of the government should constitute themselves into an “informal grievance machinery of government.”

At the start of the ceremonies, the President presented awards to former Budiras officers and members who had been elevated to higher positions in the government.

The awardees were led by Information Minister Gregorio S. Cendaña, Health Minister Jesus C. Azurin, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Fabian C. Ver, AFP Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, Minister Jesus T. Tanchanco of the National Food Authority, and Civil Service Commissioner Felimon V. Fernandez, Jr.

In his remarks, the President pointed up the role of officials and employees and their responsibility in acting immediately on complaints and grievances of the people.

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December 20—

President Marcos has signed into law Cabinet Bill No. 34 which introduces the modified gross income tax system in the country starting next year.

The new law, signed by the President last Friday replaces the present tax scheme based on net income.

The new tax system takes effect Jan. 1, which means that taxpayers will file their individual income tax returns under the new scheme in 1983.

Income tax returns to be filed next year for 1981 income will still be under the old system.

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Under the new law, personal exemptions have been increased from P1.800 to P3, 000 for single individuals, P3.000 to P6, 000 for married heads of family and P3.000 to P4.500 for single heads of family and additional exemptions for dependents (children) from P1, 000 to P2, 000.

The new system imposes gross income tax on two principal categories income—compensation income or employment income and business income or taxable net income.

Compensation or employment income is derived from salaries, wages, honoraria, bonuses, pensions, allowances, fees (including director's fee) and other income or similar nature, including compensation in kind.

Business or taxable net income, on the other hand, includes gains profits and income derived from professions, vocations, trades, business, commerce, sales' or from dealings in property, interest, net dividends or securities.

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December 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, in keeping with the Christmas season's spirit of love and goodwill, called on all Filipinos abroad yesterday to join in a mass reaffirmation of faith in their countrymen.

In a special Christmas message to all Filipinos overseas, the President expressed the wish that the mass reaffirmation would be coupled with the "Filipino determination to meet 1982 with courage, hope and trust."

The President said: "The misa de gallo at dawn—the visits to the ninongs and ninangs, the media noche, the family reunions. All these have made the Filipinos stand out as they are—glorious as one race proud in their own destiny and dignity as an emerging nation in the developing world."

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President Marcos authorized yesterday the limited exportation of logs up to April of next year.

He temporarily lifted the log export ban imposed last December 4 on recommendation of Natural Resources Minister Teodoro Q. Peña.

In recommending the limited exportation, Pena told the President that the ban had prejudiced several logging companies who had commitments abroad and who had previously obtained authorization to export from the Ministry of Natural Resources.

According to him, many logging firms in Mindanao were not able to export during the repair of their infrastructures.

Peña emphasized that to enable these firms to recoup their losses he favorably endorsed to the President the extension of their log export authority.

* * * * *

President Marcos has restated the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan's policy to encourage internal debates on issues and even on matters involving individual party members.

Such debates, he said, must be raised and resolved within party ranks.

Speaking at the year end caucus of the ruling KBL party, the President said party discussions must always adhere to established parliamentary procedures and must not revert to the old congressional system whose members acted like individual political kingpins.

The President stressed that within party ruling everybody has the right to question any policy any decision, any actuation of the party.

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December 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said yesterday that any group that uses violence to seize political power will meet the force and strength of the armed forces.

This warning was issued by the President in a speech during the 46th anniversary celebration of the Armed Forces of the Philippines at Camp Aguinaldo.

In warning against abuses, the President said: "To tolerate these few in their ways would be to mock the noble work of the majority and, in the long term, to wreck irreparable harm on the organization and destroy popular faith and confidence in the AFP."

The President announced the following during his speech at Camp Aguinaldo:

- 1) Approved in principle a plan submitted by the general staff to enable the AFP to deal more effectively with internal threat and to take part more productively in national development.
- 2) Authorized the increase of the quarters allowance of officers and men of the AFP effective Jan. 1, 1982 and the grant of additional clothing allowances with units in combat operations.
- 3) Directed the implementation of the original housing program for AFP personnel, both active and inactive, particularly the development of a subdivision along the main thoroughfares close to Manila.
- 4) Promised to look into the feasibility of investing funds of the Philippine Veterans Investment and Development Corporation in KKK projects of AFP dependents.
- 5) Directed the Philippine Veterans Bank, Philippine National Bank and other government financing institutions holding KKK funds, to give priority to KKK projects of the AFP personnel and dependents.
- 6) Requested the KKK Secretariat, through the First Lady, to list down the projects of AFP dependents eligible for KKK loans and funding.

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The First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, came home yesterday after a 20-day mission to the United States.

She announced \$742 million worth of contracts and investments as her Christmass gift to the people, broken down as follows:

- 1) Sale of 100,000 tons of coconut oil to Russia valued at \$56 million.
- 2) Sale of 50,000 tons of sugar worth \$20.9 million at 19 cents a pound.
- 3) An initial investment of \$15 million in the manufacture of prefabricated housing materials.
- 4) A \$50 million investment project to develop the tobacco industry.
- 5) Equivalent worth \$150,000 for the Eye Referral Center of the Philippines.
- 6) An Austrian \$600 million offer for a joint venture for the establishment of a railroad system in the Middle East.

Mrs. Marcos who is secretary general of the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran livelihood movement said that “all these businesses mean more jobs for our people.”

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December 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS declared yesterday that the New Republic was a “basic and fundamental restructuring not only of the political institutions but also of the economic and social institutions” of the country.

In an interview with members of the Malacañang press corps, the President reviewed the events of the year and declared that the country compared to others “is doubly blessed.”

“This past year has been marked by several fundamental changes in our society,” he said. He cited the lifting of martial law, termination of the crisis government, and the setting up of the New Republic in place of the New Society.

The President pointed out changes which had occurred during the year, such as the restructuring of the educational system, the new freedom given to campus organizations and school publications, and the lifting of the limitation on the right to strike.

Speaking of this “new era,” the President declared that “we now return to normalcy because the Old Society was not a normal society.”

“We return to a new freedom . . . a new freedom under the New Republic,” the President said.

President and Mrs. Marcos presided yesterday at kick-off ceremonies for “Maligayang Pasko ’82”, sending off a convoy of truck loaded with thousands of bags for indigent families.

The trucks, manned by wives of Armed Forces officers and Metro Manila mayors, were sent to 26 destinations. Each truck carried 1, 000 bags of goods. ‘

With the First Couple at Malacañang park were their children daughters Imee and Irene and son, Bongbong.

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President Marcos has set a P72-billion ceiling on the 1983 government budget.

Convening the cabinet yesterday. Prime Minister Cesar E. A. Virata disclosed that of the amount of P30-billion would be for ordinary operating expenses of the government.

The planned 1983 budget is higher than the P59.7-billion national budget for 1982 which was signed into law by the President last September 11, on his 64th birth anniversary.

Of the 1982 budget, P32.74 billion for public works to provide for the five-year infrastructure development program.

The cabinet did not release a tentative figure for 1983 infrastructures.

Virata said another factor that would influence the preparation of the 1983 budget is the current review of all retirement schemes, inasmuch as retirement payments and benefits eat up a substantial portion of government expenditures.

The President has already ruled that in the computation of service in the government for retiring personnel, as a matter of justice, the service of contractuels, temporary employees, and military reservists must be covered by the government service insurance system.

The President has already directed the Budget Ministry to change its policy on this matter of retirees, which has brought heartaches and disillusionment to many.

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December 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS yesterday swore in 11 new brigadier-generals of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in a mass induction ceremony held in Malacañang.

Inducted by the President were:

1. Ramon J. Farolan, promoted to brigadier-general, AFP.
2. Luis R. Ridad, deputy chief of PC for home defense.
3. Cesar M. Bueno, assistant division commander, 2nd Infantry division, PA.
4. Ricaredo Albano, chief engineer, AFP.
5. Protacio Depakikibo, commanding officer, 62nd Engineering brigade, PA.
6. Bonifacio Cutilar, secretary of the joint chief of staff, AFP.
7. Leonardo Bugayon, commander of the fleet readiness command, Philippine Navy.
8. Rodolfo A. Ecarma, chief of air staff, AFP.
9. Benjamin Divinagracia, commanding officer, 1st Infantry brigade, Third division, PA.
10. Tornas Dumpit, deputy commander, Presidential Security command
11. Evaristo M. Sanchez, commanding officer of the AFP Medical center.

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President Marcos urged opposition groups yesterday to strengthen themselves and unite for the common good of the people.

He made the statement in an interview with members of the Malacañang Press Corps, where he discussed the state of political opposition in the Philippines.

The President said that for the opposition to be successful, its members should not only sacrifice their individual ambitions, but should organize the party and start in the local areas.

Asked to comment on the activities of persistent oppositionists, the President condemned ideologues who use legitimate opposition as cover but actually are poised to take over political power through violence.

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December 25—

President Marcos, assessing the global situation in an interview with reporters covering Malacañang, categorically stated yesterday there would be no armed conflict in the next five years.

The President said that while the two super powers may not want to fight, “they are not going to be caught napping either, or to be caught on the weaker side of bargaining—in the event that there is bargaining.”

He also said that in the present situation, “the Philippines becomes more important in the sense that we are in a strategic place.”

The President emphatically declared: “I am inclined to believe that both superpowers have decided not to fight the war.”

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December 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS predicted yesterday an economic turnabout in 1982 and consequently, a further improvement of the Philippine economy.

Meeting with members of the Malacañang press corps, the President gave an optimistic appraisal of the economic situation worldwide next year.

He noted that the present tense world situation had resulted in an increase of defense budgets of most of the capitalist countries.

“The fact is, most of the capitalist countries are geared to a war situation. And they are more prosperous in a tense world situation. This has always been so. Korea, Vietnam, the liberation,” the President said.

The President predicted that defense spending will push the American economy forward. “It is the biggest market, the biggest producer in the whole world,” he declared.

The Philippines will profit from this activity, the President said. Specially, he cited metal exports which will be needed by the American defense production effort.

The President was emphatic when he said that the economic situation will further improve in 1982.

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December 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS praised the media yesterday for broadening the perspective of the people and changing their attitude.

The President had great praise for the media, including the broadcast people, for making the ordinary people in the streets aware of the political and social changes which had occurred in the country and in the world during the year.

He assessed the performance of the media since the lifting of martial law in an unscheduled meeting with the Malacañang press corps.

The President decried the tendency of some newspapers toward sensationalism, whose “headlines are all violence and things like that which pander to the baser instincts.”

The President further underscored the vital contribution of the media both newspaper and broadcast in effecting the much needed social and political changes on the people.

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Foreign Minister Carlos P. Romulo yesterday said developments that have taken place recently are beginning to change the world situation.

Interviewed on MBS Channel 4’s “Face the Nation,” Romulo said that the forthcoming US-USSR arms reduction talk provide a basis for hope, for “as long as there is a dialogue and the will on both sides to reach agreement, there is a chance that positive elements will emerge in the course of the negotiations.”

However, the foreign minister stressed that there is still a need to initiate a process that should lead to general and complete disarmament through the development of detente and confidence-building measures and the strengthening of institutions for the peaceful settlement of international disputes.

Asked about the prospects for peace in 1982, he said that the uneasy peace that prevails in the world today will continue, “for no power on earth, no leader of any nations will be willing to plunge the world into a nuclear holocaust.”

Romulo stressed that the UN Experts Group on Disarmament was able to assess the armory of the superpowers and concluded that they have attained the apogee of their technological expertise and armaments, making them capable of incinerating ail of humanity if a conflagration should break out. But he predicted there will be no global confrontation.

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December 28—

Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile said yesterday that outgoing year 1981 has been very fruitful and rewarding.

In a year-end report to President Marcos, Enrile cited Defense Ministry successes and accomplishments under the new dispensation brought about by the lifting of martial law last January.

He stated that with normalization, the ministry, particularly the Armed Forces, maintained its peacekeeping and law-enforcing functions, with the Constabulary assuming a primary role, and other units providing support and assistance.

The Armed Forces, he said, were able to contain criminality within manageable levels despite unfavorable socio-economic conditions primarily generated by increased oil prices.

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Agriculture Minister Arturo R. Tanco Jr. ordered yesterday the immediate recall of 8,413 infant-weighing scales delivered by the Philippine Nutrition Foods Corporation to the National Nutrition Council, following reports that they were defective.

Tanco who is chairman of the NNC, also ordered an investigation of the purchase of the scales amounting to P1, 049,942.40 to pinpoint responsibility and to punish the guilty parties.

Earlier, audit commission' Chairman Francisco S. Tantuico Jr. informed Tanco that "there is clearly an attempt to defraud the government through the delivery of the grossly defective and substandard scales."

The baby-weighing scales were delivered to the NNC for distribution to the various barangays for the use of nutrition workers in the government's nutrition drive.

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The nation needs to solve at least eight major problems in the next five years before development goals can be attained.

This was noted yesterday in a cabinet resolution endorsing Batasan approval of government's development plan for 1983-87, goals, strategies and policies.

Although performance in the last five years has been considered by the cabinet as satisfactory, the economy has to grapple with the remaining and foreseen problems, namely:

- 1) Unemployment and underemployment.
- 2) Low agricultural and industrial productivity.
- 3) Rural and regional growth disparities.
- 4) High dependence on imported oil.
- 5) Inadequate infrastructure.
- 6) Inadequate domestic source mobilization.
- 7) Growing needs of population.
- 8) Institutional bottlenecks.

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December 29—

Deputy Prime Minister Jose A. Roño and several Batasan members are in favor of the barangay election in reaction to a statement of Prime Minister Cesar E. A. Virata that the elections for barangay officials may be scrapped.

Roño and some Batasan members emphasized that the will of the people who opted for barangay elections must be respected.

Roño explained, however, that the Batasan has to approve first the proposed Local Government Code before holding barangay elections.

He stressed the need for-laying down the structure of the local government which include the barangays, before any election of the officials of the smallest political unit of the country.

Roño said that the proposed code shall determine the number of barangay officials to be elected and councils to be formed to insure effective and efficient government operation at the barangay level.

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December 30—

President Marcos declared yesterday a state of calamity in Northern Samar, Masbate, Oriental Mindoro, and Romblon which suffered from typhoon “Didang.”

He issued proclamation No. 2150 after getting detailed reports on the great damage and destruction to life and property wrought by the typhoon which hit these areas Dec. 25 and 26.

The President released P15 million from his contingency fund for the repair of damaged roads, bridges, and school houses.

The typhoon spared Metro Manila but its accompanying rains caused flash floods in low sections and stranded hundreds of cars in the metropolis. “Dinang ” exited to the South China sea at a point 120 kilometers south of Manila.

The President declared the existence of a state of calamity in the “most severely affected areas” to prevent excessive increase in the prices of prime commodities due to profiteering by those who control the supply of these goods.

The presidential proclamation is to enable government, as well as civic, relief, and welfare agencies, to carry out functions during emergency.

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December 31—

President Marcos declared yesterday that barangay elections would be held as approved in the June 16, 1981 referendum.

“The people’s wishes to hold barangay elections, expressed during the referendum accompanying the June 16 presidential elections will be followed,” he told reporters at Malacañang.

The President’s statement doused speculations in some quarters that the barangay election might be shelved indefinitely.

The President said that there is no such move to postpone or delay the barangay election.

The 45,000 barangays throughout the country have been eagerly awaiting an official pronouncement on this matter ever since there was a newspaper report that the elections might be put off indefinitely.

The President made it clear yesterday that the ruling Kilusang Bagong Lipunan favored holding the elections at a proper time “yet to be determined and after deciding on the manner of the elections.”

In discussing the manner in which the barangay elections is to be conducted, the President said there is a choice between an “adversary election” and “election by consensus conducted in the barangay.”

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Minister of Information Gregorio S. Cendaña said the President made the clarification in view of unofficial reports that the barangay elections might be shelved for a number of reasons.

Cendaña said one of these reports said that barangay elections, aside from being expensive, could be divisive at a time when national unity is called for.

He stated that another reason mentioned that the result of the referendum endorsing the barangay elections was only advisory in nature which the national leadership may or may not follow.

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President Marcos today authorized the release of P10 million for the immediate reconstruction of Manila’s City Hall which was damaged by a big fire last November 19.

The President said that he also authorized Mayor Ramon D. Bagatsing to tap other sources of funds, including the city government’s share of the national budget, for the repairs.

The city government needs P30 million for the repair of the City Hall’s fourth floor and the construction of an additional floor, Bagatsing said.

A total of 15 salas of Manila’s Court of First Instance (CFI), the sheriff’s office of the clerk of court, the sheriff’s office, the CFI cashier’s office, and the archives section—all on the fourth floor of the City Hall were damaged.

The President said that Bagatsing had asked for a loan from the Philippine National Bank (PNB) to finance reconstruction of the City Hall.

He said that he ordered the release of the P10 million from the 1981 appropriations of the Ministry of Public Works.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: January 1-10, 1982

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

January 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS stopped government agencies yesterday from entering into negotiated contracts.

He noted the propensity of many ministries and instrumentalities of government going into negotiated contracts, instead of the time-honored practice of public bidding, even if these are not of an emergency nature.

The President said he was disturbed by the number and frequency of negotiated contracts being concluded by government agencies.

To protect the interests of the government and get the most qualified contractor at the lowest possible cost, the accepted practice is for public bidding for certain projects.

The President stressed that to effect savings local leaders should undertake repairs of roads, school buildings and other infrastructure damaged during calamities.

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Gen. Fabian C. Ver, Armed Forces chief of staff, exhorted the Filipino soldiers Wednesday to scale greater heights in their role as defenders of the weak and oppressed and protectors of the country.

Ver spoke at the Kawal Awards rites hosted by the Presidential Guard battalion at Malacañang park.

The Kawal awards, which General Ver initiated eight years ago, are aimed at raising the morale of enlisted men and enlisted soldiery in the country. Twelve enlisted men who have distinguished themselves in non-combat duties and engaged actively in nation-building were chosen for the awards.

General Ver and Bliss Imee Marcos, who acted as chairman of the board of judges, were also presented special citations.

The awardees received citations and gold medallion for their nation-building and civic relations activities.

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January 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS denounced certain people yesterday for exploiting cultural minorities and violating sacred tribal grounds.

The President found out that the culprits were using the name of a foundation. The investigation showed that tribesmen were made, to pose in various stages of undress or forced to perform in strange or erotic ways.

Unless a person or entity is allowed by the Office of the President to enter unexplored tribal sanctuary, they would be violating Presidential Decree No. 1017, he said.

The decree issued in 1976, penalizes violators, including unauthorized scientists or scholars who wish to study these tribes.

Unexplored tribal grounds include:

1. Communities of isolated tribes in the remote parts of T'boli, South Cotabato. This extends from the forests of Mt. Malibato, Mt Parker and the entire mountain range through Mt. Busa to the Manobo Blit-Tasaday reservation.
2. Habitat of tribes in the Daguma mountain range and the forests of Kulaman valley in Mindanao.
3. Forests between Ransang and Candawaga, Quezon; the towns of Bataza, Palawan in which tribesmen under Ambilan Antal live.
4. Other areas where isolated tribes live as isolated the President may declare covered by PD 1017, on recommendation of the Panamin Minister Manuel Elizalde, Jr.

The President stressed that it is unlawful for any person or group, without permission of his office, to enter unexplored tribal sanctuaries and subject the cultural minorities in those area to study.

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January 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said yesterday that the board of review for motion pictures and television, in addition to its work as censor, will assist, in uplifting the quality and standards of the two industries.

The President told newsmen that the board, now headed by former Senator Maria Kalaw Katigbak, will help implement the provision of Executive Order 640-A issued Jan. 5, 1981, which prescribes guidelines to “promote and enhance the preservation, growth, and development of the motion picture art and science.”

He said he would announce more appointments to the Katigbak board shortly. He is also planning to increase the membership of the Board of Review for Motion Pictures & Televisions from 24 to a little over 40.

The new board will be divided into three divisions and its members will work full-time.

According to the President, the operations of the board will be funded from income being derived from authorized casino operations.

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President Marcos ordered yesterday a more aggressive international public relations and marketing program, especially in support of the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran.

He issued Executive Order 756 expanding the role of the Philippine International Trading corporation in the promotion and development of trade as the government’s international marketing agency.

The President directed Trade Minister Roberto V. Ongpin, chairman of the PITC, to activate an international trading network based an aggressive promotions program.

The PITC, as the government’s international marketing agency, will rely mainly on the commercial attaches and the commercial analysts. Executive Order No. 756 authorizes PITC to deputize the commercial attaches in carrying out PITC’s trading functions.

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Information Minister Gregorio Cendaña, anticipating the President's policy of a more visible and aggressive drive to project more sharply the Philippine image to foreign audiences, has redrafted the government's information plan.

Service attaches from other ministries and agencies are also undergoing reassessment in line with the President's directive to streamline their functions.

This is in line with the order of the President that the information, public relations, and trade promotions effort would be carried out and maintained more aggressively.

January 4—

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PRESIDENT MARCOS took yesterday a direct hand in the investigation of the kidnapping of sportsman Tomas Manotoc and ordered all military regional commanders and police officials to use underground contacts to secure his safe release.

The President took these steps after the disclosure of the demands, requiring top-level consideration, contained in the ransom note received from the kidnapers.

The demands included the release of imprisoned top subversives leaders and amnesty for the kidnapers.

A Malacañang statement said the President was "very concerned" about the safety of Manotoc and said this should be the primary concern of all military and police elements assigned to the case.

Malacañang also called on the Manotoc family as well as the media to cooperate in efforts to solve the case and cautioned against the circulation of wild and false speculations insinuating the involvement of the President and his family in the matter.

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The First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos called on leaders and members of the movie industry to present the best of the Filipino people and culture in the coming Manila International Festival and asked them to set aside whatever tribal differences that exist in the industry.

Speaking before representatives of the movie industry at Malacañang's Heroes Hall, Mrs. Marcos said the primary aim of the film festival, dated Jan. 18-19, is to established Filipino identity and his capacity to relate with the rest of the world as a human being.

Mrs. Marcos also expressed the hope that the festival would not only bring material rewards to the country but also peace and understanding among countries of varied ideology through the medium of films.

She asked the movie people to come to the film festival not as guests but as hosts to the representatives of 48 nations.

In turn the movie people, the members of the Film Academy of the Philippines, pledged their support for the coming International Film Festival.

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January 5—

THE FIRST LADY, IMELDA R. MARCOS, yesterday appealed to all sectors to concentrate their efforts in saving the life of sportsman Tommy Manotoc, who was reportedly kidnapped last week for P20-million ransom and the release of political detainees.

“My personal sentiments about aspects of this shocking incident are irrelevant. For the moment, we must all concentrate our prayers and efforts on saving a human life, whatever his political affiliations. As a mother I am always careful not to transmit my prejudices to my children, especially my political biases. In a world of conflicting values, beliefs, and political ideologies, the vulnerable and the inexperienced young are the easy targets, the sacrificial lambs. It is all too clear that leaders and parents who address themselves to the poor and to poverty must give priority to the children because they are the future,” the First Lady said.

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January 6—

THE CUTOFF SCORE for the education courses in the National College Entrance Examination (NCEE) may be raised to improve the quality and social standing of teachers.

Education Minister Onofre D. Corpuz will present this proposal to the NCEE advisory board in a meeting this morning.

Last year's cutoff was 35 percentile for all courses, which means that the upper 65 per cent of all NCEE takers were qualified to go to college. The cutoff for those intending to take up education, however, was set higher, at 45 percentile.

This year, Corpuz wanted to raise the cutoff score to 50 percentile.

Corpuz said people will regard teachers better if they know these have gone through a more rigorous screening and training.

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The Batasang Pambansa's committee on agriculture will file a Cabinet bill aimed at hastening the growth and development of the abaca industry next Monday.

Agriculture Minister Arturo R. Tanco, Jr., committee chairman will introduce the proposed measure.

The bill seeks to create an abaca investment and development fund to be administered by an Abaca Investment and Development Company.

Tanco said the measure seeks to solve some of the basic problems plaguing the abaca industry as identified by the Fiber Development Authority.

Some of these problems, Tanco said, are the disorganization of the small abaca farmers who are producing fiber mostly by hand, lack of knowledge of the grade of fiber they produce and sell and the absence of a cohesive national organization of abaca farmers.

The consensus called for the setting up of a necessary fund so that the farmers could help finance their private development projects, Tanco said.

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The agenda will be topped by a review of the 11 major industrial projects. The Cabinet will discuss the viability and funding of the \$4-billion projects.

The industrial projects are:

1. Cooper smelter in Isabel, Leyte, to process locally produced concentrates into cooper metal.
2. Phosphatic fertilizer project in Isabel, Leyte.
3. Aluminum smelter in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental.
4. Diesel engine manufacturing project.
5. Cement industry rationalization.
6. Coconut industry rationalization.
7. Integrated pulp and paper project.
8. Petrochemical complex in Limay, Bataan.
9. Heavy engineering industries project.
10. The expansion and modernization of the National Steel Corporation.
11. The expansion of the Alcogas program.

The President said he wanted an updated costing of each project and determine which of the projects could be inaugurated this year.

The Cabinet will also take up the possibility of increasing the seed capital for the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran livelihood program and the participation of local governments in building rural infrastructure.

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January 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, presided over his first meeting with the cabinet this year, tackled a heavy economic agenda which stresses industrial production, generation of export goods and employment opportunities, and food production.

The meeting took place at the Malacañang state dining hall, with three major items topping the agenda.

These are:

1. Stepping up food production in conjunction with the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran (KKIC) livelihood program. Toward this end, it might be necessary to increase the P1-million seed capital originally allocated.
2. Accelerate implementation of 11 major industrial projects and calendar the inauguration this year of top priority projects.
3. Involvement of local governments to lessen the cost of constructing feeder roads, schoolhouses, and provincial roads and bridges.

The President has indicated the need to increase the seed capital for the KKK in view of the good response in the rural areas and the long list of programmed projects to be financed by the KKK livelihood program.

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The First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos enjoined yesterday the 150 young Filipinas chosen as usherettes for the forthcoming Manila international film festival to show the foreign visitors the true nature of the country's culture.

Addressing the young girls upon her instructions by the Ministry of Tourism for the festival which starts Jan. 18, the First Lady said, "the only way we can show the true Filipino culture is to emphasize, the good, the true, and the beautiful."

She urged them to bring out the best in themselves as Filipinas and "act graciously and with a thinking heart and a feeling mind.

Mrs. Marcos pointed out that unlike other film festivals the MIFF is truly universal in perspective because even countries which had not participated in similar activities in the past will send representatives.

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January 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has approved a venture with the private sector that would ease the perennial cargo congestion at the Port of Manila.

Joining the government in its massive port development program to upgrade the operations of the Port of Manila to international standards of efficiency and speed, the Andres Soriano Corporation (Anscor) has concluded a memorandum of agreement with the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) to construct, develop, and manage a 25 hectare port complex in Vitas, Tondo.

With the approval of the President, the agreement was signed by Transportation and Communication Minister Jose P. Dans, Jr. and Antonio R. Infante, Anscor executive vice president.

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President Marcos has endorsed the First Manila International Marathon and Running Expo slated January 28-31.

The President said that this event is a most gratifying development, coming as it does in the wake of his solemn pledge to the nation at the opening ceremonies of the 11th Southeast Asian Games in Manila in December, 1981, to give top priority to physical fitness and sports development beginning 1982.

The International Marathon and Running Expo is an excellent way to give sports top priority in the government programs.

Meanwhile, the organizing committee, headed by Siglakas executive director Elpidio S. Dorotheo, decided to reduce the registration fee from P40 to P30.

The Manila Marathon sponsors include Lagerlite Beer, Coca-Cola, Adidas, Milo, and PAL.

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January 9—

A SHADOW CABINET designed to be the nucleus of a strong and enlightened opposition is now being organized by opposition leaders composed of a president, prime minister and ministers, follows closely the organization last Dec. 19 of a coalition of the fragmented minority groups in the Batasang Pambansa.

These twin moves of the opposition groups were apparently in response to the challenge of President Marcos to the opposition to forge a united stand to fiscalize the majority party on matters affecting national interest.

To further encourage the formation of a strong opposition, a bill authored by Political Affairs Minister Leonardo B. Perez and Assemblyman Ronaldo B. Zamora entitled, "The 1981 Assistance and Incentives Act for the Political Opposition" is now being readied for filing in the Batasan.

This is in line with the objectives of building a strong, enlightened, and dedicated political opposition under the modified parliamentary system of government.

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The government has identified 1,687 Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran livelihood projects which will receive financial help.

This was disclosed yesterday by President Marcos after receiving a report from the KKK national secretariat under the Ministry of Human Settlements.

In the Cabinet meeting the other day, the President and his economic advisers discussed the possibility of increasing the funding of KKK because of the demand for more seed capital.

Emphasizing that the KKK is a total commitment of the government and all the ministries, the President said no effort must be spared to meet the KKK succeed.

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January 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS declared yesterday his policy to develop socially, economically, politically, and culturally every town and barangay "before they deteriorate into slums."

The President, accompanied by the First Lady, Minister of Human Settlements Imelda Imelda R. Marcos, spoke at the town plaza of San Pedro, Laguna, during the "Kaganapan ng Pangarap" awarding of land titles to 1,323 families.

The President also announced he would expand the scope of agrarian reform to include the awarding of home lots to rightful occupants.

He recalled that under the Agrarian Reform Law, which he promulgated Oct. 21, 1972, tenants became owners of farms fixed at three hectares of rice and corn lands if irrigated and five hectares if not irrigated.

He later extended the program to include tenanted lands of more than 25 hectares planted to sugar, coconut, making the tenants co-owners through corporations.

The First Lady said the need for homes was the root of the problems she encountered as Metro Manila governor and minister of human settlements.

Now that the people of the town have received their homes, they must now be provided with adequate means of livelihood, she said. The First Lady pledged to provide this through the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran livelihood program.

The President said that the government policy now would be not only the proper allocation of home lots in the towns, but also the improvement of the towns under the Ministry of Human Settlements.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: January 11-17, 1982

President's Week in Review: January 18-24, 1982

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

January 18—

THE PRESIDENT spoke at ceremonies commemorating Constitution Day under the auspices of the Philippine Constitution association at the Maharlika hall of Malacañang.

He emphasized the futility of violence and that the people have seen the results of internecine strifes, the sufferings of the people in the South, and what terrorism can do in Manila.

The President lamented that the opposition, once prepared to provide the nation with parliamentary balance, was now more concerned with parroting issues and slogans of the rebels.

President Marcos warned the opposition yesterday not to compel him to use his extraordinary powers all over again, by joining the opposition who propose violence and terrorism.

The President said: "We mark this day as a moment of reaffirmation of our common faith in the fundamental law of the land", during the Constitution Day.

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January 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS told the US congressional delegation headed by Rep. Joseph P. Addabbo that the return of peace and order in the South had made it possible to implement an economic development program in the area with the aid of the World Bank.

The President briefed the delegation on the Philippine situation during the one-hour meeting.

The President told the members of the US delegation the following developments.

These are:

- 1) There would be elections this year and the next two—this year for barangay officials, next year for the regional legislative assemblies and executive councils of Regions IX and XII, and in 1984 for the Batasang Pambansa.
- 2) The peace and order situation in the South had been established.
- 3) The Communist party and any party, which utilizes violence to attain political power is outlawed in the country.
- 4) The country is now developing its geothermal energy which will replace some of the most costly hydroelectric projects.
- 5) The Philippines has adopted a program of self-reliance in providing for the basic requirements for fighting insurgency.

The President Marcos opened the First Manila International Film Festival (MIFF) last night with the hope "that the cinema might help us to understand our world together."

The President said that no medium more powerful or immediate in its impact on human society as the cinema.

His audience included illustrious names in the film industry, international box-office crowd drawers and other movie dignitaries from all over the world.

The President said that the discovery of the motion picture is among the highlights of human achievement and he also challenged the film makers of the world to provide insight on the culture of our time.

He stressed the relevance and meaning to film festivals like the MIFF because of the need of film makers and craftsmen for some sign of recognition that their work touches the life around them.

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The First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos welcomed film industry luminaries from all over the world to the First Manila International Film Festival.

Some 1,000 foreign guests, including some of the world's biggest producers, best directors, and famous film stars, were present.

Discussing the rationale behind the 12-day film festival, the First Lady said the primary concern is to make film, the most democratic of the arts, help man achieve peace and understanding.

The First Lady said that the Manila Film Center, built in 170 days at a cost of P170 million, is the evidence of art as a commitment to cultural progress.

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January 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS laid down several measures to increase the amount of loanable funds for private business and also to sustain the country's economic growth.

The President instructed the Central Bank to set aside funds for long-and medium-term loans to hard pressed but viable industries during his address before the Batasang Pambansa.

He emphasized that the new measures are designed to place industries in a position to take full advantage of the projected recovery of the international market in the latter part of 1982.

The President also announced the following:

- 1) The relaxation of credit and the increase in the amount of loanable bank funds through the reduction of reserve requirements on bank deposits.
- 2) The abolition of the P5-million industrial fund and the P70-million stock market fund. The funds set aside for the two financing schemes will utilize a new lending program of the CB.
- 3) That banks will be allowed to write off for income tax purposes reasonable reserves for loan losses. However, any recovery of such loan reserves shall be subsequently considered as income.
- 4) A review of banking laws so that more loanable funds will be made available for housing and the livelihood programs.

The President, anxious for the continuous growth of the country's economy, said that the government will continue to keep viable companies afloat and ensure continued employment by providing capital funding, both for loans and equity investments, to viable enterprises.

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President Marcos submitted to the Batasang Pambansa a seven-point program to help sustain and promote the country's growth and stability.

The President stressed that only Filipinos themselves can shape the destiny of the nation and that it is still necessary for the Batasan to deliberate anew on legislation required for the fulfillment of the development program.

The seven-point program submitted to the Batasan includes:

- 1) The five-year development plan (1983-87) designed to meet variabilities in global conditions and domestic needs.
- 2) Adoption of monetary policies to further expand credit facilities and the reduction of borrowings from the Central Bank.
- 3) Providing for food needs of population by exploiting the country's agricultural potential.
- 4) Greater efficiency and prudence, in management of natural resources, including an integrated social forestry program for Kaingineros and proclamation of remaining unsurveyed and unclassified public lands as forest lands.
- 5) Development of non-conventional sources of energy such as geothermal and dentrothermal to attain greater self-reliance and lesser dependence on oil imports.
- 6) Achievement of a balanced growth in the national economy through the implementation of an industrial development strategy centering on the 11 major industrial projects.
- 7) Deployment of resources in less developed areas, thereby expanding access to the fruits of development.

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January 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos led the inauguration of the 52-hectare shipyard complex—the country's biggest dockyard and one of the largest in Asia at Cabangan point, Zambales.

The President is expected to press a button which will activate the flooding of the dockyard and Mrs. Marcos will unveil a commemorative marker.

The shipyard was built at a cost of \$88.94 million, \$52.95 million of which was financed by Japan's Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund.

The Philippines Shipyard and Engineering Corp. (Philseco) is a joint venture between the Philippine government and the Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd., of Japan.

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The Batasang Pambansa amended the Dangerous Drugs Act of 1972 to strengthen the campaign against drug abuse in the country.

Approved by the assembly, mere possession of marijuana and opium seeds will be punishable with imprisonment from 12 years to-20 years and a fine from P14,000 to P30,000.

Under the law, prohibited drugs include opium and its active components and derivatives such as herein and morphine, coca leaf and its derivatives, particularly cocain, and Indian hemp or marijuana and its derivatives.

The bill, which amends Republic Act 6425, was approved in record time after President Marcos urged the Batasan to enact the measure in 48 hours.

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January 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has assured some 17,000 displaced Vietnamese, Laotian, and Cambodian refugees at the Philippine Refugee Processing center of the continued support of the Filipino people.

The President expressed his gratitude to the 11 participating embassies and 18 international organizations who have contributed to the success of the human rehabilitation project.

The President said that he approved the project because “this commitment is an opportunity to serve you (the refugees) even without the advice and approval of the cabinet and the legislative.”

The President’s go signal to put up the Philippine Refugee Processing center hastened the signing of the Geneva Agreement on International Evacuees.

The President and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, led a large group of international movie personalities, foreign media members, and other Filipino officials to the 380-hectares resettlement area.

The President receives from Tonnu Trung Thu, one of the refugees from Vietnam, a miniature boat as a token of gratitude for the First Couple’s concern for the Vietnamese refugees.

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January 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS urged the private sector yesterday to help increase the seed capital of P1 billion put up by the government for the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran livelihood program.

The President stressed to keep the momentum of the KKK activities to help benefit the broad masses of the people because “we cannot over-emphasize the KKK’s critical nature.”

He announced that 1,687 additional livelihood projects throughout the country were accredited by regional officers of the KKK.

The President emphasized that the implementation of the KKK projects would bring on the deployment of resources in less developed areas and would help increase job opportunities.

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President Marcos conferred the Order of Sikatuna on Vice President Taha Muhyiddin Marouf of Iraq who arrived yesterday at the head of a 30-man delegation to expand the economic relations between the Philippines and Iraq.

The Iraq delegation will hold talks with the President, Prime Minister Cesar E. A. Virata and other officials to discuss trade relations.

The groundwork for the visit of the Vice President Taha Muhiddin Marouf was laid down when the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos visited Iraq last August.

President Hussein assured the First Lady to hire more Filipino construction companies and skilled labor for Iraq's billion-dollar building program, including the continuous supply of oil to the Philippines.

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January 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS stressed that the setting-up of the multi-million peso Lung Center is a significant milestone in the medical history of the country.

The Lung Center is located on Quezon Boulevard Extension and will bring together the most competent specialists in this field of medicine, using its most modern facilities.

The President congratulated the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos and the late Health Minister Enrique Garcia who decide to build the lung center eight years ago.

He stated that the Lung Center of the Philippines does not only encourage Filipino medical graduates to develop their skills and competence in the country, but also reflects a lasting memorial of the government for the physical well-being of the Filipino people.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: January 25-31, 1982

Official Week in Review: February 1 – February 7, 1982

February 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that the Philippines will be able to produce runners of international caliber with a sports program that extends to the grassroots level at the end of the First Manila International marathon at the Rizal park.

Eager to ensure results, the President had ordered a tie-up of the sports development program of the local governments and barangays with the Ministry of Education's Siglakas program and the Gintong Alay program initiated by Michael Keon, its executive director.

The President expressed his appreciation and congratulated the hundreds of athletes from all parts of the country and from other nations of the world who participated in the marathon.

He emphasized that the Manila marathon uniquely demonstrated the great importance of sports in the promotion of peace and understanding among peoples.

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President Marcos and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, led the faithful last night in the prayer for peace during a holy mass in celebration of the Sto. Niño.

The mass was held at the Quirino grandstand and was officiated by Monsignor Federico Navarro. It was attended by a large Sunday crowd at the Rizal park, and capped the two-hour procession that featured the image of the Holy Child from various parts of the country.

The holding of the holy mass and the procession climaxed the nine-day Sto. Niño festivities that started last Jan. 20, with a holy mass officiated by His Eminence, Jaime Cardinal Sin, at the Nayong Pilipino.

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February 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS praised Lord Carrington as one of the most outstanding diplomats of this century, especially in solving the thorny issue of the independence of Rhodesia.

Lord Carrington and his party are here for talks with Foreign Minister Carlos P. Romulo and other top Philippine officials as well as key Philippine businessmen.

Speaking at a luncheon at Malacañang, Lord Carrington praised President Marcos yesterday for his peace-making efforts in the region and for his contributions towards the greater well-being of the Filipino people.

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February 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said yesterday he is ready to fill up vacancies in the judiciary but said he felt it best to wait for the decision of the Supreme Court concerning the resolution of the question on Judicial Revamp Law.

The constitutionality of the Judicial Revamp Law under Batas Pambansa Blg. 129 has been questioned before the tribunal by a judge and seven lawyers.

They claimed that the law will destroy the independence of the judiciary and violate the constitutional provision on the security of tenure of members of the judiciary.

BP 129 calls for a complete overhaul of the judiciary—from municipal courts to the appellate court, excluding the Sandiganbayan.

The tribunal has not ruled on the petition, although Supreme Court sources said there is already a consensus among the justices.

Records show there are 487 vacancies in the judiciary composed of 1,690 salas all over the country. The backlog of cases in the court dockets was reported to be about 450,000 as of December last year.

The judicial revamp law seeks to create 230 more judicial salas, thus bringing the total vacancies to 717 positions.

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February 4—

DEPUTY MINISTER for Human Settlements Jolly Benitez asked the nation's retailers yesterday to tap the \$12-billion mail order business in the United States as part of their involvement in the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran (KKK) program.

In a meeting with officers of the Chamber of Philippine Department Stores, Inc. (CPDSI) at the University of Life, Benitez said that private sector involvement is part of the KKK plan to develop Manila into an import-reexport center like Hong Kong, Taipei, and Seoul.

He asked the store owners to form a consortium among themselves and enter into a joint project with the Ministry of Human Settlements to manufacture selected products along the mail order operations of the US.

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The Batasang Pambansa has finally approved on second reading a stronger and more rigid Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

The amendments was introduced on the floor by opposition Assemblyman Hilario Davide, Jr. was readily accepted by Assemblyman Fermin Caram, sponsor of the bill, in consultation of the committee on justice, human rights, and good government.

The measure provides that any public official against whom any criminal prosecution under a valid information is pending in court will be suspended from office outright.

This includes bribery which is not covered by the present law and other offenses involving fraud upon government or public property.

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February 5—

PRESIDENT MARCOS urged all government executives yesterday to help implement the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran (KKK) livelihood program by identifying projects and working for their approval.

In his speech before the Career Executive Service Officers Alumni association at Malacañang's Maharlika hall, the President emphasized that the KKK is not merely a timely response to the problems and anxieties of the hour, but a long-term answer to the underdevelopment of the rural sector.

The President said the leadership of the career executives counted a lot for the success of the KKK.

He pointed out that the KKK is critical to the creation of employment opportunities and the promotion of productive economic activities in the local community level.

The President challenge all the participants to:

- 1) Take care of a particular project in his field, from project identification, through feasibility study, development and promotion, to implementation.
- 2) Evaluate a major and significant project of the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran in his field or sector.

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The First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos emphasized yesterday the non-partisan nature of the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran livelihood program and asked that all people, regardless of party affiliation to participate in it.

She told reporters that any incidence of partisanship in the implementation of the program should be reported to the KKK secretariat at the University of Life in Pasig.

The First Lady announced that Human Settlements Deputy Minister Conrado Benitez will assign a desk in the KKK secretariat to take care of the needs of the opposition.

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February 6—

THE KILUSANG KABUHAYAN AT KAUNLARAN livelihood program took a great leap forward yesterday when it reached an agreement with 16 private and government banks to identify and finance projects with a total cost of P250 million.

The First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos, KKK secretary general, signed the agreement for the government with representatives of the banks' venture capital corporations at the University of Life in Pasig.

The agreement signalled a breakthrough in the unceasing efforts of President Marcos and the First Lady to generate greater participation and more funding from private sources for the national livelihood program.

The First Lady said the agreement would hasten the implementation of the KKK with the use of the funds and expertise of the private banks.

The agreement with the banks created the Livelihood Venture Program designed to mobilize private and public resources to support the KKK projects.

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The Office of Media Affairs has decided to reduce the number of information attaches in the United States. But it proposed the creation of information centers in three major US cities.

Information Minister Gregorio S. Cendaña told the Batasang Pambansa's public information committee that a stepped-up drive will be launched beginning this year to correct the adverse effects of anti-government propaganda abroad.

Cendaña said that anti-government elements have distorted the truth, and spread black malicious lies about the country which should be immediately corrected.

February 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS stressed yesterday for the diversifying of exports and reducing the country's dependence on imported oil in an all-out effort to break out of the grip of world recession.

In a talk with Malacañang newsmen, the President blamed the vicious process of recessions, protectionism, low prices of raw materials exports, and high prices of imported finished products for the country's trade imbalances.

He emphasized that by diversifying exports, the country can offset the barrier of protectionism thrown up by industrialized countries, including the reduction of dependence on foreign oil by up to 50 per cent in 1985.

The President said that half the country's dollar earnings now go to pay for energy needs.

He called for concerted efforts to implement long-standing agreements designed to bring down protectionist barriers put up by various nations.

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The First Lady addressed the participants of the First International Conference on Actions Needed to Improve Maternal and Infant Nutrition in Developing Countries at the Malacañang Maharlika Hall.

Some 80 nutritional and social scientists, pediatricians, and public health administrators from all over the world will attend the five-day meeting at the Silahis International hotel.

They will discuss and formulate policies and programs on maternal and child nutrition in developing countries.

The conference is sponsored by the International Nutrition Planners forum and the National Nutrition council headed by Agriculture Minister Arturo R. Tanco, chairman, and Dr. Florentino S. Solon, concurrently presidential adviser on health and nutrition, as executive director.

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Source: National Library of the Philippines

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1982). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 78(9), lv-lviii.

Official Week in Review: February 8 – February 14, 1982

February 8—

IMEE MARCOS, chairman of the board of the Music Foundation of the Philippines, awarded cash prizes and trophies to the winners in the grand finals of the 5th Metro Manila Popular Music festival during ceremonies held at Araneta coliseum Saturday night.

Ms. Marcos was assisted by Information Minister Gregorio S. Cendaña and Music Foundation Vice Chairman Teodoro F. Valencia and Antonio Barreiro.

The new awards, Ms. Marcos said, acknowledged the contributions of the country's singers and those in the music industry who are committed to the promotion and development of Filipino popular music.

She also thanked the composers, recording artists and the designers of music present during the awarding ceremonies for the success of this year's Metro Manila Popular Music festival.

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February 9—

THE FIRST LADY, Minister of Human Settlements Imelda R. Marcos called for higher nutrition levels in developing countries at the opening yesterday of the International Conference on Better Nutrition for Mother and Child in the Third World at the Silahis hotel.

Noting that millions of children die yearly from malnutrition and disease, the First Lady, founding chairman of the Nutrition Center of the Philippines, called the nutrition campaign a "great and a beautiful cause."

She emphasized that money is not enough to solve the problems of malnutrition, rather a rational approach to the solution of the problem by developing and motivating the manpower potentials of every country.

The international meet, sponsored by the Nutrition Planners Forum and the National Nutrition Council, seeks to improve maternal and infant nutrition in the Third World, particularly Africa whose poor countries suffer most from malnutrition.

The First Lady said that national leaders must back up nutrition efforts with a strong political will.

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February 10—

THE FIRST LADY, Minister of Human Settlements Imelda R. Marcos, won cabinet approval yesterday for her proposal for the various ministries to set up complementary programs to support the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran.

The cabinet approved her proposal to transform public markets into multi-purpose centers and primary outlets for KKK products.

"If the KKK is really our centerpiece program, then we must all be together in this endeavor," she told the ministers in a meeting presided by Prime Minister Cesar Virata at the Executive House.

She explained the focus on public markets by saying that they are the most important infrastructure in every town, and could be used also as social, political and trade centers.

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President Marcos had ordered the Ministry of Social Services to withdraw food supplies from National Food Authority warehouses to be distributed to afflicted families in Davao del Norte, Davao Oriental, Agusan del Sur, and Surigao del Sur provinces and Gingoog city.

Earlier, the cabinet recommended to President Marcos the proclamation of a state of calamity in four Mindanao provinces and one city ravaged by floods.

The cabinet acknowledged that the last week's floods were the worst ever to hit Mindanao.

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February 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS congratulated bureau of customs men yesterday for stopping the entry of prohibited items such as guns, bombs, explosives, and harmful drugs at the Manila international airport and the post office.

Addressing customs officials on the 80th anniversary of the bureau at Malacañang's Maharlika hall, the President said: "This is one area where I urged every man and woman in the service to exercise extreme vigilance and expect all of you to join in the campaign to stop importation of these dangerous items."

At the same time, he noted that customs collections for the last ten years exceeded the total for the earlier 70 years.

Before 1971, the President said that the bureau could never collect P1 billion in taxes in a single year, but since then the dedication of the men and women in the Bureau of Customs have increased that figure ten times over with collections of P11.45 billion in 1980 and P10.79 billion in 1981.

During the ceremonies, the President presented four organizational and unit awards and 20 individual awards for outstanding performance in 1981.

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February 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS swore in Wednesday Ms. Imee Marcos as chairman and director general and John Litton as deputy director general of the newly created Experimental Cinema of the Philippines in ceremonies at Malacañang.

The new agency, to be known as Cinema, was created under Executive Order 770 to promote the growth and development of the local film industry.

Ms. Marcos will oversee the administration of the Cinema in her capacity as chief executive officer.

She will also:

- 1) Submit for the consideration of the board proposed policies and measures necessary for the operations of the Cinema;
- 2) Direct, supervise and administer the internal operations of the Cinema;

3) Submit an annual report to the board setting forth the Cinema program of operations, its financial status, and a program and budget for the ensuing year.

The chairman is also empowered to organize and appoint personnel for the operation of the Cinema, and coordinate and establish linkages with entities on matters related to its activities.

The deputy director general will implement and administer the policies approved by the board, and supervise and coordinate the operations of the various departments and other offices of the Cinema.

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February 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS approved the signing of a \$325 million loan to the Philippines from a consortium of 21 banks which will help reduce the country's dependence on foreign oil to 50 per cent by 1985.

In ceremonies at Malacañang, Central Bank Gov. Jaime Laya signed for the government while representatives signed on behalf of the 21 banks.

The loans would be used to establish a balance agro-industrial economy through projects such as sea farms, energy program and others.

Mainly, the loans will go to the financing of:

- 1) Blue farming for the development of marine resources;
- 2) Food crops which can be grown only in the Philippines and are therefore, exportable:
- 3) Research into areas such as genetic engineering, transfer of nitrogen-fixing qualities of legumes to rice, corn and other staples crops, etc.
- 4) Energy development projects, such as geothermal, dendro and hydroelectric as well as the locally-developed gasifier, which produces gases from wood to fuel engines.

The President said that by the loan, the banks not only emphasized they have faith in the political stability and economic viability of the country, but also in the competence of the people who will implement the socio-economic and political development plans of the country.

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February 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that foreign investors had shown keen interest in the 11 major industrial projects.

The President indicated that he would push through the integrated steel projects in spite of negative experiences of other nations.

He said that foreign investors were aware of the projects' viability and were attracted by the incentives being offered.

Foreign corporations and governments have made offers of direct investments, joint ventures, and loans with regard to these projects.

The President stressed that the industry will not only tap indigenous iron ore as primary source, but will also cut the price of steel at \$260 per ton to \$160 a ton by manufacturing its own steel requirements.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1982). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 78(10), lxi-lxiv.

Official Week in Review: February 15 – February 21, 1982

February 15—

The BATASANG PAMBANSA has passed a law into a bill which would require the government to publish periodically a list of all disposable public lands throughout the country.

The bill provides that the Ministry of Natural Resources shall publish disposable lands in newspapers of general circulation in the province or city where the lands are situated.

Assemblymen Medardo L. Tumagay and Luis M. Taruc, co-author, said the measure would give all citizens equal chances to get hold of disposable public lands.

He also provides that no disposition or concession will be valid unless the required posting and publication have been complied with.

This bill will benefit millions of landless citizens who could not acquire public lands in their localities mainly because of lack of knowledge that such lands are available.

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February 16—

A 32-MAN DELEGATION of World War II veterans presented President Marcos yesterday with a plaque of appreciation from the Disabled American Veterans and a certificate of appreciation from the Disabled American Veterans Charity of Los Angeles for his interest and concern for the disabled.

“I am certainly personally interested in the disabled,” the President said, “because were it not for the doctors and nurses, we veterans would probably be dead too. So every time I see the disabled, I think of the grace of God.”

The American war veterans were here on a sentimental journey under the “Reunion for Peace” program of the Ministry of Tourism.

The group were headed by Donald Russell, national commander of the American Veterans, and Gordon Elliott, former manager of the United States Veterans administration in the Philippines.

February 17—

METRO MANILA GOVERNOR, Imelda R. Marcos has approved the Manila government plan to scrap the “land-for-the landless,” program.

The approval came following reports that families who received parcels of land from the city have simply put up shanties which defeats the beautification program of the government.

Instead of giving homelots, Mrs. Marcos has approved a plan to put up BLISS-type buildings all over the city for resale at low cost to poor families and city government employees.

Bagatsing said that the city government would soon embark on a mass housing program which will come from government and private banks.

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The First Lady and Human Settlements, Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos called on the country's educators to focus their expertise and know-how on the problems of society and abandon the belief that politics and education do not support each other.

At the National Conference on the Open University System in the Context of Philippine Education held at the University of Life in Pasig, the First Lady said that education can no longer remain apolitical in the face of a changing national society.

Mrs. Marcos noted that in the past, universities have been more concerned with increasing efficiency of operations and upgrading the quality of instructions.

Although this has been a good strategy, she said, it does not address the problems of a changing society and is a slow process in narrowing the gap between the rich and the poor.

This bias for internal efficiency stems from a traditional belief that education is a separate world from politics.

Mrs. Marcos called on the educators whose expertise and manpower resources have the potential authority to reshape a new political culture and to fashion a deeper understanding of the directions the nation is taking.

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February 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS called on for vigilance due to resurging agitation and rebellion in areas where insurgents were taking advantage of political normalization.

The President spoke before the alumni of the Philippine Military academy on their 77th Foundation anniversary at the Philippine International Convention center.

He stressed that insurgency and rebellion are the malaise that afflict developing countries like ours everywhere, and this phenomenon do not disappear even after democratic political orders succeed in meeting their attempts to overthrow government.

The President said that the success in counter-insurgency depends not only on pacification campaigns but also for progressive development and judicious socio-economic programs.

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The First Lady, Minister of Human Settlements Imelda R. Marcos, issued guidelines for the restoration of Intramuros, the old Spanish Wall City.

In a meeting with the Intramuros committee headed by Central Bank Gov. Jaime Laya, the First Lady stressed that the restoration project is to link development with the city's living past.

She emphasized that no new structures should be built along the walls.

Any improvement within the 63-hectare enclave, the First Lady said, must adhere to the basic period design of the Walled City. Otherwise, she said, it would lose its mystery and charm.

She wanted the place to be the home of the National Museum, and probably of the National Archives and the library.

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February 19—

The FIRST LADY, Imelda R. Marcos, received a citation from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) yesterday for her humanitarian efforts for the Indochinese refugees.

Commissioner Paul Hartling, who won a Nobel Prize for his work on refugees, signed the citation.

His deputy, R. Sampatkumar, presented the plaque to Mrs. Marcos in Malacañang. National Housing Authority Chairman Gaudencio Tobias witnessed the presentation.

Mrs. Marcos was cited for her work as chairperson of the task force on international refugee assistance and administration that worked for the opening two years ago of a refugee processing center in Morong, Bataan.

Fifty thousand refugees have been trained at the center for permanent settlement in other countries.

“It is our privilege to serve our fellow human beings; as long as they are here, we will treat them like they are our own people,” the First Lady said.

Mrs. Marcos expressed hopes the refugees when they settle down to their permanent homes will serve as ambassadors of goodwill and peace for all mankind.

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President Marcos has designated Deputy Foreign Minister Manuel Collantes as head of the Philippine delegation to the International Economic and Development conference in New Delhi on Feb. 22–25.

The conference will discuss proposed implementation measures on economic and developmental issues suggested by Third World countries following the consensus arrived at during the North-South summit in Cancun, Mexico last October.

The Philippines, together with 41 other developing countries, has been invited by the government of India to participate in the meeting.

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February 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said yesterday he would officially ask former Sen. Benigno Aquino, Jr., now in the US, to come home and face the court cases against him.

Marcos said that if Aquino “is any man worth his salt who maintains his word of honor, I think he should therefore come back and face the Supreme Court.”

Aquino, whose conviction for murder and subversion is being reviewed, was given permission by the Supreme Court to depart May 9, 1980 for Texas for a heart by-pass operation.

It was President Marcos who referred Aquino for permission to go to Texas to the Supreme Court.

The First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, conveyed the President’s approval to Aquino at his hospital room in the Heart Center.

Aquino had promised to come home after recuperating from his operation. But he never return.

In a letter before he left the country, Aquino promised the President not only to come home after his operation but also to desist from commenting on the domestic political situation or engage in partisan political activity abroad.

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February 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said yesterday opposition groups should get organized into one strong, single opposition party.

The President stressed the need for unity of the opposition because there will be three elections during the next two years, namely, the autonomous governments in the South, barangay elections, and the Batasang Pambansa polls.

However, the President warned the opposition elements not to join the “illegitimate opposition” encouraging violence and terrorism.

He said that it would be all right for the opposition to fiscalize the party in power, but not to fight it with violence.

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The state visit of President Marcos to Saudi Arabia set for next month is significant not only for the willingness of Saudi Arabia to invite for the first time a president of a Catholic country, but also to help resolve the nine-year Mindanao conflict.

The visit of President Marcos would generate goodwill, understanding and strengthen further the bilateral relations between the two countries.

The Mindanao conflict, whose death toll has now reached 50,000, would probably rank high on the agenda for discussions between President Marcos and King Khaled, Crown Prince Fahd, and other Saudi leaders.

Pendatun, President of the Muslim Association of the Philippines (Musaphil) said Saudi Arabia is in the best position to help put an end to the Mindanao problem.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1982). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 78(11), lxvii-lxx.

President's Week in Review: February 22-28, 1982

OFFICIAL WEEKS IN REVIEW

February 22—

THE FIRST LADY, Imelda R. Marcos stressed yesterday that the Philippines welcomes foreign investments in the field of high technology, but it will not allow itself to become a dumping ground of obsolete technology.

She emphasized this yesterday in talks with Takayoshi Shiina, president of Sord, Japan's most advanced micro-computers in the market.

Shiina's visit is connected with the plan to establish operations here, noting the skills of the local manpower and a long-standing trade relations with Japan.

The First Lady said that this relationship should be long-lasting and mutually beneficial because technology can build or destroy.

She added that the Philippines also had the sad experience of paying so much for certain industries and barely getting anything in return.

She also said that President Marcos is more keen on Filipinos developing their technology rather than buying them at high costs.

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February 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said yesterday he would propose the holdings of a summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to discuss the sluggish implementation of the economic projects assigned to the five member states.

The President told the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to report on the status of the delayed Asean projects.

In March, 1976, the Asean economic ministers agreed on the following projects:

- 1) Urea project, where construction is going on with completion expected late 1983 or early 1984.
- 2) Ammonium sulfate project, for Malaysia, now under construction.
- 3) Diesel engine project, for Singapore.
- 4) Soda project for Thailand, now under construction.
- 5) Cooper fabrication plant, for the Philippines, whose feasibility study has just been approved by the Asean economic ministries. The original project assigned to the Philippines was the superphosphate fertilizer plant.

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February 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS signed into law yesterday a tougher Securities and Exchange Act designated to curb the indiscriminate issuance of commercial papers and stop get-rich-quick schemers.

The President signed into law Parliamentary Bill No. 1674, the Securities and Exchange Act, in Canlubang, Laguna.

The new law was designed to plug loopholes and remedy weaknesses of the old Securities and Exchange Act. The measure is also intended to correct errors or disparities in the distribution of power and jurisdiction between the monetary board and the SEC.

The President noted that with a reorganized securities and exchanged commission and a more alert and informed public, no get-rich-quick schemer can commit any of the malpractices which resulted in the financial crisis which hit some government financing institutions the past years.

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February 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said yesterday that subversive groups operating independently of each other in Metro Manila should not be cause for alarm because the Armed Forces, especially the intelligence community, were on top of the situation.

The President said that there are different subversive groups operating independently in Metro Manila and they are all under surveillance.

“They are all tied to the underground organization of the New People’s Army or the Communist Party of the Philippines,” he said.

He said that there are battles raging in the hinterland and these battles are between the NPA and the MNLF.

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AGRICULTURE MINISTER Arturo R. Tanco, Jr., lauded Andres Soriano, Jr. and San Miguel corporation yesterday for developing a high-yield corn seed variety which promises unprecedented harvests.

Minister Tanco said SMC’s investment of P50 million in developing the high-yield corn seed was an example of what the private sector can do in partnership with government to bolster the economy and increase the livelihood of the people.

Tanco commended SMC and its chairman during the inauguration yesterday of SMC’s research center for corn seed in barrio Balayhangin, Calauan, Laguna.

Soriano said that the private sector’s performance is also inspired by the policy of the government.

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February 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said yesterday that there would be no increases in the buying of palay and the retail price of rice at the present time until the executive committee finishes its studies on the matter.

He told newsmen that farmers have been agitating for an upward adjustment in the buying price of palay.

There was immediate opposition to the palay price increase. Other quarters informed the President that to grant this increase would trigger an increase in the price of rice from the present P2.85 a kilo to at least P3.40 per kilo.

Consumers would be the first to oppose any increase in the price of palay and rice on the grounds that prices of other commodities would consequently go up.

The President said he asked the cabinet and the executive committee to submit to him as soon as possible a study on the effects of an increase in palay and rice prices on other prime commodities.

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President Marcos said yesterday to the participants in a meeting of the Stanford Research Institute that the government and the people welcome foreign investments in areas and in ways consistent with the priorities and interests of the Filipino people.

The President cited that ground rules devised for foreign investments attracted \$250 million yearly for the last two years—as against an average of a piddling \$63 million in the previous ten years.

He said that the country is committed to free enterprise and a private sector economy.

But, he emphasized that the most serious obstacle to development of the export trade is the protectionism of the advanced countries which affects not only exports but almost every sector of the economy.

“I find it remarkable and encouraging that in spite of the recent skepticism and anxiety that have lately shadowed the work of multinational companies in developing countries, here in the Philippines we have managed to forge a relationship and a climate for enterprise that are favorable to the growth of both the multi-national enterprises and our own national economy,” the President said.

The President saw in the multi-nationals an effective vehicle for the development of science and technology in this part of the world.

February 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS welcomed yesterday the entry of another foreign investor who had tied up with the Uy family in putting up a P200-million venture to manufacture roofing materials.

The President received the officials of the Philippine Steel Coating corporation who paid a courtesy call at Malacañang.

He also reiterated the policy of the government of welcoming foreign investors who wish to participate in the economic development of the country.

The joint venture was between two big Australian companies and the Uy family which established the corporation in Cabuyao, Laguna.

The Philippine Steel Coating corporation was organized with the Filipino family owing 60 per cent. The remaining 40 per cent were divided equally by the Australian Mining and Shipping, a subsidiary of Conzinc Riotinto and John Lysaght, another subsidiary of Broken Hill Pty., both of Australia.

The joint venture, which employs 250 daily workers and another 250 on contract basis, produces 4,000 tons of pre-painted roofing materials for local and foreign markets.

The roofing materials are manufactured with a four-stage finished system.

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The First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos opened yesterday the KKK sa Philtrade on Roxas boulevard before a huge crowd.

Launched seven months ago by President Marcos, as the centerpiece program of the New Republic, the KKK livelihood program has taken a giant leap towards becoming a reality with the opening of the KKK sa Philtrade.

The KKK sa Philtrade is not only an exhibit area but also an information center and a trading house for KKK products.

“We offer not our words or promises, but our selfless service to bring about a better quality of life for our people,” the First Lady said.

Before her speech, the First Lady opened the exhibits of KKK products from the 12 regions. They included handicrafts, embroideries, furniture, ceramics and metal works, including food items.

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February 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS decreed yesterday that owners of landed estates may not evict tenants and their families from homelots this now occupy without the approval of the Ministry of Human Settlements and the National Housing Authority.

The President issued an order to this effect in a ceremony at the Malacañang grounds where he launched the national BLISS program for communities in landed estates and distributed land titles to the first 259 beneficiaries, all residents of barrio Maimpis, San Fernando, Pampanga.

He turned over the letter of instructions to the First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos for implementation.

Speaking before a crowd from Manila and Pampanga who witnessed the launching of the national BLISS program for communities in landed estates, the President said: “I have faith in the little man. I have faith in the poor and the downtrodden. I have more faith in the poor and the weak than in the rich and the powerful.”

The First Lady, who also addressed the throng, said that it was the program of the government to distribute not only land but happiness and dignity to every Filipino.

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Minister Gregorio S. Cendaña said that President Marcos has committed the government to support the multi-billion-peso private book publishing industry.

Minister Cendaña said that this policy would help boost the industry which is vital to the nation’s intellectual growth.

He said that the government will yield to the private sector areas where it cannot do a better job. Book production is one such area, the Minister told the Association of Southeast Asian Publishers.

The meeting strengthen the resolve of both the government and the private sector to further their cooperation in the book publishing industry.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: March 1-7, 1982

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

March 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS decided to give recommendatory powers to the mayors in the selection of local treasurers and assessors but rejected their demand for control and supervision over the police.

The President spoke before the second national convention of the Municipal Mayors' League at the University of Life.

In the same speech, the President said citizens can freely organize political parties and contest the political leadership of the country via elections.

The President stressed that even Communists may seek political power by parliamentary and democratic means, explaining that the new law does not specifically ban the Communist party, but only organizations that seek to overthrow the government.

Speaking on the mayor's demand for control and supervision over the police forces, the President said that to grant this demand would violate the Constitution.

He quoted the following constitutional provision: "The state shall establish and maintain an integrated national police force whose organization, and operation shall be provided by law."

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President Marcos designated all municipal mayors as action officers of the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran (KKK) in their respective municipalities.

The President made the designation in response to the offer of the League of Municipal Mayors of the Philippines to fully implement the KKK program.

The mayors accepted the challenge made by the First Lady and Minister of Human Settlements to rally behind the KKK and actively assist in its implementation.

The President announced that he had assigned an executive order accelerating implementation of the KKK program through the mobilization of all local governments and the utilization of various local development funds as KKK capital.

The President said each municipality will be provided with seed capital of P100,000, while each province will have P500,000.

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President Marcos announced yesterday the reorganization of the Ministries of Local Governments and Community Development and of Human Settlements.

The President made the announcement in a speech at the national convention of the Municipal Mayors League of the Philippines held at the University of Life in Pasig, Metro Manila.

He later signed an executive order to effect the revamp of the two ministries.

As reorganized, the President transferred the community development functions of the Ministry of Local Governments and Community Development to the Ministry of Human Settlements. Henceforth, the MLGCD will be simply the Ministry of Local Governments.

With its transfer to the MHS, the bureau of community development under the MLGCD was renamed bureau of local government development.

The MLGCD's bureau of local government was renamed bureau of local government supervision.

In his executive order, the President said the Local Government Ministry would be more effective if it specializes in local government development and supervision.

The President said that with the adoption by the government of the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran as a priority program, there is need for an integrated approach to community development. Hence, the need to transfer the MLGCD's community development arm to the Ministry of Human Settlements.

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March 2—

THE FIRST LADY, Imelda R. Marcos, called for concerted action among the developing nations in securing more favorable trade terms from the industrial nations.

Mrs. Marcos made this call in her talk with a goodwill delegation from the People's Bank of China which called on her at Malacañang toward the end of their one-week tour of the country.

The group was accompanied by Central Bank Governor Jaime C. Laya, who has been invited to visit the People's Republic of China.

Mrs. Marcos bewailed the low price developing nations like the Philippines are getting for their raw material exports compared with the high price they have to pay for finished goods from the industrial nations of the West and Japan.

The Philippines exported more goods in 1981 than in 1980, but get less income, she observed.

Philippine traditional exports such as sugar, coconut oil, and cooper have all gone down in the world market, it was noted.

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President Marcos called for the revitalization of the scouting movement to develop the young into patriotic citizens with strong character.

He sounded the call after signing Proclamation No. 2167 declaring the period Feb. 22, 1982, to July 14, 1983, the "Year of the Scout" in connection with the observance of the 75th anniversary of world scouting and the 125th anniversary of its founder, Robert Baden-Powell.

The President cited the "young achievers" who were selected by the Philippine-Jaycees for its Outstanding Young Men awards.

He expressed hope that the number of boy and girl scouts would increase further the scouting movement in the country and that there should be intense interest on scouting in the community.

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March 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered a thorough revamp of the management of the Manila International Airport.

Adopting draconian measures, the President:

- 1) Ordered the apprehension and imprisonment for 24 hours of anybody found loitering in restricted areas, specifically the passenger boarding or disembarking areas.
- 2) Banned from the MIA premises, which he delineated as “five hundred yards of the MIA terminal building,” all municipal policemen of Parañaque, Makati, Pasay, or any other city or municipality.
- 3) Directed the organization, through the Aviation Security command (Avescom), of a Manila international airport police organization in lieu of these policemen.
- 4) Specified that taxis and other vehicles authorized to carry airplane passengers shall be given special passes to enter the premises. All other vehicles which do not carry a special authority shall be banned.
- 5) Limited portage service to those against whom there are no adverse reports.
- 6) Directed the setting up of checkpoints periodically at the entrance and exit points.

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President Marcos warned party mates yesterday against turning the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran into a “pork barrel” and decreed that all qualified entrepreneurs, including those in the opposition, should be provided seed capital to help finance livelihood projects.

The President stressed that the KKK is non-partisan project under the New Republic.

He emphasized that the KKK assistance is being extended in the form of loans that have to be paid back by the borrowers.

The President said he discouraged the giving of KKK funds solely to those identified with the ruling Kilusang Bagong Lipunan.

He said he had asked mayors throughout the country to identify at least one project for every municipality not to exceed P100,000 in cost.

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March 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS acted yesterday to improve the management and corporate setup of government corporations by issuing a letter of instructions separating the positions of chairman of the board and chief executive officer.

He directed cabinet ministers and all heads of government firms to take this step “in order to clearly define responsibilities in the policy formulation and implementation aspects of corporate management.”

The President stated that in the event that the two positions are presently held by one person, steps shall be taken within three days to separate them and the Office of the President will be notified of the resolution of the governing board to this effect in order that the President may order the election or appointment of either the chief executive or the chairman.

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President Marcos, moving to save the country's marine reserves and tourist attractions from ecological destruction, ordered yesterday the arrest or deportation of Filipinos and foreigners making unauthorized and unregulated developments.

The presidential action was prompted by an urgent plea from the University of the Philippines Puerto Galera committee to stop the unregulated activities of an American businessman and a French inside the rich marine cove.

The President was informed by marine biologists of the UP that the destruction of marine and mangrove eco-system was endangering the life of mud-dwelling clams, corals and other marine reserves in the area.

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The First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, cited yesterday the need to imbue youths with a strong work ethic to make them productive citizens of tomorrow.

Mrs. Marcos said it is vital that the youths develop early in life a healthy attitude towards work.

Mrs. Marcos spoke before the 1982 officers of the Children Museum and Library, Inc. and the "Ang mga Lingkod ng Bayan" who took their oath of office before her at Malacañang.

The CMLI organized primarily to help gifted children, is observing its silver jubilee. "Ang mga Lingkod ng Bayan" is composed of cabinet ladies engaged in charity work.

The First Lady enlisted the two groups and in giving the youths a headstart in developing their skills, imagination, and creativity.

She said this can be done within the framework of the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran by giving the youths activities that will keep them busy and productive.

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March 5—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered yesterday strict control of government accountable forms after he received reports of malversed forms and fake residence certificates in several municipalities.

The President ordered the national bureau of investigation to trace the source of fake certificates.

He directed the bureau of internal revenue to institute effective controls in the requisition, issuance, and handling of accountable forms.

Accountable forms are pre-numbered official documents issued by the government in the payment of taxes and other obligations by residents.

Other accountable forms are treasury warrants, cash receipts issued to market vendors, and documentary stamps.

The commission on audit told the President preliminary investigation indicated that malversed funds from fake residence certificates could run into millions of pesos.

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The First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos signed yesterday in behalf of the Philippine government a \$5-million grant agreement with Norway to finance a 5,000-kilowatt mini-hydro-electric plant for the province of Bohol.

The First Lady signed the agreement in a ceremony at Malacañang in her capacity as chairman of the national electrification administration. Norwegian embassy charge d' affairs John Grieg signed for Norway.

The power plant will be ready in the town of Janopol in 1984. It will supplement two wood-burning (dendro-thermal) plants of 3,000 KW each which the NEA is developing in Bohol.

The Janopol mini-hydro plant is expected to hasten the electrification of Bohol island, which has all but six of Bohol island, which has all but six of its 47 towns now electrified.

The First Lady said that hydroelectric power is one of the cheapest of the non-oil energy sources and tapping its potentials could help accelerate the implementation of the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran national livelihood program.

The immediate beneficiaries of this \$5-million grant agreement with Norway will be thirty-one thousand of the province's 133,000 households.

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President Marcos closed yesterday the festering land dispute in two former haciendas of Tabacalera in Isabela when he ordered expropriation of the 11, 448 hectare property for distribution and resales to 5,000 farmer occupants.

He signed Executive Order No. 778 before truckloads of Isabela farmers who had converged at Malacañang. After the signing, the grateful farmers thanked the President.

Speaking in Ilocano, the President promised the farmers that he would fix the lot price by Sunday so that the beneficiaries could immediately take over their lands.

He lashed out at agitators who had been fomenting social unrest among the farmers in the two estates, Hacienda San Antonio and Hacienda Sta. Isabel.

Expropriation of the haciendas, the President declared, will disprove the words of the agitators who "are trying to lead you astray, misleading you to fight those in authority."

The President advised the farmers not to permit communist ideology to mislead them.

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March 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, adopting a retrenchment program, ordered yesterday all government firms to stop remodelling their offices and to suspend repair of buildings.

He issued Letter of Instructions No. 1198 directing all government corporations to submit detailed expenditures of their funds for the construction, repair, improvement, rehabilitation and modernization of their buildings and offices one month from receipt of the LOI.

The LOI also stopped the acquisition of furniture and the purchase of equipment.

The President said expenditures under the new LOI incurred without public bidding as provided by law should be explained in writing if they are presented.

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Miss Imee Marcos, chairman of the board of the Music Foundation of the Philippines, announced last night the staging of the First Philippine Music Industry Awards to be known as the “Cecil Awards” on April 24 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Miss Marcos, who is also chairman and director general of the Experimental Cinema of the Philippines, made the announcement in ceremonies at the Manila hotel.

Miss Marcos said the launching of the music awards is part of the continuing efforts of the music foundation in the promotion and growth of Filipino pop music.

The “Cecil Awards” is named after Cecil Lloyd, the Filipino “Mystery Singer” of the forties and fifties, who became founder and president of the first Filipino-owned recording company—the Philippine Recording System in 1948.

Lloyd was present during the affair and expressed his thanks to the music foundation for the honor and recognition accorded him.

The First Philippine Music Industry Awards is under the auspices of the Popular Music Foundation of the Philippines in cooperation with the Philippine Association of the Records Industry, Kapisanan ng Mga Mang-aawit sa Pilipinas, Kapisanan ng mga May akda ng Tugtuging Atin, Kapisanan ng mga Broadcaster sa Pilipinas and the National Media Production Center.

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March 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS stressed that the Communist party is no longer outlawed and could participate in the coming elections, including the capability to contest political leadership via the electoral process.

However, the President emphasized that any organization whether it is communist or not, which utilizes violence or subversion or any means of deceit to overthrow and undermine the government is illegal.

The president said he decided to amend the Anti-Subversion Law after the country normalized diplomatic relations with the two leading communist countries, the People’s Republic of China in 1975 and the Soviet Union in 1976.

He said that like any other group seeking political power through peaceful means, the CPP will have to go through the routine of organizing, participating in nationwide elections, and capturing a certain Percentage of the votes before it can be accredited as a political party

Under present laws, the President pointed out, a political grouping must get at least 10 per cent of the votes in a national election before it can be accredited by the commission on elections.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: March 8-14, 1982

President's Week in Review: March 15-21, 1982

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

March 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS laid down the basic guidelines to preserve the natural and scenic beauty as well as the marine resources of Oriental Mindoro's Puerto Galera and to prevent its use as haven of drug addicts and smugglers, namely:

1. Directed a seven-man inter-agency committee to enforce the provisions of existing presidential decrees and all pertinent laws, decrees, orders, and regulations to protect and preserve Puerto Galera;
2. Named to the inter-agency the minister of tourism, the minister of human settlements, the minister of local governments, the commissioner of immigration and deportation, the chief of the constabulary, the commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard, and the president of the University of the Philippines.

Puerto Galera took the spotlight three weeks ago when the UP biological station in the area called the attention of the President to what it called the destruction of Puerto Galera's ecology by foreigners.

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March 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS called on local officials yesterday to devote their time and energy to the economic liberation of the people and stop thinking about politics and self-aggrandizement.

The President stressed that the prime purpose of the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran is the economic emancipation of the Filipino people.

He also emphasized that the KKK is but a part of the series of steps being undertaken by the KBL under a strong political leadership.

The President stated that among the steps initiated to free the people from the exploitation of their fellowmen are the following:

1. The land reform program, where the landowners were also encouraged to go into industry.
2. Establishment of small-and-medium-scale industries, and the initiatives offered to build these up.
3. Assistance to liberated tenants.
4. Encouragements given the Samahang Nayons to put up cooperative associations, and factories in order to produce.
5. The Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran (KKK).

All these and others, the President pointed out, make one package aimed at the liberation of the Filipino people from economic problems and difficulties of a developing society.

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March 17—

PRESIDENT MARCOS declared yesterday Prime Minister Cesar Virata would remain in office indefinitely.

This would do away with the earlier proposals to rotate the position of prime minister.

The President stressed that there will be no rotation for the post of prime minister because of the economic crisis and that the present crisis does not allow the changing of horses in midstream.

Previous announcements of the President justified rotation of the prime minister's post as a way of giving opportunity to deserving officials to take a crack at the No. 2 government post.

The executive committee headed by Virata which handles day-to-day government operations is known as the training ground for future leaders.

The President emphasized that anyone could have a chance at the post if he thought he could do better.

"All of us are in agreement that one cannot be selfish in this thing, because nobody knows what will happen to the prime minister," the President said.

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President Marcos and the First Lady, Minister of Human Settlements Imelda It. Marcos, will arrive in Riyadh Sunday for the first state visit ever by a Philippine head of state to Saudi Arabia.

They made stop over Saturday at Jeddah for an overnight stay before proceeding to Riyadh the next day.

The President had a round of talks with King Khaled, Crown Prince Fahd, and their ministers in his three-day visit.

Mrs. Marcos took take along with him cabinet ministers and senior officials.

Crown Prince Fahd invited the First Couple to visit Riyadh when they met during the North-South dialogue in Cancun, Mexico, last October.

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March 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS assailed yesterday the protectionist policies of the developed countries and reiterated the quest of Third World countries for more equitable sharing of the world's wealth not through aid but through trade.

The President addressed his message to the 1082 Asia Pacific International Finance Seminar held at the Manila hotel. The speech, which was read by Prime Minister Cesar E. A. Virata, dwelt on the issue of protectionism.

He blamed the developed countries for the low prices of many Philippine products, from raw material exports to garments to light manufacture.

The President said these products "have been placed at a competitive disadvantage because of excessive tariffs, stringent quotas, and other trade barriers imposed by the developed countries of the West."

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March 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS left for a three-days state visit to Saudi Arabia, the first journey to the Middle East by a Philippine head of state.

King Khaled himself has decided to make the President his personal guest, transforming the visit into more than just a ceremonial state function and accentuating the cordial relations involved in the visit.

The President was accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, and daughter Imee, director general of the Kabataang Barangay.

Fourteen cabinet ministers and key officials are with the President's party. They conducted meetings with their Saudi counterparts in a historic bid to tighten economic, technical, and socio-culture ties between the two countries.

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March 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS left for Saudi Arabia, accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, their daughter Imee and ranking government officials.

Before his departure, the President announced he would assume the position of minister of foreign affairs "in view of Foreign Minister Carlos P. Romulo's confinement in the hospital."

In his departure statement, the President said he was going to Saudi Arabia to honor King Khaled's invitation and to undertake a mission of friendship and cooperation for our country and people.

He said he would explore and discuss various ways to strengthen bilateral relations and economic cooperation with Saudi Arabia, seeking to transform this workable programs and projects.

Sunday, the party flies to Riyadh to start the official three-day visit. The President and his wife were invited for the visit last year by King Khaled Ibn Saud.

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March 21—

THE PRESIDENT and his party arrived at 9 a.m. (2 p.m. Manila time) today in Jeddah for an overnight stopover. They will be coming to Riyadh tomorrow morning for the start of the state visit.

He and the First Lady, will receive full honors when they arrive at Riyadh airport, where they will be met by Crown Prince Fadh and escorted to the Royal pavillion where King Khaled will receive them for coffee in introductory exchanges.

The King will escort President and Mrs. Marcos to the royal guest palace where they will be staying for the duration of the visit.

The President's PAL Boeing 747 jetliner touched down at Jeddah's King Abdul Aziz airport, the largest in the world, at 9 a.m. today.

Prince Majid Bin Abdul Aziz, brother of the king and governor of Makkah, headed Saudi officials who met the President and the First Lady.

Philippine Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Benjamin Romualdez led the Filipino community in the airport welcome.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: March 22-31, 1982

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

March 22—

CROWN PRINCE Fahd met the President at the ramp of his Boeing 747, stood with him during military honors, and escorted him and Mrs. Marcos to the Royal pavilion where the king received them.

After offering his visitors Arabic coffee and engaging in light conversation, the king escorted President Marcos and his party to the guest palace, a huge modern structure also known as the Conference palace.

At 4 p.m. there were 14 simultaneous ministerial conversations in various function rooms of the palace. The talks could result in increased employment of Filipino workers in this desert kingdom where they are right now 150,000 of them.

There is also a proposal to increase the supply of Arabian crude oil-by 60,000 barels a day. The kingdom at the moment supplies more than 40 per cent of Philippine oil requirements.

In Jeddah yesterday, the President visited the giant desalination plant in the Al Amra district on the Red Sea Coast. It is one of the four such plants in Mecca province. There are ten in the country.

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In another meeting, Minister of Industry and Trade Roberto Ongpin discussed joint ventures in food processing, cement production, housing materials, furniture and others.

The First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos discussed provision of consultancy services in town planning, urban rural policies and programming, land use planning, sites and services development, urban design, and others.

Minister of Labor Blas F. Ople took up development of workers, welfare services and training schemes, insurance coverage and availment.

Minister Ople and his Saudi counterpart reached a four-point summary of understanding as follows:

1. Availment of each country's expertise in development objectives.
2. Enhancement of the welfare and protection of the rights of their nationals in accordance with the best possible treatment by their governments under their respective labor laws.
3. Exchange of information on relevant studies, technical expertise, and other matters enhancing employment promotion, manpower training, and labor administration.
4. Development of workers welfare services and training schemes.

March 23—

KING KHALED told President Marcos that following the state visit, things would improve between the two countries and the welfare of all minorities, including the Muslims, would grow in brotherly-harmony and friendship.

King Khaled added he would rely on Mr. Marcos' "great wisdom" to make the lot of Muslim Filipinos happier and better.

President Marcos traced the advances made by Saudi Arabia and said that for the first time in history, a center of religion has become a center of development and of power, as well as affluence.

He formally invited the king, the crown prince, and members of the royal family to visit Manila.

The President disclosed development plans for Muslim communities. He cited on-going programs to establish Muslim courts and to upgrade the 200 Madrasha schools in Mindanao.

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President Marcos ordered the Budget Ministry and the commission on audit to release immediately the payment of the cost-of-living allowances of public school teachers.

The meeting was prompted by a threat of hundreds of school teachers in Makati to go on mass leave if their allowances are not released immediately.

The teachers said the grant of allowances authorized under Republic Act 5447 was stopped by the Budget Ministry.

Metro Manila commissioner for finance Mauro Calaguio, who is acting Metro Manila governor, said last night that he was informed of the order by the First Lady and Metro Manila Governor Imelda R. Marcos in an overseas call from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

March 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS took off this morning (4 p.m. Manila time) from Riyadh ending his three-day state visit to this center of Islam.

The President took off for Jeddah on his way home, having accomplished the economic and diplomatic objectives of his trip.

He stressed that his meeting with the highest officials of Saudi Arabia forged greater understanding and better appreciation of the problems that confront the two countries.

The President said that new and common grounds for mutually beneficial relations and cooperative actions have been strengthened.

"We have different needs and different resources. To achieve our common goals and satisfy our diverse needs, we are most determined to share the use of our different resources, which often complement each other," the President said.

The President took the opportunity to greet the over 150,000 Filipino workers, in Saudi Arabia, declaring that he was proud of them and their Arabian employers were also proud of them.

He praised the hospitality extended to him and his party by the rulers of Saudi Arabia.

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March 24—

President Marcos issued a proclamation calling for the election of members of the sangguniang pampook (regional assembly) of the two autonomous regional governments of Central and Western Mindanao.

This was reported by Deputy Prime Minister Jose A. Roño, majority floor leader and local governments minister, who said there is no need for the Batasan to enact a special law calling for elections in those areas.

According to him, the presidential authority is embodied in the pro vision of Batas Pambansa Blg. 20 which created the sanggunian pampook in each of the two autonomous regions.

The three-year term of the regional assemblymen expires on May 8.

Roño said the date of the regional elections has not yet been determined, although he appeared certain it will be held certain on or before the end of April.

March 25—

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HABIB CHATTI, secretary general of the powerful Islamic Conference, told President Marcos that he had informed Nur Misuari, chairman of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLP), that he should stop promoting the idea of creating a separate state of Mindanao.

Chatti told the President at a press conference that the rebel leaders gave him his written position to make Mindanao a separate and independent state.

He told the President that he informed Misuari that this was against the position taken by the Islamic Conference and he should convince his fellow rebels to change their position or the Islamic Conference cannot support them.

Sheikh Muhammad Ali Al-Harakan, secretary general of the World Muslim league (Rabeta) told President Marcos: "I'm not concerned with Misuari or any other individual claiming to be the representative of the Muslims in Southern Philippines. Our concern extends to all Muslims in the Southern Philippines."

Harakan said Rabeta will put up a Islamic center in Manila to attend to the needs of Muslims in the Philippines and those in the Southeast Asian region as well.

The President said this center would be set up on Buendia and Ayala avenues in Makati, the Philippines' financial center.

Harakan told the President his group will send representatives to the Philippines to train Filipino Muslim scholars to run the Shariah courts.

The President said that he would attend to the Rabeta experts himself.

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March 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, arrived at 1:30 p.m. told welcomers at the Manila International airport that his three-day state visit; to Riyadh enhanced economic ties with the Saudi government while strengthening unity in Mindanao.

The President said that he would attend to the Rabeta experts himself and daughter Imee, took off from Jeddah's Abdul Aziz airport at 3:50 a.m. yesterday, ending the first trip by a Philippine President to the Middle East.

High point of the visit was the agreement in principle of an economic and technical cooperation agreement to be finalized in the next several days.

The President said this would be the umbrella agreement for all economic and technical arrangements and cooperative ventures between the Philippine and Saudi Arabia.

He reported that the Philippines secured a \$500-million loan under favorable terms from the Saudis.

The President cited King Khaled and Crown Prince Fahd for their kindness and consideration during his talks with them. He called the talks fruitful.

He cited the following proposals which were agreed on:

1. To set up a Philippine Labor center in the kingdom to promote employment while protecting the interests of Filipino workers in the Middle East.
2. The approval of the air agreement between the Philippines and Saudi Arabia for the Philippine Air Lines to operate three flights a week to Dhahran out of Manila.
3. The immediate settlement of the Mindanao conflicts within the context of the resolutions of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, which has since 1974 has called for solving the problem under the principle of sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Philippines.

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March 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has signed into law the barangay elections bill and the revised capital gains tax measure.

The President signed the two measures during the cabinet meeting he called shortly after his arrival from Saudi Arabia the other day.

With the signing of the special elections law, the campaign period for the posts of barangay captain (punong barangay) and councilmen (kagawad ng sangguniang barangay) officially begins on May 1 and ends on May 15, two days before the actual voting on May 17.

The revised Capital Gains Tax Law provides that a stockholder who sells shares of stock listed and traded through the stock exchange will be subject only to one-fourth of one percent tax on selling price. The stockholder will no longer be required to pay a 10 percent capital gains tax on any net gains that he may realize from the sale.

The sale of shares of stock which is not done through the stock exchange, although stocks are listed and traded in the exchange, will be subject to the 10 per cent capital gains tax if the net gain does not exceed P100,000 and to a maximum of 20 per cent if over P100,000.

The revision had removed the distinction between close corporation and other corporations and that the term "net capital gains" implies offsetting of losses from other sales of share in the same or any other corporation.

Generally, there is a move to make the barangay elections non-partisan so that the people will be able to choose their officials in a free, orderly and honest election.

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March 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS urged the people to participate fully in the coming barangay elections.

The forthcoming barangay elections will be conducted in a free and non-partisan manner.

The elections will enhance the cause of participatory democracy in the countryside, the President said. They will provide an opportunity for the people to choose the leaders to run the affairs of the country's basic political units.

The barangay elections bill which the President signed into law provides for the election of a barangay captain and six councilmen in each of the 45,000 barangays throughout the country.

The special elections law or Batas Pambansa Blg. 222, provides for a direct, non-partisan election of the local officials who will constitute the barangay council or sangguniang barangay.

The law provides for a campaign period to start on May 1 and end on May 15, two days before the voting on May 17.

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President Marcos pledged to appoint Muslims to high diplomatic, judiciary, and executive government posts.

The President on his arrival from a five-day trip to Saudi Arabia said he has ordered Muslim leaders to submit a list of recommendations for ambassadorial positions, the Supreme Court, and other executive departments.

The commitment of President Marcos to appoint Muslims to important positions is a soothing balm to the Muslim's age-old wounds stemming from grievances about lack of representation, Dr. Alunan Glang said.

This will also provide a good opportunity for the Filipino Muslims to contribute greatly in steering the course of the New Republic.

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March 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that elections of the regional assembly in regions 9 and 11 will be held possibly on May 27 after the May 17 barangay elections, instead of next month as earlier reported.

He told Malacañang newsmen that the two regions which currently have an executive council each will, under the new setup, have only one executive council whose members will be coming from both regions.

The President said he would call a caucus of the KBL anytime after the Holy Week to define the powers of the regional assemblies and the executive council for both.

He also stressed that he will be issuing the necessary executive order to the effect as the Batasan will not be in session by then.

On the composition of the single executive council for the two regional assemblies, Mr. Marcos said he would have to consult with local leaders in the ruling party on the powers of each of the bodies and the membership.

The President said that the holding of the regional assembly is made upon the recommendation of the Batasan and the ruling Kilusang Bagong Lipunan party.

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President Marcos has signed into law three more bills approved by the Batasang Pambansa during its last session, including amendments to the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, the stock transfer tax bill, and a third measure allowing balikbayans to own land here for residential purposes.

Earlier, the President also signed a special election law providing for the election on May 17 of barangay captains and barangay councilmen in the 45,000 barangays all over the country.

The new anti-graft law gives more teeth to the government's campaign against dishonesty in the public service.

The new statute subjects to dismissal or removal from office any public officials who is found to have acquired during his incumbency, whether in his name or in the name of other persons, an amount of property or money manifestly out of proportion to his salary and other lawful income.

The new law considers as evidence of graft activities in any club or association, ostentatious display of wealth, including frequent travels abroad of a non-official character, when such activities entail expenses evidently out of proportion to legitimate income.

These circumstances now constitute valid ground for administrative suspension from office for an indefinite period, until the investigation of the unexplained wealth is completed.

Properties in the name of the spouse and dependents of the official may be taken into consideration when their acquisition through legitimate means cannot be satisfactorily shown.

Bank deposits in the name of, or manifestly excessive expenditures incurred by, the officials, Ids spouse, or any of their dependents, will all be taken into consideration.

All crimes committed under the new law, particularly unexplained wealth, will prescribe in 15 years.

The stock of transactions law calls for the imposition of a one-fourth of one per cent tax for stocks traded within a year, and a 10 per cent capital gains tax for stocks traded after the one-year holding: period.

It also imposes a 10 per cent tax on net capital gains for traded stocks below P100, 000 but sets a maximum of 20 per cent for similar transactions exceeding P100.000.

The new balikbayan law allows former natural-born Filipino citizens to acquire land in the Philippines for residential purposes.

Acquisition is limited to not more than 1,000 square meters of residential land in urban areas and not more than one hectare in rural areas.

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March 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS received a delegation of 17 senior US military and civilian officials from the War College in Fort McNair, Washington, D.C.

The delegation arrived with new US Ambassador Michael Armacost. Col. John Enchcott, faculty member, headed the group, one of 12 touring the world, including South America, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia This group is

touring Korea, the Philippines, and Japan. Then the officials return to the War College to complete their one-year course.

As part of the course, the officers discuss mutual defense and security issues with top officials of the country they visit.

The President exchanged views on defense and security matters with the delegation from the War College in Fort Macnair, Washington, D.C.

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March 30—

PRESIDENT MARCOS pressed for the removal of the remaining “irritants and inequities” in the Philippine-United States military bases agreement.

The President will take up with US Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger a wide range of defense and security developments in the region.

Weinberger is visiting three Far East allies to review mutual defense and modernization plans.

President Marcos said that Secretary Weinberger will hold top-level talks with him and senior Philippine officials in Malacañang.

American military installations here are at the naval base in Subic, Zambales, and Clark Air Force base in Angeles, Pampanga.

When the bases agreement was amended in 1979, jurisdiction was turned over from American to Filipino hands. Gen Fabian Ver, armed forces chief of staff, is now commander of both bases.

The agenda to be discussed are the following:

1. Customs, immigration and quarantine matters.
2. Internal revenue
3. The question of perimeter security around the American military installation.

Government sources said renegotiation was deemed imperative in view of ambiguities and inequities of the agreement. But the most crucial part of the visit of Secretary Caspar Weinberger will be role of the Philippines in the security of alliance in Southeast Asia.

March 31—

THE CABINET, presided by Prime Minister Cesar E. A. Virata, had earlier received reports on the extensive damage suffered by the provinces of Surigao del Norte, Leyte, Bohol, Cebu, and Southern Samar.

After the session, the cabinet asked President Marcos to declare a state of calamity in six provinces hit hardest by typhoon “Bising.”

The death toll stood at 38 yesterday as reports continued to filter from the stricken areas. Some 10,600 families were reported to have lost their homes.

Earlier, Minister of Social Services Sylvia Montes and Cebu Gov. Eduardo Gullas, member of the executive committee, briefed the members of the cabinet. They said typhoon Bising affected Regions VI, VII, VIII, and X. Damage to public and private property was estimated at P35 million.

Just a week before typhoon “Bising” hit the Philippines typhoon “Akang” struck Regions X, XI, and XII.

Minister Montes said that because of the two typhoons which struck one after the other, her ministry have given relief to a total of 58,297 families consisting of 339,782 persons.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Month in Review: April 1-30, 1982

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

April 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS stressed that the twin tasks of reforming the machinery of justice and the creation of a competent corps of judges depend upon the competence, probity, knowledge and honesty of those who will be appointed to the bench.

The president spoke at the implementation seminar on the Judiciary Reorganization Act at the Philippine International Convention Center.

The seminar was the first step in the work of filling up judicial vacancies in accordance with the Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980.

The President cited other institutional reforms he would undertake.

They are:

- 1) Amend the rules of court for faster decision on cases.
- 2) Decrease substantially the number of cases filed with court.
- 3) Streamline systems for settling disputes out of court.
- 4) Revitalize the prosecution process.

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President Marcos opened wide-ranging talks with United States Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger on mutual defense and security matters.

Topping the agenda of the discussion was the US-Philippine military bases agreement which the government wants renegotiated.

Weinberger is on the final leg of a three-country tour to review mutual defense and modernization plans with American allies in the Pacific.

The President has urged for the removal of remaining irritants and inequities in the treaty which was amended Jan. 7, 1979 and pushed for an early renegotiation of the agreement.

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April 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and the First Lady tendered a luncheon in honor of United States Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger and his party at Malacañang.

Secretary Weinberger has assured President Marcos and the Filipino people that America would remain unswerving to help the Philippines in any way militarily, politically, economically, and socially.

During the luncheon, both the President and Secretary Weinberger reflected on the close ties between the Philippines and the United States, in war and in peace.

Weinberger hand-carried a personal message of US President Reagan addressed to President Marcos.

The US secretary of defense and his party were accompanied to Malacañang by American Ambassador and Mrs. Michael Armacost.

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April 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS reorganized the Food and Drug Administration and designated Mrs. Catalina Cruz Sanchez as acting administrator.

The President originally appointed Mrs. Sanchez as acting deputy administrator of the FDA, a promotion from her post as chief of the narcotics-drugs division.

He approved the reorganization of the Food and Drugs Administration in order to make the office responsive to the demands of every Filipino consumer.

Ordered abolished were the public information and assistance unit, the product registration division, financial and planning unit, library unit, and the legal division.

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April 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that subversives no longer pose a danger or threat to the nation's internal security.

The President also minimized the reported infiltration of labor and groups by subversives, saying that only about five or six labor leaders were under surveillance.

Concerning the strength of the subversives, the President said that it varies every now and then.

The President pointed out that the casualty ratio was about five or four to one in favor of the government.

On the labor front, the President declared that he was not opposed to the desire of labor leaders to improve, the situation of their members but only if there is an attempt by union leaders to paralyze industry.

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April 5—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has ordered the boards of government-owned or controlled corporations to undertake the overhaul of their respective entities, including the separation of the positions of chairman of the board

The major revamp was given a go signal by the President to improve the management and corporate setup of some 200 government-own and controlled corporations and their subsidiaries.

The President said he has suspended this ruling in other corporations with subsidiaries, except in some banks that have started implementing the new policy.

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April 6—

THE FIRST LADY Minister Human Settlements Imelda R. Marcos, stressed that the problems of national security depends on the success of the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunalaran (KKK) program.

The First Lady said that the people and the military officials should coordinate their efforts to improve the delivery of basic services, particularly in the rural areas.

She said this should counteract efforts of subversives to build up a mass base.

The First Lady said that in areas where the subversives could not discredit the KKK program, they would take advantage of its incentives.

She called on the Ministry of Local Governments to keep local officials on their toes. Failure of the local leadership usually create conditions for discontent.

The First Lady said that in this struggle, the most potent weapon is still love and compassion.

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April 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS was concerned about the problem posed, by the overlapping of the elections in the two autonomous regions in Mindanao and the non-partisan barangay polls.

The President asked Deputy Prime Minister Jose Roño to fly down to Zamboanga city to meet with the political leaders there to discuss the problem.

He stressed that the May 27 elections in Mindanao may have to be deferred anew to safeguard the non-partisan character of the nationwide barangay elections set by law on May 17.

The President said it would pose extreme difficulty to maintain the non-partisan nature of the barangay polls, since two sets of candidates—one partisan and the other non-partisan—would be campaigning in the regions simultaneously.

A special election law for barangay officials, passed by the Batasang Pambansa, on the other hand set barangay polls on May 17.

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April 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has merged the Lupong Tagapagpaganap ng Pook (executive council) in the autonomous regions IX and XII into one body for more effective government.

The President issued Presidential Decree No. 1843 in line with the joint communique agreed upon him and King Khalid Bin Abdul Aziz in Saudi Arabia during his state visit last month.

They confirmed that steps would be taken to merge the executive councils into one in implementation of the Tripoli Agreement.

He stressed that the merger was being done in the interest of economy, efficiency and effectivity in the deliverance of services to the public in general, and for the purpose of achieving uniformity in economic, cultural and social development policies and programs in Regions IX and XII.

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April 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS spoke in Malacañang before veterans who fought in the last war during the 40th anniversary of the defense of Bataan.

The President called on the nations who fought in the country during the last war to avoid the tragic lessons taught by war.

Leading the veterans who called on the President in Malacañang were Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor under National Commander Ramon Bagatsing, the mayor of Manila, including Maj. Gen. and Mrs. Edward King.

From among the crowd, the President mentioned with sadness the absence of the, top guerilla leader in Northern Luzon, Gen. Russel Volckmann, who was reported to be ill with a tumor in the lungs.

Volckmann was one of the few American soldiers who, together with Filipinos, escaped from the Japanese carnage in Bataan and Corregidor and organized a resistance movement in Northern Luzon.

The President expressed the hope the commemoration will bring back the hopes for mankind and the attainment of peace for all the world.

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April 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS hinted at the need of amending certain provisions of the film censorship law, particularly the prohibition on 15-year-olds seeing adult movies.

The President stressed that this would be part of the incentive package recommended by film makers to help the ailing movie industry.

Industry leaders had asked earlier for the elimination of the term “censorship” in the law, thereby allowing youngsters 15 years old and above to watch adult movies.

The present provision prohibits persons under 21 years old from seeing such movies.

The President, however, reiterated that these recommendations were being seriously studied, together with the on-going reorganization of the board of review for motion pictures and television.

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April 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has announced his determination to restore the seventh grade in public elementary schools as he pointed out the need to review the primary and elementary grades curriculum.

The President directed the presidential committee on education headed by Education Minister Onofre D. Corpuz to give priority to the plan to revive the seventh grade during his commencement address before the graduating classes of the Mariano Marcos University in Batac Ilocos Norte.

In his commencement address, the President also:

- 1) Reiterated the objective of the national government to establish one university in each region of the country.
- 2) Disclosed plans to implement transfer of the study of liberal arts subjects—the first two years of college work—from Manila to the provinces to decongest the national capital region.

The President pointed out, however, that the restoration of grade seven does not mean abandonment of the national language, Filipino.

April 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has called on the opposition groups to help observe the non-partisan character of the barangay elections scheduled on May 17.

The President said that he realized the right of every political leader, whether belonging to the majority party or, the opposition, to campaign for candidates of their choice in their individual capacity.

Concerning the political leaders of the opposition who want to strengthen their rural organization as a means of attaining national political power, the President emphasized that they should respect the basic non-partisan character of the barangay polls.

President Marcos warned that partisanship could divide the people in the countryside and spoil the essential fabric of unity which they need for their participation in vital programs like the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran.

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April 13—

SUGAR PLANTERS and millers who do not comply with the decree on mandatory allowances are criminally liable.

This is among the provisions of the implementing rules signed by Labor Minister Blas F. Ople covering Wage Order No. 1 and Ministry Order No. 6.

Ople said violations of the orders and rules would be penalized in accordance with the appropriate provisions of the Labor Code.

The code's penalty provision imposes a fine of P10,000 or three-year imprisonment or both on violators, it was said.

Plantation workers should get an additional daily allowance of P4.33.

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The Supreme Court said it will disclose fully the results of its investigation of the alleged bar examinations irregularity, but the prove is confidential.

Acting Chief Justice Claudio Teehankee said the prove is expected to be terminated after Chief Justice Enrique M. Fernando's return from South Korea next week.

Teehankee said that there will be a confidential and thorough investigation to be conducted in consonance with the constitutional prerogative of the Supreme Court.

The alleged irregularity in the 1981 bar examinations was exposed by Justice Melencio-Herrera in a letter to Fernando dated March 25, 1982.

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April 14—

PRESIDENT MAPCOS reaffirmed the Philippines' long and traditional friendship with Spain, as he received Spanish Admiral Cristobal Colon de Carbajal, duke of Veragual, who called on him at Malacañang.

Responding to a personal message from King Juan Carlos of Spain, the President asked the duke to convey to the Spanish monarch and political leaders the Filipinos' high regard for Spain.

The President received the message of the king through Admiral Colon, who is a descendant of Christopher Columbus.

Colon is the commander of the Spanish training ship, Juan Sebastian de Elcano arrived in Manila Sunday. The training ship manned by 80 naval cadets is on an eight-month world tour.

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President Marcos' exploits in the last war, taken as an outstanding proof of Philippine-American friendship, are helping "sell" the Philippines to the American public in peacetime.

The 32 medals he earned as combat intelligence officer in the guerilla movement has been displayed in the seven-week promotion of Philippine products in Bloomingdale's chain of department stores.

The promotional campaign is called 'Philippines, Land of Friends.'

The promotion of Philippine products by a major US store is expected to help KKK (Kilusang Kabiihayan at Kaunlaran), the national livelihood program intended to create more jobs and increase the country's export.

The exhibition of Philippine products will enable Americans to gain greater insight into the special relations between the Filipinos and the Americans through a glimpse of Philippine art, culture, and natural wealth.

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April 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS' has directed the cabinet to formulate and adopt a program designed to enhance the nation's Islamic heritage.

He issued Letter of Instructions No. 1221, addressed to Prime Minister Cesar E. A. Virata and members of the cabinet, specially Education and Culture Minister Onofre D. Corpuz, directing them to:

1) Improve the teaching staff and instructional facilities of Madrasah schools. The Madrasahs—Arabic schools mainly teaching Koranic lessons, the Arabic language, and Islamic virtues—are to be progressively integrated into the national educational system.

2) Strengthen and develop programs in Islamic studies in state institutions of higher learning, especially in Mindanao.

3) Establish and strengthen programs in the teaching and learning of the Arabic language.

The President said that to preserve Islamic culture, it is important that the teaching and learning of the Arabic language be emphasized.

He said that he wanted to endow Muslim youths in the South with the capability to contribute to the modernization of their communities within the framework of their Islamic faith,

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April 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has stressed the government would ask for the maximum penalty for persons found guilty of manufacturing, distributing, and selling adulterated food and fake drugs and cosmetics.

He directed Justice Minister Ricardo C. Puno to institute legal proceedings immediately against persons or institution suspected of violating the country's food and drug laws.

The President had earlier issued Letter of Instructions No. 1223 putting more teeth in the government's campaign against the manufacture and sale of adulterated food and substandard drugs and cosmetics.

The LOI authorized outright seizure condemnation of such food, drugs, and cosmetics. Manufacturers, distributors, and sellers would be prosecuted without delay.

Maximum penalty for offenders is imprisonment of not less than six months and one day but not more than five years.

It also carries a fine of not less than P1,000 or both fine and imprisonment at the discretion of the court.

The President emphasized that all food, drug, and cosmetic, products must carry the compulsory ingredient labelling requirements, including lot or batch number and expiry date.

April 17—

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS has classified what propaganda materials are allowed or prohibited for the May 17 non-partisan barangay elections during the 15-day campaign period starting May 1.

Allowed to be used as campaign materials are:

1) Pamphlets, leaflets, cards, decals, stickers, or other written or printed materials not more than 8 1/2 inches in width and 14 inches in length.

2) Handwritten or printed letters urging voters to vote for or against any candidate.

3) Cloth, paper, or cardboard posters, whether framed or posted, not exceeding two feet by three feet.

4) Streamers measuring not more than three feet by eight feet displayed at the site and on the occasion of a public meeting or rally or to announce such meeting or rally. The streamer should be displayed not earlier than one week before the meeting and should be removed within 72 hours after such meeting or rally.

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President Marcos, citing the need to focus public attention on the role of information and computer technology in the nation's development, has declared the period April 19-23, 1982 as "Information and Computer Technology Week."

The President issued Proclamation No. 2178 to this effect, in which he stressed the need for efficient methods of gathering, processing and utilizing information in the light analysis as the basis for designing and implementing explicit and coherent, plans, and policies.

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April 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has underscored the need for physical fitness and the importance of body building in the attainment of the ideals of physical perfection and stamina.

The President made the remarks in a speech prepared for delivery at the finals of the Mr. Philippines contest held at the Philippine International Convention Center.

Featured guest at the contest, where 40 finalists who vied for the title, was, American television star Lou Ferrigno, who was Mr. Universe titleholder twice.

Earlier, the President received Ferrigno and his wife at the PICC presidential, suite. They were accompanied by top officials of the Philippine Body Building Association, sponsors of the Mr. Philippines event.

The President said the event was a fitting occasion to stress the importance of body building as a wholesome and meaningful endeavor within the context of the sports development program of the country.

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April 19—

A P600-MILLION PROJECT intended to ease the water supply problem in the country is now being implemented, it was announced by the Ministry of Local Governments (MLG).

The implementation followed the completion of a nationwide water resource survey, the results of which were pilot-tested in four towns in Cavite and La Union, the MLG said.

The MLG also reported completion over the past 12 months of 540 barangay water projects in 38 provinces and cities with a total cost of P56.6 million.

About 195,500 barangay residents have benefitted from the newly installed water system through the barangay waterworks program.

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April 20—

TOP OFFICIALS of the bureau of internal revenue has emphasized that they have no intention of filing criminal or civil charges against those who availed of the tax amnesty program ordered by President Marcos.

They made this statement to allay fears expressed by businessmen and professionals who availed of the amnesty that they could still be prosecuted for past tax misdeeds.

Presidential Decree 1840 granted full and absolute pardon to those who submitted corrected returns for any of the years between 1974 and 1980.

The Manila revenue regional officials, however, maintained that if an amnesty filer did not sufficiently comply with the provisions of the decree, he can still be prosecuted for tax evasion.

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April 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS stressed that he was waiting for the members of the Supreme Court who were involved in the 1981 bar exam scandal to submit their resignation.

Chief Justice Enrique Fernando informed the President that he would shortly submit to him a full report on the 1981 bar exam scandal.

The President, breaking his silence on the bar case said he had kept a distance from the controversy because he was anticipating that a statement would come from some of those involved.

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He said that he has to consider whether to accept or decline the resignation of those involved.

President Marcos, reporting the ‘ successful performance of the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos in Bloomingdale’s spring promotions for Philippine products in the United States, said that she was on her way to Africa and the Middle East to survey possible markets for Philippine products.

The First Lady’s itinerary includes a trip to Nairobi, Kenya, to close the Human Settlements conference and to hand over the chairmanship to the incoming chairperson,

The President said that the First Lady will make a preliminary survey of marketing possibilities for Philippine products in Africa and the Middle East.

He said that the demand for Philippine products displayed in Bloomingdale’s promotion has been so great that “we cannot even meet the demand in the United States if we sustain the present rate, of production.”

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April 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS resolved the jurisdiction dispute over the new Manila international airport in favor of the national government.

Putting an end to the controversy that has strained the relations between Pasay city and Paranaque, the President said the Manila International Airport is a national structure performing a national activity. It is, therefore, not subject to the claims of jurisdiction by either Pasay or Parañaque.

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The President said that the claims of the two suburban governments have no legal basis.

He stepped into the case by virtue of his powers to fix boundaries of local political subdivisions under the 1939 Administrative Code.

The decision of the President stopped the quarrel between the suburban officials and restore harmony between Pasay city and Parañaque.

President Marcos has directed all ministries and agencies to cut down on their spending and vowed to cut the government deficit in the face of a slumping world economy.

The President issued a memorandum to Prime Minister Cesar E. A. Virita and all cabinet members to maintain the ratio of 60 per cent operating expenses by means of the following measures.

They are:

- 1) Control of undue expenses for the personnel complement of government offices, agencies, and corporations.
- 2) Government reorganization to effect further efficiency.
- 3) Rationalization of regional operations of national agencies to control the growth of operating expenses and of low-priority capital projects, such as public office facilities.
- 4) Continue rationalization of foreign-assisted development projects, since these compel a mandatory budgetary peso obligation resulting in additional deficits.
- 5) Review operations of government corporations which duplicates the function of another government agency.
- 6) Delays in the implementation of public works project is more costly than they have been estimated.

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April 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has imposed a total ban on log exports effective May 1.

Spurred into action by atrocious and horrendous smuggling of logs, the President issued two directives:

- 1) Ordered the bureau of internal revenue (BIR) to examine the books of suspected log smugglers from 1978 through 1982 to determine their tax liabilities.
- 2) Directed the national bureau of investigation (NBI) to determine criminal liabilities to log exporters and to assist the BIR in obtaining from Japan the volume of smuggled logs.

The President directed the prosecution for criminal as well as tax liabilities of unscrupulous log exporters.

He said a recent issue of the authoritative Japan Lumber Journal indicated wide disparities in log export figures, as obtained from the bureau of customs and from Tokyo.

The President said the figures clearly show that many log exporters had been shipping more logs than their log export quotas.

The total log export ban ends the grace period authorized by the President earlier for exporters to fill their unused quotas.

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April 24—

THE KILUSANG BAGONG Lipinan (KBL) has decided to call the Batasang Pambansa to a special session on May 19 to pass a new measure that would cope with labor problems and preserve industrial pace.

In deciding to call the Batasan to a special session to tackle labor problems, the majority party agreed to expand the picketing and anti-scab bill pending with the Batasan to include the following:

- 1) A proposal to expand the list of critical industries whose disruption by strikes or lockouts would affect the national interest.
- 2) A move to resolve questions of jurisdiction over illegal strikes and the power of the labor minister to certify labor cases for compulsory arbitration that have been put in doubt by recent decisions of the Supreme Court.
- 3) A resolution clarifying ambiguities resulting from a Supreme Court decision on the 13th month pay involved in the Marcoper case.

The President urged the Cabinet to relate the study with the overall problems of the economy, wage and income policies and the general situation of industrial pace.

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April 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and the general military council reassessed the influence of the overall peace and order situation on the May 17 barangay elections.

The President and the council members met behind closed doors at Malacañang for over four hours.

The general military council meeting was the first of a series of such meetings called by the President to reassess the peace and order situation of the country.

The military commanders reportedly tagged the Kalinga-Apayao area, the Bicol region, the three Samar provinces, and the Davao provinces as the possible critical areas.

The reported NPA threats notwithstanding, Enrile and Ver was prepared to meet the threat.

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President Marcos stressed that fishermen who operate fishpens in Laguna de Bay without authority have to get licenses or get out of the place.

The President said he intended to give the illegal operators a certain period of time to either legalize their position or pull out.

The President's action was spurred by complaints of small fishermen against illegal fishpens in the lake.

Small fishermen of Rizal and Laguna lake towns have complained that big fishpens some guarded by armed security men, have restricted their access to the lake and limited fishing areas.

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April 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS stressed a public hearing of Cabinet Bill No. 49 pending before the Batasang Pambansa designed to cope with labor problems and preserve industrial productivity.

The President said there has been a study conducted by the presidential committee as well as the Batasan committee on labor, manpower and employment in the face of a rash of strikes in some business establishments.

Cabinet Bill No. 49 seeks to remove ambiguities in the labor code to help protect the interest of labor while insuring industrial productivity and stability.

The President has observed that management and citizenry were alarmed by the irresponsible manner in which the strikers have attempted to stop economic activity, production of exports, and production of domestic goods.

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Imee Marcos presented a special Popular Music Foundation award to Cecil Lloyd, the “Mystery Singer” of the forties and fifties for his efforts in the enhancement of Philippine music and the Filipino artist.

The award was given during the First Philippine Music Industrial Awards, also known as the Cecil Awards, at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

The awards have been named after Cecil Lloyd who was founder and president of the first Filipino-owned recording company in 1948, the Philippine Recording System.

In remarks before thousands of Filipino singers artists present during the occasion, Miss Marcos said the awards night signalled the establishment of unity and cooperation among the people in the music industry.

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April 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS called on the Armed Forces to be always vigilant in coping with both external and internal threats to national security.

The President and commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces was guest of honor and speaker at the celebration of the 85th anniversary of the Philippine Army at Fort Bonifacio.

He listed four characteristics which the Armed Forces must acquire for it to help in turning present conditions of peace and order into a time for growth and change.

The Armed Forces must:

- 1) Be developed into an ever prepared force that can cope with both external and internal threats.
- 2) Be development oriented.

3) Be people-oriented.

4) Have a kind of discipline that bears the imprints of compassion, justice, humanism, and integrity, making it truly the Army of the people.

The President emphasized the loyalty of the Armed Forces to the Constitution and the New Republic.

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April 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS opened the 15th annual meeting of the board of governors of the Asian Development Bank at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC).

The board of governors is the highest policy-making body of the 45-member bank.

The economic problem of Asia and the Pacific region and the bank's expanding activities 1980's were the major topics in the meeting.

Three-day meeting was attended by 1,200 persons, including governors and official delegates from the member countries, observers from international institutions, some 600 local and foreign bankers and other guests.

Topics to be discussed with NEDA and other government agencies were focused on the ongoing and future cooperation.

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April 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS underscored the importance of the Asian Development Bank in promoting international development.

Addressing the 15th annual meeting of the ADB board of governors at the Philippine International Convention Center, the President noted that the ADB has made a significant difference in the economic growth of the Asian region.

The President, speaking as a leader of a developing country, outlined some of the challenges which confront the Asian region in the coming years.

He said that since its inauguration 15 years ago, the Asian Development Bank had come to recognize that international development depends on the willingness and ability of countries to cooperate with one another and that peace and prosperity for any nation cannot be secured with the world starkly divided between rich and poor.

The First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos arrived from the US to foster closer ties between American society and the Philippines.

The trip of the First Lady was principally aimed at giving national livelihood program—the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran—an international dimension.

The President together with daughter Imee and son Bongbong welcomed the First Lady at the Manila International Airport,

The First Lady said that interest in Philippine products in the US and in Europe had been spurred following the opening of the Bloomingdale's promotional blitz where sales of KKK products reached 88 per cent of goals.

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April 30—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that the insistence of Nur Misuari in dismembering Philippine territory to form a separate state in the south has shunted him off from the Islamic Conference.

The President also said that he no longer recognized Misuari as leader of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

He said Misuari is no longer the Muslim leader the Philippine government would deal with in the solution of the Mindanao problem.

The President said he was told by ranking MNLF leaders that Misuari has already been deposed as chairman and secretary general of the MNLF.

The President said that by insisting on his demand for a separate Bangsa Moro republic with its own flag and armed force, Nur Misuari had defied the many resolutions of the 43-member Islamic conference that urged the resolution of the Mindanao conflict within the framework of Philippine sovereignty and territorial integrity.

His talks with King Khaled and Crown Prince Fahd during his three-day visit to Saudi Arabia also ended Misuari's hope of forming a separate Bangsa Moro republic.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

Official Month in Review: May 1982

May 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS minimized the threat posed by leftist revolutionaries.

The President stressed that most of the members of the communist New People's Army are merely hoodlums and extortionists, and are no longer the ideologues that they used to be.

He said that the people are now aware of the effects of a leftist movement as they are aware of the fact that the leftist offers sterile slogans.

The President did not think that there was a substantial number of armed men ready to fight. Admitting some rebels carried arms, he doubted whether the leftist revolutionaries could pit their strength against the Armed Forces.

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President Marcos and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos marked their 28th wedding anniversary.

The First Couple, including their children, Imee, Vice Gov. Ferdinand "Bong Bong" of Ilocos Norte attended the morning mass.

After the Labor Day rites at the Folk Arts theater, they hosted a luncheon for close friends and relatives.

The President and Mrs. Marcos were wed in 1954 at the Manila Cathedral with the late President Ramon Magsaysay as the principal sponsor.

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May 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS effected a total revamp of the Ministry of Labor and Employment that saw the appointment of the 160 key officials including three assistant ministers.

The overhaul involved a change of leadership in six bureaus, all staff services, and the 13 regional offices of the ministry.

The appointment of key officials, which took effect yesterday, was the start of the ministry's two-phase reorganization. The second phase which pertains to structuring and staffing second level offices was expected to take effect in at least three months.

In the shakeup, the positions of 28 labor arbiters were left vacant while 95 new arbiters were appointed to ensure the speedy and fair disposition of labor cases.

The President stressed that the reorganization was the start of the administration's effort to promote employment, preserve industrial peace, and protect the welfare of the Filipino worker.

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May 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that the Philippine Air Force (PAF) is not only an effective partner in the tasks of peace but also a capable defender in the tasks of war.

The President and the First Lady, Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos, were guests of honor at the observance in Nichols Field of the 47th anniversary of the Philippine Air Force.

The occasion also saw the renaming of Nichols Airbase to Villamor Airbase to honor Filipino ace pilot Jesus Villamor who downed several Japanese fighter planes at the start of the Pacific war.

In his speech, the President underscored the fact that the other side of the coin of peace is eternal vigilance and preparedness.

The President pointed to the PAF's new records of achievement and its continuing commitment to the service and security of the people and the country.

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May 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS urged the representatives of labor and management to participate in public hearings on the picketing and anti-scab provisions of an expanded labor code.

The President called on the labor leaders to air their views on the bill, Cabinet Bill No. 49, so that the debate "may become free, thorough and comprehensive."

The Cabinet and the labor committee of the Batasang Pambansa on instructions of the President, conducted a public hearing on the bill in the cabinet room of the Executive House.

Prime Minister Cesar E. A. Virata presided over the hearing

The hearing was expected to iron out differences between labor and management on certain amendments to the Labor Code pending before the Batasan meets on May 19 to pass the bill into law.

Cabinet bill No. 49 seeks to clarify certain provisions of Batasang Pambansa Blg. 130 especially on the jurisdiction of labor arbiters on questions of illegal strikes and prohibited acts during strikes.

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May 5—

GEN. FABIAN C. VER Armed Forces chief of staff, underscored the need of the AFP to activate a mobile surgical hospital that may be deployed, at a moment's notice, in any part of the country.

Ver made the announcement after approving the recommendation of Brig. Gen. Evaristo N. Sanchez, commanding general of the AFP-Medical center, for establishment of the hospital.

The initial 150-bed hospital with an initial cost of P30 million will have ambulance helicopters and a staff of 40 doctors. It will be under General Sanchez.

The hospital is designed to support the AFP's civil relations efforts. It can hold major operations in the field, being equipped with the latest medical facilities. This means that patients can be airlifted to the hospital speedily.

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May 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS placed May 17 as the date for holding plebiscites to decide on the creation of seven municipalities and two barangays.

The President issued Proclamation No. 2188 for the holding of plebiscite in specific areas at the same time as the barangay elections and also to minimize government expenses.

Several laws were recently enacted by the Batasang Pambansa creating new municipalities and barangays. The proposed municipalities are Dodod, Bacungan, and Vincenzo Sagun, all in Zamboanga del Norte; Kapatagan, Lanao del Sur; Roseller Lim, Zamboanga del Sur; Don Mariano Marcos, Misamis Occidental; and Aleosan, North Cotabato.

The proposed barangays are Industrial Valley in Marikina, and New Alabang Village in Muntinlupa, both in Metro Manila.

The Commission on Elections had announced that voters have only until tomorrow to register for the May 17 barangay elections.

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May 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS urged members of media to segregate themselves from prejudices and passions in the performance of their work.

Speaking before newsmen after inducting the new officers of the National Press Club led by Bulletin Today editor Ben F. Rodriguez, President Marcos expressed regret that some sectors in media sometimes get involved in conflicts when actually, both government and the media should not belong to any group, sector, or level of society.

He stressed that lack of objectivity defeats the real interpreter of contemporary times, the writer of contemporary times, as well as would-be leader and reformer.

The President started off his monthly chat on radio and TV with a press conference last night with the new NPC officers and members of the Malacañang Press Corps led by Vicente Tañedo, president.

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President Marcos directed an investigation into reported violations of barangay election rules which city and provincial fiscals were subsequently deputized to prosecute.

The President appealed to all sectors, including the opposition, to cooperate in making the May 17 barangay polls peaceful, clean, non-partisan.

The violations included alleged vote-buying, falsification of voters identification cards, and the peddling of Comelec registration forms.

The President expressed concern over reports of meddling by political leaders in violation of the spirit of the law making the barangay elections non-partisan.

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May 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that there will be a free and objective study of the facts of the 1981 bar examinations scandal before on the resignation of all the justices of the Supreme Court.

This assurance was given by the President during a three-hour closed-door meeting with Chief Justice Enrique Fernando and 10 of the 11 associate justices of the Supreme Court, who tendered them the other day.

Present at the meeting were the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos Information Minister Gregorio Cendaña.

During the meeting, the justices presented to the President the en banc resolution which contained a statement of the facts on the last bar examinations.

The President and the justices agreed to remain in constant consultation, including the retired justices of the Supreme Court.

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May 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS called on all concerned, particularly the candidates, to make the May 17 barangay elections “a clean and honest election.”

The President underscored the importance of the elections, saying that its success will mean the triumph of a free citizenry.

He also appealed to leaders, especially those who are with the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan, that they should not use the party.

The law expressly forbids the participation of the party in this election, he added.

“Let us permit our countrymen to participate on their own merits so we might know whom our countrymen wish to choose,” the President said.

He stressed however that “there is something the ordinary person should know to be efficient in serving the country: he should at least know where barangay funds come from, whom to approach to ensure that these funds reach the barangays.”

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May 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS urged the incumbent justices implicated with the 1982 bar scandal to submit their resignation so as to save the name of the Supreme Court.

The President asked the justices whose names had been mentioned in the case to clarify certain points in addition to the written statement they had submitted to the President.

The incumbent justices who attended were Chief Justice Enrique M. Fernando and Associate Justices Claudio Teehankee, Antonio P. Barredo, Felix V. Makasiar, Ramon C. Fernandez, Juvenal K. Guerrero, Pacifico P. de Castro, Ameurfina Melencio-Herrera, Vicente G. Ericta, Efren I. Plana, and Venicio T. Escolin.

The President said that his decision will depend on the wisdom and counsel of the country's revered retired justices of the Supreme Court.

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May 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has accepted the resignations of all 14 justices of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice Enrique M. Fernando.

The President's decision left the country's judicial system without a Supreme Court, and ended a long-drawn controversy over the bar examination scandal involving the son of Associate Justice Vicente G. Ericta.

He informed the people that he will constitute a new Supreme Court in a day or two by appointing new justices, which includes the possibility of reappointing to the high tribunal a few of those who resigned.

The President has consulted academic circles, members of the bench and the bar, and other pillars of the law profession to decide effectively on the bar examination scandal.

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May 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has approved the reorganization of 10 boards of examiners in line with the thrust to revitalize the various boards under the umbrella of the Professional Regulations Commission (PRC).

PRC Commissioner Eric C. Nubia said that the President has appointed 25 new examiners to the 10 boards, thus reorganizing their membership and filling up vacancies left by examiners whose tenure had expired.

The current reorganization will be able to meet its timetable in giving of licensure examinations to prospective professionals in the country.

The appointment of the 25 new examiners was in line with the reorganization of PRC's 25 boards of examiners started last year.

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May 13—

THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos pledged to bring tap water to every Filipino household, along with other basic needs.

Mrs. Marcos made the pledge during the inauguration ceremonies of the new piped water supply systems in Bagong Barrio, Caloocan City, and in Novaliches, Quezon City.

The First Lady opened a ceremonial hydrant in barrio Gulod, Novaliches and tap water flowed into the homes of some 700 families which had registered for water service connections with the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS).

The new networks, comprising the first stage of the MWSS water supply projects in the areas, will benefit some 12,000 residents in Bagong Barrio and 8,000 residents in Novaliches.

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May 14—

THE BATASAN Committee on Labor, employment, and manpower development has proposed to further amend some provisions of the nine major amendments introduced by the cabinet to the anti-scab and picket bill.

Labor Minister Blas F. Ople, committee chairman, stressed that his committee will create a working group which will meet with its cabinet counterpart on Wednesday to reconcile differences in the proposals.

Whatever problems the two working groups may fail to resolve will be taken up during the party caucus of the ruling Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL).

Another major amendment proposed by the cabinet was the granting of original and exclusive jurisdiction to hear and decide cases arising from any form of labor disputes.

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The Commission on Elections has announced that a three-day liquor ban takes effect immediately after midnight tonight until midnight of Monday, barangay election day.

Chairman Vicente M. Santiago, Jr. said the ban covers selling, taking, providing, or offering intoxicating liquor. Violation of the ban which, he said, will be strictly enforced is an election offense punishable with one year to six years imprisonment.

The poll body has also announced that all election forms, including official ballots to be used in the various plebiscites, have been delivered to the offices of the treasurers for distribution to the boards of election tellers for the balloting- on Monday.

Separate ballots has been used in the plebiscites on the proposed creation of seven new towns and two barangays to be held simultaneously with Monday's barangay elections.

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May 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has reconstituted the Supreme Court by reappointing 12 of the 14 resigned justices and appointed three new ones that gave the High Tribunal its full complement of 15 members.

The three new appointees are Associate Justices Conrado Vasquez, Hugo Gutierrez, Jr. and Lorenzo Relova, all former justices of the Court of Appeals.

Two of the three newly filled vacancies were left open by the resignations of Associate Justices Vicente G. Ericta and Ramon Fernandez, while the third position had long been vacant.

Those reappointed aside from Chief Justice Fernando were:

Associate Justices Claudio O. Teehankee, Antonio P. Barredo, Felix V. Makasiar, Ramon C. Aquino, Juvenal K. Guerrero, Pacifico P. de Castro, Ameurfina A. Melencio-Herrera, Efren I. Plana, Venicio T. Escolin, Vicente Abaci Santos and Hermogenes Concepcion, Jr.

Except for Justice Abad Santos who is on a mission in the United States all 14 magistrates took their oath at the ceremonial hall of Malacañang at 1:30 p.m. before President Marcos.

Reconstitution of the High Tribunal resolved a crisis that arose from the 1981 bar examination scandal involving Gustavo Erieta, a son of Justice Erieta.

Their non-reappointment was on recommendation of retired justices of the Supreme Court with whom the President had continued consultations.

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May 16—

THE FIRST LADY, Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos has approved plans for the greening of San Miguel district in the Malacañang area as part of the beautification program of Manila.

The plans call for the planting of more trees and flowering plants along the streets, particularly J. P. Laurel and Mendiola streets.

Mrs. Marcos has also approved a plan to remodel Ayala bridge to include some of the 18th century designs of the old Colgante bridge which was destroyed during the World War II.

The Colgante Bridge was designed by Alexandre Gustave Eiffel, designer of the famous Eiffel Tower in Paris for the 1889 International Exposition.

The First Lady approved the beautification project following a meeting with the MHS urban renewal task force in Malacañang.

The project is part of the Metro Manila urban renewal program launched by Mrs. Marcos last year.

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It is designed to improve the landscape of Metro Manila and to make every available space in the city earn for its own improvements.

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May 17—

“PRESIDENT MARCOS has urged on all 28.2 million registered voters to exercise their right of suffrage in the coming barangay elections—the first to be held since 1972.

To be elected in each of the 41,492 barangays throughout the country are one barangay captain and six council members.

He pointed out the presence of divisiveness and factionalism among the barangay members.

The President said that the non-partisan election is a redirection towards a more responsible exercise of suffrage.

The barangay election is a change for the better for it eliminates the old vices of election fever such as politicking, overspending, and terrorism.

The President reminded the citizenry that the barangay is the very foundation of the whole Republic and that the political exercise strengthens freedom and democracy at the grassroots level.

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The First Lady and Metro Manila Gov. Imelda R. Marcos described the heavy voter's turnout as confirming the success of the political orientation of the Marcos administration.

She said that the election was important because there are more people involved and the barangay election shows the dynamism of democracy at the grassroots level.

She said that the President and herself were happy over the number of candidates who filed their certificates of candidacy considering that the barangay posts of chairman and councilmen carry no salary.

The First Lady said the barangay election shows that more people would like to be involved and commit themselves to the service of the country without monetary or financial reward.

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May 18—

FOREIGN MINISTER Carlos P. Romulo has announced the implementation of an eight-point program to enhance Philippine prestige abroad and to bolster Philippine sovereignty here.

The eight-point program, according to Romulo, were as follows:

1. A restudy of the RP-US military bases treaty.
2. A reassessment of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) position in the South.
3. Preparation for an important forthcoming Islamic conference.
4. The projected visit of President Marcos to the United States sometime in September.
5. The scheduled United Nations conference on apartheid in Manila this month.
6. The implementation by the Philippine government of the Law of the Sea, despite the US failure to sign it.

The global negotiations between the industrialized the Third World countries.

The Asean foreign ministers' meeting in Singapore in June.

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May 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has presided over a caucus of the ruling Kilusang Bagong Lipunan to finalize proposed amendments to the Labor Code which was submitted to the Batasang Pambansa special session.

At the same time the KBL leaders discussed at the caucus the result of the just concluded nationwide barangay elections.

During a meeting of the cabinet presided over by Prime Minister Cesar E. A. Virata, the ministers disclosed that there remained disagreement over certain aspects of the bill even among members of the Batasan committee on labor and employment.

Labor Minister Blas F. Ople said after the cabinet meeting that some members of the Batasan committee on labor and employment had raised new matters that were not previously discussed. He said these were not previously discussed. He said these were not incorporated in the latest version of Cabinet Bill No. 49.

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May 20—

THE FIRST LADY, Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos, left for Knoxville, Tennessee, on a mission to seek new frontiers in promoting Philippine products under the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran program of the government.

She addressed the international conference on energy at this year's World Fair in Knoxville whose theme centers on energy development.

President Marcos, together with daughter Imee, saw the First Lady off aboard a Philippine Airlines DC jetliner at the old Manila International airport.

Mrs. Marcos was invited to be one of two main speakers at the conference in recognition of her contribution to the development of alternative sources of energy.

The First Lady also sought new markets for sophisticate Philippine products as a follow-up on the recent promotion of KKK products in New York and Washington via Bloomingdale chain of department stores.

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May 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS suggested the holding of a Third Asean Summit Conference to integrate various schemes and agreements entered into since Asean was organized on Aug. 8, 1967.

The President made the suggestion in a keynote address before the 13th meeting of Asean economic ministers which opened at the Philippine International Convention Center.

In his speech, the President said that Asean has not had a summit since 1967.

The President stressed the positive role of historically played in the development of Asean solidarity by Asean heads of governments through understanding and cooperation.

The Asean was organized on Aug. 8, 1967. Since then, there had been only two summit meetings, the first in Bali, Indonesia in 1976 and the second was at Kuala Lumpur in 1977.

President Marcos made particular emphasis on the establishment of free trade and the promotion of greater economic cooperation.

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May 22—

LABOR MINISTER Blas F. Ople urged certain labor extremists critical of Cabinet Bill 49 to stop playing politics with national stability at a time when the persistent global economic crisis is wreaking havoc on national economies, particularly employment.

Ople said that there is no country in Asia, outside Japan where the industrial relations law, supplemented by Cabinet Bill 49, grants more social and economic rights to workers, or permits under certain safeguards the resort to the ultimate bargaining weapons of strikes and lockouts.

He emphasized that certain labor quarters are demanding a free-fight situation in labor relations which they could exploit to destabilize the economy and the State.

Ople said that Cabinet Bill 49 protects the right to picket and prohibits the use of strike-bearers but it also defines the obligations of striking workers especially to the general public.

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May 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has defended the P35-billion foreign borrowings by the Central Bank for the country's industrialization program.

The President also told newsmen the administration will review the government's 11 major industrial projects and present a balanced agro-industrial program.

He said that the P35-billion borrowings of the Central Bank were needed to prime the economy, enable the Filipinos to control their economic destiny and prevent foreign domination.

The President pointed out that if private firms were to borrow on their own, they would be paying interest rates ranging from 21 to 25 per cent.

According to the President, if the government borrows from abroad, the interest is only about nine to 10 per cent.

Mr. Marcos also chide the opposition for harping on the country's borrowings and the dominance of the economy by the industrialized countries.

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May 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS stressed that the 11 major industrial projects of the government will be reviewed to bring about a balanced agro-industrial program.

The President said that some of the projects may have to be modified or scrapped.

He also said that many of the bigger countries are preventing industrialization to preserve their own foreign markets.

The President said that in the case of the sulphur phosphate project, the government of Nauru had already invested 40 percent equity totalling \$40 million. The balance will be provided by the National Development Company.

He said that he had his own doubts about the viability and profitability of many oil-based factories listed among the 11 major industrial projects.

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May 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has called for increased economic activity within the Asean region to offset the protectionist trade policies of the West.

The President said that the present trade development within the Asean was not satisfactory because of deficiencies in some agreements.

He said that among these were the lowering of tariff items that matter and “there are thousands of items that can be eliminated from the tariff list.”

The President said that trading between the member countries—Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia—has to be improved to spur greater economic activity.

He stressed, however, that the investment climate in the region was safe despite several weaknesses.

The President cited the investment by the World Bank on a copper smelter plant and other offers to put up aluminum smelter and fertilizer facilities.

May 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and Prime Minister Cesar E. A. Virata met the special presidential committee on reorganization at Malacañang.

Trade and Industry Minister Roberto Ongpin briefed the President and the prime minister on the studies and recommendations of the committee to effect economy and promote efficiency in government operations.

The President was determined to impress upon the committee the need to reduce the expected P10-billion deficit to only CS-billion this year, without resorting to mass lay-offs.

The Chairman of the committee is Minister Ongpin with Armand Fabella of the government reorganization commission as executive director.

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The First Lady and Minister of Human Settlements, Imelda R. Marcos stressed that the issue of nuclear energy should be considered soberly, weighing both the pros and cons.

She replied to a question on the safety of nuclear plants during the press conference following her keynote speech at the international energy symposium at the Hyatt hotel, in Knoxville, Tennessee.

In her speech before energy experts of 21 countries, the First Lady called for a creative application of the political will by nations to deal with the energy crisis.

During the press conference, she cited the Philippines’ progress in tapping alternate sources of energy, principally geothermal sources.

The Philippines is now no. 2 in the world in geothermal power production.

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May 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has abolished 10 government corporations, merged six others, approved the sale to the private sector of another five and converted three into regular government offices.

The President also merged the Ministry of Youth and Sports with the Ministry of Education and Culture.

The President conferred for 90 minutes at Malacañang with members of a special committee on reorganization.

The 10 corporations were abolished because they had been a drain on government coffers and had been inactive.

The President said that aside from the savings to be realized, he wanted a more efficient government, pointing out that he would not sacrifice efficiency for economy.

But the government must reduce the expected P10-billion budget deficit this year to P5-billion, he said.

The reorganization moves were approved by the President in an effort to streamline government operations and funnel more resources into food production, energy development, and environmental protection.

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May 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that the government would study the possibility of the Philippines becoming a member of the association of copper producing and exporting countries.

This was the response made by the President to an invitation made by Zambia President Kenneth David Kaunda.

The invitation was delivered by Zambian Minister of Mines Mufaya Mumbuna, Chairman of the intergovernmental council of copper-producing countries, when he called on the President in Malacañang.

So far there are only five members of the association known as CIPEC. These are: Chile, Peru, Zambia, Zaire and Indonesia.

The President stressed that a new initiative has become necessary to set up a strong mechanism to ensure the survival of the country's copper industry and assure better prices for copper in the world market.

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May 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has abolished the textbook board and three other allied offices and created two new offices to take over their functions.

The offices abolished were the textbook production division of the Ministry of Education and Culture, the education development project implementing task force (EDPITAF), and the standing committee on the procurement of school books.

The two new offices are the “Textbook Council” and the “Instructional Materials Corporation.”

The move was embodied in Executive Order No. 806 which defined the powers and functions of the newly created offices, their compositions and tenure of office of their personnel.

The President emphasized that the creation of the new offices was necessary to broaden and enhance the educational system and be responsive to national development goals.

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May 30—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has appointed 15 judges to fill “crowded salas” of the courts of first instance in Metro Manila and six provinces.

The judges were named to three salas in Manila, six in Eizal, and one each in Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Isabela, Camarines Sur, Aldan, and Lanao del Norte.

Minister Juan C. Tuvera, presidential executive assistant, said the appointments preceded the judiciary revamp and set the ground for it.

Tuvera said the appointments involved existing salas in the old judiciary system and were still subject to the forthcoming reorganization of the judiciary.

Justice Minister Ricardo Puno recommended the appointments, which were cleared by the integrity council.

The newly appointed Manila CFI judges were Florentino Villanueva, branch XV; Antonio Martinez, branch XX; and Rosalio de Leon, branch II.

The Rizal judges, who will have jurisdiction over Quezon, Pasay, and Caloocan cities, were Vicente Campos for branch XXV; Eutropio Migrino, branch I; Eduardo Abaya, branch XIV; Josue Bellosillo, branch II; Perpetua Cloma, branch VII; and Oscar Herrera, branch XXXII.

Herrera will be based in Caloocan city, Cloma in Pasay city, and the rest in Pasig, Metro Manila.

The other appointees:

1. Constantino Consigna, Isabela, CFI branch III with station at Cabagan.
2. Lilia C. Lopez, Nueva Ecija CFI branch I covering Cabanatuan, Palayan and San Jose cities, with station at Cabanatuan city.
3. Elsie Telan, Bulacan CFI branch I, with station at Malolos.
4. Ignacio S. Calleja, Jr., Camarines CFI branch V covering Naga and Iriga cities, with station at Naga city.
3. Elsie Telan, Bulacan CFI branch I, with station at Malolos.
4. Tenacio S Calleja, Jr., Camarines CFI branch V covering Naga and Iriga cities, with station at Naga city.
5. Rafael Declaro, Aklan CFI branch II, with station in Kalibo.

6. Magadapa Rasuman, Lanao del Norte and Iligan city CFI branch III with station in Iligan city.

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May 31—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that the challenge of peace has become so complicated that it requires the resolution and solidarity among freedom-loving nations.

He spoke at the observance of American Memorial Day at Fort Bonifacio.

In his speech, the President said the present international instability is a test not only of American resolve, but of the determination of the entire world.

The President stressed that the situation summoned all to work for peace, freedom, for justice in international affairs.

The President, the most bemedalled Filipino soldier of World War II, paid tribute to Filipino-American friendship which, he said, has been enriched by the comingled blood of Filipino and American soldiers during the Pacific war.

Honoring the American dead, the President said “that in the truest sense, it can be said that there is in these grounds and in many other nameless corners islands, a piece of earth that will forever be America.”

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Source: Supreme Court Library

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1982). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 78(30), cxlix-clxi.

President's Week in Review: June 1-15, 1982

OFFICIAL WEEKS IN REVIEW

June 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS stressed that the government will pursue vigorously its 11 major industrial projects, except the proposed petrochemical complex which is under review.

Malacañang restated this policy in accordance with the goal set by the administration of a balanced agro-industrial economy.

According to the clarification, only the petrochemical complex is being restudied because of the principal raw material, petroleum, as well as the fact that other partners of the Philippines in Asean are also embarking on similar projects.

The major industrial projects aside from the petrochemical complex are a copper smelter, a phosphatic fertilizer plant, cement industry expansion, a diesel engine plant, a heavy engineering plant, an integrated steel mill, coconut industry rationalization, an aluminum smelter, an integrated pulp and paper plant, and alcohol production.

The President has discussed the implementation of these projects during his inaugural nationwide monthly radio chat two weeks ago.

PRESIDENT MARCOS received an official report that people in Regions XII favor the merger of the two executive councils of the two regional assemblies.

The report was submitted by Chairman Vicente Santiago, Jr., of the Commission on Elections.

The plebiscite was held simultaneously with barangay elections last May 17.

The people were asked in the plebiscite whether they "approve of the merger of the Lupong Tagapagpaganap ng Pook of Regions IX and XII into one executive body, as provided in Presidential Decree No. 1843, as amended."

The Comelec had gone *en banc* to Mindanao to canvass results of the plebiscite.

June 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has ordered a study of proposals submitted by a Soviet economic delegation for increased RP-USSR trade relations.

The President received the proposals from Deputy Chairman V.I. Litvinenko of the state committee on foreign relations in the Soviet council of ministries.

Litvinenko told the President that his country is interested in:

1. Establishment of a cement factory here to produce one million tons annually.
2. Participation in the construction of pre-fabricated low-cost housing components.
3. Establishment of a fruit canning factory, the products of which may be exported to the Soviet Union.

4. Participation in a pharmaceutical factory, whose products are to sold to the Soviet Union.

5. Participation in oil exploration.

The chief of the Soviet economic delegation told the President that his country could purchase Philippine commodities, including coconut oil, sugar, and non-traditional export products.

PRESIDENT MARCOS assured Litvinenko that he will look personally at the matter because “this is the first time I have received concrete proposals from Russia.”

The proposals could be the first step towards increased RP-USSR trade relations and Soviet participation in the economic development of the country.

June 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has released the list of 10 government corporations that have been abolished, six that have been merged, two that have been converted into regular government agencies, and two that are to be sold.

The abolition, merger, conversion, and sale of the corporations were effected in an executive order issued by the President on recommendation of a special presidential reorganization committee as part of the revamp of government agencies.

The abolished corporations for reasons of “overlapping functions ‘and’ for being unproductive” were the Catanduanes Development Authority, Ilocos Sur Development Authority, Mindoro Development Board, Northern Samar Development Authority, Southern Samar Development Authority, Panay Development Authority, Sulu Development Authority, Bicol Development Co., Coconut Investment Co., and the Philippine Iron and Steel Authority.

Of the 10 abolished, the first seven, although established by special laws, were never actually organized and made operational.

The corporations that were merged are the Agricultural Credit Administration with the Land Bank, the Museum of Philippine Costumes and Music Promotion Foundation of the Philippines with the Cultural Center of the Philippines, and Export Credit Corp. with the Philippine Export and Foreign Loan Guaranty.

June 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has signed two laws, one calling for the election on June 7 of members of assemblies of Regions IX and XII, the other merging the executive councils of the two regions.

The President signed the bills at a ceremony marking the first anniversary of the Ministry of Muslim Affairs at the Unity and Friendship Hall of Malacañang.

The Ministry of Muslim Affairs will coordinate the efforts of all the other ministries on agricultural and other projects in Muslim Mindanao.

The President directed the Ministry of Education and Culture to coordinate with the Ministry of Muslim Affairs on the grant of scholarships to Muslim students.

The Ministries of Justice and Budget were told to start establishing the administrative and budgetary systems for the shariah or Muslim courts.

The Central Bank and the Ministries of Finance and Budget were directed to increase the paid-up capital of the Amanah bank in connection with the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran.

In his speech, the President urged both Christian and Muslim Filipinos to strengthen their contributions to nation-building.

June 5—

THE FIRST LADY, Minister of Human Settlements Imelda R. Marcos has arrived from a two-week visit to the United States, highlighted by a speech before energy scientists from 22 countries and the opening of a Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran (KKK) office in the Empire State building in New York city.

PRESIDENT MARCOS and daughter Imee led welcomers as the First Lady's plane touched down at the Manila International airport at 8:30 a.m.

The KKK office at the Empire State building will handle inquiries on Philippine products, particularly those manufactured under the KKK program, including the placement of Filipino nurses and doctors.

THE FIRST LADY delivered her keynote address at the Third International Energy Symposium held in connection with the World's Fair in Knoxville, Tennessee.

June 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS stressed that the refugee problem is worsening and that efforts to cope with it deserves a higher level of international support.

Ambassador H. Eugene Douglas called on the President and the First Lady, Minister of Human Settlements Imelda R. Marcos, to thank the Philippine government for its efforts in helping the Indochina refugees.

Douglas also sought the agreement of the President for the expansion of the facilities in Morong to accommodate more refugees from Indochina.

However, the President told Douglas that while the Philippines relishes its role as a country of first refuge for thousands of refugees, it may be time for this project to be duplicated in other Southeast Asian countries.

The Philippines became the country of first refuge for Indochinese refugees fleeing communist rule in Vietnam with the establishment of refugee processing center in Morong, Bataan, two years ago.

June 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS appealed to the people of Region IX and XII to go out today and cast their votes to elect members of the regional assemblies in Central and Western Mindanao.

The President had earlier declared June 7 a special non-working public holiday in the two regions to enable the people to vote for representatives in the regional assemblies.

Voting took place in Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi in Region IX; and Lanao del Norte, North Cotabato, Maguindanao, and Sultan Kudarat in Region XII.

The setting up of the autonomous regional government, the holding elections, as well as the holding of previous elections and plebiscites in the two regions, are in accordance with the Tripoli agreement designed to end the conflict in southern Philippines.

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THE FIRST LADY and Minister of Human Settlement, Imelda R. Marcos arrived in Peking on an official four-day visit to China.

In talks held with Mrs. Marcos on her first day of the four-day official visit, Premier Zhao Zhang said the Chinese government was satisfied with Sino-Philippines relations since ties were established in 1975.

Zhao gave a state banquet in honor of the First Lady in Peking's famous Great Hall of the People.

Mrs. Marcos stressed in her speech that bilateral relations between the Philippines and China could further be strengthened through the venues of diplomacy, trade, and culture.

June 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said he liked the idea of letting leaders of the Kabataang Barangay sit on rotation basis as observers in the executive committee which runs the government on a day-to-day-basis.

The Kabataang Barangay, in its national congress held in Malacañang's Maharlika Hall, had asked for permanent representation in the seven-man executive committee, proposing that KB Chairman Imee Marcos be the representative.

The President replied that this could not be done because he would be accused of setting up a dynasty.

He countered with the Kabataang Barangay for its assertiveness and involvement in matters affecting the national interest.

He said that youth leaders should convince the misguided who wanted to impose a foreign ideology on the country to join the majority in efforts to bring about progress and prosperity among the people.

June 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS issued Executive Order No. 804 creating positions of assistants to the prime minister to help him supervise the ministries, particularly the implementation of major development programs.

With the new positions, the President said the position of the presidential regional officer for development, was no longer necessary. Hence, he abolished it.

Under the 1973 Constitution, Prime Minister Cesar Virata has the duty of supervising the ministries.

At the same time, the President has authorized Virata to make sure that the ministries are run economically, efficiently, and effectively.

Under the new executive order, the assistants would report to Virata on the status of development programs, citing areas needing his attention.

The ministries, including the office of budget and management, would designate liaison officers to coordinate with these assistants.

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June 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has ordered all ministries and government agencies, including government corporations, to submit before Friday reports on systems and procedures and progress on operations.

The President stressed the reports submitted be the accomplishments covering the period 1972 to 1980, the period of martial law government.

He said the reports must contain achievements of development programs and projects. These must be supported by statistics and success indicators on a provincial basis.

The President ordered government offices to appoint officials to coordinate with the presidential management stall in the improvement of existing systems and procedures.

This has to do with eliminating red tape, thereby reducing processing time for transactions with the public.

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June 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that regardless of the heavy budgetary expense, he was determined to reorganize the judiciary and clear the 450,000 cases clogging the court dockets.

He said the Supreme Court had already submitted to him the staffing pattern for a reorganized judiciary

The President stressed the staffing pattern must be carefully reviewed because it means an increase of about P140 million in outlays.

The reorganization was temporarily stopped when a judge filed an injunction against the implementation of the reorganization act.

The Supreme Court, in a recent decision, ruled in favor of the act.

The reorganization deals in great part with the removal of incompetent and dishonest judges apart from streamlining court procedures.

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The First Lady arrived at 8:35 p.m. from Shanghai, ending a five-day Chinese visit.

The First Lady was met by a large group of welcomers led by President Marcos, who went up to the ramp to greet her.

She said that four traditional exports, which had long hit the skids in the world market, would now get a boost from the China market.

The First Lady met Chairman Yao Bang and Vice Chairman Deng Kiaopeng and discussed the a number of issues, particularly the strengthening of trade relations between the Philippines and China.

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June 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and the First Lady Minister Imelda R. Marcos led the nationwide observance of the 84th Independence Day anniversary.

The First Couple led in the hoisting of the Philippine flag at Rizal Park at 8 a.m. amid the blowing of sirens and the pealing of church bells.

At the same time, Prime Minister-Cesar Virata, Speaker Querube Makalintal and Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile hoisted the flag at the Aguinaldo shrine in Kawit, Cavite, at the Bonifacio Monument in Balintawak, Quezon City, and at Fort Bonifacio, respectively.

Floral offering followed at the Rizal monument, Aguinaldo shrine, Bonifacio monument, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, and at the monuments of national heroes all over the country.

The First Couple proceed to the Quirino grandstand where the President delivered the Independence Day address and view of civic-military parade.

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June 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS warned that violence is not the only danger to a nation but also indifference which can just easily squander what has been accumulated over the years and disfigure a nation's destiny.

Before his speech at the Quirino grandstand, the President and Mrs. Marcos raised the Philippine flag at the Luneta. With them were the President's mother, Mrs. Josefa Edralin Marcos, and their young wand, Aimee.

The President said that the struggle for freedom was not achieved by a single act, but through innumerable crises and struggles in the three centuries of Spanish rule and the next 84 years.

Hence, the commemoration of the 84th anniversary of independence would be meaningless if it does not refresh and reawaken the exertion of will and effort to meet the perils and challenges of the nation, the President said.

The President said that free enterprise and democratic politics were the keys of the nation's future.

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June 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has ordered an upward adjustment of salaries teaching personnel and the upgrading of salary ranges of teaching positions at the Philippine Science High School.

Under Executive Order 810 signed by the President on Independence Day, the pay adjustment will take effect Dec. 1, 1981.

Salaries of PSHS teachers were raised by four steps while their ranges were moved up to six. The adjustment represent a 22 to 35 per cent increase in salaries of the science teachers.

The salary increases for the 137 teachers entailed a total cost of about P274,000 a year to be charged against salary lapses and other personnel services of the agency.

To be benefited by the order are 137 teachers in the state-supported secondary school and its director.

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June 15—

THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos, and Prime Minister Cesar Virata took off for Riyadh to represent President Marcos on the occasion of the death of Saudi Arabian King Khaled.

The President directed them to hand his personal letter to condolence to the royal family and the people of Saudi Arabia through new King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz.

He said he would have gone himself except that the facilities might not be enough for the so many heads of state converging on Riyadh.

The President said that the death of King Khaled was a tragic and incalculable loss not only to his kingdom and the Muslim world but also to all nations believing in the brotherhood of men.

He said also that Saudi Arabia has lost a leader and the world a peacemaker, citing the king for using the wealth of his country to modernize his nation and to enrich the lives of his people without betraying their culture and religious heritage.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: June 16-29, 1982

OFFICIAL WEEKS IN REVIEW

June 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS discussed with a United States team led by Deputy Secretary of State Walter J. Stoessel a wide range of subjects, including Philippine-US trade and investments, in a meeting of more than two hours in Malacañang yesterday.

With Stoessel were Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs John Holdridge, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Richard Armitage, and US Ambassador Michael Armacost.

The President's panel included Minister of Defense Juan Ponce Enrile, Solicitor General Estelito Mendoza, and acting Minister of Foreign Affairs Manuel Collantes.

The American officials told the President of America's optimism about the global situation in the coming months. This was the key issue in the seven-nation western economic summit in Versailles, France.

Stoessel conveyed to the President messages from Mr. Reagan on the results of the Versailles talks as well as those of the 16-nation North Atlantic Treaty Organization conference on Bonn.

They also took up the latest reports on the Middle East situation.

President Marcos said that he took up with his visitors some of the outstanding bilateral problems between the two countries which he would like to settle before going on his state visit to Washington, D.C., this autumn.

The Philippines has had a trade deficit with America in the last three years. America remains the Philippines No. 1 trading partner, with Japan a close second.

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June 17—

THE FIRST LADY, Minister of Human Settlements Imelda R. Marcos, has arrived from Saudi Arabia where she paid her respects to the royal Saudi family on the death of King Khaled.

Mrs. Marcos, who left for Riyadh Monday afternoon, also called on the new sovereign, King Fahd, who talked to her for half an hour. Most of the world leaders who also called received an audience of five to ten minutes.

Upon her arrival, Mrs. Marcos said that relations between the two countries would reach new peaks.

King Fahd said he appreciated that the First Lady and her party took the long and tiring trip from Manila to Riyadh to condole with Mm and the royal family.

The First Lady handed the king a letter from President Marcos which conveyed his sympathy, renewed assurances of friendship and his confidence that the King's wise leadership would work well for peace and stability in the Middle East.

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June 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has issued Executive Orders No. 808 and 809, increasing from 14 to 21 days the length of stay here of temporary visitors holding passports of the People's Republic of China and Taiwan.

The President said it is the policy of government to make the tourist industry a positive instrument for national development.

Tourism allows people from other lands to visit and appreciate the country. Hence, he said, it is necessary to give full support to government policies designed to promote tourism.

The President said revision of the rules to make visitors stay longer to appreciate the scenery and the hospitality of the people would enhance the goals of the tourist industry.

Those granted 21-day stay will not be required to post any cash bond, as an exception to the cabinet policy issued March 10, 1954.

The President said the maximum period of stay fixed by the order may be extended for very compelling reasons and under exceptional circumstances by the ministry of justice.

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June 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, accompanied by the First Lady, Minister of Human Settlements Imelda R. Marcos, presented the order Order of Mabini to ailing Ambassador Leon Ma. Guerrero.

"I have come not only to wish him well in his sickbed, but to perform a task for the Filipino people, that is to award him overdue recognition of his services as a man whose genius and talent have been forged in the service of his fellow Filipinos," Mr. Marcos said.

"The President cited the ambassador's unparalleled services as a lawyer, writer, diplomat, and nationalist.

He called Guerrero one of the best journalist of the country, a master of prose in two languages whose ruling passion was nationalism—a theme which colors his every undertaking.

Prime Minister Virata read the citation.

Ambassador Guerrero thanked the President for the decoration in the name of the other career ambassadors in the foreign service. He said:

"I gratefully accept the Third Mabini Award in the name of all the career ambassadors of the foreign service of the Philippines, past, present, and to come. We have often been neglected, forgotten, and persecuted by the mean megalomania of our superiors, but we shall always remember that only you remembered us these many years, and we shall not—I for one—shall not forget."

The President said that it is the mark of his prescience that today many of his beliefs have become part and parcel of the foreign policy of the Republic under the government's direction.

The President and Guerrero offered a toast to the country and the future of the Republic.

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June 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has expressed satisfaction over the success of Alay Lakad in the past 10 years in providing opportunities for the out-of-school youth to engage in activities to promote social and economic development.

His message was conveyed by Ms. Imee Marcos, national chairman of the Kabataang Barangay, during the 10th anniversary of Alay Lakad at the Luneta.

Since 1972, the Alay Lakad walk-for-a-cause movement has raised funds to finance 2,376 projects, including skills training, income-generating ventures, community scouting, leadership training, and cultural activities, benefitting 231,555 youths.

The President said that the success of Alay Lakad lies in the transformation of the lives of our youth from wasteful idleness to productive participation in the task of nation-building.

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The First Lady, Minister of Human Settlements Imelda R. Marcos, called to an end to harassment of businessmen by government inspectors and agents.

Mrs. Marcos stressed that government inspectors must help create the correct atmosphere for the advancement of entrepreneurs, which is the core of the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran livelihood program.

He said that harassment of businessmen goes against that kind of atmosphere and would be tantamount to killing private enterprise.

Mrs. Marcos said it is important for the government to provide the right atmosphere for entrepreneurs to expand and to feel that, as long as they pay the proper taxes, they are safe from abusive inspectors.

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June 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and the First Lady and Metro Manila Gov. led welcomers at the Manila International Airport during the arrival of Hungarian President Pal Losonezi.

The Hungarian president heads a six-man delegation and nine others for a five-day state visit.

With President Losonezi are Jeno Vanoza, minister of agriculture-and food; Zsolt Bajnok, president of the council of ministers' information office; Dr. Vencel Hazi, deputy minister of foreign affairs; Dr. Tibor Melega, deputy minister of foreign trade; Dr. Istvan Kovacs, adviser to the minister of trade; and Dr. Peter Kos, Hungarian ambassador to the Philippines.

Following his arrival, President Losonezi led the laying of a ceremonial wreath at the Rizal monument at the Luneta before proceeding to the Malacañang Guest House.

President Pal Losonezi of Hungary is on a five-day visit to strengthen economic, scientific and cultural relations with the Philippines.

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June 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said in a nationwide broadcast that construction of barangay roads and school buildings will be placed under the control of the barangays.

The President said that a top-level meeting will soon be called to discuss major barangay problems, headed by those of crime, squatting, and drug addiction.

He said that these problems have grown too big for barangays to handle, for even city officials, with all the resources at their command, can hardly contain them.

The President said that because squatters have abused the government's compassionate policy, there is a need to restudy the policy on squatting and to clarify our stand on the matter.

The President stressed that the problems will be taken up in a meeting involving the Ministries of Justice, Defense, Health, and the Metro Manila Commission plus other agencies like the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System.

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June 23—

THE FIRST LADY, Minister of Human Settlements and Metro Manila Gov. Imelda R. Marcos, has directed the mayors of Metro Manila to push relentlessly the greening program of the metropolis.

She said that the planting of trees and flowering plants must be stepped up to keep the landscape green, thereby increasing oxygen in the atmosphere.

The First Lady during a meeting with the mayors announced that Rico Tantoco, president of the Manila Seedling Bank, would be head of the greening program.

Tantoco will supply the mayors with seedlings for the program.

Noting the many vacant lots in the metropolis, the First Lady suggested that their owners clean up the lots and plant trees on them.

The First Lady stressed that trees are needed more than ever, with congestion becoming worse in Metro Manila, to make it a wholesome place to live in Metro Manila has 8.2 million people.

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June 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that the 1978-1982 Plan—cited for its program on self-sufficiency in grain and its energy program by the World Bank—will be the basis for the structural transformation of the economy in the next five years.

The President told Business Week that political stability characterized his first year following his election as President of the New Republic.

He said that a main feature of the past five-year plan was that the nation became self-sufficient in rice and corn, while building up overhead capital and carrying out an energy development program.

The President cited the diversification of trade, both in new products and markets. Non-traditional exports now make up half of all exports.

In the coming years, the President said that the export program will concentrate on handicrafts, electronics, garments and textile, footwear, construction material, processed food, and furniture.

The President said that he expects international business to help the country achieve more efficiency and higher productivity.

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President Marcos said that the tradition started by Apolinario Mabini in enhancing freedom and other national values in the conduct of foreign policies will always be followed.

Speaking at the 84th anniversary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Mabini Hall, the President said that through diplomacy, a vigilant defense policy, cooperation and partnership with other peoples, and the participation of the people, the continued existence of Philippine sovereignty will be assured.

The President congratulated past secretaries of foreign affairs starting with the first secretary, Mabini. He also congratulated the staff of the ministry for the successful conduct of the nation's foreign affairs.

He said that the fact this ministry has survived to this day and continues to fulfill its vital role as the articulator and implementor of the foreign policies of the New Republic attest to the authenticity and vitality of the sovereign state.

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The First Lady, Metro Manila Governor, has expressed her disappointment over the lack of initiative and creativity on the part of some Metro Manila mayors, urged them to develop new programs promoting the welfare of their constituents.

In a meeting at Malacañang with the mayors of the four cities and 13 towns of the metropolis, the First Lady deplored the habit of some mayors to wait for the national leadership to all the thinking and planning.

Mrs. Marcos stressed that if all the programs that are presented to her are well studied and viable, she emphasized that these projects could be funded even if she had to borrow from the World Bank.

She said that since the mayors are in the best position to know the needs and potentialities of their communities, they should be able to come up with new ideas and programs while the Metro Manila Commission sets the guidelines.

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June 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, acceding to pleas of hard times from property owners, froze real estate taxes at their current levels until Jan. 1, 1985.

This would mean a two-year grace period for property owners.

Property owners have been bracing for a sharp upward revision of real estate assessment this year.

Reports said that some cities and towns would raise the assessment by 100 per cent.

In his Executive Order No. 812, the President deferred the general revision of real estate assessments to June 30, 1984. Hence, the accrual of real estate tax based on this revision would be effective Jan. 1, 1985.

The President took cognizance of the representations of land owners to extend the general revision and defer the accrual.

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The First Lady, Minister of Human Settlements Imelda R. Marcos, called the attention of Metro Manila mayors to the general poor maintenance of public markets, resulting in poor sanitation, criminality and fire hazards.

She warned that unless maintenance is improved, these markets would no longer be viable.

The First Lady also noted the low market collections in some areas of the metropolis, citing reports of loss of government revenues due to under-the-table collection of market fees and rentals.

She urged the mayors to help increase the public market fees not only by discouraging under-the-table rentals, but also by giving enough time and effort to supervising market operations.

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June 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that the government would send a delegation to Hungary next August to learn from its agrarian reform program.

In an interview at the Manila International Airport where he saw off Hungarian President Pal Losonezi, the President said that the visit was highly successful, presaging strengthened relations between the two countries in the areas of economics, culture, arts, education, science and technology.

The President said that the visitor was impressed with the Philippines as a democratic state with order in the organization and operation of democratic institutions, without vestiges of dictatorship.

Mr. Marcos said that Filipinos and all others interested in land reform could look into the Hungarian experience, particularly in the area of farm cooperatives.

Hungary's President Pal Losonezi, here for a five-day state visit, thanked the President for the warm and cordial reception accorded him and his party.

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June 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has directed Prime Minister Cesar Virata to head the executive committee to form a group to supervise the National Power Corp. to make its operations more efficient.

Reacting to the daily brown-outs plaguing Metro Manila, the President said the group must ensure the supply of electric power to industries.

It will also coordinate all government policies and projects on power.

The President said he wanted the brown-outs to end, having had enough of complaints from all sectors, particularly business and industry.

The President issued these other directives:

1. Immediately operation of the new Kalayaan pump storage facility in Caliraya Lake, Laguna, which could supply additional power whenever needed.
2. Dredging operations to be undertaken at the Ambuklao and Binga dams in the Mountain Province to remove the silt, thereby increasing the output of the hydroelectric generators.
3. Listing by the NPC of specific hours at night when surplus power is available so that factories can schedule their operations at these times to catch up on production contracts.
4. Maximize efficiency in the transmittal of electricity to Metro Manila from the geothermal power plants in Tiwi, Albay, and Mak-Ban Laguna.

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June 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has reaffirmed the approval of a major tin can manufacturing project between the American Can Co. (UPCC) and the United Coconut Planters Bank.

The President said the project is a key to (increased domestic food production and help boost the development of a food export market.

Against objections from local manufacturers, the President stressed that the project will help increase the income of farmers by encouraging greater production, bring food products to consumers at cheaper prices yeararound through the canning of seasonal fruits and vegetables, and develop a potentially huge export market.

The operationalization of the tin can manufacturing project strengthens the country's food production program under the New Republic.

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June 29—

THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos flicked on two ceremonial switches today to provide electricity for 53 towns of Leyte and 20 others in Samar.

In a ceremony at the People's Center shortly after her arrival, Mrs. Marcos also announced a reduction in electric rates for Leyte and Samar from P1.95 to P1.36/kwh effective today.

She said that the region deserves a lower power rate, being the source of geothermal power at Tongonan, Leyte.

The First Lady said that more towns in Samar and the outlying islands are due to get electricity before the President's birth anniversary on September 11 and the whole of Region VIII will have power by July next year.

Rural electrification has become one of the basic policies of the government since the establishment of the New Society in 1972.

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June 30—

PRESIDENT MARCOS cited the country's development efforts in a statement released by the Philippine delegation to the World Bank consultative group meeting on Tokyo.

Prime Minister Cesar Virata is leading the Philippine delegation to the meeting which opened yesterday.

The President said that the Philippines has made substantial gains in its development efforts within the framework of a new and more dynamic political system.

The development of a responsive and popular political framework has hastened the normalization process which started with the lifting of martial law last year, the President said.

He said that the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran (KKK) program is now involving the people in productive projects in the country side.

The President said that the government investments in infrastructure projects, communications, industrial estates, and electrification have improved the viability of economic undertakings in the various regions.

The President stressed with confidence that the investments could provide a good financial and social returns.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: July 1-22, 1982

President's Week in Review: July 23-31, 1982

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

July 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has ordered a nationwide census of disabled persons to provide decision makers with data for policy planning and to determine the disabled who can qualify for assistance under the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran.

The President gave the order to the National Commission for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled, through its chairman, Mrs. Julita C. Benedicto, who headed a delegation to submit a report of the activities of the commission, on the occasion of Fourth National Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation Week, July 18-24.

The commission also submitted to the President:

1. A five-year plan for disability prevention and rehabilitation and a national plan of action for the Decade of Disabled Persons.
2. Plans establishment of pilot community-based rehabilitation services in Bacolod and Antique and the establishment of rehabilitation centers in selected provinces with provincial hospitals.

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President Marcos had directed the military and police authorities to spare no effort to tract down those who ambushed Assemblyman Emmanuel Pelaez in his car in front of his Quezon city home.

Two carloads of assassins sprayed Pelaez's car with gunfire, killing his driver and hitting the assemblyman, a former vice president of the Philippines.

The ambush scene was about 20 yards from Pelaez's house.

The driver, Arsenio Rogero, 55, died on the spot. Pelaez, on the other hand, was taken to the St. Luke's hospital in critical condition but doctors have since pronounced him out of danger.

Pelaez, in a press statement the other day, said people should refrain from making speculations on the parties responsible for the attempt on his life and slaying of his driver.

"I appeal to everyone to refrain from making statements until the authorities have gone to the bottom of the case," he said.

The President said he hoped Pelaez could recover in time to make it to the Asean Task Force, established at the instance of the Philippines to make a study of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

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July 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that the coalition government in Kampuchea has the moral support of the Philippine government.

The President gave this assurance during the call of Kampuchean Prime Minister Son Sann who arrived to follow up the request made some two weeks ago for assistance by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, president of the coalition government.

The Kampuchean coalition, is composed of the Moulinaka. of Prince Sihanouk, the Khmer People's National Liberation Front of Son Sann, and the Khmer Rouge of Khieu Sampan.

Regarding all other types of assistance which the coalition government is soliciting, the President said the matter will have to be the subject of consultation among the Asean leaders.

The President stressed, however, that the coalition government can count on continued Asean support for the retention of its seat in the United Nations.

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July 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS delivered a state-of-the-nation address at the opening session of the Batasang Pambansa fifth regular session.

The P63.5-billion national budget for 1983 topped the Batasan agenda and the corresponding bills for raising public fees.

The public works (infrastructure) bill, a measure which could add teeth to the graft and corruption law, and some other economic measures, among others, were taken up.

The President stressed that the assembly should focus its vision to the pressing matters and problems confronting the nation.

However, he emphasized the need for the assembly to take decisive steps against adverse effects of incessant strife abroad and the continuing instability of the international economy.

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The Kilusang Bagong Lipunan caucus, presided over by President Marcos in Malacañang took up a five-point agenda on strategy for early enactment of urgent legislation.

The five points are:

1. Proposed amendments to the Election Code, especially the election date for Batasan members and local officials, regulation of election expenses, and a provision on switching of political parties.
2. Amendments to the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Law, particularly provisions having to do with disqualification from public office.
3. Prime Minister Cesar Virata's report on his recent mission to America.
4. Central Bank Gov. Jaime Laya's report on the limit of amortization of foreign borrowings.
5. Other urgent administration bills pending in the Batasan.

The President said earlier he hoped the proposed amendments to the Election Code could be enacted in time for the 1984 Batasan election.

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July 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS addressed the opening of the fifth session of the Batasang Pambansa.

The President called on the Batasan to support the government's five-year development plan for 1983-1987 so its social and economic objectives may be achieved.

The President also discussed the various aspects and requirements of the development program, and how the legislature could help carry it out.

The Batasan in its session enacted priority measures outlined in the legislative program drawn up by the ruling Kilusang Bagong Linunan (KBL) during its caucus.

The Batasan also acted on the report of Prime Minister Cesar Virata on his recent mission to the United States and the report of Central Bank Gov. Jaime Laya on the limit of amortization of foreign loans.

Also expected to be approved on third and final reading even before the budget is finalized, is the Education Act of 1982 which the assembly passed on second reading last April.

The five-year plan is actually the blueprint for Philippine economic development for the rest of the 1980's.

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July 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS thumbed down a labor agitation for a major increase in the minimum wage at a time when business is struggling to stay afloat.

Mr. Marcos said that in other countries like America unions are voluntarily abandoning their wage demands and have even accepted wage cuts.

He said that the demand of some labor groups for a wage increase is unrealistic and stressed that the priority of the government is the employment of those without jobs.

The problem of unemployment was one of five main points in his agenda for government action.

The others concerned thrust of the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran, the judicial reorganization, the legislative program, and the five-year economic program beginning 1983.

The President called the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran (KKK) the centerpiece of the government program to give gainful employment to the labor force which increases by 643,000 yearly.

He said P1 billion was allocated for the first year of KKK operations, with another P1 billion scheduled for the coming year, plus P200 million for the local government support fund for the KKK.

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July 28—

THE FIRST LADY Minister of Human Settlements Imelda R. Marcos deplored reports based on inaccurate statistics allegedly showing that 70 per cent of Filipino children are suffering from malnutrition.

The First Lady, who is the founding chairman of the Nutrition foundation of the Philippines, said that a recent survey of the Food and Nutrition Research Institute showed that only 1.6 per cent of pre-schoolers, from age one to 6, are suffering from malnutrition.

She deplored the efforts of some quarters through irresponsible local reporting as well as the foreign media to make “us appear as a nation of retarded people.”

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Prime Minister Cesar Virata submitted to the Batasan for approval a P61.8-billion national budget for 1983.

Although the total expenditure program for 1983 would amount to P65 billion, the budget which was presented as Cabinet Bill No. 50 authorized the appropriation of only P61.8 billion.

Expenditures not appropriated in the budget, Virata said, are programmed as part of continuing appropriations in existing laws.

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July 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS underwent his annual executive check-up at the Metropolitan Hospital and passed his physical and medical tests.

A series of examinations indicated everything is normal, according to a medical bulletin issued by a team of physicians which examined him.

The team of physicians, headed by Dr. Pacifico Yap, surgeon; included Dr. Juanita G. Zagala, internist, Dr. Victor So, internist, Dr. Robert Sese, radiologist, Dr. Inday Disini, anaesthesiologist, and Dr. Amelita Garcia, pathologist.

The examinations included blood tests, upper G.I. series, barium enema, proctosigmoidcopy, cardio-vascular workup, chest x-ray, and other required tests.

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July 30—

THIS FIRST LADY, Minister of Human Settlements Imelda R. Marcos said that the nation’s abundance in natural and human resources will spell the difference in the country’s development as the world reels in the face of a global economic recession.

Speaking extemporaneously before alumni of the career executive development program and of the National Defense College at the University of Life, the First Lady expressed optimism over the capacity of the Philippine economy to bounce back from the current recession because of its rich natural resources and a highly educated and skilled people.

At the same time, the First Lady said that the government's campaign against squatters will be relentless as it will be compassionate.

"We are doing it one step at a time—in all places and in all directions," Mrs. Marcos said.

The First Lady stressed that while authorities will treat squatters with compassion, they will be tough with professional squatters.

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July 31—

THE FIRST LADY and Minister of Human Settlements Imelda R. Marcos said that President Marcos' intensified crime drive does not mean that the crime situation is out of control.

Mrs. Marcos, who is also Metro Manila governor, said that Metro Manila's crime rate of 15.9 per cent 100,000 population is among the lowest in the world.

She declared that it is only with peace and order that the community could progress socially and economically.

Mrs. Marcos also gave a progress report on the P2 billion Light Rail Transit, which would run on elevated tracks from Bonifacio Monument in Caloocan city to Parañaque — along Avenida Rizal and Taft Ave.

Public transportation, she said, is one of the basic needs of the metropolis.

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President Marcos led the nation in paying tribute to the late Assemblyman Estanislao A. Fernandez of Laguna at the necrological services in the Batasang Pambansa session hall.

The President came with the First Lady, Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos, to express the sorrow of the entire Filipino people to the bereaved family.

He remembered the late assemblymen as a friend and loyal comrade of many battles, both personal and political, who served his country well.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: August 1-15, 1982

President's Week in Review: August 16-22, 1982

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

August 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered public officials yesterday to leave their swivel chairs and their air-conditioned offices and go to the countryside to make the people feel the presence of government.

He urged them to go out to their barangays and counteract anti-government propaganda by subversives elements.

The President said: "I am ordering you as your superior in the civil government to participate in this light against the subversives actively. I do not want any neutral position."

The order was directed at national, regional and local officials all over the country, through their counterparts in Region II whom he met in Malacañang.

The President reminded the public officials particularly the governor and mayors, that they should not wait to be told what to do because it is their duty to maintain close contact with their constituents.

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August 17—

THE FIRST LADY, Minister of Human Settlements Imelda R. Marcos, said yesterday, following a tour of the 120-hectare terminal food complex, that its facilities and food technology can now offer more efficient storage, processing, and marketing of farm products.

The First Lady, chairman of the terminal food complex since 1980, worked for the increase of the terminal's non-grain purchases from farmers—mainly poultry and livestock products—to a total of P1 billion in two years.

From 1974 to 1978, total purchases of such products had reached only P158 million.

Under her leadership, the use of the upgraded facilities of the terminal rose to 80 to 100 percent level. In the previous five years, these facilities were hardly used.

The terminal is now leasing another refrigerated warehouse in Navotas to increase purchases of livestock and fish products.

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August 18—

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS Minister Imelda R. Marcos yesterday asked the Cabinet to review the government's electric rates policy to be fair to areas producing the power.

Attending a Cabinet meeting at the Batasang Pambansa, Mrs. Marcos asked that the law be amended to allow the National Power Corp. to depart from a uniform price policy that the law requires for areas serviced under one grid.

The First Lady made this proposal during a discussion on the incentives to be given private investors in the development of the country's power source.

The Cabinet, presided over by Prime Minister Cesar Virata, agreed to grant foreign investors in geothermal plants an 18-percent return on investments by allowing them to deduct from ordinary cost interest rates payment on the basis of a fixed debt equity ratio.

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August 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has suspended logging in Cagayan Valley and nearby provinces as a move against dissident activities in the North.

The President took this action on the basis of intelligence reports that dissidents were exploiting logging to raise funds.

The reports said some of the logging concessioners were contributing or were being coerced into contributing to the dissidents' kitty, although some others have resisted.

In some cases, the President was informed, the personnel of the logging firms—such as drivers, guards or laborers—were being supplied by the dissidents to ensure collection of contributions.

The Provinces affected by the presidential ban are the Cagayan Valley, Batanes, Kalinga-Apayao, Isabela, Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya, which comprise Region II.

The President has assured loggers in the area that the government would help them recover at least part of the losses they are expected to incur as a result of the imposition of the ban.

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August 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that his trip to Washington DC, next month will be a friendly one, the fulfilling of a diplomatic obligation to visit President Ronald Reagan “because he visited with me sometime back.”

In his “Meet the Press” telecast the other night, he said some of to regional offices in line with the regionalization part of the reorganization and the updating of trade treaties.

The President said that before leaving for Washington, he will call a Cabinet meeting to firm up implementation of the government reorganization plan.

He had earlier directed the various ministries to start decentralizing some functions by delegating authority to regional offices and bureaus.

The President has issued a letter of instructions to Prime Minister Cesar Virata to determine which ministries should transfer authority to regional offices in line with the regionalization part of the reorganization.

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August 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS urged the media yesterday to be specific in their stories against erring public officials as this would help the government eradicate graft and corruption.

He told newsmen they could name officials involved in shady transactions.

Or, they could specify details such as the time and place when such venalities were committed in cases where they are restrained by libel laws from openly naming corrupt officials.

Such details, the President said, would help authorities pinpoint the culprits.

The President stressed that the media should do this instead of making general statements that are not supported by facts.

August 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS was admitted to the Veterans Memorial hospital yesterday afternoon because of chills, fever, and cough.

Dr. Eduardo Jamora a chest specialist, was called in consultation by his personal physicians who strongly advised hospitalization because of the possibility that the President had pneumonitis.

Doctors also believed that the current cough is due to chronic asthmatic bronchitis.

The President was advised to have complete rest without visitors until further medical advice.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

Official Week in Review: August 23 – August 31, 1982

August 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has ordered the suspension of deductions from the paychecks of public school teachers.

He directed Budget Minister Manuel S. Alba to confer with officials of the Ministry of Education and Culture and clarify the issues involved.

The President's suspension order will affect the teacher's paychecks for October and monthly thereafter because their paychecks for September have already been processed and issued.

The National Capital Regional School Teachers Association (NCRPSTA) led various teachers' groups in petitioning the President to stop the deduction.

The President issued the order Saturday before the Chief Executive entered the Veterans Memorial Hospital for treatment.

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August 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has checked out of the Veterans Memorial Hospital at 12:30 p.m. yesterday, ending a 41-hour stay in the hospital.

The President, hospitalized for mild pneumonia, was released by his doctors following the completion of various medical tests.

He would continue to receive treatment in Malacañang and was advised to have complete rest.

His daughter Irene and brother-in-law Ambassador Benjamin Romualdez checked him out of the hospital.

Present were Minister of Information Gregorio Cendaña, Chairman Roberto Benedicto of the Philippine Sugar Commission, and Dr. Juanita Zagala and Dr. Pacifico Yap, the President's personal doctors.

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The First Lady, Minister of Human Settlements Imelda R. Marcos, called yesterday for stronger political, economic and technical cooperation between Libya and the Philippines.

In a luncheon tendered by the First Lady in Malacañang for Jad Allah Azouz Altalhi, secretary general of the Libyan People's Committee who carried the rank of prime minister, Mrs. Marcos offered Libya closer and a more viable relationship between the two countries.

The Libyan visitor also expressed his country's desire for closer relationship and paid tribute to Filipino technicians and workers numbering about 20,000—now working in Libya—for assisting the country in the implementation of its development program.

August 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS called on the developing nations to stop depending on industrialized countries during the world recession, urging them to develop self-reliance to combat the global economic crisis.

In a speech read for him by Prime Minister Cesar Virata before the Inter-Governmental Follow-Up and Coordinating Committee for Economic Cooperation and Developing Countries (ECDC), the President noted that it was the industrialized nations which brought about the current crisis.

“It has become pathetically clear that we, developing countries, not only cannot depend on them, but also cannot rely on them refrain from adopting measures destructive of world trade, finance and growth,” he said.

The president said the problems Third World countries are encountering are aggravated by protectionist measures in trade, particularly against farm products and manufactured goods from developing nations.

He said the Philippines would make a strong stand for exempting developing countries from the application of minimum interest rates on export credits for capital goods.

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August 26—

THE FIRST LADY, Minister of Human Settlements Imelda R. Marcos urged the nation’s women educators yesterday to emphasize human values and a positive attitude towards society in their work.

Mrs. Marcos met some 300 women educators and administrators from all over the country at the Heroes Hall at Malacañang in preparation for the first national conference of women educators in September at the University of Life.

Citing the atmosphere gloom in many countries, the First Lady called on the Filipino tutors to work hard on solving their problems with confidence.

“Let us change the atmosphere of depression by having a state of happiness, a state of positive thinking, and a feeling that God is always with us,” the First Lady said.

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August 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS assured Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Ha Van Lau yesterday that the conflict in Cambodia has not changed the close ties between the Philippines and Vietnam.

The President made the assurance during a call by Lau who is attending a Group 77 meeting in Manila.

The President received his first official visitors since his confinement at the Veterans Memorial Hospital.

Thai Foreign Minister Sitthi Savetsila also called on the President.

The Vietnamese official delivered to the President a message from the Vietnamese prime minister stating his country’s policy on the peace and stability of the region.

“Please tell Prime Minister Pham Van Dong that whatever may be our disagreements in relation to Kampuchea (Cambodia) and to ASEAN, the relations between us as friends do not change,” the President Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Ha Van Lau.

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The First Lady, Minister of Human Settlements Imelda R. Marcos has finalized the plan yesterday for the Institute for the Rehabilitation of Man (IRM), an integrated rehabilitation center for the mentally ill, physically handicapped, and criminals.

The first of its kind in the world, the IRM will use love, science and art as instruments to rehabilitate inmates from the National Mental Hospital, the National Orthopedic Hospital, and the prisons, Mrs. Marcos said.

The First Lady directed Metro Manila Vice Gov. Ismael A. Mathay, Jr. to draw up plans for IRM's resources. She told Deputy Minister of Human Settlements Jose Conrado Benitez to look for an appropriate site for the center.

The center can house 15,000 persons. Plans call for 5,000 inmates to come from the National Mental Hospital, 5,000 from the National Orthopedic Hospital, and 5,000 from various prisons.

In the single center, the inmates will undergo mental, physical, and spiritual treatment and rehabilitation Mrs. Marcos said.

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August 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has announced yesterday the lifting of the coconut levy, citing the plunging world price of coconut oil.

Leaders of the industry as well as recipients of the levy themselves had recommended the move to the President.

Industry leaders told the President that the removal of the levy would help the industry. It would encourage productivity and make coconut oil more competitive in the world market.

Presidential Decree No. 1842 provides for the imposition of the levy on a graduated scale depending on the world price of coconut oil.

The decree also provides that when the world price drops to 20 U.S. cents a pound, the Philippine Coconut could suspend the levy.

Under the decree, funds from the levy are to be used to support socio-economic and development programs for the benefit of coconut farmers primarily, and also to the coconut industry in general.

Among these programs are the coconut hybrid replanting program, the coconut farmers insurance plan and the scholarship program for children of coconut farmers.

President Marcos lifted the levy because the price of coconut oil in the world market reached a new low of 17 US cents and also from the stiff competition from similar products such as palm oil.

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The First Lady, Minister of Human Settlements Imelda R. Marcos told a Chinese delegation yesterday there should be a more vigorous exchange of programs between the People's Republic of China and the Philippines, particularly with regard to children's welfare.

She received at her office as the University of Life a five-man group headed by Mrs. Luo Ying, director of the department for children's culture and arts. The group is in the country on an eight-day visit to study government projects having to do with children's welfare.

Mrs. Marcos said that China, with its ancient civilization and experience, could help in the Philippine program to develop the youth into productive citizens of the future.

Mrs. Luo cited the Lungsod ng Kabataan Children's hospital, calling it not only an infirmary but also "a paradise for children."

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August 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has announced yesterday the capture of several persons led by Isagani Serrano, said to be a leading member of the central committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines in charge of mass action.

Others arrested, coming from the New People's Army, the Socdem United Democratic Front, and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), were described as key leaders of a conspiracy to launch a nationwide terrorist program next month.

Serrano, identified as an organizer of demonstrations, was arrested in Quezon City. There is a P150,000 price on his head. With him was Gocelyn de Guzman and two others.

The President assured the public that they and their property were now safe. He said that the authorities were prepared for any eventuality and that the situation was under control.

The President, after meeting with intelligence officials, agreed that they had practically aborted the terrorist plans of the subversives.

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President Marcos took several more steps yesterday to save the distressed coconut industry, the most vital measure being the creation of the Coconut Investment Fund setting aside P100 million for the welfare of 61 hard-hit coconut farmers.

At the same time, he ordered acceleration of the coco-diesel program.

The President ordered the Coconut Investment Fund to support with its income the scholarship program started by the Cocofed. He directed the Cocofed, the Philippine Coconut Authority, and the Coconut Investment Fund to coordinate on this matter.

The President also ordered the implementation of the plan for intercropping the new varieties of high yielding peanuts, and high yielding mongo beans in coconut land as well as in sugar land.

He set aside P100 million for the propagation of new seeds.

The day before, in response to the plunging coconut oil, the President suspended the coconut levy.

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August 30—

PRESIDENT MARCOS led the nation yesterday in the observance of National Heroes Day.

The President motored to Fort Bonifacio at noon to fulfill his first outside engagement since leaving the hospital Monday to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

In brief remarks at the ceremony, the President extolled the war dead whose names, he said, will remain forever unknown and whose tomb is marked by the simple words: "Here lies a soldier whose name is known only to God."

The President said: "History has marked this day on which we honor not one or two, or a few of the men to whom we owe not only the Republic of the Philippines but all the freedoms that we know."

"To these men," he continued, "we lay the wreath of remembrance, of memory, of rededication, and of fulfillment of all we had pledged in the past."

August 31—

THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos called yesterday for wider use of the nation's human resources through self-help programs to achieve self-reliance.

The First Lady made this call in a speech delivered for her by Mrs. Carmen Guerrero Nakpil, director general of the Technology Resource Center, during the 2nd graduation exercises of the home study program at the University of Life in Pasig.

A total of 295 graduates mostly young adults and professionals, completed the three-month program, learning five livelihood courses in support of the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran.

Commending those who completed the livelihood courses, the First Lady said they now join the more than 3,000 others who have acquired "not only better discipline and management skills but are beneficiaries of livelihood projects in support of the movement for self-reliance."

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Source: National Library of the Philippines

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1982). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 78(43), ccxxv-ccxxix.

President's Week in Review: September 1-7, 1982

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

September 1—

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS Minister Imelda R. Marcos has denounced certain anti-government elements for spreading rumors that jeepney and bus drivers will be displaced with the operation of the Light Rail Transit (LRT).

In her talk with some members of the Cabinet, the First Lady placed out that the LRT will in fact be a boon to jeepneys and buses in Metro Manila.

"An effective mass transport system would be a boon to business as more people are attracted to the city core by an effective transportation system," she said.

The First Lady stressed that jeepneys and buses will remain the backbone of the mass transportation system in Metro Manila, servicing areas linked to the LRT route.

Since movement in and around the city would be more efficient, public utility vehicles could have more trips, thus increasing their income, she said.

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September 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, in an executive order defining the corporate structure of the new company, has ordered the Philippine Coconut Authority to immediately proceed with the incorporation and organization of the firm under the Corporation Code.

The newly-created Coconut Investment Company will be a private company owned by the coconut farmers themselves.

The company was set up during the weekend after the removal of the coconut levy to help boost the coconut industry on which some 10 million Filipinos depend.

All the shares of stock will be owned by the coconut farmers who have registered their Cocofund receipts under Republic Act 6260.

Coconut farmers who are registered holders of Cocofund receipts have expressed their wish, through the Cocofed, that the company now be organized as a private entity.

September 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS received yesterday proposal from a New York company, Globus Resources, for the manufacture of a fuel mixture using 90 per cent coconut oil and 10 per cent diesel.

Under present plans, the coco-diesel mixture would have only three per cent coconut oil.

The Globus offer would revolutionize the fuel industry, cutting down on diesel import and giving new life to the heavily distressed coconut industry suffering from new loss in the world price for coconut oil.

“A five-man group, headed by Globus Chairman Alfred Globus, told President and the First Lady, Minister of Human Settlements Imelda R. Marcos that the mixture, called “Dieselite” would have 98 per cent of the energy content of standard diesel, running motor vehicles and power generators with efficiency.

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September 4—

The First Lady, Minister of Human Settlements Imelda R. Marcos, told track star Lydia de Vega and her father yesterday to cast aside their problems with Gintong Alay Executive Director Michael Keon.

In delicately stepping into the feud, the First Lady said that “everybody is correct here.”

“Keon has his problems, he was working in terms of budget and discipline,” she said.

“I fully understand his concern for discipline as head of the sports foundation, but I also fully appreciate the concerns and needs of a father,” the First Lady said.

Lydia and her father are scheduled to leave today for Nanking where the China Open Invitational Track and Field meet will be held starting tomorrow.

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September 5—

PRESIDENT MARCOS will start his state visit to the United States on Sept. 15 (Washington time; Sept. 16, Manila time.)

Accompanied by the First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos, the President will be making his second state visit to the US in 16 years.

Announcement on the visit was issued jointly yesterday by Malacañang and the Western White House in Sta. Barbara, California.”

The visit will include talks with President Reagan on the 16th and meetings with Cabinet officers, members of Congress and representatives of the private sector.

The Reagan administration has cultivated good relations with the Marcos government, and a series of top US officials including Vice President George Bush and the Secretary of State Alexander Haig have paid visits to the Philippines.

President Marcos had described his trip to Washington as “a fulfillment of a diplomatic obligation” and is looking forward to meeting once more an old friend who was his guest in 1969 when US President Ronald Reagan was still governor of California.

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September 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS stressed yesterday that he would seek a clarification from President Reagan of US plans in the Philippines and Asia in the event of any contingency in this part of the world

Answering questions from newsmen in an interview in Malacañang which was broadcast nationwide over radio and television, the President said that Asia has been kept in the dark for so long.

“I would be happy to find out what the plans are for Asia,” the President said. “I think it is about time that partners told each other exactly what they plan about any possible contingencies.”

The President also said that his visit to Washington, D.C., which starts on Sept. 15 (Sept. 16 Manila time) would be an opportunity to assess Philippine-American relations in the light of significant events that have occurred since his last visit 16 years ago.

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September 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said yesterday he intends to issue a decree “to avoid any conflict” in the event the Batasang Pambansa fails to act on an urgent measure clearly spelling out the rule of succession, particularly the exact role of the Executive Committee.

In an interview with foreign and local newsmen in Malacañang, the President said: “I told them (the Batasan), if you don’t amend PD 1514, the decree under the old Constitution, I am going to issue a decree. It is an urgent matter because I am going abroad and if anything happens to me, you are in trouble because the Supreme Court will decide for you.”

The President was referring to possible conflict if and when the Supreme Court asked to interpret provisions of PD 1514 and the Constitution on succession and the exact role of the Executive Committee.

According to the President, this necessitates passage of a law clarifying in detail legislative intent on succession to avoid conflicting interpretations.

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Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: September 8-22, 1982

President's Week in Review: September 23-30, 1982

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

September 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS urged the United Nations General Assembly yesterday to quickly launch the global negotiations agreed upon in the North-South dialogue in Cancun, Mexico, last year.

President Marcos stressed that there is a particular need for progress in the control of armaments and conflicts, and the mobilization of efforts for international economic stability and development.

He said that the two go together, because only under fairly secure conditions, can nations, especially the developing ones, succeed in achieving development; and only where nations can have a measure of economic security, can there be an end to tension and conflict.

President Marcos said that the Philippine government hopes to reach agreement on the launching of the very much-delayed negotiations in the interest of strengthening international economic cooperation.

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September 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said yesterday that the Philippines is the only country with a Tanodbayan (ombudsman) to fight corruption in government.

The President, in an interview on the CBS Morning News program, told interviewer Dianne Sawyer that the Tanodbayan acts on tips, that even without evidence, he would investigate complaints of corruption.

He declared that government officials cannot afford to indulge in extravagance because there is strict accountability of government funds.

The President also affirmed that the country is politically stable. He said that in 1972, there was a danger of a revolution, but not anymore.

He also conceded that there are pockets of terrorism "which is usual in every country in Southeast Asia."

The President stressed that the America and the Philippines have the same degree of political freedom.

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September 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS charged that Amnesty International, supposed watchdog of human rights violations, has become a tool of the Communists.

The President made the charge at a meeting with the editorial board of the New York Times, headed by Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, chairman and publisher, and Seymour Topping, manager editor.

In stressing that Amnesty International has been infiltrated by Communists elements, the President recalled a New York Times editorial sometime ago which questioned the appointment by the AI of an avowed member of the Communist Party of Australia as head of Amnesty International's research division.

The President also took note of the report of a Georgia congressman which also accused AI of following the double-standard of making sweeping allegations of human rights violations in free world countries fighting communists subversion.

He also stressed that all these follow a pattern aimed at destabilizing free world countries in Asia, particularly the Philippines and Indonesia.

This is why, the President added, whenever the government acts to protect its citizen from subversion and violence, Amnesty International and other leftist groups raise the question of human rights.

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September 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that he was convinced of America's firm resolve and strength to stand four-square on its international obligations and commitments.

The President said the political leadership in Washington is formulating a viable and integrated foreign policy that is reestablishing American power and prestige.

He said that it was to assure myself of this development and of America's capacity to recover from the trauma of the Vietnam War that he is on a visit of the US, his second in 16 years.

President Marcos spoke at the Tennessee state amphitheatre at the 1982 World's Fair where the Philippines has a pavilion, along with 21 other countries.

The President was introduced to a Filipino-American audience by Senate majority leader Howard Baker, senior senator of Tennessee, who had repeatedly invited the President to visit Knoxville.

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September 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS told senior editors of Time and Life magazines that the Western press, by and large, has been unfair in its reporting on the Philippines.

On the whole, the President said, reporting of conditions in the Philippines has been critical. "It's probably because they are not well-informed," he added.

"Or sometimes, it may be due to the lack of communication between the press and the government. Often, some programs are so urgent that there is hardly time to explain every detail to the media," he said.

Meeting the editors at the company's 47th floor executive suite, at Time-Life building, President Marcos answered all questions on the US military bases, the security of Southeast Asia, trade between the two countries, human rights and the persistent speculation on the First Lady succeeding him to the presidency.

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September 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that the greatest threat to the security of Asia comes from Vietnam.

The President made this statement in a meeting with the editorial board of the Los Angeles Times Coast.

He briefed the Los Angeles Times editors on the situation in Southeast Asia and the role of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). He said he favored the rearmament of Japan but only for defensive not aggressive, purposes.

The President said that he considered his state visit, his first to the US in 16 years, successful and one which exceeded his expectations. He also cited President Reagan's good leadership.

On alleged human rights violations, the President said it is the policy of the Philippine government to enhance and promote human rights. He admitted that there had been some cases of abuses by soldiers but added that those who committed such abuses had been court-martialed and severely punished.

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September 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS told editors of the Honolulu Advertiser, and the Star-Bulletin that the Philippines enjoys a greater degree of democracy than America.

The President told the editors of the two papers that Philippine government is comparable to the French parliamentary system.

"We are, perhaps, more democratic than you are because a greater percentage of people vote than in your country," he said.

The President said that his purpose in coming to America was because he owed President Reagan a visit. "If somebody visits you, you must visit back," he said.

The President took advantage of the visit to discuss US plans for the Philippines with Mr. Reagan.

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September 30—

PRESIDENT MARCOS arrived Thursday after his state visit to the United States.

The President and his party, which includes the First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos received a rousing welcome from the people upon their arrival at the Manila International Airport.

Scores of thousands were gathered at the MIA and along the route of their motorcade to Malacañang.

The welcome was led by Deputy Minister Jose Roño, head of the caretaker government during the state visit; other members of the Cabinet, members of the diplomatic corps, Metro Manila mayors, and other government officials.

The President made a report to the nation on the results of his trip. He was given full military honors.

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Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: October 1-7, 1982

OFFICIAL WEEKS IN REVIEW

October 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS returned yesterday from his two-week state visit to the United States which would have an important repercussions for the country for many years to come.

In his 25-minute remarks during the welcome ceremonies at the old Manila International Airport, the President stressed the phenomenal success of the state visit and the importance which America attaches to her relations with the Philippines.

Inderscoring the growing awareness in the US of the strategic importance of the Philippines and its contributions to global stability through the country's strivings for development, the President said the visit, among other things, resulted in:

- 1) Exchange of instruments of ratification for a tax treaty.
- 2) Completion of a civil aviation agreement which allows both countries to increase commercial air frequencies to 18 flights per week.
- 3) Conclusion of a tourism agreement to encourage reciprocal tourism.
- 4) Signing of an agricultural cooperation agreement involving cooperative programs for agricultural development and scientific and technological exchange.
- 5) Conclusion of an agreement with the Export-Import Bank of the United States, subject to congressional concurrence, whereby the bank will provide additional guarantees in the amount of \$204.5 million for the Bataan nuclear plant.
- 6) Conclusions of an agreement to explore new cooperative measures for the reduction of losses to life and property due to typhoon through the utilization of advance tracking and warning technologies.
- 7) Provision for a sustained dialogue defense and finance ministries concerning defense and finance or related issues.
- 8) Organization by the US government of an investment mission of American businessmen to the Philippines and other Association of Southeast Asian countries in 1983.
- 9) Reaffirmation of the two countries' commitments under their mutual defense treaty and holding of regular strategic consultations at ministerial level.
- 10) Scheduling of the renegotiation of the military bases agreement in April next year in Manila.
- 11) Refurnishing of the country's image by correction the misinformation and misconception about the Philippines and its leadership in the American media.
- 12) Renewal of the nostalgic links with Filipinos in the US, who today constitute a significant community of more than one million people.

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October 2—

THE COMPENSATION package being extended by the United States government will be the main issue to be discussed during the review next April of the military bases agreement for the period covering 1981-89.

During his state visit to the US, President Marcos and US President Reagan agreed to begin the review of the five-year military bases agreement next April.

Under the 1979 agreement, the US government extends to the Philippines a security assistance package consisting of grants, military sales credits and economic support funds totalling \$500 million for a five-year-period.

Besides the compensation package, the features of the 1979 agreement include:

- 1) The US would have unhampered operational control over the bases which would be under a Filipino commander.
- 2) The Philippine flag would fly alone over the bases which would be under a Filipino commander.
- 3) The reduction in the area of the US facilities at Clark air base from 53,036 hectares to 6,303 hectares of land area with the water area remaining at 9,523 hectares.
- 4) The responsibility for the bases' perimeter defense would be in the hands of Filipino security forces; internal security essentially would be handled by the US force.
- 5) Provision for automatic review of the basis agreement after every five years before its expiration in 1991.

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October 3—

PRIME MINISTER Cesar Virata stressed that the Philippines would come out stronger and ahead of other countries when the world recovers from the present economic crisis.

This assessment was made by the Prime Minister as the country's general approach and strategy to beat the current recession.

Virata said that while other countries are tarrying because of recession, the Philippines is continuously restructuring its economy.

He said that this general approach is a strategy to develop the Philippine economy even in the midst of a global economic crisis.

"Those countries that can only reform, and restructure themselves when things are going well, will of course, lag behind if they cannot do it when there is recession," the Prime Minister said.

Measures cited by Virata taken to develop the economy include the institution of the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran, programs involving industries in the export processing zones, investments in energy projects such as exploitation, geothermal, hydroelectric, dendrothermal and coal, construction and agriculture.

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October 4—

INFORMATION MINISTER Gregorio S. Cendaña was the keynote speaker during the three-day workshop which aims to explain to media the activities and policies of Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) at the Philippine Plaza.

Cendaña was expected to speak on "Media Cooperation in the Third World".

Some 60 Asian-Pacific journalists, 20 of them from the Philippines, are participating in a workshop scheduled to open under the sponsorship of OPEC.

The workshop, the tenth since the series began in November 1979, presented the views of the OPEC to correct the misconceptions journalists may have about OPEC's activities, particularly in developing countries.

The misconceptions are partly explained by the Third World's dependence on Western news sources.

The first three workshops were held at the OPEC headquarters in Vienna. The fourth—in Jakarta, Indonesia, in December 1979—was first organized regionally.

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October 5—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has requested yesterday the Japanese government to expedite action on pending issues between the Philippines and Japan.

The President conveyed the request through Ambassador Hideho Tanaka, who called to congratulate him on recent successful visit to the United States.

Tanaka said the President's visit will contribute greatly to the stability of Southeast Asia.

Among the problems cited by the President were:

- 1) The request of the Philippines for a \$120-million advance for the copper mining industry.
- 2) The 20-cent reduction of the tariff on Philippine bananas and the question of Philippine made corrugated cardboard boxes.
- 3) The pending air agreement.

The President pointed out that it was to the advantage of Japan that the mining companies continue operations otherwise Japan would lose 40 percent of its copper ore sources.

The this fund, the Philippine government intends to hedge its risks by buying copper futures in the international market to cover losses in case the prices of copper improved in the coming months.

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October 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has directed yesterday all ministries and government offices to launch the campaign to undertake a massive information campaign to acquaint the people of the various programs and projects of the government.

During a four-hour meeting, the President stressed the importance of direct communication between the government and the people.

During the meeting the President also ordered:

- 1) The lifting of the suspension of Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlan loans in Region 9 and 10, and the Philippine National Bank to participate as adviser in the approval of KKK loans.
- 2) The speedy implementation of all agreements concluded during his visit to the United States last month and Saudi Arabia last March.

In directing the launching of an information drive with the support of the Office of Media Affairs, the President said he wanted to ensure that citizens know what the government is doing for them.

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October 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has lifted the ban on logging in Region II even as he directed that stricter security measures be taken to prevent the New People's Army from using it as a source of funds.

The President took this move on recommendation of Minister Teodoro Peña of natural resources.

Peña said that officials from the region, including governors and mayors, had presented numerous petitions for the lifting of the ban because it was adversely affecting the livelihood of the people.

The President approved Minister Peña's recommendation but directed that the military keep a close surveillance of logging operations.

The President imposed the logging ban in Region II last August after military intelligence confirmed reports that the NPA's were collecting funds for their operations from the loggers and sawmill operators.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: October 8-15, 1982

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

October 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said yesterday that he will consider a proposal to form a Pacific Council and will consult other leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) on it.

The proposal came from President Chun Doo Hwan of South Korea. It was personally presented to President Marcos by Dr. Pyong Choon Hahm, secretary-general to President Chun, who is on a tour of Southeast Asia to sound out Asean leaders on the proposal.

Pyong who called at Malacañang informed the President that the Pacific Council envisioned by President Chun will serve as a forum for consultation among the heads of government and of state in the Pacific region, to promote cooperation which will be beneficial to all.

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President Marcos also received a delegation of Seventh Day Adventists, headed by Neal C. Wilson, president of the General Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists, who presented him and the First Lady with a resolution of appreciation.

The Seventh Day Adventists, during their annual council meeting in Manila, passed the resolution expressing appreciation to the First Couple "for the climate of religious freedom" which prevails in the country.

They also congratulated the First Couple for their "magnificent showing in the United States" the establishment and maintenance of the Refugee Center in Bataan, and the launching of the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran which, they said, is giving everyone a chance to develop his God-given talents for the improvement of living conditions.

October 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS stressed that there are encouraging indicators pointing towards economic recovery.

He said that similar optimistic signs of an economic upturn have been reported in the United States, the world's lead economy.

As a result of the positive signs towards economic recovery, the President has arranged meetings with a broad section of the country's decision-makers starting next year.

The Philippines, like most countries in the world, has been encountering economic difficulties due to global recession and tight financial conditions.

Its deficit in balance of payments has been caused mainly by depressed world prices of commodities which constitute a major portion of its exports.

October 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS urged yesterday the strengthening of ties between Manila and Moscow.

He directed Deputy Prime Minister Jose D. Roño and acting Foreign Minister Manuel Collantes to meet with the staff of Mayor Vladimir Promyslov to discuss the proposals towards attaining this goals.

The President issued the directive during the call of the Moscow mayor, who arrived the other day for an eight-day visit.

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Moscow and Manila became sister cities during the visit last July of the First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos in Moscow.

“Our aim here is to strengthen the friendship between the two capital cities which are familiar in population,” Mayor Promyslov informed the First Couple during his call at Malacañang.

On the other hand, the President said: “Your visit is a symbol not only of the continuing mutual beneficial relations but of the warm affection existing between our two countries and I hope we will see the continued goodwill exchanges between our countries.”

The President expressed gratitude to Mayor Promyslov who went out his way to make the First Lady’s visit to Moscow memorable.

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October 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS made it clear to the Batasang Pambansa to act immediately on urgent legislative measures pending after the last adjournment during his address in the body’s resumption of session.

The President made a detailed report on the achievement of his two-week state visit to the United States and on the optimistic sign towards the economic recovery of the country.

Among the measures the President considered was the asking of the Batasan to act on as soon as possible are those touching on the synchronization of forthcoming elections, the allocation of additional seats in the Batasan and the relaxation on the provision of turncoatism.

Other pending measures in the Batasan are the Local Government Code, the Crime Code and the Corporation Code.

The President also laid down the basic guidelines of the participation of the various ministries and agencies in the implementation of the agreements and in the broad development programs the government has adopted because of the encouraging indicators pointing towards the country’s economic recovery.

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October 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has urged the Batasang Pambansa to immediately pass the Local Government Code and an amended Election Code.

The President told the Batasan in its opening session “the continued improvement of the political system and processes requires the urgent resolution of various issues governing elections.”

The President cited the need to review the allocation of representative seats in the assembly, as the election for members of the regular National Assembly in 1984 approaches and the rationalization of the accreditation of political parties, including the review of the constitutional provision on turncoatism.

Under this provision, accreditation is granted to those who obtained the first and second highest number of votes and at least 10 percent of the total number of votes in such elections.

On turncoatism, the President cited Article 12, Section 10 of the Constitution which explicitly prohibits turncoatism.

The President asked the Batasan to act with similar urgency on the pending Local Government Code so that law may provide:

- 1) Greater autonomy to local governments to improve delivery of basic services to local constituencies in addition to greater decentralization of authority.
- 2) A more rational system of creating cities and provinces to avoid proliferation of local units dependent on the national government.

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President Marcos called for national unity and collective resolution in anticipation of an economic recovery expected towards the end of the year.

The President issued the call in his address before the Batasang Pambansa during the resumption of its fifth regular session.

“As we face the future, as we anticipate recovery, we must exert ourselves even more, for it is not enough to survive. We must, above all, prosper,” the President said.

While the President expressed optimism over the country’s future, he nevertheless urged the Batasan to develop the mechanism “for initiation and response that have been so far, on an ad hoc manner, the basis of survival in adversity.”

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October 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has ordered three communication centers set up to enable local officials to send urgent messages to the local governments minister, the prime minister or the Chief Executive himself.

The President suggested that the messages be coursed through Malacañang gate No. 4. Presidential Assistant Joaquin Venus, Jr. was assigned to receive the messages which the President promised to go over immediately.

During a three-hour meeting with Kilusang Bagong Lipunan local executives, the President once again stressed the importance of governors and city mayors working closely with the military in thwarting subversive activities.

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The First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos yesterday urged the Executive Committee and Cabinet members to motivate the people into achieving greater heights of success through successful government projects.

Discussed during the joint meeting presided over by Prime Minister Cesar Virata were actions taken to implement the massive information campaign earlier ordered by President Marcos.

On ordering the drive, the President said the people should be kept informed of the different activities of the various ministries.

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October 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has directed the Ministry of Energy and the national treasury to refund the foreign exchange losses of local oil companies estimated at P2 billion, arising from the importation of crude oil.

Oil imports are paid for in US dollars whose value has gradually been increasing in relation to the peso.

The reimbursement will be taken from the Consumer Price Equalization Fund (CPEF) which was built up to take care of future oil price increases.

Since oil prices have been declining, however, the CPEF is now being used instead to cover for foreign exchange losses of the oil companies.

The President's order was contained in Letter of Instructions 1271 issued on recommendation of Prime Minister Cesar E. A. Virata, Energy Minister Geronimo Z. Velasco, Board of Energy Chairman Ponciano Mathay and National Treasurer Victor Macalinog.

As of last June 30, the money available from the CPEF was P2.37 billion from total gross collections of P7.8 billion.

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October 15—

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS Minister Imelda R. Marcos is leaving soon for New York to present at the United Nations General Assembly the Philippine idea of establishing a new international human order.

The Philippine concept was evolved by the human settlements ministry and adopted by the UN Commission on Human Settlements as a model for the promotion and well-being of man.

Mrs. Marcos, who is also secretary general of the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kauularan livelihood program, announced this in the course of her discussion with provincial governors and city mayors to find ways to accelerate the implementation of KKK-funded projects in the country.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: October 16-22, 1982

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

October 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and Moscow Mayor Vladymir Promyslov confirmed the trade between the Philippines and Russia to increase substantially during a separate press conferences in Malacañang yesterday.

The President said the increase in trade is due to the Soviet offer to buy more coconut oil, copper ore, garments, baby dresses, embroidered products, gloves, special fabrics and textiles.

The Moscow mayor, on the other hand, said his government had decided to discard the middlemen and deal directly with the Philippines to avoid added costs on Russian imports.

In his estimate, the President said, additional Soviet purchase of coconut oil and garments can mean \$800 million in additional dollar earnings.

As the last year, he said, Philippine-Russian trade reached \$172,816,346, with the Philippines enjoying a favorable balance of trade of \$169,198,099.

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October 17—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that he is willing to have his term shortened provided the opposition will participate in the elections.

The President said, however, that this is not an easy thing to do since it will require an amendment of the Constitution.

The President made this comment because of a bipartisan move in the Batasang Pambansa favoring simultaneous elections of all national, regional and local officials in 1984.

The option to hold a simultaneous election in 1984 would require the shortening of the term of the President, which ends in 1987, by three years and the local officials by two years.

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October 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS stressed that apprehended leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines and its military arm, the New People's Army, may still be directing operations of dissidents.

He told of the possible connection when asked about reports that Jaime Bernal, 45, a brother-in-law and co-accused of captured rebel leader Horacio "Boy" Morales, Jr., was killed by an NPA liquidation squad after Bernal manifested his desire to testify for the government against Morales.

Bernal was with two Constabulary escorts and his brother Tony in a car bound for his home in Sta. Maria, Bulacan, when ambushed.

He and Constable 1st Class Salvador Somera were killed while his brother and Pfc. Larry Fernando were wounded.

The President said military authorities will assess the incident, “but the connection is always there that the people who have been apprehended are still running things in the subversive groups.”

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October 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS left yesterday for Leyte to lead in tomorrow’s 38th anniversary celebration of the Allied landing in Palo, Leyte, on October 20, 1944. He and First Lady left for Tacloban City aboard the presidential yacht “Ang Pangulo.”

The occasion will reunite Filipino, American, and Australian war veterans who participated in the Leyte landing operation under the overall command of General of the Army Douglas MacArthur.

Under the Ministry of Tourism’s “Reunion for Peace” program a contingent of Japanese veterans of World War II are expected to attend the celebration.

The President will speak on the need for continued vigilance among all nations to preserve peace and uphold the ideals that the veterans of World War II fought for.

The war veterans will visit the General MacArthur Landing Memorial at Imelda Park in Palo, which depicts the Allied commander-in-chief as he waded ashore with the third wave of troops, in fulfillment of his pledge—“I shall return,”

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October 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has described as pure phantasy the demand of the opposition for so-called minimum electoral safeguards as a condition for participation in the proposed synchronized election of all national and local officials in 1984.

While giving less importance to the opposition demands, the President said that he would want to know if they are serious in participating in an election.

The President’s comments were made in response to questions from newsmen after he visited the Sto. Niño Shrine and Heritage Museum on Real st., Tacloban City.

The President accompanied by the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, arrived in Tacloban on the presidential yacht “Ang Pangulo” to lead in the commemoration tomorrow of the 38th anniversary of the landing of allied forces in Palo, Leyte, on October 20, 1944.

October 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS warned today of another war and its dangers unless nations continue to struggle and vigil that 38 years ago summoned them to arms.

Speaking at the commemoration rites of the landing of allied forces of liberation on October 20, 1944, the President said that the world appears to be on the brink of yet another conflict and is tormented by many smaller conflicts in so many regions and contingent.

“For every nation that has learned from the terrible lessons of war, there appears to be many others that have not learned all the bitter fruits of conflict,” the President said.

Recalling the historic battles of Leyte in 1944, the President said the Leyte operations, the largest ever mounted by the Allied forces in the entire course of the Pacific war, paved the way for the liberation of the country and the defeat of the Japanese imperial army.

Thousands trooped to Red Beach for the commemoration of what the President called a glorious page in the annals of war and to do honors to our compatriots” who fought here.

The President spoke on a platform fronting the bronze monument of the landing of Gen. Douglas MacArthur and his party, including President Sergio Osmeña, Sr. and Brig. Gen. Carlos P. Romulo.

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October 22–

PRESIDENT MARCOS stressed that the government will continue to give more autonomy to civilian administrations in the provinces.

He made this assurance yesterday during his talk with Leyte and Samar officials at the People’s Center in Tacloban City.

The President noted that in many instances, problems are better solved at the provincial level.

The President, together with the First Lady, and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos, conferred with officials of two Eastern Visayas provinces on local problems, including the peace and order situation.

He presided over the commemoration of the landing of the Allied forces 38 years ago last Wednesday, boarded the presidential yacht “Ang Pangulo” shortly after launch yesterday for a return trip to Manila.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: October 23-30, 1982

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

October 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS planned to invite US President Ronald Reagan to visit the Philippines when the American chief executive goes on an Asian tour next year.

The President told newsmen that he has not received any official report on President Reagan's projected trip and he is not disposed to comment on it.

He said, however, "we certainly would invite him (Reagan) to the Philippines."

Reagan's projected trip to Asia early next year was recently disclosed by a senior White House official.

It was also reported that the White House and US State Department are consulting with various Asian countries about the possible presidential trip which would take place in the second quarter of next year.

In his trip to Asia, US President Ronald Reagan would not go to Peking.

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October 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, acting to speed up the industrialization and economic development of Eastern Visayas, offered incentives to attract industries to the area.

Visiting the town of Isabel to inspect the 430-hectare Leyte Industrial Estate, he also visited private and government projects there. He also made a two-hour trip to Biliran island.

The President envisioned the Leyte Industrial Estate to become the new industrial and export center of the Philippines. It is located at the western Leyte town, 40 kilometers from Ormoc city.

The incentives designed to attract industries to establish plants include cheap electricity.

The President announced a pricing policy for electricity, giving Leyte a 20 per cent price advantage per-kilowatt-hour over Manila.

Under this policy, the cost of electricity will remain at 42 centavos for Manila and about 35 centavos for Leyte. In Mindanao the rate will remain at 17 centavos because of abundant and cheaper energy from hydro electric power sources.

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October 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, returning from a visit to Eastern Visayas said yesterday the \$1-billion Leyte Industrial Estate will become the biggest industrial complex in the Philippines by 1984 and a primary source of export products.

The President also said the \$402-million copper smelter and refinery plant going up in Isabel, Western Leyte, will be a model in the implementation of other major industrial projects of the government.

He said that the copper smelter as well as the fertilizer plant going up in the Leyte Industrial Estate is mostly funded by foreign financing. Only \$25 million would come from Philippine budgetary resources.

The President and the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, had just returned from Leyte where they attended the festivities marking the 38th commemoration of the Leyte Landing of Allied forces of liberation.

Moreover, the President that hand in hand with the industrial development of Leyte would be a balanced agricultural development.

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October 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS yesterday called for the establishment of a zone of peace, freedom, and neutrality in Southeast Asia to keep it free from superpower rivalry.

In a ceremony accepting the credentials of Nepal Ambassador Khelendra Prasad Panday and Cyprus Ambassador P. N. Vanezis, he restated the government opposition to war and its advocacy of a zone of peace as proposed by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEANS).

“Our children will be deprived of the privilege to live in a world of peace and prosperity” if superpowers use the region as an arena of combat in the pursuit of their selfish interest, he said.

At the same time, the President deplored trade barriers put up by some countries to subvert the legitimate economic aspirations of developing nations.

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President Marcos ordered yesterday further acceleration of the energy development program as he gave the green-light for the construction of Southeast Asia’s biggest multi-purpose dam in Pangasinan.

He took his move as he and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, prepared to inaugurate in Isabela tomorrow the Magat dam and reservoir complex, one of Asia’s biggest, which was built at a cost of P3.3 billion.

Meeting with Ministry of Energy officials at Malacañang, the President directed the immediate construction of the San Roque multi-purpose project in the towns of San Nicolas and San Miguel, Pangasinan.

The Magat dam in Ramon, Isabela, will increase energy resources in Luzon, boost irrigation, and push the country’s food production program.

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October 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has authorized yesterday the release of P10 million from the Calamity Fund for the urgent reconstruction and repair of school buildings destroyed by the typhoons in Luzon and the Visayas.

A special committee to be headed by Education Minister Onofre D. Corpus took into the school building needs in affected areas has been formed by the President.

If some schoolbuildings cannot be immediately used, separate classes will be held in the morning and in the afternoon in the undamaged schools so that school children will not miss their studies during the period of repair and reconstruction, the President said.

The President directed Budget Minister Manuel Alba to allocate funds for the buildings, both for those that will be reconstructed and for those to be repaired, with the amount to be determined by the special group under Corpuz. Tentatively, the amount is estimated at P10 million.

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The First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos authorized yesterday the release of P18.7 million to finance livelihood projects of 1,700 barangays and beautification projects and other sports and cultural activities of the Women's Auxiliary Brigade in Metro Manila.

Each barangay will be given P10,000 to finance Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran projects. The amount will be placed under the responsibility of the barangay captains,

The Women's Auxiliary Brigade, on the other hand, will get P1,000 each for beautification projects in each of the Metro Manila barangays.

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October 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, distributed 35,000 land titles to farmers from the country's 12 regions to mark the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Tenant Emancipation Act, also known as the land reform law.

The distribution of the land titles were made on the same platform where the President earlier inaugurated the P5.5-million Magat dam complex in barangay Aguinaldo before 80,000 people.

Land titles were distributed not only to those who have completed payments on their lands but also to those who have made two payments to enable them to use the titles as collaterals for loans to further develop their lands,

The President explained that the fact that the farmers were able to make two payments is a sign that they were capable of paying their lands.

Stressing the significance of the occasion, the President said land reform is not just a transfer of land from the landlords to the farmers, but is a package of economic benefits intended to make farmers self-reliant and productive.

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October 29—

THE AWARDING of land titles to 20,000 squatter families in Metro Manila will cap the seventh anniversary celebration of the Metro Manila Commission on November 7.

President Marcos and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos will hand out the land titles at the Quirino grandstand in Rizal Park. The theme of the rite is "Lupa, Pabahay at KICK: Program Ng Maka-taong Pamahalaan."

Gaudencio V. Tobias, general manager of the National Housing Authority, said yesterday the ceremonies spotlight the massive housing program in different areas in Metro Manila of the Ministry of Human Settlements and the National Housing Authority.

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October 30—

THE FIRST LADY, Human Settlements Minister Imelda U. Marcos has unveiled a low-cost functional flexihome which she herself designed.

The flexible may be financed through the flexihomes loan system of the Pagibig Fund.

The First Lady brought assemblymen with her to the Philtrade, where there is a flexihome model on display. It is a two-story house with three bedrooms at the upper floor.

With its 77 square meter floor space, the house could be constructed for only P77,000. The walls are made of cement boards made from waste materials.

The First Lady said the flexihome could be had at not more than P500 a month to workers, payable in 25 years.

She said that now that workers are allowed to borrow 48 times their monthly salary at only 9 per cent interest and the loan payable in 25 years, they could easily own a house of their own.

The Ministry of Human Settlements, the First Lady explained, had adopted liberal housing policies to encourage the private sector to go into housing to meet housing demands.

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Source: **Supreme Court Library**

President's Week in Review: November 1-7, 1982

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

November 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS led the nationwide observance of All Saint's Day visited the grave of his father, the late Assemblyman Mariano Marcos.

The President continued his dialogue with provincial and municipal officials of the region. He looked into the progress of repair work on government infrastructure destroyed by the last typhoon.

On the way to the North, the President checked on the progress of KKK model projects set up at the Don Mariano Memorial State College in Bacnotan, La Union.

The three modules set up by the President as models of the KKK are:

1. Mountainside project, wherein reforestation and tree-planting activities are expanded.
2. Agriculture, which emphasizes agri-production projects such as cattle hog and poultry raising.
3. Aquamarine, which encourages sea farming, inland fishery and seaweed production.

The KKK models installed in Bacnotan are being copied in other places.

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November 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has approved the financing of 629 additional Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran projects for the Ilocos scheduled to be undertaken next year.

The approval brought the total number of KKK projects for the region to 675. Covering 214 towns and 64,798 beneficiaries, the additional projects involve a total outlay of P379,575,314.

The new KKK project proposals were presented to the President by the First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos, who is also KKK secretary-general, at the Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University in Bacnotan, San Fernando, La Union.

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The First Couple, together with President's mother, Dona Josefa, flew to La Union to visit the shrine of his father, the late Assemblyman Mariano Marcos, at the Bacnotan mountains where he established his guerillas during the war.

They also laid a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier at the Poro Point junction in Barangay Sevilla before flying to Laoag City.

Pangasinan Gov. Aguedo Agbayani submitted the new KKK Proposal for the region and briefed the First Couple on the progress of the KKK movement in the area.

The First Couple said they were impressed by information furnished by Mrs. Sylvia Muñoz, Ilocos region KKK action officer, that there was an 82 percent repayment of the KKK loans.

One project in Pidigian, Abra, Muñoz said, was already fully paid.

The President said this is the best answer to KKK critics who circulate rumors that the KKK loans would not be paid back.

The same critics, the President pointed out, were also responsible for criticizing the Masagana 99 and other agricultural loans which they claim could not be paid by farmers.

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November 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS urged yesterday government officials and members of the Batasang Pambansa to eliminate bureaucratic red tape to accelerate economic progress and development.

“Why can they not practise less politics and devote attention to tin-nation’s economic problems?” the President asked in a brief talk with newsmen in Batac, Ilocos Norte.

The President deplored unnecessary committee hearings and urged the assemblymen to devote more time to pushing measures for economic progress.

The President and the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, went to Ilocos Norte Monday to visit government projects and discuss problems with local officials.

The President urged the legislators to review bureaucratic practices that block, he said, the expeditious enactment of measure in the Batasan.

The President also underscored the need to speed up processing of export papers and noted that “not a single office” attends to foreign investors.

The President and the First Lady are expected to return.

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November 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS underscored yesterday the need to undertake a three-pronged economic thrust to enable the country to profit from the expected world economic recovery next year.

In an interview in Paoay, Ilocos Norte, the President said that the Philippines should be ready to cash in when the world economy improves.

The President cited indicators and developments that point he said to a strengthened economy next year.

The President said steps to be taken by the country should include:

- 1) The production of goods that will meet the requirements of new markets as a result of the incoming resurgence in the economy.

2) The replacement of old machinery at the right time by new ones.

3) The setting up of big industries that are basic to any industrialized economy.

The President also said that a market study be accelerated so that production priorities will be updated.

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November 5—

PRESIDENT MARCOS discussed government policies affecting the private business sector in his address before the 8th Philippine Business Conference at Philippine Plaza Hotel.

The President's address formally closed the conference, held each year to provide a forum for a dialogue between the private sector and the government on economic issues.

The President, discussed with the private sector steps to be taken to prepare it for the economic turnabout expected to start next year.

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In yesterday's luncheon program, Labor Minister Blas F. Ople called on Philippine government and business "to design an environment that will effectively use all our national strengths" in forging ahead.

Ople called for "an environment that will harness and optimize our real strengths and that will make every Filipino feel lie is participating in the economic emancipation of his own country."

He said the environment should "derive strength and power from the commitment of every Filipino whether he is businessman, a worker or farmer."

First, "we must search for common purposes, define the future that we want and organize in order to achieve it," he said.

November 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS told business yesterday that government would continue strengthening their hand by providing "the kind of policy mix, incentives, adjustments, and whatever legislation is necessary to encourage private initiative."

In a speech closing the eight Philippine Business Conference at the Philippine Plaza hotel he declared: "We are committed to the sustained support and encouragement of the private sector in economic effort."

The businessmen, in the three-day dialogue with government officials, had repeatedly pointed out the high cost of money.

The President stressed the need to ensure that credit he used for truly developmental and business activities. Government credit has always been available to preferred areas such as farming and cottage industries, he said.

He admitted that the cost of credit "is quite high but this is also true elsewhere," adding some promise of a decline in interest rates.

He said the government does not have an absolute price setting policy, but a flexible system allowing for gradual adjustments.

On tariff, he said the tariff reform program was designed to increase the competitiveness and productivity of Philippine enterprises by “lowering the walls behind which so many of our industries have stagnated in efficiency.”

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November 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said yesterday that while broader powers will be given local officials, it is not time yet to return control of the police to the local executives.

Speaking at the 10th anniversary of the Ministry of Local Government, the President recalled “our sad experience in the past where the police were often converted into the core group of private armies of politicians.

The President also said he was against giving “local governments the unlimited power to spend all the money they can collect in any manner they please.”

He stressed that “it is essential that we retain the present system of sharing revenues and responsibilities if we are to sustain the gains we have made in the national economy.”

The President said it was mainly these two points—police powers and local finance powers—which had stalled approval of the Local Government Code.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: November 8-15, 1982

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

November 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS highlighted the celebration of the seventh anniversary of the Metro Manila Commission (MMC) yesterday by announcing that the government will continue the expropriation of landed estates all over the country to support the housing program for the poor.

The commission marked its anniversary with a grand parade and the First Lady and Metro Manila Governor Imelda R. Marcos spread the joy by handing out 20,000 land titles to beneficiaries from 21 housing projects.

President Marcos, delivering the main speech at rites held at the Quirino Memorial Grandstand at the Luneta, cited the success of the Metro Manila experiment which he launched seven years ago, before a massive crowd estimated by police at close to a million people.

In the course of his speech the President:

- 1) Announced he will ask the Batasang Pambansa to float bonds to "finance the expropriation of landed estates all over the country to support the housing program for the landless poor.
- 2) Directed the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage Authority (MWSS) to review its rules governing illegal water connections and possibly condone eventually some outstanding debts without penalty.

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November 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has issued Letter of Instruction No. 1276 yesterday, condoning bad debts of water users with illegal connections and giving them two months to report such unauthorized devices.

The President set the two-month period for all illegal water users to register with the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and pay the corresponding fees to avoid penalty, during the anniversary celebration of the Metro Manila Commission Sunday.

The two-month period takes effect from the date of the publication by the MWSS of the LOI in the national dailies.

The LOI specified that the fees to be imposed after registration on the use of water through illegal connections should not exceed the amount for a six-month period.

The President directed the MWSS to conduct house-to-house verification of all water and sewer services and even excavate water mains to ferret out those not complying with the rules after the two-month period.

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November 10—

THE FIRST LADY, Minister of Human Settlements Imelda R. Marcos, presented awards yesterday to the first 21 national winners of the Diwa ng KKK Achievement awards.

Mrs. Marcos, who is secretary general of the Kilusang Kabuhayan at kaunlaran, said the success of the KKK programs is the kind of “victories we hope to inspire in every Filipino to live a more productive and more fulfilling life.”

Mrs. Marcos also expressed Philippine support for the establishment of the United nations sponsored by the University of Peace in Costa Rica.

Former President Rodrigo Carazo of Costa Rica called on the First Lady in Malacañang to seek Philippine approval of the university proposed in a UN General Assembly resolution.

The university is slated to open next year to promote world understanding and goodwill.

November 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS urged the Samahang Nasyon or cooperative rural banks to join the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran program.

“The KKK is a dynamic and growing movement supported by government funds, managerial and economic talents of planners and bankers,” the President told the 24th Southeast Asian regional council meeting of the International Cooperative Alliance.

Hosted by the Cooperative Union of the Philippines and the Ministry of Agriculture, the meeting discussed plans for cooperative development in the region.

The President pointed out that the cooperative movement is part of the way of life of the Filipinos.

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November 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and the First Lady said that the death of Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev closed an 18-year period of leadership marked by stability in Russian political life.

The President also said it was under Brezhnev’s leadership that the relations between the Philippines and Soviet Union grew and which culminated in the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1976.

The President’s message of condolence follows:

“I am deeply saddened to learn of the passing of President Leonid Brezhnev of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

“This sad event closes an 18-year period of leadership that was marked by much stability in his country’s political life and distinguished by imaginative Soviet participation in international affairs. Not just the Soviet Union but the world has lost in President Brezhnev’s passing an able leader and statement.”

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November 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS told the Soviet’ Ambassador that the death of President Leonid Brezhnev left a vacuum in the international scene.

Soviet Ambassador Yuri Sholmov, who received the President and the First Lady at the chancery in Dasmariñas Village, Makati, said their task is to continue Breshnev's noble efforts.

With the First Couple were Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile Labor Minister Blas Ople, Tourism Minister Jose Aspiras, Information Minister Gregorio Cendaña, Agriculture Minister Arturo Tanco, Education Minister Onofre Corpuz, Public Works Minister Jesus Hipolito Agrarian Reform Minister Conrado Estrella, Transportation Minister Jose Dans, Natural Resources Minister Teodoro Peña. Social Services Minister Sylvia Montes, and Metro Manila Deputy Governor Ismael Mathay.

Sholmov gave the President a copy of Brezhnev's book "Trilogy: Little Land, Rebirth and the Virgin Land."

The First Lady, who has been official guest of the Soviet Union four times, is the honorary chairman of the Philippine-Soviet Friendship Society.

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November 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has directed the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs to crack down on private corporations with unpaid taxes in the hundreds of millions of pesos.

The President issued the directive after noting that big corporations have not declared their foreign exchange earnings for the past several years.

It is estimated that several billions of taxable dollar earnings are involved in the export earnings irregularity through misdeclaration of exports as well as rebates on sales and overpricing of purchases or imports of equipment and raw materials.

The President also asked the board of medical education, headed by the minister of education, to decide on how many students can be admitted.

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November 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has ordered the customs bureau to explain why it had failed to collect the huge amount owed by more than 85 importers, some of them among the top 100 corporations of the Philippines.

A presidential directive issued Saturday could force the hand of the Bureau of Customs to pinpoint responsibility for the piling up of unpaid customs duties and other taxes amounting to P1.1 billion.

The huge bank accounts which hit a staggering P1.5 billion in June, came to light a few months ago after Customs Commissioner Ramon J. Farolan launched a stepped up campaign to collect the unpaid taxes.

However, customs sources said, this amount does not include the 50 per cent penalty on back taxes as required by the customs and tariff code.

The tax-collection drive led to the closure of a number of customs bonded warehouses, the reorganization of certain customs offices including the Manila port collector's and the suspension of some personnel.

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November 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS convened the Cabinet on board the RPS Ang Pangulo to discuss measures pending before the Batasang Pambansa.

The President also took up with the Cabinet a report from Assemblymen Arturo M. Tolentino on the progress of the Conference on the Law of the Sea and the preparation of reports of ministries, agencies and other government offices for inclusion in the Presidents slate or the nation address before the Batasan when it resumes session in January.

In his address before the Batasan in its resumption of session last October 11 the President called for the passage of the amendment to the Election Code and the Local Government Code.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: November 16-22, 1982

OFFICIAL WEEKS IN REVIEW

November 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS welcomed a Chinese agricultural mission led by Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Fishery Lin Hujia.

Minister Lin also cited the progress of the Southeast Asia Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) project in Iloilo.

The Minister said his group learned much from the Philippine farm extension program and its unique credit system under the Masagana 99.

The President told the Minister that both countries have benefitted from the mutual learning experience. He said the Philippines also learned from China, recalling that both borrowed Chinese rice varieties were crossbred with other varieties.

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November 17—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has signed Decree No. 1851 authorizing the issuance of special investors resident visas to foreigners willing to invest at least \$200,000 in business anywhere in the Philippines.

This amends the foreign investments decree of 1979 (PD 1623) which required aliens to invest substantially in economically depressed areas in order to acquire special resident status.

The President announced this liberal foreign investment policy at a press conference aboard the RPS Ang Pangulo, stating he hoped this would attract more investors to the country, particularly Hong Kong businessmen.

To take advantage of the provisions of the new decree, an alien merely has to submit proof that he remitted the \$200,000 in acceptable foreign currency to the Philippines.

The holder of this special resident visa may live in the country while his investment stays.

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November 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has released P500 million to the National Food Authority yesterday to enable Food Minister Jesus Tanchanco to step up palay-buying operations as the bumper rice harvest starts coming in.

He disclosed this in a meeting with newsmen, citing fluctuating palay prices in the various regions, which are now harvesting the current crop which has exceeded the predictions of Ministry of Agriculture technocrats.

Moving to stabilize the price of palay, the President stressed:

1) Directed the NFA and private traders to meet and maintain the prices set by the government," with agriculture officials present.

2) Ordered the food minister to blacklist rice millers and traders who persist in buying from farmers at prices below government support prices.

The President told newsmen that with the P500 milion, the NFA can step up buying operations and buttress the prices.

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November 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has announced he would call the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan leadership to a caucus shortly, to take up issues con fronting the ruling party and important bills pending before the Batasang Pambansa.

The President also told the press conference:

1) Government will reduce its investments in formerly distressed private corporations which have regained their viability.

2) The Philippine National Bank and the Development Bank of the Philippines will start selling back corporations they are holding to the private sector.

He said that questions on turncoatism, accreditation of political parties, expenditures and contributions during elections, and sychronization of elections will be discussed at the KBL caucus.

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November 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has directed the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System to submit to the Batasan Pambansa, after further technical studies, its finding on asbestos-fiber-reinforced cement water mains.

To safeguard public health and ease apprehension, the President created a five-man presidential advisory committee headed by health Minister Jesus Azurin to conduct an exhaustive scientific study and to submit within three months its recommendations for a policy that would best serve the interest' of all the citizenry.

The President in effect lifted the ban on the use of cement pipes reinforced by asbestos fibers.

In the presence of his staff and some callers at the front door of Malacañang, the President examined the pipes. He found that in the case of those made of cement, asbestos fibers was merely used as strengthening material and constituted a mere five per cent of the total pipe material.

He reportedly inquired whether the water actually touched the asbestos. MWSS officials replied in the negative.

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November 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS speeded up the integrated steel mill project in Iligan City, one fo the government's 11 major industrial projects.

In Letter of Instructions No. 1277, he directed:

- 1) The Board of Investments to approve the \$700-million integrated steel mill as a pioneer project.
- 2) The Central Bank to include the financing required credit budget for 1982-83.
- 3) The investment coordination committee of the National Economic and Development Authority to expedite approval of the steel mill.
- 4) The National Steel Corp. to buy the lands needed for the project.
- 5) The National Power Corp. to supply the steel mill with its power needs through 1990.

The integrated steel mill is an expansion of existing facilities of the defunct Iligan Integrated Steel Mill. It will have iron-making, steel-making, and rolling mills facilities.

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November 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS delivered the keynote address at the opening of the 18th Medical Women's International Congress at the Philippine International Convention Center.

In his address, the President discussed the government's delivery of medical and other services in depressed urban areas as well as the countryside.

Sponsored by the Philippine Medical Women's Association, the international medical conference has for its main theme "Humane Management in Medicine."

Held for the second time in Manila since 1962, the Congress took up humane management in the treatment of such medical cases as obstetrics, handicapped persons, critically-ill patients, and the care of the elderly people.

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Source: National Library of the Philippines

Official Week in Review: November 23 – November 30, 1982

November 23—

During the 18th Congress of the Medical Women's International Association, the President stressed that modern societies especially the developing nations, which are modernizing their health care programs should be more sensitive and knowledgeable in investing their programs with a greater degree of humanity.

The President said they can take a leaf from the practice of ancient physicians of treating the whole man, soul as well as body, to relieve or cure an ailment.

The President cited the history of Oriental medicine and how medicine rooted in tradition developed the art of healing such as Hindu surgery and Chinese acupuncture.

In the Philippines, he said, a long tradition of folk medicine endures to this day. The significant part of this tradition was the *babaylan*, which referred to the role of women in healing.

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November 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has ordered the reorganization of the management boards of all Philippine Centers in the United States to expand trade between the Philippines and the United States.

Philippine Centers had been established in San Francisco, California, Los Angeles and New York in 1973 to enable the American people to have a glimpse of the Philippines, specially its export products, people and culture.

Samples of the country's main products, which other countries may buy any time, are displayed at the centers.

In an executive order signed yesterday, the President appointed Philippine envoy to Washington, Benjamin T. Romualdez, head of the Philippine Center's management boards.

Romualdez is currently the chairman of the Philippine-United States Business Development Council.

The council was created last September to expand further the Philippine presence in the US market.

The Presidential order centralizes the responsibility for the promotion of RP-US trade in the chairman, of the management board of the Philippine Center.

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November 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS stressed that the government would do everything to punish people involved in drug trafficking.

He issued the statement during the call of the participants to the ninth meeting of the heads of national narcotics law enforcement agencies in Malacañang.

The President assured them the Philippine government is exerting all efforts to stop the illicit drug trade which, he said, has become a grave domestic problem.

He recalled how Lim Seng, a heroin manufacturer and head of a drug syndicate, was executed by musketry to prove that the government meant business in stopping the menace.

He also disclosed that Virginia Espeleta de la Pena, tagged as the “queen of drug pushers,” is now being held incommunicado in the PC stockade in Camp Crame after being found to have continued to run her syndicate from her jail in Angeles City Pampanga.

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November 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has urged sports leaders to propagate athletics in the barangay level and harness the youth’s participation to draw them away from the influence of dangerous drugs.

The President has expressed alarm over the continuing drug menace which, he said, has involved even some sons and daughters of well-known personalities.

He made the pronouncement during the courtesy call of the officials of the Little League Baseball Association in Malacañang.

The President told the sports leaders that the challenge of athletics is an alternative to combat drug addiction among the youth.

“Sports should give our children a good alternative and your work (Little League baseball) is God-sent,” the President said.

The President stressed that the problems of the modern world tend to be met by the use of drugs and one of the ways to fight it is through participation in sports.

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November 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has banned the use of asbestos as lining for air-conditioning ducts.

The President cited medical and scientific studies, which; he said, indicated some relation between cancer and sustained contact with asbestos.

“The evidence that has become available so far shows, for instance, that asbestos fiber inhaled and deposited in the lungs is definitely carcinogenic,” the President said.

The President also directed that all buildings where airconditioners have been installed immediately and thoroughly inspected to find out if asbestos fiber has been used.

He ordered the removal and replacement of asbestos pipes and fibers with other materials to be determined by the Ministry of Health and the director general of the National Science and Technology Authority.

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November 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has approved the purchase of 400 new trucks to boost garbage collection and disposal facilities in Metro Manila.

To cope with the mounting garbage problem in the area, the President also ordered the Metro Manila Commission to increase the number of garbage dumpsites and strengthen the administrative and technical capabilities of the Environmental Sanitation Center.

The Environmental Sanitation Center is responsible for providing an integrated garbage collection and sanitation system in Metro Manila.

The purchase of the new trucks partly implements a long-standing plan to modernize garbage collection and sanitation services in Metro Manila.

Malacañang said that the purchase of the trucks and other equipment will be financed by the Export-Import Bank of Japan under a five-year refinancing scheme.

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November 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS stressed that he will use the “visitorial powers” of his office to safeguard the funds of the Philippine Veterans Bank.

The President sounded this warning during the eight regular meeting of the Supreme Council of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines at the Veterans Bank building on Bonifacio Drive.

The President expressed his disappointment over the failure of the bank which, under the past administration, had granted over P500-million on uncollectible debts.

The President said he had asked the former president of the bank as well as its board of directors to explain in writing how this happened.

He pointed out that a special group will be organized for the purpose of making a periodic reports of the bank’s performance.

The President recalled that the bank was organized with the \$25-million, which was given by the United States government to Filipino veterans.

“From now on let us not allow money to be used by the few. Now we will have to watch over the shoulders of the bank’s president and the treasurer, and every resolution they approve,” the President said.

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November 30—

PRESIDENT MARCOS issued Executive Order 849 which raised from 70 to 80 percent the loan value of grains to farmers.

The President said that the higher loan value should encourage grain businessmen “to procure more of the farmer’s produce at higher prices.”

The move was prompted by the clamor from the private sector for better access to government funds under the quedan financing program.

The immediate beneficiaries will be the grains businessmen who can now get higher loans from banks against their quedans or food stocks pledged under the Food Quedan Financing Program.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1983). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 79(4), xxi-xxiv.

President's Month in Review: December, 1982

President's Week in Review: January 1-7, 1983

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

January 1—

MY COUNTRYMEN: Today a new year begins and as you and I have done each year for longer than we can now perhaps remember, we have set apart a moment from our celebration to give full consideration to the meaning of this new beginning.

In spite of the difficulties that the past year has brought and the sobering prospects in the year ahead, there comes to most of us at this time of expectancy and hopefulness for the future.

I do believe that it is this very spirit of renewed optimism and hope that will see us through whatever rigors we still have to surmount in our journey towards the future.

Adversity is mi stranger to our people and our land. Many times in the past, in the face of perhaps greater uncertainties than those that confront us today, we have overcome and we have prospect.

With the help of Divine Providence and our resolute will, we shall do no less in the year now before us.

The past cast by the continuing global economic crisis shall pass and we must make ready to wrest the opportunities that will come with improving economic conditions.

Most important of all, we must not lose heart or let divisiveness draw us away from the unity and the resolve we need most critically at this time.

Let us therefore renew our resolve to prevail over these trying times. Let us begin by matching our feelings of buoyant hope and goodwill today with resolute action, each in our own respective labors.

Let self-discipline and industry regain their rightful places as the cornerstones of all our individual and collective endeavors.

While looking to the fulfillment of our needs, let us- also lift our sights to the needs of the larger community, our nation.

On this most hopeful day of the New Year, the First Lady and my children join me in extending to all of you and your families our best wishes for health, prosperity and the blessings of almighty God today and throughout the coming year.

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January 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has authorized the granting of new incentives to petroleum service contractors to encourage, more oil drilling in the country.

The more is contained in a presidential decree amending certain sections of PD 87, known as the "Oil Exploration and Development Act of 1972," which started the service contract system in local oil and gas exploration.

Members of the Cabinet and the diplomatic corps and other foreign guests attending the traditional New Year's Eve Celebration at Malacañang witnessed the signing of the decree. It took effect, immediately.

Among other things, the amendatory decree provides that contractors be reimbursed for all operating expenses not over 70 percent of the gross proceeds from production in any year. Any expense beyond 70 percent can be recovered from the operations of succeeding years.

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January 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and Dr. Aramd Hammer whose company, Occidental Petroleum, has one of the biggest coal mining concessions in China, have agreed to use Manila as a transshipping point for Chinese coal.

The use of Manila harbor, one of the finest deepwater ports in the world, would make up for China's lack of deepwater ports which has prevented loading of large ships.

Australia and Brazil are already using Manila as a stopping point in their trade with China, the President told the 84-year-old American industrialist during their talks on the presidential yacht the other night.

Hammer expressed hope that the Philippines engaging in coal operations on an equity basis in the United States would help ensure steady supply here of high grade coal and hasten the Philippines independence in energy.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS stressed yesterday that he will not allow politics to influence the selection of the justices and judges in the reorganization of the courts.

"This was stressed by the President in a consultation meeting with regional chairman of the ruling Kilusang Bagong Lipunan in Malacañang.

"We cannot allow politics factor to be the principal determining factor in the assignment and choice of judges," the President said.

It is necessary, the President said that the recommendees, first of all are all beyond reproach and above suspicion.

The President had earlier said that he will first appoint 40 justices to the Intermediate Appellate Courts and around 680 judges to the regional trial courts.

Reorganization of the Judiciary is in compliance with Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980.

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January 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS conferred the nation's most distinguished military awards on four American officers who were instrumental in beefing up the firepower and morale of the Northern Luzon guerillas during the darkest days of the Japanese occupation to hasten the liberation of the Philippines.

The President presented the decorations at the Maharlika Hall of Malacañang.

He was assisted by Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and General Fabian C. Ver, AFP chief of staff.

Decorated were Capt. Maurice “Duke” Ferrara (US Navy, ret.) the Distinguished Conduct Star, the second highest military award in the Philippines: Maj. Fred Behan (US Army, ret.) the Bronze Cross, and Col. Donald Jamison and Lt. Larry Guzman (US Army, ret.), the Philippine Legion of Honor with degree of officer.

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January 5—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has announced yesterday that the government will pursue a four-point thrust to improve the country’s economy in 1983.

Confident of an upturn in the economy, the President said that efforts will be accelerated in four areas—agriculture, industrialization, export drive and mass involvement of the people in the economic drive through medium and small-scale industries and the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaularan.

The government’s economic thrust this year was disclosed by the President in an interview with newsmen in Malacañang.

Besides the implementation of government programs, the President said he would like to see the complete normalization of political organizations.

The President pointed out that while the country is self-sufficient in food, there are still deficiencies in the four sectors he mentioned.

He pointed out that the establishment of a balanced agro-industrial economy is yet to be attained and that this can be done by setting up the 11 industrial project and small-and-medium-scale industries.

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January 6—

THE PRESIDENT has given the judges involved until today to answer all the adverse findings and charges lodged against them with the Integrity Council.

After hearing the side of these judges, the President may refer the matter back to the Integrity Council for final resolution as to their inclusion in the filial listing of the new judiciary set up.

The President created the Integrity Council to assist him in the screening of the new list of members of the reorganized judiciary system.

With Justice Minister Ricardo Puno as chairman, the body is composed of retired Supreme Court Justice Felix Antonio, Antonio Lucero, Guillermo Santos, Jose Leuterio and Jose Bengson as members.

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January 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that the Philippines has submitted its defense requirements to the United States in connection with the initial round of talks for the renegotiation of the Military Bases Agreement covering the period of 1984-1989.

The President said the choice of military hardware, although part of the list, would not be discussed. Rather, he said, other matters understood to be bases rentals would be taken up.

Diplomatic and defense officials had earlier said that the security assistance package for the use of the bases by the Americans will top the agenda in the preliminary decisions this coming April in Washington, D.C., between defense ministries of two countries.

The President stressed that the meeting between Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and his American counterpart, US Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, would not involve questions of armaments.

“The matter of armaments comes under the Mutual Defense Pact as such other military arrangements are routinary basis,” and are handled on a routinary basis,” the President said.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: January 8-15, 1983

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

January 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS held a meeting with the hierarchy of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL) to discuss finalization of the judicial reorganization which he wanted announced on or before January 14.

Notices had been sent to KBL, leaders all over the country to consider the judiciary list prepared by the Ministry of Justice.

In the KBL caucus the other Sunday, the President declared that the successful reorganization of the judiciary, from the Court of Appeals down, is the responsibility of government, hence, of the KBL, which is the party in power.

The President stressed that: We cannot allow the political factor to be the principal factor to be the principal determining point on the assignment and choice of judges. So we have to see to it that, first of all the recommendations are all beyond reproach and above suspicion.”

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January 9—

THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos distributed land titles, small business loans, and certificates of awards to more than 200 families and said the poor need not despair because they have so much to hope for.

Speaking at the inauguration of the Pambansang Bagong Nayon housing project in barrio Lahug, Ms. Marcos said government has put in place many programs to help the poor achieve a hotter life.

“I know that with greater efforts, they can find hope, beauty, and fulfillment in their lives,” she said.

Mrs. Marcos later pulled a switch at the Cebu Plaza Hotel to signal that electricity had been brought to all towns and cities, of Negros Oriental Cebu, and Bohol.

As chairman of the National Electrification Administration, she announced that work will begin tomorrow to bring electricity to all points of the nearby islands of Siquijor, Bantay, and Camotes.

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January 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS discussed with the regional chairman of the ruling Kilusang Bagong Lipunan to finalize the list of appointees to the judiciary under the Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980 which he wanted implemented on or before January 14.

The Integrity Council headed by Justice Minister Ricard Puno had recommended to the President 1,661 incumbent justices and judges, government lawyers and private practitioners for appointment under the new judiciary systems.

The 1,661 recommendees had been thoroughly; screened for competence and honesty by the Integrity Council.

In his meeting with the KBL hierarchy last Dec. 26, the President pointed out that the reorganization of the judiciary is the responsibility of the government and, hence, of the KBL as the party in power.

He stressed, however, that the political factor will not be the principal determining point in the choice of judges.

“We have to see to it that, first of all, the recommendees are all beyond reproach and above suspicion,” he said.

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January 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS stressed that the on-going judicial reorganization is not a purging exercise.

In a meeting with regional chairman of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan, the President said that “what we are trying to do is to give those who will be removed from office or be transferred, a hearing in accordance with the stated principle that no man shall be denied his day in court’ or removed without being given a hearing and a chance to explain whatever charges there are.”

The President vigorously denied some reports that the KBL, was to decide the judicial line-up.

However, he consulted with KBL leaders on the records of incumbent judges and those proposed for appointment in the judiciary reorganization.

The President had summoned all the judges whose records were screened judges and those proposed for appointment in the judiciary reorganization by the Integrity Council and against whom there were adverse reports. He said they were given all the chance to explain the reports.

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January 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has announced the release of P69.7 million to pay one-week year-end bonuses for about 300,000 public elementary school teachers all over the country.

This is expected to end the teacher’s discontent over delayed payment of-the bonus.

The bonuses would come not less than P250 and not more than P500 each, based on the salary scale stipulated in the President’s Executive Order No. 858.

The P69.7 million will be charged against the P169 million unused allotment earlier released to the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports for 1982; which was not yet applied for salary adjustments. The cash payments will be charged against the 1983 program.

The President has approved two salary adjustments for teachers last year. These were a 15 to 20 per cent increase and a specific P98 adjustment to raise the minimum monthly pay of teachers to P1,000.

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January 13—

THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Mrs. Imelda E. Marcos has announced that some 30 economists, sociologists, and humanists will meet in Manila next month to discuss various international development programs in a workshop.

The workshop is being sponsored by the United Nations following talks held between the First Lady and UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in the UN sometime ago.

The First Lady said that among those invited are heads of states with their respective representatives from nations which participated in the last conference in the new international human order.

The First Lady made the announcement in the course of a briefing with the diplomatic corps from the foreign community at the University of Life in Pasig, Metro Manila.

Mrs. Marcos earlier invited the diplomatic corps to the UL to discuss with them the functions of the UL and the MHS, as well as the national livelihood program.

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January 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS stood pat yesterday on the issue of the three per cent ad valorem advance import tax, declaring that it was necessary in view of the recessionary situation.

The tax applicable to all importations since the latter part of last month, has drawn vigorous opposition from some business sectors.

Following a three-hour meeting with technical experts in Malacañang, the President has announced his assessment on the importance of the new tax.

Present at the meeting were Prime Minister Cesar Virata, Deputy Prime Minister Jose Roño, Minister of Trade and Industry Roberto Ongpin, Minister of Energy Geronimo Velasco, and Central Bank Gov. Jaime Laya.

The international recession, the President stressed, has compelled all countries to take proper measures to defend the integrity of their currencies.

These currencies have been eroded by falling commodity prices and the corresponding loss of foreign exchange earnings, particularly in developing countries, which include the Philippines, he said.

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January 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has rejected last night the offer of Foreign Minister Carlos P. Romulo to resign, extending his services at least for one year to enable him to complete the reorganization of his ministry.

The President described Romulo as an indispensable servant of the Republic. "And although there are many young men who are qualified to take over his post, Romulo, at the moment, has no replacement," he said.

"You and I will choose your replacement," the President said in his speech during the annual dinner held in honor of the foreign minister speech during the annual dinner held in honor of the foreign minister who celebrated his 84th birthday at the Hotel Intercontinental.

In his speech proceeding that of the President's, Romulo offered to resign, saying that the time has come for him to give way to the younger generation.

He said that he had asked the President to leave the service last June 11 and while he believed it to be a difficult decision to make, he thought that it was the right decision.

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The dinner was attended by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, and the members of the Cabinet, the diplomatic corps, the judiciary and the Batasang Pambansa who appeared delighted by the decision of the President.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: January 16-22, 1983

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

January 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has agreed with Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau in their two-hour meeting that their governments should keep working for the development of trade and economic relations.

The two loaders discussed problems of mutual concern, exchanging views on world security, peace, and economic development.

Trudeau arrived in Manila Friday on the last leg of his Asean tour. Today, he leaves for Tokyo en route home.

The President thanked him for Canada's hospitality to 120, 000 Filipinos, who call that North American country their second home.

He also thanked Trudeau for his support for Third World countries during the 1981 Cancun summit.

Trudeau dressed that Canada's economic relations with Asean countries are growing faster than its relations with Europe.

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January 17—

PRESIDENT MARCOS delivered his state-of-the-nation address at the opening of the 5th session of the Batasang Pambansa.

The highlight of the President's address was the announcement of a partial list of justices and judges he appointed to the reorganized judiciary system.

The President stressed that he would press for immediate legislative action on priority measures still pending with the Batasan.

He said this include final action on the proposed Local Government Code, the Election Code, investment incentives and other economic development measures.

Of the 2, 604 the President said 34 or 35 will be appointed to the Intermediate Appellate Court (formerly Court of Appeals,) 129 as regional trial court judges in other areas.

According to the President, he intends to draw appointees to the Intermediate Appellate Court from the list of trial judges recommended for Promotion by the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, and the Ministry of Justice.

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January 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS stressed that the country had strengthened its industrial and agricultural base, a mild turnabout of the global economy should produce a moderate upturn in national economic growth in 1983.

In an address marking the resumption of the 5th session of the Batasang Pambansa, he said: “Our economic planners project the veal gross national product to grow by around three per cent during the year.”

“Any more important, economic performance will put on stream our new Five Year Development Plan which commences this year,” he said.

In the course of his address, the President announced his appointment of 34 members of the Intermediate Appellate Court headed by Chief Justice Enrique Fernando and the Integrity Council headed by Minister of Justice Ricardo Puno.

January 19—

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PRESIDENT MARCOS has appointed 880 move judges—53 for the metropolitan trails courts for the national capital region and 827 municipal circuit trial courts all over the country.

The day before, he appointed 34 justices to the Intermediate Appellate Court (IAC) and 618 judges to the regional trial courts.

With these two waves of judicial appointments, the President has practically completed the reorganization of the judiciary, the first since 1902.

Yesterday morning, the President inducted the 34 IAC justices and many of the regional trial judges.

Under the new judicial system, the regional trial courts take the place of the courts of first instance, the metropolitan trial courts replace the city courts, while the municipal trial courts replace the municipal courts.

The 53 metropolitan trial judges are assigned in Manila, Quezon City, Pasay City, and 13 of the 14 towns constituting Metro Manila.

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January 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS stressed that investigators are looking into the reports that workers in some export sectors, particularly garments manufacturing, have caused cancellation of overseas orders through defective products and general unreliability.

If the reports are true, “this means that those elements are destroying the jobs of the’ very workers they pretend to protect. This form of economic-sabotage cannot and will not be tolerated,” he declared.

The President called on both labor and management to refrain from actions aggravating the economic suffering of the people, to realize instead that cooperation between them is the only way for them to survive the world economic recession.

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The President told delegates to the First Asean Editor’s Conference to help broaden and define relations among the peoples of the region with the rest of the world.

In an address before the editors in Malacañang, he said that conferences are “one way of reexamining the barriers that once walled in our peoples from each other, refining the bonds that we now are trying to build.

The President noted that although the peoples of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member states now know more of one another, “their consciousness as neighbors is still overshadowed by the larger reality of our cultural links with the Western world.”

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January 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said yesterday that only through cooperation with the rest of the world can developing countries like the Philippines surmount the current economic crisis.

The President made the statement after accepting the letters of credence of two new ambassadors to the Philippines during separate ceremonies at Malacañang. They were Ambassadors Magdalena Filipas of Romania and Joayrton Martins Calm of Brazil.

In accepting the letters of Ambassadors Filipas, the President expressed appreciation for the desire of the Romanian government and people to promote closer ties and cooperation with the Philippines.

The President assured Romania that the Philippines will do its part to enhance economic cooperation and continue to strive for peace with dignity and national independence.

To the Brazilian envoy, the President pointed out that due to shared values and despite the great distance separating them, Brazil and the Philippines have steadily developed closer relations through the years.

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January 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, noting the recent series of setbacks suffered by the military in fighting subversives and insurgents, took steps yesterday to improve combat capabilities of the Armed Forces.

The President met in Malacañang with members of the general military council, assessed the overall peace and order situation in the country, and reviewed the performance of the military in its counterinsurgency campaign.

The council is made up of Gen. Fabian C. Ver, AFP chief of staff; Ft Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, AFP vice chief of staff and concurrent Constabulary and integrated national police chief; Maj. Gen. Ignacio C. Paz AFP deputy chief of staff and chief of the AFP intelligence service (ISAFP) Maj Gen. Josephus Q. Ramas, Army commanding general; Maj. Gen. Vicente M. Piccio, Jr., Air Force chief, Admiral Simeon Alejandro, Navy chief; and members of Ver's general staff.

Also present in the meeting was Maj. Gen. Delfin C. Castro, commanding general of the Southern command (Southcom) based in Zamboanga city.

In the review of recent events, the President was visibly irked by military casualties in ambushes by the communist New People's Army, particularly where two battalion commanders and several junior officers were killed in about 12 days.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: January 23-31, 1983

Official Week in Review: February 1 – February 8, 1983

February 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS stressed that the cinema industry may solve the problem of integration and unification of the people in a developing country.

The President made the statement during a Malacañang dinner he hosted for film producers and actors attending the 1983 Manila International Film Festival (MIFF).

He said that the cinema has become so pervasive and so powerful as an art medium that it is probably the answer to the problem of integration and unity among peoples, the President said.

“With the improvement of its technology, the cinema can best be utilized for this noble purposes and as a weapon for Godliness,” the President said.

President Marcos has approved the bureau of internal revenue’s plan to spare honest taxpayers from unnecessary investigation and harassment, Revenue Commissioner Ruben B. Ancheta said.

Under the plan, the individual and corporate taxpayers paying taxes at least 25 per cent more than the preceding year will be accorded last priority in the BIR investigation of income and business returns.

Ancheta said “last priority” means that audit and tax investigation will only be conducted upon authority to the BIR commissioner.

The BIR chief said an investigation of tax returns paying 25 per cent or more may be conducted if there is strong documentary evidence of fraud.

February 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has ordered court personnel in the reorganized judiciary to remain in their posts until relieved by him or by the Supreme Court.

The President was reacting to the reported uncertain status of stenographers, clerks of court, interpreters, stock clerks, janitors, and other in the reorganized courts.

He said that under an executive order he issued, all members of the courts, excluding judges, should remain in office until replaced by him or by the Supreme Court.

The President issued the “stay-put” order during the mass oath-taking of newly appointed regional and municipal trial court judges in Region I and the National Capital Region.

President Marcos sent to Deputy Prime Minister Jose S. Roño a prohibiting and penalizing the duplication or reproduction of motion pictures and video tapes and their distribution and sale for public viewing for commercial purposes.

The President asked the deputy prime minister to draft a Cabinet bill for consideration at caucus and presentation to the Batasang Pambansa.

The proposed law seeks to declare illegal and punishable the duplication or reproduction by any person of motion pictures, video tapes, television programs, and publicity materials of any kind for commercial purposes, for distribution or sale, or for public viewing.

For violation of the law, the penalty proposed is imprisonment from four years, two months, and one day, to six years, and a fine of P10,000.

February 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said he had received assurances that Saudi Arabia is ready to extend help in upgrading the quality of Madrasah schools in Regions IX and XII.

Regions IX and XII are the Muslim-dominated provinces of Sulu, Basilan, Tawi-Tawi, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, the two Lanao provinces, Maguindanao, North Cotabato, and Sultan Kudarat.

Madrasahs are schools run by “Ustadz” or religious leaders, offering courses in Arabic.

The assurance, according to the President was given by a three-man Saudi delegation composed of Secretary General Mohammad Naswer Alboudi for the Islamic Dawah; Secretary Gener Ali Mohammed Moktar for the Supreme Council for the Mosque; and Director General Mohammad Abdurahman Al Bassam of the cultural department of the Saudi Foreign Ministry.

The President expressed gratitude for the assurance of assistance.

February 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS stressed that current economic trends can be indications of recovery for nations now reeling under recession.

However, he cautioned that the situation has to be watched despite the hopeful signs.

He said that among these developments is the projected shutdown of Anaconda, one of the biggest copper companies in the world.

The President said he expected the supply of copper to go down when the giant American firm closes, thus boosting the demand for the output of the Philippine copper industry.

The President said that at year’s end, the price of copper, one of the country’s traditional exports, was still below 75 cents a pound at the London Metal Exchange and about 67 cents a pound on the last trading day of 1982.

The price of copper may go up to one dollar per pound this year from a low of 65 cents, he said.

February 5—

UNITED NATIONS officials cited the First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos for her key role in the establishment of the refugee processing center in Morong, Bataan, during the celebration of the third anniversary of the center.

The First Lady also received a citation from US President Ronald Reagan for her help to the “victims of the tragedy that engulfed Indochina since 1975.”

The US president said that the center has gained worldwide reputation for its human approach in caring for refugees and its innovative program of preparing refugees for settlement in the countries of destination.

The First Lady called for a renewal of the people’s commitment to the ideals of humanitarianism and the nobility of the human spirit.

February 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that the Manila International Film Festival (MIFF) has proved that the cinema could transcend barriers between the peoples of the world.

Speaking at the closing rites of the MIFF at the Philippine International Convention Center, the President said that as an art, the cinema “remained us once more of the essential unity of human experience.”

“We crave today for an art than can harmonize as much as it illuminates our changing world, that can recover the intimacy with which art once spoke to our humanity, above the otherness of peoples and cultures,” he said.

The film festival, the President said, would have achieved its true purpose if artists have become more conscious than ever that they do not work in isolation but are a community which have much to share with one another.

February 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has donated his entire one-year salary this year to the Marcos Library in the University of the Philippines college of law.

Since he became president in 1965 and even as a leader in Congress, Mr. Marcos had been donating his salaries to worthy causes.

Last year, the President has donated his entire salary for the year for the benefit of the children of the Philippine Military Academy alumni.

Newsmen who covered the President in Congress can recall that as Senate President, Mr. Marcos was already donating his salaries.

February 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that he would transfer to Meralco the franchise of electric cooperatives in provinces surrounding Metro Manila.

This will enable families in these areas to save at least P400 to P500 annually in their electric bills, he said.

The President said the transfer would not only mean a decrease in the cost of electricity but also improve the income profile of these families.

The President’s action was in answer to requests by provincial residents to transfer their power to Meralco due to higher charges imposed by electric cooperatives.

He also allayed fears that the projected increased sought by Meralco would affect a wide segment of consumers in the Metropolitan area.

“I think they understand that these would affect only those in the higher brackets. And we have already done it,” the President said, referring to previous power rate increases by the electric company.

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Source: National Library of the Philippines

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1983). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 79(14), lxxv-lxxviii.

President's Week in Review: February 8-14, 1983

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

February 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has ordered the fielding of more military units in Northern and Eastern Mindanao to intensify the government's peace and order drive there.

At the same time, the Chief Executive directed the reassignment of battle-tested military commanders to these areas to supervise operations.

The President's order to beef up the troops included the ending of heavy armaments and helicopters to increase the military unit's fire power and combat capability.

The directive was issued to defense and military officials led by Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Gen. Fabian C. Ver, Armed Forces Chief of Staff, during a meeting in Malacañang.

Present at the meeting were members of the general staff of Ver, the commanding generals of the four major services—Army, Constabulary, Air Force, and Navy—and commanders of the 13 regional commands.

February 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has ordered the seizure of all copies of the films "The Virgin People, Die Victim," and "Naiibang Hayop" for rescreening by the new board of review for motion pictures, television, and live entertainment to determine any violations of law.

The President's seizure order was prompted by numerous written complaints that some scenes were added to the original films approved for screening during the festival.

Operatives of the Constabulary Metrocom under Maj. Gen. Prospero A. Olivas, immediately took into custody 43 sets of the films after their final screening in Manila moviehouses Friday night at the end of the Manila International Film Festival.

The new board of review under its chairman, ex-Senator Maria Kalaw Katigbak, along with representatives of movie producers, theatre owners, and the office of the President, have started to rescreen and confiscate films.

February 10—

THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos has assured the country's low-income earners yesterday that the administration will give them a chance to own decent and affordable homes as the government steps up its national shelter program.

She cited President Marcos' target of 100,000 units to be built this year alone and expansion of the Ministry of Human Settlements' "PAG-IBIG" program.

Reaffirming her personal commitment to continue the President's housing program until every Filipino has a house of his own, Mrs. Marcos declared: "Until this is achieved, our task in government is not done."

The First Lady spoke at the inauguration of the Teacher's BLISS Condominium project near the Manila International Airport in Pasay city. She distributed certificates and awards for teachers coming from towns south of the Pasig river.

February 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has signed into law yesterday the Local Government Code, during the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan caucus in Malacañang.

The code defines the powers and functions of local elective officials, giving them autonomy while decentralizing powers, in barangays, towns, provinces, and cities.

It prescribes, among others, that in cases of temporary incapacity of the governor, mayor, or punong barangay, the vice governor, vice mayor, or sangguniang bayan member who received the highest number of votes cast will take over.

However, the temporary successor cannot appoint, suspend, or dismiss employees during the incumbent's period of incapacity.

February 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has ordered yesterday the release of P10 million to buy hybrid seeds for distribution to corn farmers as he launched the Maisagana export drive which aims to make the country a net exporter of yellow corn by 1984.

Mr. Marcos also ordered the release of another P10 million out of the Philippine-Japan Food Production program to pay transportation allowances of extension workers.

The National Food Authority, with financing from the Land Bank, will set up driers and shelters in corn-growing areas, while the Central Bank will provide incentives to rural banks to cover programs like Masagana 99, Maisagana and others in the grant of credit.

The President has ordered the crop insurance program to support the Masagana 99. He asked various agencies to look into the feasibility of establishing corn export zones.

February 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, accompanied by the First Lady, Minister of Human Settlements Imelda R. Marcos, inaugurated yesterday the People's Technology Renter and its star industry, the Gasifier and Equipment Manufacturing Corp. in its 52-hectare compound in Carmona Cavite

He signed two executive orders creating the gasifier company and providing Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran (KKK) financial assistance to industrial users of gasifiers.

He issued another order which would grant franchises to colorum jeepneys as long as they use gasifiers, which could be funded through KKK loans.

The gasifier is a local invention which uses charcoal or wood chips to produce gases to fuel gasoline or diesel engine. Widespread use of the gasifier would significantly reduce dependence on imported oil.

February 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS stressed yesterday that the government will limit the effect of the 10 per cent increase in the National Power Corp. power rates by expanding the cheaper services of the Meralco to as many provinces as possible.

The increase in power rates of NPC took effect last Saturday.

The Meralco said it is increasing its rates by 7.2 centavos per kilowatt hour effective March 1 to offset the 10 per cent NPC power rate increase.

The electric firm has extended its power services to eight towns of Laguna and five barangays of Calamba, also in Laguna, and five towns in Quezon province in line with the President's move to reduce electricity costs in these areas.

Meralco's providing services to the eight Laguna towns and five barangays of Calamba followed its takeover from the Philippine Power and Development Company.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

Official Week in Review: February 15 – February 21, 1983

February 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has removed yesterday from the Board of Review for Motion Pictures and Television the power to license actors and actresses and jurisdiction over live entertainment.

He deleted these two provisions from an executive order broadening the powers of the board. Representatives from the entertainment and movie industries had appealed for the deletion of the provisions.

Under Executive Order No. 868, the body was renamed Board of Review for Motion Pictures, Television, and Live Entertainment.

In the reorganization, the board was to have a chairman, two vice chairmen, and 32 members, all to be appointed by the President.

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The First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos filed four bills with the Batasang Pambansa yesterday.

Co-authored by Assemblywoman and former Senator Helena Benitez (KBL Southern Tagalog) and Assemblyman Gualberto Lumauig, (KBL, Cagayan Valley), the bill seeks to:

1. Establish a coastal zone management system to meet the country's socio-economic needs.
2. Provide for additional incentives for the installation and use of pollution control devices.
3. Exempt anti-pollution system from real property tax.
4. Promote soil conservation management.

The bills were immediately referred on first reading to the committees on human settlements, on appropriations, on finance, and on agriculture.

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February 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had prevented yesterday what could have been a bloody confrontation between a group of Muslim vendors in Quiapo and the Manila police.

At the behest of the President, the Muslim Council of Elders, representing the 150 Muslims stallholders, met with Mayor Ramon D. Bagatsing and agreed to voluntarily dismantle their makeshift stalls on the streets of Elizondo, Norzagaray, and Globo de Oro.

The vendors also agreed to drop their case in court stopping City Hall from easing them out of the streets.

In exchange, Bagatsing promised to look for sites in the city where the vendors may continue their trade.

The controversy erupted two weeks ago when Bagatsing gave the Muslim vendors 10 days to vacate the area, or their stalls would be demolished.

The Muslim vendors were represented in the talks by former Senator Salipada Pendatun, Ambassador Liningding Pangandaman, Deputy Minister Michael Mustura, and former Justice Mama Busran.

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February 17—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has directed Justice Minister Ricardo C. Puno and members of the integrity council yesterday to start working on the second phase of the judicial revamp.

Puno said the President had ordered him to give particular attention to municipal trial courts where many vacancies have to filled up.

In a meeting with members of the Justice and Court Reporters Association of the Philippines, Puno said about 40 programmed positions in the regional trial courts and some 200 vacancies in the municipal courts will be filled up in the second wave of appointments.

Since the judicial revamp started Jan. 17 this year, 1,501 justices and judges have been appointed by the President.

Under the judicial revamp law, Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, 1,893 judicial salas were created, from the intermediate appellate court down to municipal trial courts.

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February 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile met yesterday and assessed the military situation in the country preparatory to the minister's departure for the United States for a meeting with US Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger in Washington.

The President said the talks centers on the periodic meetings agreed upon between the two governments during his state visit to the United States last year, and is not the review of military bases or facilities.

"This is preparatory to the review," the President said. "It is merely an exchange of how things are moving—defense policies, the implementation of our agreements."

The President said the Enrile-Weinberger meeting will be only for a few days but an advance party left yesterday to observe facilities of military bases there.

The President said that the formal review or negotiations will be held in Manila in April and preparations are practically worked out.

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February 19—

THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos has reiterated to President Hauro Remeliik of Palau the assurance of President Marcos to look for areas of cooperation between the two countries.

Meeting with Remeliik at a luncheon tendered in his honor by Deputy Prime Minister Jose Roño at the Tahanang Filipino at the Cultural Center complex, Mrs. Marcos said that according to President Marcos, the Philippines would be “happy to extend to you the modest knowledge and expertise we have.”

Mrs. Marcos also assured Remeliik that as the President said, Palau has friends in the Philippines who understand the problems and aspirations of the island republic, the two countries being on the same level of development.

Earlier, President Marcos and Remeliik also decided on the need for the Philippines to send a trade mission to Palau to look into business opportunities for the two countries. They talked about the possibility of locating some Philippine garment factories to Palau.

President Remeliik informed the President of his country’s need for Philippine expertise in agriculture and aquaculture.

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February 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS declared that the government has no quarrel whatsoever with the church, has invited church leaders to a more meaningful dialogue for the common welfare.

He said he would invite Archbishop Antonio Mabutas, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) and his colleagues to a meeting with the Cabinet, including the First Lady, Minister of Human Settlements Imelda R. Marcos.

Among the topics would be the participation of the religious sector in the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran livelihood program, small-scale industries, and vocational training for out-of-school youths.

The President said the religious sector could also help in the easing of tensions in agrarian conflicts, the national housing program, resettlement of squatters, and identification of settlement areas.

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The First Lady, Minister of Human Settlements Imelda R. Marcos has unveiled the first Flexihome models in a ceremony at a former garbage dump on Mariano Marcos Ave. in Diliman, Q.C.

President Maruo Remeliik of Palau was among the guests at the early morning ceremony to see the Flexihomes, which would hasten the delivery of shelter to everybody.

Mrs. Marcos showed the visitors three basic prototypes with variations to suit individual tastes and paying capacity.

These are the FM-50.4, with a floor area of 50.4 square meters and two bedrooms; the FM-60.4, a three bedroom house with an area of 60.4 square meters, and the FM-77.7, which has four bedrooms and 77.7 square meters.

All prototypes can be adapted for single detached dwellings duplex, quadruples, rowhouse and multi-story condominium.

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February 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS was the keynote speaker during the Ministerial Conference on National Food Policies and Strategies in Asia and the Pacific Region which started at the Philippine International Convention Center.

Some 30 agriculture ministers from Asia and Pacific countries are attending the three-day conference to map out food strategies and wage a “direct attack” on hunger in the region.

The conference focused on small farmers by seeking ways to close the gap between the average yields and those at agriculture research centers.

The ministerial meeting was sponsored by the World Food Council (WFC) and the German Development Foundation (DSF) as part of the “food strategy” approach adopted by the World Food Council in 1979.

Some of the countries represented in the meeting are the Philippines, China, India, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Iran, United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Japan, and South Korea.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1983). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 79(16), lxxxvii-xc.

Official Week in Review: March 1 — March 7, 1983

March 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS stressed that the government notwithstanding its stepped-up military campaign against subversives, has kept its policy of democratic dialogue with them.

“The violence of the state is only the last recourse to quell violence done on public order,” he told the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association at a fellowship lunch at the Philippine International Convention Center.

Declaring that the government has always believed in dialogue to conciliate and resolve tensions, he said: “Let no one misunderstand this resolve as abandonment of the policy of dialogue which we have always pursued.”

Meanwhile, the President asked Prime Minister Cesar Virata to help integrate all programs intended for armed forces men, veterans, and retirees.

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March 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS vowed to put an end to communist reign terror in the south, but stressed that the intensified military campaign against the subversives.

He said that he has never overreacted to the passing dangers to the national life, not even at the time when rebel forces threatened to separate a portion of the national territory from the Republic.

The President stressed that a government that finally resorts to violence in order to resolve problems in effect faces also its shown failure.

“We are not about to break with this tradition of restraint,” the President said. “Violence, after all, is a confession that mutual relations of respect and goodwill have broken and the web of common life has been torn apart.”

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March 3—

The First Lady, Minister of Human Settlements Imelda R. Marcos, donated P5 million yesterday to the University of the Philippines faculty development fund in brief ceremonies in Malacañang before UP deans and professors led by university President Edgardo J. Angara.

Also present were alumni led by Supreme Court Chief of Justice Enrique Fernando as well as student leaders. The money came from the Metro Manila Commission.

She declared that her goal is to make Manila the city of man and she will support anything to achieve this goal.

She said that the P5 million contribution will bring returns worth a hundred fold in the development of the nation’s human resources.

The UP faculty development fund is part of the university’s diamond jubilee celebration. Target for the fund is P75 million. UP President Angara has been asking all alumni, including those abroad, to help achieve this goal.

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March 4—

THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos formally turned over P5 million to the National Commission Concerning Disabled Persons and the Ministry of Social Services and Development during simple ceremonies at the Manila Film Center on Roxas Boulevard.

The amounts represented the proceeds generated by the successful 12-day Manila International Film Festival (MIFF) which was held recently for the benefit of the disabled.

Scheduled to receive the donation from the First Lady, who is also the founding chairman of the annual filmfest are Social Services Minister Sylvia Montes, president of the 1938 MIFF and Mrs. Julita C. Benedicto, vice president of the MIFF and chairman of the National Commission Concerning Disabled Persons.

The turnover rites highlighted a “barrio fiesta” for the disabled which started at 4 p.m. at the Manila Film Center.

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March 5—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, irked by reports of Mercedes-Benz cars being smuggled out of the waterfront, ordered the bureau of customs yesterday to temporarily stop the release of luxury cars.

Recent news reports had carried stories of expensive cars, particularly the Mercedes-Benz and the BMW from Germany, being released from customs on the strength of fake release papers and non-existing consignees.

The President said he was considering suspending privileges letting balikbayans (foreign-based returning to the Philippines) to bring in with them cars and others luxuries.

It was reported that some importers were using passports of balikbayans to bring in expensive cars.

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March 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS declared all-out war against smuggling syndicates, stating the administration will be ruthless with fool-proof measures to plug loopholes in bureau of customs operations and policies.

The President said the government is determined to plug all the leaks in the customs operations which were being utilized by smuggling syndicates to ply their nefarious trade.

He said all existing customs policies and operations will be restudied to implement fool-proof measures to ensure an effective drive against irregularities in the bureau.

The President said the recent killing of an assistant chief of customs indicates that these alien syndicates have gone to a point where they can intimidate customs officials.

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March 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS assured yesterday a fair hearing of producers and directors of controversial films previously approved by the Board of Review for Motion Pictures and Television which were shown during the recent Manila International Film Festival.

The President said he had ordered a review of these controversial films and stressed that there were some violations.

The President said government probers now have the same version of those who saw the films. "We are still trying to get the version of the directors and producers. And I want it in writing because I do not want it said later on that they were not given a hearing."

The President said that there are certain standards that must be maintained in film exhibitions. He said the showing of these disapproved films is a violation of the censorship laws, unless "this is part what they call experimental presentation," obviously referring to the Experimental Cinema of the Philippines.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1983). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 79(18), xcix-ci.

Official Week in Review: March 8 – March 15, 1983

March 8—

SECURITY MATTERS between the Philippines and the United States will be discussed anew next month.

The talks, the second this year for the two countries, will take place in Manila.

They come close on the heels of negotiations held in Washington recently between panels headed by Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and US Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger.

The President, indisposing next months' talks, declined to go into details. But he said the discussions must be completed next month because Japanese Premier Yahushiro Nakasone has set his Manila visit for May.

Mr. Marcos said he thought the Enrile—Weinberger talks were successful. The discussions were frank and were conducted within the framework discussed between me and President Reagan, Mr. Marcos said.

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March 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS yesterday ordered Manila Fiscal Vivencio Dionido to reopen an investigation of the murder of opposition leader Adolfo Celera and Assistant Provincial Fiscal Jose Angustia in Masbate.

Dionido, presidential prober of the Masbate cases, was told to report to the justice ministry the results of his findings on the killing of Celera, former transport commissioner who was killed in 1981, and Angustia who was gunned down last year.

The President also directed military authorities and government prosecutors to pursue 1,717 pending criminal cases, including 20 believed to have political implications and 600 civil cases, and to reopen other cases dismissed for lack of evidence.

The President directed the PC inspectors general's office and the Criminal Investigation Service to give all-out support to the investigators.

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March 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has ordered the reinvestigation of all criminal cases in Masbate, including those already dismissed.

The order was one of several measures taken by the President in a meeting with Masbate officials, attended by justice and military authorities, to cope with the deteriorating peace and order situation in that island province.

At the same time, the President issued Executive Order 856 creating provincial and city committees on justice to ensure the speedy disposition of cases of detainees, particularly the less privileged.

He said creation of the committees can also help solve the problem of jail congestion and alleviate local jail conditions. This could help improve the administration of justice, the President added.

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March 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS addressed the 1983 graduation exercises of the Philippine Military Academy in Baguio City.

A total of 192 cadets—one of the largest in years—graduated into the regular force of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The four-day program of activities started Wednesday at Fort del Pilar, Baguio city, with a silent drill exhibition followed by an open house and ring hop in the evening.

The commencement ceremonies started with a baccalaureate mass at the St. Ignacius Chapel of the academy.

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President Marcos has received reports that rains have started to fall over Mindanao and that food supplies and other basic commodities as well as price are normal.

Consequently, the President advised all officials concerned against issuing exaggerated assessments of the situation to prevent generating any panic.

Tanchangco, who is in Mindanao where he has been meeting with local officials, reported to the President that the supply and prices of food and other basic commodities are normal and that the commercial stock of rice and corn are sufficient.

March 12—

WITH THE FLICK of a switch, the First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos started the power generators at the Kalayaan power plant and increased by 300 megawatts the electric power available for the Luzon grid.

Mrs. Marcos inaugurated the P1.98 billion first stage of the Kalayaan plant located some 60 aerial kilometers southeast of Manila.

This is a fully automated plant, the first of its kind in Southeast Asia. It has the potential to generate 1,800 megawatts of electricity.

The First Lady switched on the power generators that, within 10 minutes, started supplying electricity to the entire island of Luzon.

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March 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS urged the Batasang Pambansa to regulate the importation of toxic elements as well as enact laws on the disposition of toxic wastes “to ensure the lives, health, and safety of our people.”

The President, in a letter to Majority Floor Leader Jose A. Roño, sought the passage of a law to regulate, or ban if necessary, the importation and use of bionodegradable substances. These are used in the manufacture of soap, detergents, fertilizers, and other consumer items.

He observed that the unregulate and indiscriminate importation and utilization of bionondegradabl substances or elements by persons, corporations, associations, or other entities engaged in the manufacture of soap, determents, and fertilizers pose a potential, if not present, hazard to public health and safety.

“Toxic wastes disposal is a matter of national concern—a life or death matter that affects everyone from conceived babies to the most elderly,” he declared.

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March 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS cautioned the public yesterday against being taken in by speculations about projected decreases in the price of oil.

The President told the Malacañang newsmen that speculations on the drop in world oil prices based on newspaper reports should not be taken seriously until Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) reaches a final decision.

“This is something which is affecting everybody because we really don’t know where to go, but we should have a little more patience. The idea of trying to push anybody to make a decision on the basis of some speculative newspaper story just won’t work,” the President said.

Earlier, the President he said he was inclined to defer action on proposals to increase the price of gasoline and diesel fuel because of the uncertain situation with respect to the cost and supply of crude oil.

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March 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has directed yesterday the purging of Constabulary and Integrated National Police ranks of “scalawags” and “bad apples” and stressed the need for cooperation between men in uniform and local civil authorities to ensure peace and order.

“The Constabulary has lost its image of a good constable, the President told 800 participants in the three-day PC-INP national seminar-workshop which opened at the University of Life in Pasig, Metro Manila.

He said that in some areas, “the Constabulary men symbolize some questionable public officer who does not really think in terms of the welfare of the people in the community.”

The President stressed the need to purge PC and police ranks to ensure the success of the government’s anti-insurgency and the peace and order campaign.

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Source: National Library of the Philippines

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1983). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 79(19), cv-cvii.

President's Week in Review: March 16-21, 1983

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

March 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS moved yesterday to stabilize the price of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) by temporarily exempting LPG importations from customs duties

He took this action in the face of the doubling of price of LPG during the past months because of supply shortage. Saudi Arabia, the principal supplier, has declared a condition of "force majeure" due to its inability to meet its supply requirements.

At the same time, the President directed the Ministry of Energy to maintain the present level of prices of all oil products following announcement by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) of a five-dollar reduction in the official price of its marker crude, from \$34 to \$29 per barrel.

The President said that the reduction of OPEC crude oil prices by five dollars per barrel will save the country "as much as \$300 million for 1983."

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March 17—

THE FIRST LADY yesterday asked government officials to maintain a constant dialogue with the people and not to raise false hopes by making promises they cannot fulfill.

"What is important," she said, "is to show sincerity by helping the people solve their problems."

Mrs. Marcos gave this advice in a speech read for her by University of Life Vice President Ernesto Franco during the Ugnayan program of the PC-Metrocom and Metropolitan Police Force at the University of Life.

The First Lady said constant dialogue with the people would enable government officials to know the actual needs of the public.

She also suggested a system of priorities so that the more urgent problems, particularly on the administration of justice and the delivery of the 11 basic needs, could be given proper attention.

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March 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS told the Catholic Bishops Conference who were invited to Malacañang led by Archbishop Antonio Mabutas to help in the implementation of government's development programs.

The bishops said they will study the list of government projects to determine which ones they can support.

The president told them the list includes projects on labor and employment welfare, health and nutrition, housing and human settlements social justice and defense, social services and agriculture, including agrarian reform.

After meeting with the bishops, the President met with leaders of the National Social Action Council (NASAC), also headed by Archbishop Mabutas.

They discussed the same proposal to get the bishops involved in development projects.

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March 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS had directed the Lacuna Lake development Authority (LLDA), the Constabulary and the Ministry of Local Governments to look into the raging controversy between fishermen and fishpen operators at Laguna lake.

The President told newsmen in an interview, he decided to take a hand because of his concern for the small fishermen and due to reports that local officials have monopolized the fishpen.

The agency supposed to handle the fishpen operation is the Laguna “Lake Development Authority.

Because the small fishermen are charging the local executives with monopolizing the fishpens, I have directed the Constabulary to look into this with the participation of the director-general of the Laguna Lake Development Authority and the Ministry of Local Governments,” the President said.

The directives were addressed to Brig. Gen. Pacifico Lopez de Leon. LLDA director-general; Lt. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, PC chief; and Local Governments, Minister Jose A. Roño.

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March 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS joined his former classmates and teachers in the University of the Philippines High School class of 1933 in a class reunion. It was the class golden jubilee celebration.

The class, originally composed of 114 alumni, missed 14 members who have since passed away. Of 15 teachers, only 11 showed up during the reunion on board the RPS Ang Pangulo which sailed around Manila Bay.

Class president Jose S. Laurel III of the opposition Laurel clan gave the welcome address, while the original school principal, Juan Canave, delivered the congratulatory message.

The UP Class of '33 is considered the most closely knit high school alumni group in the country and the most prestigious in view of its membership.

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March 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS expressed the government’s determination yesterday to prosecute those violating the law or disregarding his earlier orders in Laguna lake fishpens.

In an interview with newsmen, the President said those violating the laws on the construction of fishpens and possession of firearms or involved in killings, particularly with the use of illegally possessed firearms, will be prosecuted and punished.

The President said he has ordered investigators to:

1. Find out if his earlier letters of instruction on fishpens were strictly followed.

2. Study whether more fishpens were constructed even after order, were issued to suspend further constructions

3. Look into reports that unlicensed firearms are being used by fishpen operators to drive away persons engaged in fishing.

The President stressed that the proliferation of fishpens greatly reduced the fishing ground of the “survival” fishermen.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: March 22-31, 1983

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

March 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has declared yesterday that the Philippine government will see to it that no nuclear arms are installed in bases here without consultations with the administration.

The President, said that “the present administration is exerting all efforts to see to it that all existing agreements, including the one to the effect that no nuclear weapons will be established in our bases without consulting us, will be implemented.”

Asked about rentals for the use of the bases, he said he would not demean the government by haggling over money.” We do not think in terms of quantitative amounts, but in terms of requirements for specific purposes—defense,” he said.

He said that negotiations should be kept on a high plane. If there will be any disagreement, “it should be on principles, and not on money or amounts or quantities of funds, which would be degrading to both governments,” he said.

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March 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, while stating that the country has one of the lowest income tax rates in the world, said yesterday he would look into complaints that the gross income tax rates are too stiff for the middle income group.

The gross income tax rates, implemented for the first time for the calendar year 1982, have done away with deductions and allow only exemptions for single persons, heads of families married persons, and minor children.

This system was approved by the Batasang Pambansa. A provision in the law calls for withholding taxes from worker's pay checks.

The complaints cited the already huge withholding tax deductions middle-income earners must pay in addition to paying the additional taxes according to the new tax brackets.

Bureau of Internal Revenue officials have declared that they have no choice but to follow the law.

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March 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, acting on the recommendation of a special technical committee, authorized yesterday the continued use of asbestos-cement pipes in the expansion project of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS).

The technical committee, organized by Presidential Executive Assistant Juan C. Tuvera, was headed by Dr. Francisco Cassanova, director of the Malacañang clinic.

The President cited the committee's findings that in the 30 years that asbestos-cement pipes have been used in the metropolitan water system, an overlay of calcium and magnesium carbonates have been formed on the inner walls of the pipes, forming a protective coating over the asbestos.

The committee said that the natural quality of the water supplied by the Balara Filters is the kind that causes insignificant corrosion of the cement in the pipes.

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March 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS declared yesterday that the United States and Philippine government have reaffirmed at every opportunity the term principle that no nuclear weapons would be sited in US facilities in Philippine bases without consultations with the host government.

This was his reply to an AFP story the other day quoting former Sen. Lorenzo Tañada as stating that America had installed nuclear arms in the bases here and "there is nothing the Philippine government can do about it.

Mr. Marcos warned against attempts to play politics with the international and external security of the country.

In an interview, he told newsmen that "we should ask the Americans to comment" on the Tañada statement, stating that agreement we me going to maintain, and that agreement requires that we be consulted."

The President added: "As far as we are concerned, we have not been consulted, and therefore, so far as we are concerned, there are no nuclear weapons."

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March 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said yesterday that the only answer to the opposition charges that nothing was being done about graft and corruption would be the thousands of graft cases pending in the Sandiganbayan.

"There are thousands of cases pending in the Sandiganbayan and there is no country which has a similar institution like the Sandiganbayan," he told newsmen in reply to a report that opposition Assemblymen asked for action against grafter.

The Sandiganbayan is a special court, while the Tanodbayan is its prosecution arm, both of which have jurisdiction over graft cases.

Earlier the President issued a decree defining the jurisdiction of the Sandiganbayan over graft cases.

His Decree No. 1861, signed over the weekend, amended Section 4 of Decree No. 1606 and Batas Pambansa No. 129 vesting the regular courts with jurisdiction over graft cases punishable by imprisonment of not more than six years or a fine of not more than P6,000.

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March 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS stressed that he would tap the private sector to support the diplomatic service in the government's export drive.

The President told newsmen, before he boarded the RPS ANG PANGULO Friday, that the foreign service corps should be infused with diplomats who know about business and economics.

This view was supported by observations from Prime Minister Cesar Virata and Trade and Industry Minister Roberto Ongpin on current diplomatic trends.

They told the President that most of their callers from the diplomatic community were ambassadors who pursue business initiatives for their governments.

Virata said that the emphasis in foreign policy should shift from the political to the economic.

The President said that most of the members of the diplomatic service were public relations-oriented “but even on this score, some are weak.”

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March 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has ordered that all laws pertaining to land use be collated and strictly enforced to prevent its wasteful exploitation by private individuals.

He gave the order to all ministries and government agencies involved in implementing laws on land use and the conservation of the country’s flora and fauna.

His directive came in the wake of his observation that, despite a number of laws, decrees, and executive orders regulating and systematizing the use of land, unscrupulous quarters have succeeded in exploiting lands for their personal gain.

Citing a specific case, the President pointed to the proliferation of housing subdivisions along highways, which may result in the conversion of rice and into commercial sites, thus prejudicing staple crops.

The law requires land developers to get clearances from the Ministry of Agrarian Reform and the Ministry of Local Governments before converting agricultural land into other purposes.

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March 29—

THE FIRST LADY, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos stopped the demolition of fishpens in Laguna de Bay as she proposed a compromise formula to defuse the tension between illegal fishpen operators and small fishermen.

In a dialogue with fishpen operators and fishermen, Mrs. Marcos said it would be a sheer waste of millions of pesos to destroy all the existing fishpens in the lake.

The First Lady was also apparently concerned that any drastic action would trigger a rise in the price of fish. The steady supply of milkfish from the lake fishpens has been credited with the relatively low price of fish in Metro Manila markets. The price of bangus has been pegged at P8 to P12 a kilo.

“If we were to destroy one portion of the lake and then build another we’ll be starting from zero. More than that, we’d be destroying something for which huge amounts have been spent,” the First Lady said.

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March 30–

PRESIDENT MARCOS gave the assurance yesterday that the government will pursue its case against illegal fishpens owners in Laguna de Bay.

He also disclosed a plan that appeared to have shelved, once and for all, demands for the abolition of the illegal structures.

The President said the government plans to convert the disputed fishpens into cooperatives that will be jointly operated by big and small fishermen under the Kilusang Kabuhuyau at Kaunluran.

The beleaguered Laguna de Bay Development Authority, signed by its inability to settle the fishpens row without presidential intervention, meanwhile started training its guns on a newly discovered irregularity in the lakeshore towns the titling of foreshorelands of the bay to cut off small fishermen's access to the lake.

The President said an aerial survey of the lake have been completed in a week's time and this will serve to determine the legitimate permit holders among the fishpen owners.

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March 31–

PRESIDENT MARCOS discussed with Japanese Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone Japan's defense plans and pending bilateral economic issues during the latter's state visit.

The President also said he sought an adjusted project loan agreement with Japan to finance important government projects.

In a talk newsmen, the President said, the visit of Nakasone gave him a chance to discuss pending economic issues which, the President added, have served as irritants in the relationship between the two countries.

The President cited the pending Philippine requests for an advance loan to help finance the copper industry, for an air agreement that will allow the Philippine Airlines to carry passengers between Japan and the United States and for the reduction of tariff imposed on local bananas entering Japan.

Because of the difficulty of Philippine products to enter the Japanese market, the country's balance of trade deficit with Japan is increasing every year, the President said.

The country's trade deficit with Japan last year amounted to \$386 million. It was \$243-million in 1981.

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Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: April 1-7, 1983

President's Week in Review: April 8-15, 1983

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

April 8—

THE FIRST LADY, Minister of Human Settlements Imelda R. Marcos, said yesterday that a “deep and abiding concern for human welfare” should temper the materialism of economic growth, in her speech key-noting the workshop on the New International Human Order at the University of Life.

She called for an uplifting type of development to enable a person to rise above conditions that degrade him.

The workshop, initiated by Mrs. Marcos at the 37th session of the United Nations assembly, was a two day affair. While opening ceremonies were held at the University of Life, the sessions were held at the Manila Hotel.

Mrs. Marcos, speaking to the 11 foreign and 14 Filipino social experts, stressed that true development “must render man in harmony with his environment . . . and should respect and reflect the interest of the people in that environment.” In other words, development must serve man.

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April 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has ordered the release of P75 million for drought victims in Mindanao and the Visayas—P35 million to buy rice and corn for food and P40 million to buy rice, corn, coffee, cacao, and vegetable seedlings to be loaned to farmers.

Victims are qualified for food loans upon certification by farm technicians, to be cross certified by the barangay captains—the certifications to be approve by the provincial governor or his representative.

The National Food Authority, upon being presented with the certificates gave one cavan of rice per month per family. This will be payable by the coming harvest or the second harvest.

In the case of sugar workers, like those in Negros and Iloilo, food loans was guaranteed by the sugar planters and were paid through salary deductions. The Philippine Sugar Commission assisted the NFA and the Ministry of Agriculture.

The President released the money after a meeting with 20 governors from Mindanao and the Visayas. Prime Minister Cesar Virata and members of the Cabinet attended the meeting.

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President Marcos looked into the performances of the members of the Board of Review for Motion Pictures and Television (BRMPT) to deter mine who should be reappointed.

The President told the new appointments are necessary because of the creation of a new office under Executive Order 876.

He said the present members of the BRMPT, led by Chairman Maria Kalaw Katigbak, are carrying over the functions of the previous board under the amended executive order.

He said that it is-not advisable at this time to make drastic changes in the membership of the board.

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April 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that the country will develop into a modern, prosperous agro-industrial economy; in a few years. He stressed that the Philippines is now taking advantage of the world economic upturn by increasing the momentum of its economic program.

“I can tell you that we are going to be prosperous and that we are going to increase the per capita income to a point where it may even threaten our spiritual values,” the President said.

Hence, he added, his insistence; on the new Philippine ideology, “because to me, the spiritual base of nationhood must always be maintained.”

Meanwhile, with the country achieving self-sufficiency in all agricultural levels, he warned against a relaxation of efforts, calling instead of increased momentum.

The President said that it is just a matter of acceleration of momentum than of any specific growth in any area, because the growth in most of the areas has been deliberately brought about by agriculture and industry.

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April 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS asked provincial governors of areas affected by the drought in Mindanao to coordinate with national agencies in extending assistance to drought victims.

He also sought the participation of other political leaders to immediately set to work coordinating centers in their areas.

The President reminded “the local officials of standard operating procedures which provide for the setting up of coordinating centers which would deal with any calamity that may occur in any locality.

This mechanism involves the participation of governors, assemblymen, mayors, barangay captains, and other local officials in coordination with national agencies concerned with extending emergency relief to calamity victims, the President said.

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President Marcos met with United States Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian Affairs, Paul Wolfowitz and discussed issues of mutual interest, particularly those relating to the security of the Asian Pacific region.

Wolfowitz arrived yesterday for an official visit from Kuala Lumpur Malaysia, aboard a Malaysian Airline jetliner, accompanied by his deputy Dan O. Donahue.

Wolfowitz was welcomed by the Philippine Ambassador to the US Benjamin Romualdez, US Ambassador Michael Armacost, and other Philippine and US government officials.

Wolfowitz is considered by some observers as “sympathetic” to the aspirations of developing countries which seek to strengthen themselves economically and politically.

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April 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS convened the National Security Council to a meeting at Malacañang to take up matters relating to global and national security in the light of the forthcoming renegotiations on American military facilities in the country.

The council is chairmanned by the President with Prime Minister Cesar Virata, Foreign Minister Carlos P. Romulo, Justice Minister Ricardo Puno, Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, and Information Minister Gregorio S. Cendaña as members.

Technical advisers to the council are Prime Minister Virata, in his capacity as director general of the National Economic and Development Authority, and Gen. Fabian C. Ver, chief of staff of the Armed Forces and director-general of the National Intelligence and Security Agency.

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President Marcos said that he looked forward to the May visit of Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone to take up vital trade issues, such as aid for the distressed copper industry and the Japanese tariff on Philippine bananas.

The President had a discussion with Japanese Ambassador Yoshio Okawa, who wanted to know the possible agenda to be taken up when his Prime Minister arrives.

Okawa said he would leave for Tokyo Saturday to report to Nakasone on his discussions with President Marcos.

The President has long pressed for some financing assistance from Japan for the copper industry, which supplies roughly 40 per cent of Japanese copper concentrate needs.

He is also interested in getting landing rights for Philippine Airlines, which now uses Honolulu as a stop-over in its Manila-West Coast flights.

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April 13—

THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos approved in principle yesterday a seven year program aimed at installing half a million units of gasifiers in transportation and other industries by 1989.

The program also calls for the planting of about 750,000 hectares of fast growing trees to support the fuels needs of these gasifiers.

To convert wood to charcoal, 75,000 kilos requiring some 350 million bricks, would be needed.

Mrs. Marcos took this step during a meeting with officials of the National Dendro Development Corp. (NDDC), Gasifier and Equipment Manufacturing Corp. (Gencor), and the Federation of Electric Cooperatives of the Philippines (Fecophil) at Malacañang.

The First Lady is chairperson of NDDC and Gencor, the country's two manufacturers of gasifiers.

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President Marcos, seeking to tightening government spending as well as the supply of foreign exchange, ordered all government offices yesterday to cut down importations, reduce foreign borrowing, and slash expenditures abroad.

In Letter of Instructions No. 1307, he said government agencies must maximize use of local products, limiting government purchases of motor vehicles only to those produced here.

Government offices must not make any investments, placements, or deposits with foreign enterprises without the approval of the Monetary Board of the Central Bank. The board would give due course to only extraordinary cases.

Officials must review membership in foreign associations, limiting such memberships only to those where direct benefit assures to the country.

The President reiterated a clampdown on foreign travel and attendance in seminars and training programs, limiting those to programs with substantial foreign counterpart and excepting scholarship programs leading to graduate degrees.

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April 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS told a gathering of governors and mayors that local officials must not play politics with the administration's anti-subversion campaign.

Citing some local officials who would make politics out of purely internal security affairs, he said they should help and protect the people instead.

"If any local official should want to side with any of the rebels and subversives, that is all right by us," he said. "We will know what to do, but do not expect any support from me."

Noting that many anti-subversion laws were not enforced, he pinpointed the law penalizing the giving of aid and comfort to the enemy.

The President is expected to reiterate this point when he meets the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan leaders in a caucus.

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President Marcos said that illegally built fishpens on Laguna Lake could be turned over to small fishermen, thereby democratizing the bounties of the lake as he had promised the fishermen.

Teodoro Rey, the new administrator of the Laguna Lake Development Authority, had reported to the President that all the fishpens in the lake were illegally constructed because they lacked valid permits.

Rey declared that the only legal fishpens were those under the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran livelihood program.

The plan calls for placing illegal fishpens under cooperatives composed of fishermen who are qualified under LLDA guidelines.

The President told Rey to set up a navigational and access lane opening up 5,000 hectares of communal fishing grounds.

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April 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has directed Justice Minister Ricardo C. Puno to oversee the settlement of land disputes arising on the barangay level in coordination with the government agencies.

Puno was also ordered to set up the mechanism and the procedure for the enforcement of land claims based on conciliation undertaken under the Katarungang Pambarangay Law.

Puno said he has invited the chief of the Constabulary, the director of lands, the representative from the Ministry of Local Governments and Community Development, and the commissioners of the Commission on the Settlement of Land Problems (COSLAP) to a meeting next week to carry out the presidential directives.

Under the presidential directives, Puno will establish an effective coordination link with government officials involved in the settlement of land disputes in the barangay level.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: April 16-21, 1983

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

April 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has rescinded the order of the Philippine National Bank to stop the withdrawal of dollar deposits from the bank.

The President issued the order during the central committee meeting in Malacañang after receiving reports that the PNB had stopped the withdrawal of dollar deposits by its depositors.

"There is no basis for the issuance of such an order," the President said. "I did not authorize it. On the contrary, we have guaranteed the untouchability of all foreign exchange deposits in the Philippines under Republic Act No. 1405, as amended by an Executive Order."

The President explained that the Executive Order "makes it criminal for anyone to, in any way, look into the ownership and source of such funds."

"They are safeguards and this is the guarantee," the President emphasized.

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President Marcos has ordered Budget Minister Manuel Alba to immediately release the additional funds allocated to KKK projects already programmed for P450 million for 1982 including those programmed for 1983 which amounts to P1 billion.

The President issued the order during the meeting of the central committee of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan in Malacañang, on request of the First Lady and Minister of Human Settlements, who is also secretary general of the KKK.

During the meeting, the First Lady suggested that assemblymen be encouraged to look for possible investors abroad.

She pointed out that their son, Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. of Ilocos Norte, has been able to attract investors from Hongkong, Taiwan, Saudi Arabia and Japan to invest in some industrial projects in Currimao, Ilocos Norte.

The First Lady added that if assemblymen are encouraged to bring in investors from abroad, they will also feel good because they will be relevant to their district and regions.

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April 17—

THE FIRST LADY, Minister of Human Settlements Imelda R. Marcos, told the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan central committee, led by President Marcos, that initial Flexihomes demonstrations will be held in the next six months.

The central committee had earlier endorsed construction of the low-cost homes all over the country.

The President ordered the demonstration in all regional and provincial capitals. The Flexihomes project is undertaken by the Ministry of Human Settlements through the Bagong Lipunan Improvement of Sites and Services (BLISS) program.

Flexihome demonstrations will include a livelihood scheme to help homeowners augment their incomes, Mrs. Marcos said. Small-and-medium-scale industries will be set up.

The amortization cost of a Flexihome model is P125 to P275 a month for non-pag-ibig members and P92 to P250 a month for Pag-ibig members. The monthly amortization will run for 25 years.

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April 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS met two top defense officials of the United States, a special envoy of the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), and a party of Soviet parliamentarians at Malacañang.

US Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Thayer and Rear Admiral Donald Jones, military assistant to the US Ambassador to the Philippines Michael Armacost. Thayer, accompanied by his party of 10, arrived Saturday on a three-day official visit.

Later in the morning, the President received Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz, special envoy of the Unicef, who arrived Saturday for a four-day visit.

The President also received the parliamentary delegation from the Supreme Soviet of the Union Soviet Socialist Republics.

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April 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS met with Paul Thayer, United States deputy defense secretary, who called at Malacañang, accompanied by Ambassador Michael Armacost.

During their discussion which lasted about 30 minutes, the President and the US defense official exchanged views on pending matters between the Philippines and the United States, particularly on the review of the military facilities agreement.

The President and Thayer expressed the hope that the review of the agreement would proceed smoothly and be finished ahead of schedule.

The President also asked Thayer to inform Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger that he approves of the request that the regular meetings between the defense secretaries of the Philippines and the United States is preceded by meetings on lower levels.

Secretary Thayer arrived last Saturday and is leaving tomorrow after visiting the military base facilities at Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base.

He was accompanied by his senior aide, Rear Admiral Donald S. Jones, and Lt. Col. James P. Martin and Donald Elrich of the Office of the International Security Affairs.

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April 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS stressed that state auditing has become an indispensable tool of government as he underscored the role of auditors in protecting the people's money from corruption or mismanagement.

Keynoting the opening of the 10-day congress of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions at the Philippine International Convention Center, the President said audit institutions can support national development by maintaining public confidence in government integrity in the spending of public funds.

In his 33-minute speech, the President cited constitutional reforms which provided for an independent Commission on Audit.

The President said that the creation of the COA was followed by the codification of audit laws through which all regulations on government accounting and auditing were consolidated under one title.

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President Marcos yesterday stopped operations of all vessels plying the Zamboanga-Singapore route to curb smuggling in Mindanao.

The President also announced that a new system in the barter trade in Mindanao will soon be adopted to plug loopholes in the present system.

He ordered Customs Commissioner Ramon Farolan and Maj. Gen. Delfin Castro, Southcom commander, that "on account of infirmities that do not contribute to general welfare, operations of all vessels plying the Zamboanga-Singapore route must be stopped immediately."

The directive was issued on representation of Muslim Affairs Minister Romulo Espaldon.

Only a few powerful merchants are reportedly benefiting from the barter trade put by the government to help former Muslim rebels in the South.

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April 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS expressed his desire to discuss bilateral issues with Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone. This was disclosed by the President in his talk with former Japanese Ambassador Toshiro Urabe, who is here to pave the way for the visit.

The four issues which the President said he would like to be concluded are: Financial support for a subsidy for copper mining; and air agreement to allow the Philippine Air Lines to fly to the United States via Tokyo; the lowering of tariff on banana exports to Japan; and the financing of the San Roque multi-purpose project in Pangasinan.

It was understood that the President and Urabe talked about possible areas of agreement on the four areas mentioned to make the Nakasone visit "meaningful".

A highly industrialized country, Japan gets most of its raw materials from ASEAN. Japan is the Philippines No. 2 trading partner.

The Philippine government will press for the conclusion of negotiations with Japan on four major issues when Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone visits the country on May 6-8, 1983.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

Official Week in Review: April 22 – April 30, 1983

April 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS instructed the Ministry of Budget to release the full peso requirement to finish the expansion program and the first phase of the Metro Manila sewerage and sanitation program.

This was disclosed by the President during his speech at the inauguration of the new P250-million La Mesa Water Treatment Plant in Novaliches, Quezon City.

The President also directed all government agencies to give priority to the immediate requirements of potable water, including the use of the resources of Angat Dam for the purpose.

Although Angat Dam is used to generate electricity and for irrigation, the President said that “priority be given to the immediate human requirement of potable water.”

The President emphasized that of all the 11 requirements of man, water is number one because without water nothing can be produced.

He expressed hope that “there will be enough water for everyone” by 1990 when the MWSS expansion program shall have been completed.

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In her remarks earlier, the First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos enjoined Metro Manila residents “to reap, but not waste, the benefits of these labors.”

She asked them “to share the responsibility of the wise and efficient use of these gifts to extend the pleasure not only to your children . . . for raw water is not an inexhaustible resource but a gift to humanity.”

The President pushed the switch that activated the water treatment plant and later toured the plant with the First Lady.

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April 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and Guam Governor Ricardo J. Bordallo will discuss matters of mutual interest to both countries when the latter makes his official call at Malacañang Tuesday.

Governor Bordallo is expected to arrive on that day with his wife, Madellene Z. Bordallo, for his three-day official visit.

Accompanying the governor are economic advisers Mark Pangilinan and Frank Chan, Director of Labor Loyd Umagat, Deputy Director of Agriculture Elizabeth Torres, Chief of Staff David Shimuzu and Special Assistant Angel Legaspi.

Their discussion will also touch on tourism, agriculture, development projects, human settlements, and labor. Some big construction projects in Guam reportedly need qualified manpower which the Philippines may very well fill.

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President Marcos cancelled three big forest concessions and prohibited all logging activities in Mindoro as he started a crackdown on loggers whose concessions do not have reforestation projects.

The President said the government is now “ruthlessly listing down the forest concessionaires who have not engaged in reforestation and we will eliminate those who have not complied.”

In issuing a prohibition against all logging activities in Mindoro, the President said the policy is to cancel all forest concessions where there are no reforestation projects.

The President said that this policy is in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Bureau of Forest Development and the Ministry of Natural Resources.

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April 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS pushed the government’s massive water impounding program to check the effects of periodic droughts by harnessing the 48,000 barangays and the local governments.

To oversee and coordinate the program, the President created a new agency—the Water Conservation and Development Administration—to be headed by Administrator Pedro Dumol of the National Electrification Administration as general manager.

Named chairman of the board is the First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda E. Marcos. The other board members are the minister of Local Government, the head of the Katipunan ng mga Baranggay sa Pilipinas, the president of the League of City Mayor and Governors, the president of the League of Municipal Mayors, the minister of Public Works and Highways and the minister of Natural Resources.

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The First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos visited an ailing Julio Cardinal Rosales at the Cebu Doctor’s Hospital.

The 76-year-old Cardinal, cancer-stricken since last year, beamed upon seeing the First Lady.

“I never expected this (the visit). It is a great honor for me and my province,” the prelate told Mrs. Marcos in a very soft voice.

Mrs. Marcos visited the Cardinal in Cebu after a two-day stay in Leyte to inspect government projects. She was accompanied by Ambassador Benjamin Romualdez, Public Works and Highways Minister Jesus Hipolito and Vice Governor Ismael Mathay, Jr.

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April 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that he see no danger of external aggression against the Philippines between now and the end of the century.

“Right now, there is no threat. Not from Vietnam, China, Japan nor from the Soviet Union up to the end of the century,” the President told newsmen.

Assessing the security situation in Southeast Asia, the President said that “no matter what happens to Kampuchea, I don’t think there will be any threat against ASEAN countries, except possibly Thailand because of its boundary with Kampuchea.

The President also elaborated on his position on the global move for a nuclear freeze.

Saying that the government will support all efforts to avoid all kinds of war as a matter of policy, the President said: “If it merits that we be strong to do it, then we should be strong. If it is economic development that will prevent war, then let us have economic development.”

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President Marcos said that changes in Western press reporting may lead to a fair presentation of the situation in the Philippines as well as Asia.

With this development, the President said “we would like to see a more enlightened in-depth understanding of what we are trying to do instead of, you know, the instant knowledge type of assessment which often is not accurate.”

He said the Western press should spend enough time to study the idiosyncrasies, culture and background of the Filipino people and the nuances of the evolution of Filipino traditions.

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April 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS gave Administrator Pedro Dumol, general manager of the newly created Water Conservation and Development Administration, one week to come up with models of small water impounding dams.

The construction of small dams throughout the country is part of the government program to counteract periodic droughts, especially in the Mindanao area.

The President told Dumol that each of the 1,500 municipalities in the country should be allotted two or three of the water dams.

He directed Dumol to ask barangay chairmen to submit proposals for the building of small dams in their localities so that necessary funds and materials can be sent to them. Each dam is expected to cost P10,000.

A total of P500 million has been set aside for the construction of the dams.

The small dams, the President said, will keep water level steady, keep natural springs alive and the ground moist.

Under the plan, the barangays will build the dams which they will later own, maintain and operate.

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April 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has ordered the forfeiture of all illegally constructed fishponds in the 2,965-hectare Bulacan communal fishing grounds in favor of the government.

The communal grounds, facing Manila Bay, was established as a reservation for four Bulacan towns in 1966 through Republic Act No. 4701: 600 hectares for Bulacan town, 150 hectares for Paombong, 90 for Malolos, and 255 for Hagonoy.

The President ordered that the reservation be granted to the four towns for their proprietary use.

He told the Ministry of Natural Resources to delineate boundaries indirating 300 meter strips running paralleled to the boundaries of the four towns. This must be done in six months.

The President also ordered the Ministry of Local Government to prepare a five-year development plan to maximize the productivity of the forfeited fishponds.

To keep the markers intack and prevent persons from destroying or removing such boundaries, the President ordered the Philippine Constabulary to file charges against those violating the instructions.

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April 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has ordered every barangay and municipality or city to develop and maintain tree parks to enhance the beauty and ecosystem of every community.

He said these forest or tree parks would also provide the people with a healthy and wholesome environment and places for rest and recreation.

In a letter of Instruction No. 1312, the President explained that there is need for the people to appreciate the importance of preserving our forests and restoring at the earliest possible time out denuded areas.

In the establishment of the parks, the President said that one park shall be put up for every barangay, municipality or city. In the case of urban areas, the municipality or city government shall provide forest or tree parks in suitable and accessible areas for several barangays who shall assist in the project.

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President Marcos said the government can wipe out rebel forces in one month if it wanted to.

The President assessed the capacity of the armed forces in his address at the 86th anniversary of the Philippine Army.

The President made public declassified documents on victories of government troops in the battlefield.

He said the drive against insurgents is taking time because “the purpose of the armed forces is not to eliminate the rebels but to win them back.”

The President stressed it is time the people realized that the present conflict “is not a fight between the government and the rebels but on a way of life and ideology.”

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April 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS signed into law Cabinet No. 54, also known as the investment Incentives Policy Act of 1983, granting more incentives to local and foreign firms which are export-oriented.

The first major revision of the government's incentive policies, the new law is designed to restructure the industrial sector and attract more foreign exchange earnings.

Under the new law the number of incentives was reduced to six from 15 under the old laws but two entirely new incentives were added granting tax credit on the net value earned and on the net local content of export-values.

Unlike in the past, Trade and Industry Minister Roberto Ongpin said that the new incentives system is performance-oriented.

The two new incentives entitled:

1. New projects and expansions registered with the Board of Investments to tax credits equivalent to five percent on net value earned for non-pioneer industries and the 10 percent for pioneer industries.
2. New projects and expansions to tax credits equivalent to 10 percent of net local content of export sales.

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April 30—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that the government has no intention of suppressing the people's basic human rights with the recent arrest of suspected subversive elements, including those in media.

This assurance was given by the President in answer to questions during the "Meet the Press" program on MBS Channel 4.

While stressing that it is his constitutional duty to uphold the law, including cases against persons accused of subversion, the President said "there is no intention to oppress our people."

According to the President, he does not intend to use the law against political enemies or against people who hold different views, whether they are political ideologies or economic beliefs.

In the same interview, the President said the Philippine panel will be guided by national interest and not by any other nation during the renegotiation of the RP-US Military Bases Agreement covering the 1984-89 period.

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President Marcos said last night the country's economy has improved significantly in the last decade and is now ready to benefit from the upturn in world trade.

Speaking at the "Meet the Press" program, the President said there is marked evidence of the country's economic growth.

"It is not as dramatic as we had hoped it would be, but certainly it is more real and concrete than the prevailing prognosis at the beginning of the year," he said.

Citing statistics, the President pointed out that while the minimum wage was P8 and the laborers employed were only seven million, the floor wage is now P31.90 with 17.6 million members of the labor force.

The President also pointed out that the traditional annual income of P830 per hectare has now increased to P2,200.

The President said he was convinced that the economic recovery has begun, both for the country and the world, adding that the nation can now benefit from improved conditions in the world.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1983). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 79(26), cxlvii-cli.

President's Week in Review: May 1-7, 1983

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

May 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, having received reports about rainfall in many drought areas in Mindanao and the Visayas, has ordered the Ministry of Agriculture and other agencies to press on with rehabilitation work.

He instructed the Agriculture Ministry to send out its more than 6,000 extension workers to render field service to drought victimized farmers who were reported to have started replanting their fields.

He said the extension workers must teach farmers the effective use and conservation of water from communal irrigation systems.

The President has ordered the Agriculture Ministry, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), and the Farm System Development Council (FSDC) to recommend to him ways to maximize use of irrigation water.

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President Marcos has ordered the release of newsman Antonio Ma. Nieva from detention in Camp Crame. He will be placed under house arrest; he left Camp Crame at noon.

He later reviewed the order for the conditional release of Nieva with authorities concerned to determine if he should continue to remain under house arrest.

Meanwhile, the President told authorities in Cebu and Manila to grant permits for demonstration on behalf of Cagayan de Oro Mayor Aquilino Pimentel, detained on charges of rebellion.

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President Marcos and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos observed their 29th wedding anniversary with a mass at 11 a.m. in Malacañang.

During the mass, their granchild, Fernando Martin, son of Tommy Manotoc was baptized.

Jaime Cardinal Sin who arrived from Rome, baptized the child.

Among those who stood as sponsors are Ambassador Benjamin Romualdez, Irene Marcos, Ambassador Eduardo Cojuangco, Jose Campos, and Johnny Velasquez.

Following the mass, the First Couple gave a launch at Heroes Hall for friends and relatives as well as government officials.

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May 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has granted a package of benefits to workers as he called on the labor sector to support the government's efforts to redistribute the fruits of economic development.

Speaking at the Labor Day celebration at the Folk Arts Theatre, the President also directed the Bureau of Internal Revenue to study the possibility of exempting cost of living allowances given to employees receiving not more than P1,500 monthly, exclusive of such allowances, from taxation.

A decree being prepared to this effect also proposes the exemption of retirement benefits, pension and gratuities, from taxation.

If granted this year, the exemption will take effect for the taxable year 1983.

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President Marcos has ordered the release under house arrest of labor leaders Felixberto Olalia and Bonifacio Tupaz.

The President acted in response to a petition by the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines read by Andres Dinglasan, TUCP executive vice president, during the Labor Day celebration at the Folk Arts Theatre, appealing to the President's spirit of reconciliation.

The President ordered the minister of national defense and the Metrocom to release the two detainees under house arrest as of noon today.

The President, however, asked the two detainees not to continue with their plans to disrupt labor and industry.

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May 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and Metro Manila Governor Imelda R. Marcos distributed P10,000 checks to each of the 1,700 barangays in Metro Manila to finance projects of these barangays.

The checks were drawn from the Barangay Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran livelihood loan fund. They were distributed during a meeting with barangay captains in Metro Manila at the Ramada Hotel.

During the meeting, the First Lady:

1. Directed mayors and vice mayors in Metro Manila to meet with barangay captains at least once a month.
2. Called on the barangay captains to build at least 10 flexihomes in their barangays by November 7 this year.

The amount of P17 million granted to the Metro Manila barangays will be drawn from the Land Bank, without any collateral or interest. The barangays will pay the loan to the Metro Manila Commission, which will shoulder the payment of interests.

Under the plan, each project will be supervised by a Samahang Kabuhayan to be organized in each barangay. The Samahan will be composed of the barangay council members and the executive officer of the livelihood program.

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May 4

PRESIDENT MARCOS has assured US Treasury Secretary Donald Regan that the Philippines encourages foreign investments, noting that the US was the Philippine's principal trading and investment partner.

In 1982, the US accounted for \$3.28 billion or 25.9 percent of Philippine external trade. As of June last year, American investments in the country totalled \$999.72 million or 58 percent of total foreign investments here.

At the same time, the President said that the country's foreign investments are much lower and that business incentives were better than those granted by other countries.

Other standing requests by the government include:

1. Liberalization of quotas on Philippine textiles through the merger of traditional and non-traditional categories under the RP-US textile agreement.
2. Resumption of the bilateral maritime consultations that could lead to a mutually acceptable agreement on cargo-sharing.
3. Renegotiation of the RP-US air agreement with the view of minimizing adverse effects to the Philippine flag carrier of the US policy to deregulate the airline industry.
4. Expression of serious concern over the adverse, effects of the proposed US countervailing duty on Philippine tuna exports and to the country's investment promotion programs.
5. Extension of the availment for the \$204.5-million US Export-Import Bank loan guarantee to the Philippine nuclear plant to give the Philippines ample time to secure necessary loans for the completion of the project.

US Treasury Secretary Donald Reagan stressed that settlements could be worked out to resolve the nagging trade and economic issues between the Philippines and the United States.

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May 5—

PRESIDENT MARCOS urged developing nations, particularly Asia, to work out programs that would increase agricultural productivity to raise the incomes and buying power of their people.

The President spoke at the opening of the 16th annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank at the Philippine International Convention Center.

He stressed the need for the expansion of domestic market until the protectionist trade barriers by the developed nations are dismantled.

In his speech before 1,200 delegates and observers from 45 countries, including the United States and Japan, the President also:

1. Called upon rich nations to give more financial assistance to the poor nations of Asia to enable them to attain political stability and peace and better quality of life.
2. Urged the holding of dialogues to identify areas of mutual interest in markets, resources and investments.
3. Underscored the need for sincerity, and the will of the industrialized nations to "translate into reality the clamor of the Third World for a concerted effort to establish a New International Economic Order."

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May 6–

PRESIDENT MARCOS ordered the release of three priests arrested last Friday in Negros Occidental and a farmhand in Camarines Sur acquitted by a trial court more than two months ago.

The three priests—Father Brian Gore of Australia, Niall O'Brian of Ireland, and Vicente Dangan, a Filipino—were released under house arrest upon the request of Jaime Cardinal Sin.

They were arrested last Friday after charges of multiple murder were filed against them before the regional trial court of Kabankalan, Negros Occidental. They were implicated in the murder of Kabankalan Mayor Pablo Sola and four of his companions last year. Provincial Fiscal Rodolfo Herman recommended no bail for the three.

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May 7–

PRESIDENT MARCOS stressed for a rearrangement of the relationship between the Philippines and Japan to give, he said, meaning and strength to the partnership.

Speaking during a toast at dinner in Malacañang in honor of the visiting Japanese prime minister, the President said that beneficial relationship would help avoid tensions and disagreements in the future.

The President also said that Japan has a leading role to play in bringing peace and prosperity in the region and express confidence its economic power, will not be utilized to dominate or exploit its smaller neighbor.

According to the President, at this particular junction in the history of the region, the political leadership in Japan, in cooperation with the Asean leaders, can help maintain not only security in Southeast Asia but also continuous prosperity and oneness of the human family.

Noting the economic dominance of Japan, the President said that it is in the, interest of Japan that the small nations of Southeast Asia should continue to prosper and, the relationship between her and its neighbors will remain mutually beneficial.

Nakasone, in his response, said that is essential that we promote enhanced relations upon mutual understanding, friendship and trust at the individual level, if Japan and the Philippines are to maintain mutually beneficial and stable relationship.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: May 8-15, 1983

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

May 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone extended a package of economic and cultural assistance amounting to \$320.5 million in loans and grants to the Philippines and assured more access for RP products in the Japanese market.

The President disclosed the highlights of his two-hour talk with Nakasone, the President said that the personal diplomacy undertaken by the Japanese Prime Minister is the start of a new era of rationality in the relationships between the ASEAN countries and Japan to preserve security and hasten economic development in the region.

Broken down, the economic assistance to the Philippines includes a \$280-million soft loan under the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund to finance 10 impact projects and a \$30 to \$40 million outright grant in lieu of the request for funding for the cooper industry.

Nakasone also pledged to give preference to the study of the request for financial support in the construction of the P1.2 billion San Roque multipurpose dam in Pangasinan.

The President also said that he and Nakasone approved an air agreement allowing the Philippine Airlines to fly to the United States via TOKYO three times a week, subject to further study "as we move along" in the spirit of mutual reciprocity and friendship.

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May 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS was contented with the assurance of Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone that Japan has no intention of becoming a major military power.

This assurance was given by the Japanese Prime Minister before his departure that Japan has no intention of amending the Japanese Constitution, which renounces war as a national policy.

Assessing the visit of Nakasone, the President said that he was happy about the visit, noting the package of economic and cultural assistance in loans and grants amounting to \$320.5 million which the Japanese government has extended to the Philippines.

But the President underscored the need for Japan to help in the development of primary industries in Southeast Asia while holding on to high technology industries to rationalize their relationship.

The two leaders hugged each other before the Prime Minister boarded a special Japan Air Lines plane which will take him to Kuala Lumpur, the fifth stop in his tour of the ASEAN region and the Sultanate of Brunei.

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The First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, left at 3:30 p.m. yesterday for the United States to confer with business and industry leaders.

Mrs. Marcos will also follow up the implementation of the economic agreements reached with the US government during the September state visit of President Marcos.

The First Lady is also expected to meet with Dr. Armand Hammer, chairman of Occidental Petroleum, who had been here as guest of the First Couple last December, Occidental Petroleum had acquired ownership of Cities Service, an oil explorer in the Philippines.

Mrs. Marcos was seen off at the Manila International Airport by the President, children Imee, Ferdinand Jr. and Irene, friends and ranking government officials.

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May 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS rejected a proposal of private business and financial leaders to postpone the government's remaining industrial projects because of current economic difficulties.

Out of the 11 industrial projects the government wanted to undertake nine are in various stages of implementation, construction or negotiation.

The industrial projects are: integrated steel, cooper smelter, fertilizer plant, coconut rationalization, integrated pulp and paper, diesel engine manufacturing, heavy engineering, cement industry expansion and alcogas program.

For economic reasons, the government has dropped the aluminum smelter and petrochemical projects.

Instead of pushing through with the remaining projects, the businessmen said, funds should be reallocated to "directly productive sectors."

In rejecting the proposal to shelve the remaining projects the President explained that the funding for these projects does not come from the government entirely but that the bulk comes from the supplier's credit.

Supplier's credit, he explained, is money advanced by parties selling equipment and all the technology for these industries so that there is no money coming out of our own pocket.

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May 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has ordered high priority consideration of Canada's proposal for a railway linking Batangas with Metro Manila and Bulacan and offers from foreign groups for the transportation of coal to cement plants in the metropolis.

The President has directed the ministries of energy and transportation and communications to rush their studies on the Canadian proposal as well as on an Australian alternative on the construction of a slurry pipeline and similar offers from Japanese and Australian group.

He said the government- will decide soon which financial package is most acceptable and best suited to Philippine requirements.

The proposed railway between Batangas City, where coal piers are being completed, and Metro Manila was discussed during the visit of Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau and was reiterated by Canadian

Minister of State for International Trade Relations Gerald Regan during a call Monday on President Marcos.

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President Marcos assured the private and financial sectors will get all the credit they need “as soon as everything settles down.”

Citing statistics, the President said that the government gets only one-fourth of the credit facilities, with the rest going to the private sector.

Leaders of business and financial sectors recently asked the Central Bank for “cheaper and more credit” and less government competition to enhance economic growth and stability in the financial system.

The President cited Central Bank figures showing that the first quarter ending March 31 this year, domestic credit rose by P22.2 billion compared to the same period last year.

Of the increase, only P6.6 billion was used by the government, while the private sector credits accounted for P15.6 billion.

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May 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS called on the tourism industry to make a far-sighted and incisive review of the industry to better respond to problems and charter its future growth.

The President, speaking at the 10th anniversary celebration of the Ministry of Tourism in Malacañang, also called for the development of domestic tourism, has announced an executive order setting up basic guidelines for domestic tourism’s promotion.

lie issued another executive order declaring it to be the national policy to establish convention centers in cities like Laoag, Baguio, Cebu, Zamboanga, Davao and Cagayan de Oro.

A third executive order called for the display and sale of local products, including duty-free shops wherever conventions are held. These will be under the supervision of the ministry and the Central Bank.

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May 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS reported yesterday that Philippine export products now enjoy higher prices and renewed demand in the world market.

In his keynote address at the 14th biennial convention of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce at the Manila Hilton, the President said that this development offers tremendous opportunities for local enterprises.

The President also said that the arrival in the country of various investment and trade missions also augurs well to the growth and progress of the country in the years ahead.

With the global recession on the downward trend, the President said the country “can now begin to reap the fruits of our massive investments in development.”

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May 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and farmers will hold a dialogue in a nationwide Pulong-pulong on May 21 to climax this year's Farmer's Week celebration.

The President had earlier declared May 15-21 as Farmer's Week to emphasize the significant achievements in agriculture and in the efforts to uplift the lot of farmers.

The dialogue will be hold over MBS-Channel 4, GMA-Channel 7, RPN-Channel 9, and all affiliated broadcast networks starting 7 a.m. next Saturday.

The President has stressed that a new economic ideology is the rationale for the launching of the reforms under the New Society, stalling from land reform and ending with the political reform granting a barangay participatory democracy.

The Ministry of Agrarian Reform has reported that 3.9 million farmers and their families have benefited from the land reform.

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May 15—

PRESIDENT AND MRS. MARCOS and Don Luis Ma. Aranela announced yesterday the forthcoming marriage of their children, Maria Victoria Irene Marcos and Gregorio Ma. Araneta III, in the morning of June 11.

The wedding will be solemnized by Fr. Francisco Araneta at the Sta. Monica church in Sarrat, Ilocos Norte, birthplace of the President. A breakfast-reception will follow in Sarat and other Ilocos Norte towns.

A formal reception and dinner for Irene and Gregorio will be held in Malacañang at 6 p.m. on June 14.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: May 16-22, 1983

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

May 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has announced that the Development Bank of the Philippines has beefed up its lending potentials with a \$100-million long-term loan agreement concluded with a group of international banks.

The President said that he had authorized the DBP earlier to arrange the loan with financial institutions to ensure adequate funding for its lending operations.

He said that proceeds of the loan will help finance foreign exchange requirements of priority projects and support the planned expansion of DBP's operations after it is granted commercial banking powers.

After the loan negotiations, the DBP award a mandate to a syndicate of five banks which will underwrite and lead-manage the transaction. The lead managers include four American banks: Asia Pacific Capital Corp., a Citibank affiliate, Bankers Trust Asia Ltd., Chase Manhattan Asia Ltd., Chemical Asia Ltd., and a British bank, Standard Chartered Ltd.

Monetary authorities earlier announced that DBP will soon be granted commercial banking powers. It can then become commercial bank.

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May 17—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has ordered the lifting of a presidential commitment ordered issued last March 22 for the detention of one Vicente Lombres who was arrested in Surigao del Sur together with nine other members of the Communist Party of the Philippines and its military arm, the New People's Army.

Lt. Gen. Fidel Ramos, chief of the Philippine Constabulary, recommended Lombres' release. Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile endorsed the recommendation.

Ramos said records examined established that Lombres's involvement in the subversive movement in Surigao was minimal.

Ramos found Lombres cooperative and well-behaved during the latter's detention.

The Constabulary arrested Lombres and the nine others last Feb. 28 in Tandag wharf, Surigao del Sur aboard the m/v Loadstar while bound for Baganga, Davao Oriental.

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May 18—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that there are no "secret decrees" as he announced plans to revise two decrees that he said had not been enforced and which need updating to reflect the present "liberal thinking" of the government.

Referring to a wire story about Decrees No. 1834 and 1835 dated Jan. 16, 1981 increasing penalties for rebellion, sedition and other crimes against security, he said that some sectors of foreign media contributed to the confusion by "making a mountain out of a molehill."

While declaring that there are no secret decrees, he added that the government would soon revive the two above-cited decrees, which have yet to be enforced.

The President said that these decrees had not been enforced because they have not been published as required by law.

The President also said that a study has been made as to what decrees that were published and what decrees that were not published. "And we came out and told the Bureau of Printing exactly where they, have failed and what they should do."

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May 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said yesterday that the government could wipe out all subversives in the country within a month, but would be accused of genocide if it did so.

The President also said some opposition leaders had contacted communist rebels and Muslim secessionists to promise them support and favors.

Referring to subversives, Marcos told reporters: "We can finish them off in a month if we want to. The only problem is that they will cry genocide if we start killing all of them because it might involve some members of the opposition."

He said undercover agents had infiltrated the New People's Army and the Moro National Liberation Front.

The President said that some opposition members had offered independence to Mindanao, Sulu and Basilan, where the Muslim secessionists are active, "if ever they come out the winners."

"Considering they (the opposition) cannot get together, we have not taken this too seriously . . . The government has been very liberal and generous with these elements no matter how spiteful they have been," the President added.

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May 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has urged the opposition leaders yesterday not to deal with subversives, declaring they should not compel the administration to utilize the same powers that had been utilized in the past.

Earlier, the President stated that despite oppositionists' cooperation with dissidents, the government would maintain its policy of liberality towards them.

The President made the appeal in a meeting with the League of Provincial Governors and City Mayors, led by Leyte Gov. Benjamin Romualdez, which was attended also by members of the Cabinet and the Executive Committee in Malacañang.

At the same time, the President said that in the 1984 elections for the Batasang Pambansa, under Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL) rules, the choice of official candidates will be made by the leadership within the area where the candidacy is made.

A candidacy will be decided by the regional leaders in a caucus, confirmed by the central committee or the national committee of the KBL.

The President called on local executives to rise above their petty squabbling and unite behind the government effort to improve the quality of life for all Filipinos.

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May 21—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said yesterday that the Philippines is not holding the United States hostage over issues concerning the operation of American military facilities in the country.

The President told newsmen that while the formal review of the bases agreement by the US and the Philippine panels has not yet been going on regularly.

He said that the question of social cost has come up, referring to the social problems such as prostitution and abandoned children which have beset the communities around Clark Air Base in Angeles City Subic Naval Base in Olongapo City.

Ambassador to the US Benjamin R. Romualdez had earlier said that the Philippines would seek US recognition of its share in the responsibility to improve the social conditions in those, communities.

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May 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS capped his “Pulong pulong” dialogue with farmers yesterday with an order that farmers in drought areas be given more time to pay off loans to banks, which in turn will be given to settle their obligations with the Central Bank.

In his radio-TV dialogue with farmers from all regions, the President said the Central Bank will let rural banks restructure for one year their rediscounting liabilities under short-term supervised credit programs secured by the restructured notes of their borrowers.

During the life of these restructured loans, the banks will have access to CB rediscounting.

The President said that the farmers being the lifeblood of the economy he will continue to concentrate development in the countryside, as he has been doing since the signing of the Agrarian Reform Act in 1972.

The dialogue was the highlight of Farmer’s Week.

The President ordered the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation to settle at once claims on rice and corn loans covered by crop insurance.

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Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Week in Review: May 23-31, 1983

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

May 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has ordered yesterday intensified efforts to prevent wasteful utilization of agricultural land and its exploitation by unscrupulous persons.

He warned that the government will prosecute persons who convert prime agricultural purposes without the approval of proper authorities.

The Chief Executive issues the warning as he announced that the government will now enforce more rigorously its policy on the proper use of prime agricultural lands.

Penal sanctions, he said, will be applied against those violating a presidential decree prohibiting the conversion of agricultural lands into any other purpose without the approval of the Human Settlements Regulatory Commission (HSRC), the regulatory arm of the Ministry of Human Settlements headed by the First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos, and the ministries of agriculture and local government.

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May 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that gradual economic recovery is better for the country because abrupt changes might lead to rapid deflation.

The President said that while signs of global economic recovery have been confirmed by other world leaders, the nation's economic direction should not go toward a sudden and then burst, which had happened before.

The President would like to see a slow establishment of a firm and strong foundation so that any emergencies can be met with strength and stability.

In the light of this economic uptrend, the President said he expects the United States to move judiciously and prudently by maintaining a low inflation rate, then lowering of interest rate and deficits and seeing to it that no abrupt changes are made which might cause deflation.

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May 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that the government keeps its doors open to dissidents who would like to begin a new life under an atmosphere of peace and freedom.

He said government has always maintained its open-door, policy for rebels since both government and the rebels hold the same principles and ideologies, individual liberty and democracy.

However, the President stressed that these ideals are seen in different ways.

At the same time, the President said that massive socio-economic projects have kept Mindanao on a development level comparable to other regions.

He said the latest high-priority projects there are the construction of widespread irrigation system and the distribution of farm implements to boost farm production.

The President reiterated government's policy of not liquidating dissidents, but welcome them to pursue a peaceful and lawful way of life.

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May 26—

THE FIRST LADY, Imelda R. Marcos, was scheduled to arrive last night from an 18-day trip, to the United States where she conferred with business and industry leaders.

While in the US, Mrs. Marcos also underwent a periodic eye checkup.

She also addressed a conference of sugar industry leaders last May 11 at the Waldorf Astorias Hotel in New York during which she stressed the need for a free trade policy for the sugar industry.

Mrs. Marcos also surveyed additional market for Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran products.

American buyers are expected to come to the Philippines to discuss design, quality control, products inventory, scheduling, production and delivery of KKK goods.

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May 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has directed the Laguna Lake Development Authority to hasten the dismantling of illegal and giant fishpens obstructing navigational lanes in Laguna de Bay.

The demolition of over-sized fishpens, the President said would restore the ecological balance in the lake, covering some 90,000 hectares to the benefit of both the fishpen operators and the small fishermen.

The President did not specify the size of the pens to be demolished but a previous letter of instructions had pegged those above 50 hectares as contrary to the maximum size allowed by law and may be dismantled by the proper authority.

The dismantling of giant fishpens will clear the passage to communal fishing grounds which has been increased from 5,000 hectares to 10,000 hectares.

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May 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that the government is considering the reimposition of the log export ban as soon as possible.

The President said that the log export ban should be enforced in a year to two at the latest.

In the last "Pulong-pulong" with farmers, the President had expressed dissatisfaction over the inability of forest concessionaires to comply with the forestation program of the government.

Early this year, the President prohibited logs from being exported. Upon the lobby of the wood industry and upon recommendation of the Ministry of Natural Resources, the President allowed a limited quantity of timber to be exported.

The President allowed the further exportation of logs to provide relief for the adverse conditions under which the loggers have operated during the last year.

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May 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that the government's budgetary resources are underwriting the various socio-economic programs being implemented to uplift the living conditions of the masses.

The President was reacting to claims by his critics that the government has resorted to foreign borrowings to fund its massive socio-economic development projects.

According to the President, these critics still harbor the wrong impression that the government today borrows from foreign institutions as indiscriminately as the past administration before he assumed the Presidency.

The President stressed that as a policy, the government will not resort to foreign borrowings unless the project it intends to undertake is self-liquidating.

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May 30—

PRESIDENT MARCOS took steps yesterday to encourage farmers to return to the use of carabaos instead of using farm machines.

In a parallel move, the President issued an executive order prohibiting the transfer of carabaos from one province to another.

To support this move, the President ordered the release of P5 million to the Bureau of Animal Industry for the purchase of more carabaos to be distributed on credit to farmers throughout the country.

The President laid down the basic guidelines for this project because it is more practical for farmers not to buy farming machines but return to the use of carabaos to work in the farms.

Interested farmers will obtain loans under the project in accordance with guidelines promulgated by the Bureau of Animal Industry.

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May 31—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has broadened the powers and functions of the Committee on Transportation Cooperatives in order to streamline the public transport system.

At the same time, the President granted transport operators substantial tax income privileges as incentives for them to improve their service.

All transportation cooperatives from now on are exempted from payment of common carriers tax (in lieu of sales tax) for a period of five years from date of registration with the Committee on Transportation Cooperatives.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet recommended to Mr. Marcos the phasing out of the United States Food Assistance Program (under Public Law 480) not later than the end of 1984.

Under Public Law 480, America gave the Philippines millions of dollars worth of food, such as corn, soy beans, dried milk, dried eggs and flour to support the government's nutrition program.

The government spent P60 million last year to handle and haul the food to various parts of the country, to feed school children, malnutrition cases, convalescing patients, and disaster victims.

Recently, the US government told the Philippines it would stop its food assistance program in 1987, citing the decline in malnutrition cases, the Philippine's phenomenal growth in food production, and its per capita income of over \$500.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

Official Week in Review: June 1 – June 7, 1983

June 1—

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Meanwhile, the Cabinet recommended to the President the phasing out of the United States Food Assistance Program (under Public Law 480) not later than the end of 1984.

Prime Minister Cesar E. A. Virata, presiding at the Cabinet meeting, said the government could implement its nutrition program using its own resources.

The Cabinet directed the Ministries of Health, Education, and Social Services—the three most affected by the phase out—to devise alternative programs using food resources of the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran livelihood program.

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June 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS pledge yesterday continued support for the Philippine Air Force in the effort to upgrade its potentials in deterring aggression.

Addressing the 47th anniversary of the PAF at Villamor Air Base, the President said it was the government's policy to make it a force that shall deter any thought or act of aggression against the Republic of the Philippines.

The President said that despite limited resources that prevent it from acquiring modern equipment and aircraft, the local air force can, within the framework of cooperation with its allies and other nations, effectively deter aggression or even the thought of aggression.

Consequently, the President said, first priority has been given to the PAF in the upgrading system among military commands.

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President Marcos said that the new memorandum of agreement on military bases not only meets present requirements but also provides Filipinos with a stronger substance of security for the future.

Ambassador Benjamin R. Romualdez, head of the Philippine panel, and US Ambassador Michael H. Armacost, head of the US side, signed the agreement in rites witnessed by the President, and the First Lady, Minister of Human Settlements Imelda R. Marcos.

Earlier, the President had received a letter from US President Ronald Reagan pledging to seek congressional approval of a \$900-million appropriation as compensation for use of the bases for the five-year term starting Oct. 1, 1984.

Larger by far than the present \$500-million, Reagan stated in his letter, will be broken down as follows:

- | | | | | |
|----|--|----------------|-------|----------|
| 1. | Military | assistance, | \$125 | million. |
| 2. | Foreign military | sales credits, | \$300 | million. |
| 3. | Economic support fund assistance, \$475 million. | | | |

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June 3—

PRESIDENT MARCOS called for a reassessment of economic measures to put the house in order in anticipation of the world economic upturn.

The President cited the need to reduce the high balance of payments (BOP) deficit and to restrict foreign borrowings, pointing out that the international debt already exceeds \$17 billion, while the debt service ratio stands close to the salutary limit of 20 per cent.

He directed government offices to design measures ensuring a comprehensive effort to attain BOP targets and to readjust the economy in line with the volatile and competitive world environment. These measures must also consider the realities of the world energy situation, he said.

The readjustment program should increase the export competitiveness of industry, improve energy self-reliance, and increase savings mobilization, efficiency, and investment project selection.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS called the new elementary school curriculum a return to the basic skills in reading, writing, mathematics and computation.

The new curriculum would also stress analysis and integration as well as values, both universal and Filipino.

The President inaugurated the new curriculum, to start in the new school year, at the Philippine International Convention Center—calling this the first stage of a revolutionary educational reform program.

The President called the new elementary program the harbinger of a more changes in all levels of education in our country and it represents the authentic beginning of a truly Filipino educational system for the Filipino people.

The new curriculum was designed to improve pupil achievement, reduce the drop-out rate, improve retention and participation rates as well as the efficiency of the total elementary education system.

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June 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS proposals to ease trade irritants between developing and developed countries was presented in the forthcoming session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

President Marcos has time and time again, pressed for conciliatory measures to eliminate trade barriers that hamper the growth of trade between rich and poor nations.

The Philippines, according to Prime Minister Cesar Virata, aside from pressing for the elimination of measures obstructing economic growth, also sought the implementation of other measures that would help developing countries recover from the current global economic recession.

It also pressed for measures to relate economic growth with social and human development.

The Philippines will be the convening chairman of UNCTAD-6 after hosting UNCTAD-6 in Manila in 1979, Virata said.

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June 5—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has approved a program to accelerate the building of housing units for Mindanao by mobilizing wood-based companies in the region.

The plan will provide jobs for hundreds of workers, use abundant local timber, and boost the operations of under-utilized wood factories in the area, the President said.

The housing plan will be led by the Sta. Clara Housing Industries, working with a Mindanao-based wood firms, and in coordination with the Ministry of Human Settlements and other state financing and welfare agencies.

The program was approved in a joint meeting of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan central committee, which was presided by the President and attended by the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos. Assemblyman Emmanuel Pelaez of Mindanao recommended approval of the program.

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June 6—

THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos and Prime Minister Cesar E. A. Virata led government officials at the burial ceremonies in Cebu City of Julio R. Cardinal Rosales.

The body was interred at high noon at the Archdiocesan Mausoleum for bishops in Cebu City beside Msgr. Lino Gonzaga, former bishop of Zamboanga who died in 1981. Monsignor Gonzaga was a first-degree cousin of Cardinal Rosales.

Jaime L. Cardinal Sin, Manila archbishop and now the only living Filipino cardinal, officiated at the burial rites.

Mrs. Marcos' final homage to the late cardinal evokes a sentimental touch as it was from Cardinal Rosales, the second Filipino to be ordained Prince of the Church, from whom she received her first Holy Communion.

During the cardinal's last days at the hospital, the First Lady paid him a surprise visit. She offered to have him airlifted to the United States or to any part of the world for treatment by medical experts.

June 7—

THE FIRST LADY; Metro Manila Gov. Imelda R. Marcos, has ordered yesterday the suspension of tuition fees in all public high schools in the metropolis, thus ending a two-week debate on whether to collect tuition or not.

Under Ordinance No. 2 of the Metro Manila Commission, the 13 towns and four cities of Metro Manila were given the option, starting this year, to collect tuition, ranging from P180 per year for first year high to P240 for fourth year.

Before the ordinance could be implemented, the First Lady suspended it, and asked mayors to consult with barangay captains on the issue.

Pasay City and Makati, which have always provided free education, decided to continue operating their high schools free.

Manila, the pioneer of free high schools, asked for deferment of the ordinance's implementation to next year.

The First Lady stressed the youth can avail of free secondary education and the opportunity to develop their talents, and acquire basic skills that will enable them to participate actively in our quest for economic and social development and national stability.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1983). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 79(31), clxxix-clxxxii.

President's Week in Review: June 8-15, 1983

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

June 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS received yesterday the Vietnam government's reaffirmation of its aim to restore peace in Southeast Asia and to settle dispute in the region consistent with the principles of co-existence and mutual understanding.

This assurance was contained in a message from Vietnam's Prime Minister Pham Van Dong handcarried by Vietnamese Foreign Minister Gnuyen Co Thach, who paid a courtesy call on the President at Malacañang yesterday morning.

The Vietnamese premier's message also reaffirmed his country's respect for the independence of all countries and its desire to promote cooperation between Vietnam and all other Asian countries.

Noting the great strides made in agricultural research, Foreign Minister Co Thach requested that he be allowed to take home some agricultural seeds such as coconuts and rice.

The President recalled that when Prime Minister Pham Van Dong visited the Philippines, he brought homo tons of high-yielding rice varieties from Los Baños.

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June 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has ordered Minister of Public Works Jesus Hipolito to sit down and resolve the financial problems of contractors involved in pipe-laying work for the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS).

The contractors had asked for payment of over P163 million withheld by the MWSS and an average cost adjustment of 27.9 per cent on their contracts, threatening to stop work if the adjustment would not be granted.

They pointed out that the MWSS had earlier given the Construction and Development Corp. of the Philippines (CDCP) a 100 per cent cost adjustment. The CDCP is among other pipe-laying contractors.

The PCC1 and the Employers Confederation of the Philippines had told the President that if the P3.5-billion waterworks expansion project was delayed, it would hurt the economy.

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June 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS inaugurated the Fort Ilocandia Resort Hotel, while the First Lady Imelda R. Marcos cut the ceremonial ribbon, assisted by Shanghai Mayor Wang Dao-han.

Tourism officials led by Tourism Minister Jose D. Aspiras and members of the travel industry in Manila flew there on a chartered Aero-Fihpinas 707 jet to join the President.

Shanghai Mayor Wang Dao-han flew there on board a special PAL jet with his party. He was accompanied by Metro Manila Vice Gov. Ismaet Mathay, Jr.

The President motored to barrio Calayab, about nine kilometers from the Laoag City center where he opened the Fort Ilocandia Resort Hotel. A reception followed at the huge ballroom with more than 1,000 guests.

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June 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS inaugurated the first barangay forest park in barangay La Paz, Laoag City. The tree park consists of 45 hectares of agojo trees planted on sand dunes, the first successful reforestation in a sandy area.

The tree park was started in 1979 by the Bureau of Forest Development, in line with Letter of Instructions 1330 which require a forest park in every barangay in the country.

The tree park, which has been turned over to barangay La Paz for maintenance, was visited by the President after the inauguration of the Laoag International Airport.

From the Laoag airport, the President visited other developmental projects there, namely the tilapia and carp breeding farms in Billoca, Batac; the floating fish pens project of the MNRBF-Mariano Marcos State University in Billoca, Batac, and Paoay Lake.

The President was accompanied by Natural Resources Minister Teodoro Peña, Farms Systems Development Corp. Administrator Teddy Rey, and Brig. Gen. (ret.) Pedro Dumol, head of the newly created Water Conservation and Development Administration.

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June 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS called on the nation today to unite behind the national struggle for economic freedom to liberate our people from poverty and want.

The President proclaimed June 12, 1983 as economic independence day for the Filipino people in a speech marking the anniversary of the declaration of Philippine Independence.

He asked every man and woman to address their talents, time, and labors to the task of nation-building even as he scored factionalism which divides the people.

At the same time, the President said factionalism seems to start with some intellectuals who have the tendency to be misled by foreign ideology and who seem to have no respect for the Filipino culture the Filipino individual, and the Filipino tradition.

Earlier the President, assisted by the First Lady and Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand Marcos, Jr., raised the Philippine flag at the Rizal park fronting the Ilocos Norte provincial capitol.

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June 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS presided a caucus of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan to review the report on the military bases agreement.

At the same time, the caucus is expected to take up the party platform for next year's elections for the regular national assembly.

Earlier, the President, said regional KBL chairman elected the candidates in their bailiwicks.

In Metro Manila, the mayors were asked to conduct a survey among barangay officials to find out their choices. The survey results were soon submitted to the KBL leadership.

The President said that in the Wednesday caucus, the leaders look into issues such as the limitation on campaign contributions and expenditures of candidates.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Week in Review: June 16-30, 1983

President's Month in Review: July, 1983

President's Month in Review: August, 1983

President's Month in Review: September, 1983

President's Month in Review: October, 1983

President's Week in Review: November 1-22, 1983

President's Week in Review: November 23-30, 1983

OFFICIAL WEEK IN REVIEW

November 23—

During the 18th Congress of the Medical Women's International Association, the President stressed that modern societies especially the developing nations, which are modernizing their health care programs should be more sensitive and knowledgeable in investing their programs with a greater degree of humanity.

The President said they can take a leaf from the practice of ancient physicians of treating the whole man, soul as well as body, to relieve or cure an ailment.

The President cited the history of Oriental medicine and how medicine rooted in tradition developed the art of healing such as Hindu surgery and Chinese acupuncture.

In the Philippines, he said, a long tradition of folk medicine endures to this day. The significant part of this tradition was the *babaylan*, which referred to the role of women in healing.

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November 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has ordered the reorganization of the management boards of all Philippine Centers in the United States to expand trade between the Philippines and the United States.

Philippine Centers had been established in San Francisco, California, Los Angeles and New York in 1973 to enable the American people to have a glimpse of the Philippines, specially its export products, people and culture.

Samples of the country's main products, which other countries may buy any time, are displayed at the centers.

In an executive order signed yesterday, the President appointed Philippine envoy to Washington, Benjamin T. Romualdez, head of the Philippine Center's management boards.

Romualdez is currently the chairman of the Philippine-United States Business Development Council.

The council was created last September to expand further the Philippine presence in the US market.

The Presidential order centralizes the responsibility for the promotion of RP-US trade in the chairman, of the management board of the Philippine Center.

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November 25—

PRESIDENT MARCOS stressed that the government would do everything to punish people involved in drug trafficking.

He issued the statement during the call of the participants to the ninth meeting of the heads of national narcotics law enforcement agencies in Malacañang.

The President assured them the Philippine government is exerting all efforts to stop the illicit drug trade which, he said, has become a grave domestic problem.

He recalled how Lim Seng, a heroin manufacturer and head of a drug syndicate, was executed by musketry to prove that the government meant business in stopping the menace.

He also disclosed that Virginia Espeleta de la Pena, tagged as the “queen of drug pushers,” is now being held incommunicado in the PC stockade in Camp Crame after being found to have continued to run her syndicate from her jail in Angeles City Pampanga.

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November 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has urged sports leaders to propagate athletics in the barangay level and harness the youth’s participation to draw them away from the influence of dangerous drugs.

The President has expressed alarm over the continuing drug menace which, he said, has involved even some sons and daughters of well-known personalities.

He made the pronouncement during the courtesy call of the officials of the Little League Baseball Association in Malacañang.

The President told the sports leaders that the challenge of athletics is an alternative to combat drug addiction among the youth.

“Sports should give our children a good alternative and your work (Little League baseball) is God-sent,” the President said.

The President stressed that the problems of the modern world tend to be met by the use of drugs and one of the ways to fight it is through participation in sports.

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November 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has banned the use of asbestos as lining for air-conditioning ducts.

The President cited medical and scientific studies, which, he said, indicated some relation between cancer and sustained contact with asbestos.

“The evidence that has become available so far shows, for instance, that asbestos fiber inhaled and deposited in the lungs is definitely carcinogenic,” the President said.

The President also directed that all buildings where airconditioners have been installed immediately and thoroughly inspected to find out if asbestos fiber has been used.

He ordered the removal and replacement of asbestos pipes and fibers with other materials to be determined by the Ministry of Health and the director general of the National Science and Technology Authority.

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November 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has approved the purchase of 400 new trucks to boost garbage collection and disposal facilities in Metro Manila.

To cope with the mounting garbage problem in the area, the President also ordered the Metro Manila Commission to increase the number of garbage dumpsites and strengthen the administrative and technical capabilities of the Environmental Sanitation Center.

The Environmental Sanitation Center is responsible for providing an integrated garbage collection and sanitation system in Metro Manila.

The purchase of the new trucks partly implements a long-standing plan to modernize garbage collection and sanitation services in Metro Manila.

Malacañang said that the purchase of the trucks and other equipment will be financed by the Export-Import Bank of Japan under a five-year refinancing scheme.

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November 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS stressed that he will use the “visitorial powers” of his office to safeguard the funds of the Philippine Veterans Bank.

The President sounded this warning during the eight regular meeting of the Supreme Council of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines at the Veterans Bank building on Bonifacio Drive.

The President expressed his disappointment over the failure of the bank which, under the past administration, had granted over P500-million on uncollectible debts.

The President said he had asked the former president of the bank as well as its board of directors to explain in writing how this happened.

He pointed out that a special group will be organized for the purpose of making a periodic reports of the bank’s performance.

The President recalled that the bank was organized with the \$25-million, which was given by the United States government to Filipino veterans.

“From now on let us not allow money to be used by the few. Now we will have to watch over the shoulders of the bank’s president and the treasurer, and every resolution they approve,” the President said.

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November 30—

PRESIDENT MARCOS issued Executive Order 849 which raised from 70 to 80 percent the loan value of grains and other agricultural products.

The President said that the higher loan value should encourage grains businessmen “to procure more of the farmer’s produce at higher prices.”

The move was prompted by the clamor from the private sector for better access to government funds under the quedan financing program.

The immediate beneficiaries will be the grains businessmen who can now get higher loans from banks against their quedans or food stocks pledged under the Food Quedan Financing Program.

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Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

Official Month in Review: December 1983

December 1—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has underscored the need for a reorientation of Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran projects to boost the country's foreign exchange earnings.

Citing a worldwide shortage, the President said the KKK should emphasize marketable products.

This new approach, the President said, should guide the KKK towards the possible shifting of its concentration to the production of high quality foods such as shrimps, lobsters, oysters, tuna and others rather than products that may not be suitable for export.

The President earlier said that the important thing now is how to save our economy. He appealed to everybody to shift concentration to the economic crisis plaguing the nation.

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December 2—

PRESIDENT MARCOS stressed that the government will trim expenditures, including personnel services, and increase revenue collections to reduce an expected P14-billion deficit to P9.4 billion.

At a four-hour caucus of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan in Malacañang, with President Marcos presiding, Budget Minister Manuel Alba said that the obligation level originally set by the Batasan at P65 billion has to be lowered because of the general economic slump.

After hearing the report of Alba, the caucus agreed to reduce capital outlays program by 28 percent, the infrastructure program by 25 percent, personnel services by 7 percent and equity infusion and subsidies to government corporations by 50 percent.

PRESIDENT MARCOS said that the implication of this reduction in expenditures is that every government office will have a cut of at least 18 percent.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS has denied yesterday a demand by Western Samar priests for the release of a Fr. Kangleon and two lay workers who had been picked up on subversion charges. The priests had threatened to go on pastoral leave if this and five other demands were not met by the government.

In a statement to the press, the President said that in the past he had authorized the release of several priests and nuns arrested for subversive activities to their superiors only to find later that these members of the clergy went underground and resumed their subversive activities.

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December 3—

THE GOVERNMENT will not lay off employees to save money and reduce the expected P13.4 billion deficit.

This assurance was given yesterday by President Marcos in a brief talk with newsmen after playing 18 holes in a special flight of the President Marcos Golf Invitational Tournament which reeled off in Ternate, Cavite.

The President stressed that the hiring of new personnel will be stopped, except in the delivery of health services, food production, emergencies, calamities and peace and order.

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President Marcos has ordered the suspension of all negotiations for foreign-assisted projects as part of the government's belt-tightening measures to forestall a deficit.

The President ordered Highways Minister Jesus Hipolito to freeze negotiations except those for foreign-assisted projects which are in progress for at least six months.

He told Hipolito to use the foreign exchange portion of the unnegotiated projects and save the local costs.

One of the projects in progress is the Light Rail Transit (LRT) system being built in Metro Manila by the Construction and Development Corporation of the Philippines.

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December 4—

PRESIDENT MARCOS banned the importation, manufacture, sale, and distribution of toy weapons in the interest of public welfare and safety.

The ban was imposed by Letter of Instruction (LOI) No. 1264, signed by the President on recommendation of Lt. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, PC chief.

The President's action was prompted by reports that the weapons could easily mislead the public because of their almost genuine appearance.

The ban on the weapons was recommended by PC-Metrocom authorities, following complaints that holdup gangs used these replicas.

The recommendation was endorsed by Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Gen. Fabian C. Ver, AFP chief of staff.

The LOI noted the proliferation of imported toy firearms and explosives which, except for their weight, are exact replicas of genuine weapons in appearance, measurement, color, and parts.

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December 5—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said today that all the funds raised by the Marcos Sports Foundation will be used to offer the younger generation a fair and honest alternative to the kind of life a permissive society has offered them.

In a speech highlighting the awards ceremonies at the close of the Third President Marcos Invitational Golf Tournament, the President cited the role of sports in nation-building and in enriching the life of the younger generation by promoting high ideals.

Carlos Palanca, Jr., chairman and president of Lepanto Consolidated Mining Corporation, handed the President a P2-million check for the non-stock, non-profit entity representing the proceeds from the three-day tournament.

The President said:

“We must enrich these alternatives with all the options that are available. We must make it so enticing that the younger generation will not only be seduced but convinced that it is the only kind of life acceptable to the young.”

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December 6—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has given assurances yesterday that the prices of consumer items would not be seriously affected by the projected increases in the prices of petroleum products.

The President said he will manage any increase in the price of petroleum products in such a way that anticipated increases in the prices of essential consumer goods, especially food, can be minimized.

He said he was considering several steps that will ease the effects of this price increase on consumers.

He said these mainly include making certain allowances for the poor on certain essential consumer items.

In particular, the requirements of marginal fishermen, who depend on kerosene and diesel, will surely be met, he added.

Increase in the price of diesel and kerosene are due to be announced soon.

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December 7—

PRESIDENT MARCOS stressed that the government, in stepping up its policy of attraction for foreign investors, may consider granting permanent resident status and even citizenship to such investors.

Earlier, in a move to attract Hong Kong businessmen uncertain about the status of the Crown Colony after 1997, the President issued Decree 1351 authorizing special investigators resident visas for aliens investing at least \$200,000 in the Philippines.

These visas will continue as long as the alien keeps his investment. The President told newsmen that alien investors may also buy shares in real estate companies.

The President said there are many Chinese nationals who have been seeking citizenship and want to own land. They want to sink roots in the country, he said, and the way to do this is through citizenship.

He said the granting may be done under an earlier decree on naturalization issued some years ago which enabled a number of long-time alien residents to become Filipinos after passing certain requirements.

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December 8—

PRESIDENT MARCOS paid tribute to the soldier, saying that the nation owes much to him, who in donning the uniform, has chosen the path of duty, discipline, and sacrifice.

The President spoke at the “Gathering of Eagles” dinner marking the silver anniversary of the Philippine Air Force Flying School, class of 1957, at the Manila Hotel.

The class, composed of 16 surviving members, is headed by Brig. Gen. Ramon Farolan, Bureau of Customs Commissioner.

The President said that in their youth, the men in uniform could have taken the path to fame and riches, but they instead heeded the call for men-at-arms.

The President also received from Farolan a citation as an honorary member of the class. He was cited as an “architect of the modernization of the armed forces, including the air force.”

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December 9—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has announced that he would soon fill vacancies in the Court of Appeals and lower courts to ease further the backlog of cases in the judiciary.

The new appointees will fall under the old judiciary setup, the President said.

He said that apart from the appellate tribunal, there are vacancies in courts of first instance and lower courts and many lawyers are complaining over the delay in the trial of their cases because of lack of judges.

The President revealed he has fielded a team that would make a factual, fair and honest assessment of the performance and budgetary requirements of the reorganization of the judiciary.

In line with this policy, the President reiterated his pledge to appoint only the most qualified men to the bench. In the screening of the new appointees, the President said he would demand the highest degree of honesty and integrity.

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December 10—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has authorized yesterday the release of former newspaper publisher Joaquin P. (Chino) Roces on his own personal recognizance after he was ordered arrested on subversion charges for involvement in a conspiracy to overthrow the government through a widespread black propaganda.

In his directive, the President told the authorities concerned to permit Roces to remain under house arrest without any guard.

Charges against Jose Burgos Jr., *We Forum* publisher-editor, and his 14 co-accused have been filed in court by Quezon City Fiscal Sergio Apostol. Burgos and the other co-accused, through their counsel, asked the Supreme Court to order the Quezon City CFI to set their case for immediate trial. They are now detained at Fort Bonifacio.

The President has denied a request filed by government prosecutor for sequestration of the *We Forum* newspaper and its printing presses.

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December 11—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has approved yesterday the increase in the salaries of public school superintendents starting Jan. 1, 1983.

The President announced the approval during the call in Malacañang of the officers and members of the Philippine Association of School Superintendents.

Public school superintendents are receiving an average of P27,000 annually and the increase will put them in the same wage level as department heads in the local government.

The President ordered Education Minister Onofre D. Corpuz and Education Deputy Minister Hermenigildo Dumlao to work out a schedule of salary increases for the superintendent.

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December 12—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has directed authorizing yesterday to proceed with a speech trial of *We Forum* newspaper publisher-editor Jose Burgos Jr. and his co-accused in the subversion case involving an alleged conspiracy to overthrow the government through black propaganda and violence.

During a review of the case with Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, Gen. Fabian C. Ver, AFP chief of staff; and Brig. Gen. Hamilton Dimaya, Judge advocate general, the President was informed that the state had strong case against the accused.

The Chief Executive was told the evidence included sworn statements by two eyewitness who said they were invited by Burgos to join in the subversive conspiracy to destabilize the government and discredit the awards and decorations won in combat by Filipino fighting men in World War II, including President Marcos who was the most bemedalled among them.

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December 13—

PRESIDENT MARCOS stressed yesterday that excess personnel whose work in government offices may be affected by the projected budgetary cuts would be given field work.

The President has ordered all ministries and government agencies to send them on information campaigns, extension work and help in ongoing Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran projects.

He told newsmen the government would try to keep everybody employed despite the belt-tightening measures announced recently.

Among the measures is the reduction by 18 percent of all ministry budgets to meet the level of budgetary deficit.

The President said earlier that the decision to trim expenses was also necessary due to the current economic crunch but he had given assurances that there would be no mass layoffs of government personnel.

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The First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, arrived last night from a 28-day mission to the Soviet Union and the United States.

President Marcos headed a group of officials, ambassadors, Metro Manila officials and friends of the First Couple and her party.

Mrs. Marcos, who is also Metro Manila governor and human settlements minister, flew to Moscow Nov. 13 to represent President Marcos and the Filipino people at the funeral of the Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev.

She also hand-carried President Marcos' letter of condolence and a letter of congratulations to the new Soviet leader, Yuri Andropov.

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December 14—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has ordered an inventory of all government equipment range from road machines and computers to typewriters.

The President stressed the inventory will be part of government measures to reduce expenditures.

Auditors of ministries and other agencies revealed that idle equipment or those in need of repair would amount to billions of pesos. These equipment range from road machines and computers to typewriters.

The President singled out road equipment stored in depots of the Ministry of Public Works and Highways which have been laying idle for lack of spare parts.

He noted that the equipment can no longer be used because they had been cannibalized and their parts stolen while in storage.

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December 15—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has ordered the release under house arrest of We Forum publisher-editor Jose Burgos Jr. and his other co-accused.

The President issued the order in view of the evidence in the subversion case against Burgos and his co-accused which would require them to prepare for trial with their counsel.

The release order also took into account the spirit of the Christmas and New Year holiday season Malacañang said.

The Presidential order was issued to Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile through Gen. Fabian C. Ver, AFP chief of staff.

The temporary release under house arrest of the accused required that they report to a security officer at least every Monday of each week and that they appear during the scheduled trial or hearing of their case.

Burgos and his companions were also warned against "engaging in any act in which they are charged"—the criminal complaint of subversion—otherwise they would be placed once more under detention.

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December 16—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has approved yesterday a yearend bonus to all national government employees, subject to availability of funds.

The Christmas bonanza will be equivalent to a week's pay, but not lower than P250 and not higher than P500.

To be benefitted are some 900,000 employees whether temporary, emergency, casual or contractual, full or part-time basis including whose salaries are fixed by the Constitution.

Computation of the bonus shall be based on the contractual rate of the employee as of Nov. 30, 1982, and shall not be subjected to deductions like Medicare and GSIS premium.

The same bonus will be given to a minister or his equivalent, members of the judiciary, uniformed and civilian employees of the armed forces and the Integrated National Police, and those employed by state colleges and universities.

Not entitled to this bonus are employees who already have a year-end bonus or incentive pay or its equivalent beyond their basic salaries and duly-authorized monthly allowance.

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December 17—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has formed a committee to review the credit operations of government financing institutions as he anticipated a 15 per cent expansion of credit facilities in 1983.

The President said the review will seek to strengthen the share of the private sector in the credit allocations of the government financing institutions.

The institutions will undergo the review are the Development Bank of the Philippines, the Veterans Bank of the Philippines, and the Amanah Bank.

During the last Cabinet meeting, the President said he expected the committee to report to him immediately after the Christmas and New Year holidays.

The committee was headed by Prime Minister Cesar Virata, who is concurrently minister of finance.

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December 18—

THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos brought Christmas cheers, as well as entertainment, at the Maligayang Pasko '82 Children's festival at the Folk Arts theatre yesterday.

Assisted by the wives of Cabinet members and close friends, the First Lady distributed foods bags and gifts to thousands of children from various institutions during the FAT ceremonies.

A program called "Tanghalang Munti" was held for the entertainment of children. This included the participation of the "Sesame Street" characters, as well as the Cathedral Boy's choir, the Pangkat Kawayan, and the FAT Junior Performing Group.

The gifts were collected by the Maligayang Pasko '82 committee from some 160 companies.

The children came from 28 institutions and children's community centers and other depressed areas.

Mrs. Marcos and her committee were also assisted by some foreign guests, including Mrs. Anne Hamilton, mother of actor George Hamilton, a friend of the First Couple.

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December 19—

PRESIDENT MARCOS, assessing the performance of the New Republic during the year, has declared that the Philippines is faring better than most countries in coping with the global economic slowdown.

He said that in a year of deepening recession and unemployment, the country has proved to be more stable, fundamentally sound in economy, and essentially ready to move into the next era of modernization.

He added that this assessment is shared by neutral observers, international experts, and incisive and thoughtful intellectuals.

The President said he is privileged to be a leader of the Filipino people in these critical times.

Assessing the country's overall situation, the President pointed out that policies pursued over the years have kept intact a "basic and fundamental system for a strong people-based society."

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December 20—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has expressed satisfaction with the performance of the Cabinet and the productive work of the entire government during the year.

Asking each of the 26 Cabinet ministers to carry on their good work, the President said the Cabinet has every reason to be proud of its performance in the last 12 months, having led the country through another economic crisis and threats to national security.

The President stressed that the individual work all the members of the Cabinet has also been successful. Everything that he has worked on turned to be productive of achievement.

The President also said he was particularly pleased with the performance of the country in a year of worsening economic conditions.

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December 21—

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS Minister Imelda R. Marcos has announced measures to add more flexibility and efficiency in the implementation of the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran program through local officials.

Approved by the KKK Pambansang Lupon, these measures will:

1) Increase on a selective basis the amount of KKK loans being farmed out through the governors and mayors under Executive Order No. 781 creating a special fund for local governments.

2) Treat this special fund as revolving fund to allow local officials to retain the loan collections and loan them out to new applicants.

3) Consider interest earnings from KKK loans as additional contributions to the revolving fund of local governments and be used to pay for overhead expenses of provinces and towns in processing and collecting KKK loans.

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December 22—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has declared the government's adherence to human rights was beyond question and accused Amnesty International of deceit for exaggerating the number of alleged tortures and assassinations by military personnel.

Addressing the 47 anniversary of the Armed Forces of the Philippines at Camp Aguinaldo, the President said many of the reports compiled by Amnesty International had been answered, but that this organization added 60 or 70 of the original complaints, which had already been answered, to make it more voluminous.

At the same time, the President warned the media of "this casual manner with which libel is being committed nowadays."

He particularly singled out a letter to the editor of Bulletin Today which has published recently. The letter claimed that prisoners in the Bicutan detention center were being psychologically and physically tortured.

"I would like to deny this now openly and I would like the Bulletin to print this particular denial," he declared. "Otherwise, we will be compelled to take action."

The President said "probably the lawyer of the Bulletin thinks that publication of a letter of a third party does not involve them in scurrilous libel. They better get a better lawyer."

December 23—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has called on all Filipino doctors in the country to emulate the example of Filipino medical practitioners in America who have come here to render free medical services to the poor.

Addressing about 200 Filipino medical practitioners in America, who made a courtesy call, the President said that when members of a society begin to care for each other and feel a sense of community and belonging to one nation, that unity is capable of achieving any goal.

The President said that if doctors living in affluent America come to offer their services and expertise to the impoverished," it is time those sitting on fenses up to now and not exerting enough effort and energy not to help Marcos or anybody, but the impoverished, the ignorant, and the deprived, should go out and work in their chosen fields of activity."

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President Marcos has announced yesterday he would appoint 40 justices to the Court of Appeals, plus 680 regional trial judges before Christmas Day.

They will come from a list of 1,000 candidates who have taken the required seminars and tests under the auspices of the Supreme Court and the Ministry of Justice.

Before making the appointments, the President said, he would approve the staffing pattern under the guidelines of the judicial reorganization law passed last year by the legislature.

The law called for reorganizing the judiciary from the appellate court to the municipal courts.

The reorganized setup would mean more institutional reforms, making the judiciary more effective, efficient, and stable.

Under the new law, there are 50 seats in the Court of Appeals and 720 regional trial courts, which used to be known as courts of first instance.

The President had promised to choose only the most qualified men to get the reorganized judiciary off to a good start. Not only must they be known for honesty but also competence and experience, he said.

December 24—

PRESIDENT MARCOS predicted yesterday improving economic prospects for the new year, stating that while nationwide there are indications of continued economic problems, there are also signs of recovery.

The President cited new and favorable textile agreements with the United States and the European Economic Community which would increase garment exports to the \$1-billion mark next year.

In an interview with newsmen before flying off to Ilocos Norte for Christmas holidays, he said the Philippines is “usually lucky that certain developments favor our commodities and our economy.”

He said that garment exports under the new agreements would increase 22 per cent with America and 20 per cent with the EEC.

The President urged the garments industry to do its best to fill up the new quotas.

December 25—

THE FIRST LADY and Human Settlement Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos has assured that the government program of creating independent entrepreneurship will provide more job opportunities in Metro Manila during the coming year.

The First Lady, who is also Metro Manila governor, said this program, under the Ministry of Human Settlements, the Metro Manila Commission and the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran will see to it that livelihood opportunities are made available to all in the national capital region.

The First Lady said that whatever displacements may arise among distressed industries affected by the world recession will be absorbed by the strong entrepreneurship program of the New Republic.

The First Lady said the prospects are brighter for the coming year on the basis of economic indications pointing to a recovery trend particularly in the export trade.

December 26—

PRESIDENT MARCOS said in Laoag City that he expected more foreign investments in the hundreds of millions of dollars to pour into the country in the coming year.

Big investors are looking towards the Philippines, particularly with the scheduled termination of the British lease on Hongkong in 1997, he said.

When this happens, he added, Ilocos Norte and the rest of Ilocos region will benefit from the increased investments. He said investors from Macao prefer to invest in Ilocos Norte because of its proximity.

The President also stressed that Ilocos Norte will be developed into one of the most prosperous provinces in the country.

December 27—

PRESIDENT MARCOS and the First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos unveiled a marker that records a historic event on Nov. 21, 1944, that helped paved the way for the eventual liberation of the country.

Aside from the large crowd from the small coastal town of San Esteban, the unveiling ceremony at noon was witnessed by four of the principal participants in the event 38 years ago.

The marker identifies the site in Apalot, San Esteban, Ilocos Sur, where a commando unit from Gen. Douglas MacArthur's First Reconnaissance company, composed of 10 Philippine-born and six American officers and enlisted men, landed with 35 tons of guns, ammunitions radio equipment, and medical supplies.

These were for Col. Russell W. Voickmann's USAFIL-NL, composed of five guerilla regiments, including the 14th Infantry of then Maj. Ferdinand E. Marcos.

President Marcos has ordered a crackdown on syndicates responsible for technical smuggling in the bureau of customs.

He directed the Central Bank to form a team to go after the syndicates.

The CB prove team reviewed and checked the value and volume of all exports processed in the bureau. This procedure, according to the President, is being followed in the case of sugar and will be applied to other items, starting with logs.

The President also stressed that some log exporters have not been declaring the true value of their exports, thus depriving the government of billions of pesos in customs duties and taxes.

In his estimate, the President said customs duties and taxes which the bureau has not collected amount to P10 billion.

December 28—

PRESIDENT MARCOS has granted amnesty to 45 detainees charged with illegal possession of firearms, ammunition, and explosives.

The President approved the recommendations of Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 1745.

Under PD 1745, grant of amnesty with illegal possession of firearms, ammunition, or explosives is allowable, provided no other crime was committed by them with the use of such firearm, ammunition, or explosives.

Defense Deputy Minister Carmelo Z. Barbero, concurrent chief of the office of detainee affairs (ODA), said that the cases of the 45 individuals were evaluated and they were found to be qualified for the grant of amnesty.

December 29—

PRESIDENT MARCOS helped direct firefighting operations when a light bulb on a Christmas tree exploded near a window in Malacañang's Heroes Hall yesterday afternoon setting fire to the drapes.

The fire spread quickly, but fast work by Metro Manila firefighters brought it under control in 10 minutes.

No one was injured, except for a television technician who was overcome by smoke.

The damage was minimal that was due mainly to water. The fire was confined to Heroes Hall, site of many ceremonial affairs. It is a low-ceiling hall on the ground floor located near the Pasig river.

Soldiers of the Presidential Security command fired into the air when they noticed smoke coming out of Heroes Hall. This was normal warning procedure.

The First Lady, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, commended the firemen and police officers who responded to the fire alarm.

President Marcos said that the government will spend up action on subversion cases after the holidays.

He had earlier ordered authorities to notify all those accused of subversion of the post-holiday hearings so that they can prepare their defense.

However, trial for foreign-based residents implicated in subversion activities will be suspended for the time being, he said.

The President told newsmen that military intelligence officers have their possession documents implicating persons here and in the United States. Those in America, he said, will be tried in absentia.

For those absent, "the trial may have to be suspended unless the civil aspect can be allowed to continue," he said.

Facing subversion charges before the Quezon City court of first instance are "WE Forum" editor Joseph Burgos Jr., some of his staffers, and some opposition men in the United States.

December 30—

PRESIDENT MARCOS paid tribute to the martyrdom to Dr. Jose Rizal as an enduring legacy of pride in being a Filipino and of faith in the Filipino race.

In a message setting the tone for today's commemoration of Rizal's 86th death anniversary, the President said the country has reserved a special place of honor for Rizal as the greatest Filipino hero.

The President said Rizal's martyrdom "did not only intensify the revolutionary fervor of our forebears and inspired succeeding generations of our national heroes to lay down their lives for our country but also, because by his life and works, he has shown us the possibilities within us as individuals and as a nation."

The President said that Rizal taught Filipinos to look at themselves as the equal of any race, capable of managing their own affairs.

The President and Mrs. Marcos led the nation in today's commemoration of this year's death anniversary of Dr. Jose Rizal.

President Marcos met Minister-President Franz Josef Strauss of Bavaria for an hour, exchanging views on world problems such as economic recession, inflation, unemployment, and international credit.

Strauss, declaring himself excited over his first visit to Manila, was accompanied on his flight from Frankfurt by his wife and Secretary Langl of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation.

Strauss said that like other countries, West Germany is saddled with serious problems, including unemployment.

He said the economic recession has brought down prices for raw materials while raising prices in machinery.

The President told his visitor that the Philippines brought down inflation from 24 per cent to below 10. He said the government is now strengthening the local market and concentrating on high-quality production of prawns, shrimps, oysters, and lobsters.

President Marcos has announced yesterday the imposition of administrative penalties against five assistant provincial fiscals and the dismissal of a register of deeds, under his continuing program to kick out undesirables from the public service while disciplining violators of rules.

The men were guilty of violations ranging from misconduct to ignorance of the law.

Penalized were Fiscals Salvador of Cajot of Camarines Sur, Jose Manulat of Cebu, David Tubongbanua of Iloilo, and Horacio Rañola and Ricardo Sumaway of Rizal.

The President warned that the government will continue to "discipline those who have violated the constitutional mandate that a public office is a public trust."

December 31—

THE FIRST LADY, Minister of Human Settlements Imelda R. Marcos, interceded yesterday for 17 first-time offenders in the Manila city jail and personally saw to their release.

The 17, who were awaiting trial, were first offenders whose period of detention had already exceeded any sentence the court could impose on them for their crimes.

Mrs. Marcos drove down to the city jail to deliver a pep talk to the detainee, urging them to start a new life for themselves and their families.

She gave each P500 to keep him going until he finds a job. She shook hands with each of them to seek government assistance if they can not cope with their problems.

The First Lady stressed that the government was established for the people: it could justify its existence only by helping the people.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Month in Review: January, 1984

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